

The Line Chair Recruitment Pack 2026



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Director's welcome

After celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2025, The Line is entering an exciting new chapter. What began as an ambitious vision to bring monumental sculptures into public space is now a key part of East London's cultural landscape and an internationally recognised model for expanding access to art.

The Line has established a distinctive artistic programme, built meaningful partnerships across sectors, and demonstrated the powerful social impact that art can have in connecting people to place. As we look ahead, our focus is on building greater organisational capacity and financial resilience to ensure that The Line can thrive for decades to come.

This is a pivotal moment for the organisation and an inspiring time to join us. We are seeking a Chair who shares our ambition and believes in the transformative role of art. The successful candidate will bring strategic perspective, strong networks and a passion for delivering social impact, working closely with the Board, senior management team and me to guide The Line through its next phase of development.

The role presents a unique opportunity to help shape the

future of a distinctive and ambitious arts charity, strengthening our foundations while supporting our sustainability, influence and reach.

I hope this pack brings The Line's vision, values and aspirations to life. Thank you for your interest in joining us on this journey.

Sarah Carrington



Sarah Carrington speaking at the London Sculpture Week Symposium, 2025
Photo credit: Jennifer Moyes

About The Line

The Line is “London’s groundbreaking art trail” (Financial Times, 2024), connecting Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford and The O2 in North Greenwich. Following East London’s waterways and the line of the Greenwich Meridian, it offers a free, outdoor exhibition through some of the capital’s most densely populated neighbourhoods.

The Line has built a strong reputation for:

- Supporting artists to realise ambitious works in the public realm
- Delivering a responsive and impactful engagement programme
- Breaking down barriers to art, nature, heritage and wellbeing

Through its work, The Line enables artists to connect with people and place in new ways. Recent commissions include works by pioneering minimalist sculptor Rasheed Araeen, the first public artwork in the UK by artist Zineb Sedira and a co-commissioned work with the local community by Turner and Max Mara Prize-winning artist Helen Cammock. Through The Line’s engagement programme, the organisation enhances opportunity and wellbeing, fosters inclusion, and generates meaningful social impact.

Rasheed Araeen, *Untitled The Line*, 2025. Photo credit: Angus Mill



Mission, purpose & values

Purpose

To democratise access to art, enhancing opportunity and wellbeing.

Mission

To build inspired, connected and healthy communities through an ambitious outdoor exhibition and engagement programme, where everyone can explore art and nature for free along East London's historic waterways.

Values:

- Aim high
- Work with care
- Create connections
- Spark joy
- Enrich people's lives



Our work in practice

Stretching to almost 8km in length, crossing three local authority boroughs and approximately 20 landowners, The Line currently presents 25 installations on the route with a plan to reach 30 works by 2030.

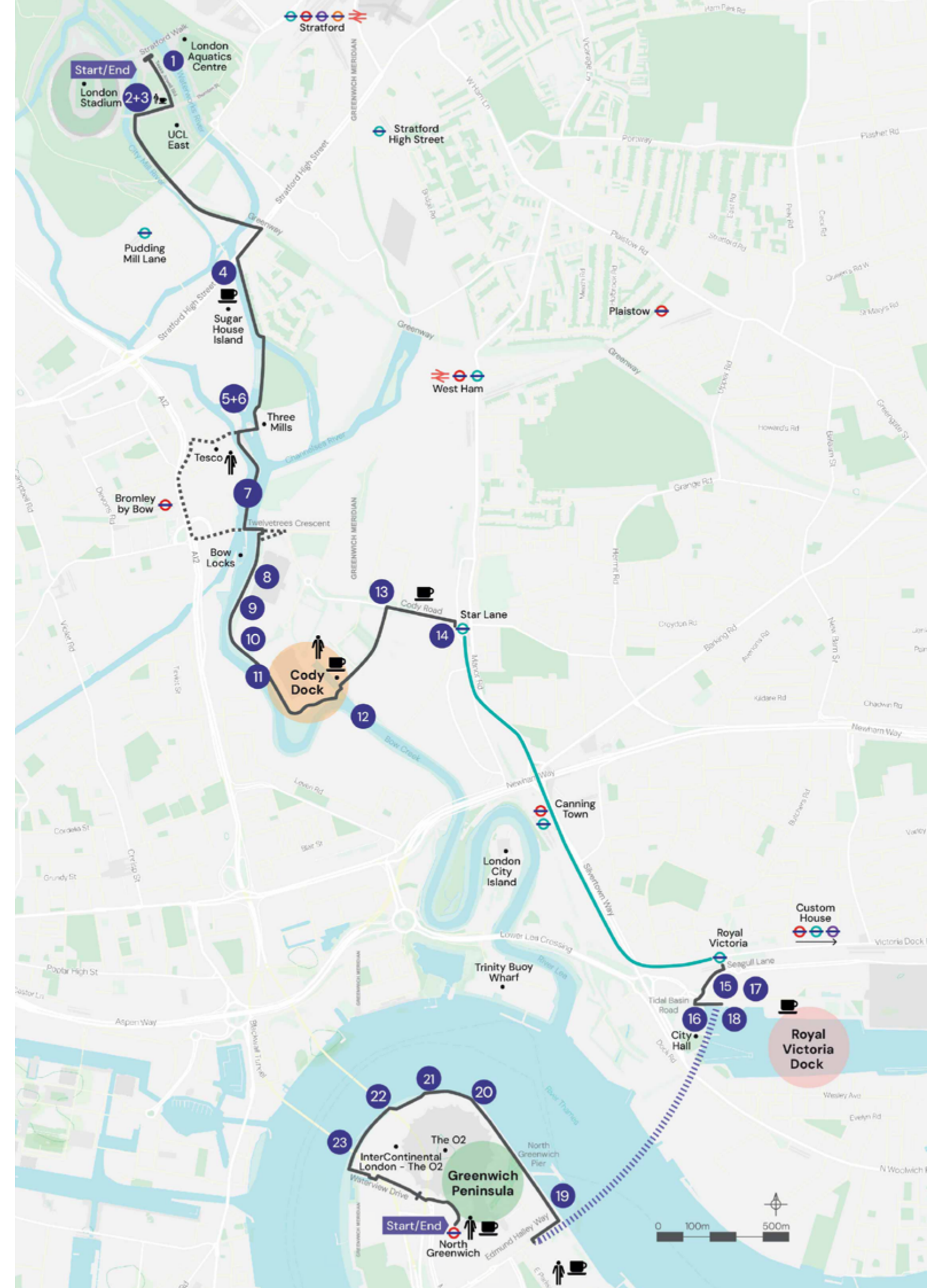
The exhibition programme encompasses:

- Artworks on long-term loan from collectors, galleries and artists;
- Site-specific commissions exploring heritage and landscape;
- Co-commissioned works developed with local people.

Alongside these works, The Line also develops temporary programming encompassing performance, film presentations and events.

Our Engagement Programme extends the benefits of walking the route to local people through:

- Working with schools and teachers to promote The Line as an outdoor classroom;
- Creative health programmes to support people's wellbeing and mental health;
- Youth programmes to create pathways to employment and to embed youth voice into the public realm.



Beyond the programme, we are thought leaders on the role of art in the public realm through the development and expansion of London Sculpture Week, an annual celebration of outdoor sculpture in the capital. This programme developed in partnership with Frieze Sculpture, Fourth Plinth and Sculpture in the City has featured a sell-out symposium at the Warburg Institute, walks and tours across the city.

The Line is led by a dedicated team of nine staff with a senior management team comprising Director, Finance Director (outsourced), Director of Production and Sustainability, Head of Development and Head of Engagement. A wider team of five dedicated staff are engaged in delivery, fundraising, technical expertise and digital production. A skilled network of freelancers is a vital extension of the team as is our trusted advisory group. Since its foundation, The Line has benefited from the support of a number of key organisations providing expertise and skills on a pro bono basis. These include in areas of engineering, planning, legal and commercial guidance.

The Line has an active and engaged Board of seven Trustees:

- Susan Barty, Specialist IP lawyer, previously advising Henry Moore Foundation
- Howard Dawber, Deputy Mayor for London for Business and Chair of London and Partners
- Thomas Kador, Associate Professor in Creative Health at UCL East
- Ivan Harbour, Senior Partner Rogers Stirk + Harbour (Acting Chair)
- Tom Price, Former corporate financier (Acting Finance Trustee)
- Diana Spiegelberg, CEO of Glass Castle Foundation
- Farrah Washash, Founder of HerTech



Madge Gill walk and archive visit, London Sculpture Week, 2025. Photo credit: Matt Tam

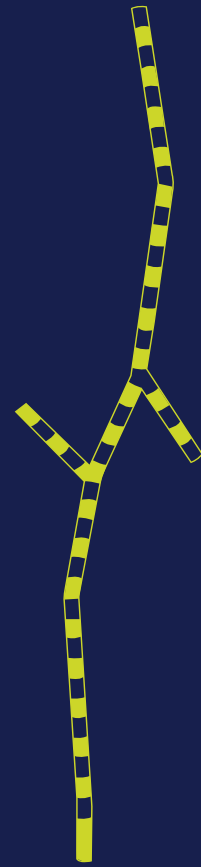
The Chair will also have the opportunity to recruit new Trustees in 2027 to complement existing skills, to address gaps and support the organisation's ambitions. This will be accompanied by recruiting the organisation's first Youth Board member. Through this period the Board will also be supported through the creation of working groups focussed on specific aspects of the charity's work.

[2025 Impact report](#)

[The Line Accounts 2025](#)

Our impact in 2025

24 installations
24 hours a day
for free



Public
Reach
5.6 million



1,228
students

97
teachers
engaged

116
hours of learning
delivered

94.4%

agreed that The Line
makes experiencing
art more accessible



35
youth
employment
opportunities
generated

4
artists
commissioned



50 wellbeing walks



9 guided tours

= 348.15 miles walked

Context & opportunity

The Line operates across boroughs facing high levels of structural inequity, including:

- Child poverty and health disparities;
- Limited access to green space;
- Barriers to education and employment;

By providing free access to high-quality art and shared outdoor experiences, The Line:

- Enhances wellbeing;
- Builds community connection;
- Expands access to culture and opportunity.

This context reinforces the organisation's importance. We believe that free access to high-quality art in the public realm, combined with shared experiences, connection with nature, outdoor learning, and youth empowerment, can enhance wellbeing, strengthen community belonging and expand opportunity.

Important, multi-year supporters have included The Oak Foundation and The Rothschild Foundation and we have a strong network of enthusiastic supporters. In order to ensure long-term financial

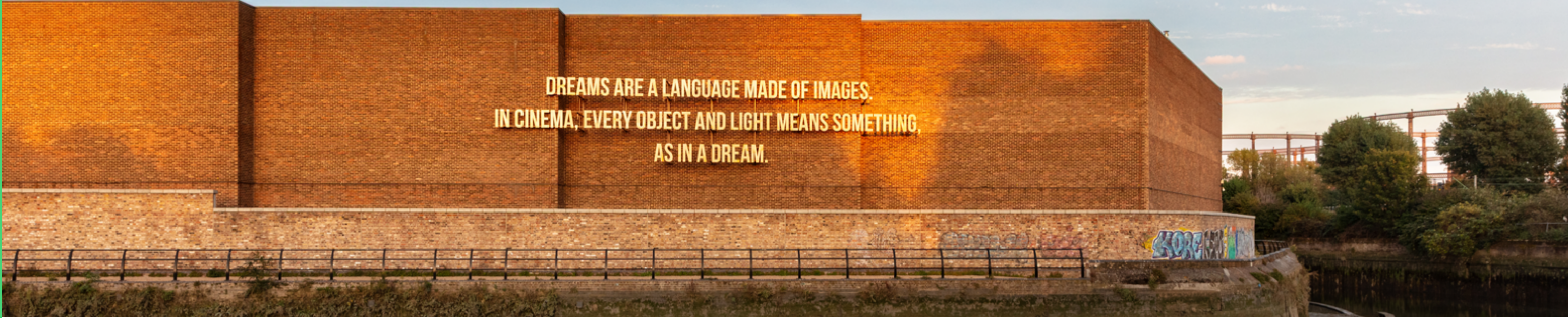


Baby Steps, 2025. Photo credit: Alaa Satir

sustainability, there is an opportunity to ensure we build on this basis to bring new supporters into the fold and to build operational and financial resilience.

With the route bookended by significant regeneration in East London, including East Bank and the Royal Docks, The Line is uniquely positioned to grow its impact and profile.

Role Summary



DREAMS ARE A LANGUAGE MADE OF IMAGES.
IN CINEMA, EVERY OBJECT AND LIGHT MEANS SOMETHING,
AS IN A DREAM.

The Chair, together with the Board of Trustees, is responsible for ensuring that The Line delivers its mission and charitable objectives, operates in line with its values, and remains financially sustainable and well governed. The Board holds collective responsibility for the charity's strategic direction, governance, financial health, legal compliance, and overall effectiveness.

The Chair leads the Board and ensures constructive and effective relationships between Trustees and Senior Management, enabling strong governance, strategic oversight, and organisational performance.

Responsibilities

Alongside all Trustees, the Chair will:

- Ensure compliance with the charity's governing document and all relevant legal and regulatory requirements;
- Safeguard the charity's financial sustainability, including oversight and approval of budgets and accounts;
- Ensure the organisation's operating model remains effective and sustainable;
- Contribute to strategic direction, policy development and performance monitoring;
- Support the setting of organisational goals and ensure progress is rigorously reviewed;
- Observe and promote Board policies, including equality, diversity and inclusion, conflicts of interest, and professional standards;
- Actively support fundraising, income generation and partnership development;
- Act as an ambassador for The Line, building relationships and leveraging networks to advance its work;
- Maintain oversight of operational effectiveness and remain informed about the charity's activities and external environment.

Who we're looking for

We are seeking someone with:

Experience

- Senior leadership or non-executive/trustee experience;
- Strong strategic and governance skills;
- Ability to support fundraising and partnerships.

Qualities

- Passion for arts, culture, and public engagement;
- Collaborative and thoughtful leadership style;
- Strong communication and influencing skills;
- Commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion;
- Previous Chair experience is welcome but not essential.

We encourage applications from individuals with connections to East London and those currently underrepresented in the cultural sector.

Breakfast with Rana Begum at Sotheby's. Photo credit: Jennifer Moyes



Time commitment

- Three-year term with the option to renew
- Approximately 1–2 days per month
- Lead four Board meetings per year
- Board meetings are usually in person at The Leadenhall Building, although we can offer hybrid meetings when needed
- Regular contact with the Director (typically remotely)
- Liaison with the (incoming) Finance Trustee and finance team in advance of Finance and Risk Committee (FIRC) and Board meetings
- The role encourages attendance at events, and other engagements to stay connected with the breadth of our work
- Opportunities to co-host patron and supporter events with the Director
- Attendance at any identified training as required

This is a voluntary role. Reasonable expenses are reimbursed.

Virginia Overton, *Untitled (Juniper)*, 2014. Photo credit: Angus Mill



How to apply

- Please get in touch if you'd like to arrange an exploratory conversation and to find out more with the Director or one of the Trustees.
- Similarly interested individuals would be very welcome on one of our monthly Director-led walks on The Line.
- The Line is committed to building a diverse and inclusive Board that reflects the communities it serves. We actively welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds.
- To apply please submit your CV and covering letter outlining why you would like to apply for this role and what makes you uniquely well qualified to support the leadership of The Line.
- Please contact workwithus@the-line.org.
- Application deadline: midday, 14 September 2026
- Interview with Nominations Committee: expected w/c 27 September

Yinka Ilori, *Types of Happiness*, 2019. Photo credit: Angus Mill



Antony Gormley, *Quantum Cloud*, 2000.
Photo credit: Emily Lovell

The Line Art Walk is a company registered in England and Wales (12392898) and a registered charity (1190073).

Our registered address is: Third Floor, 104-108 Oxford Street, London, W1D 1LP.

the-line.org
[@TheLineLondon](https://www.instagram.com/TheLineLondon)