

## THE FASHION DISTRICT SEEKS A NON EXECUTIVE CHAIR

The Fashion District partnership is seeking to appoint a **non-executive Chair for the Fashion District Board** to lead its next phase of development and support the ultimate ambition to be a global hub for fashion technology.

The Fashion District was launched in September 2018, backed by the Mayor of London, to work with partners from industry, business, education and the public sector to create **London's Fashion District**.

Building on the fashion heritage of east and north London it provides affordable workspace, access to investment, business and enterprise support and nurtures new talent. Our aim is to promote innovation through technology, across design, manufacturing and retail, creating the networks the industry needs to thrive and stimulating ideas that will bring sustainable solutions to change the future of fashion.

This role requires an exceptional candidate with industry expertise and the strategic vision, influence and passion to support the growth of the fashion industry in London.

### Responsibilities include:

- **providing leadership and strategic direction** to shape the long term vision for Fashion District
- recruiting Board Members to establish a strong industry and sector voice
- chairing meetings of the Board, **promoting effective operation** and ensuring members work together to further its business
- supporting the **development of the five Fashion District workstreams**; innovation, space, connections, investment and skills
- acting as an **ambassador for the Fashion District** promoting its reputation and assisting with fundraising activities
- **ensuring good governance practice** and that the Board operates with full regard to diversity and equalities and to the principles of public life

The role has a time commitment of approximately **2 working days per month**.

Our Chair will have wide-ranging experience of the fashion industry and be an experienced leader and ambassador with exceptional communication skills.

They will establish strong constructive relationships with the Director, board members and stakeholders across the Fashion District.

They will have a keen interest in promoting innovation and technology to develop the future of the fashion industry as well as a meaningful commitment to promoting sustainable practice.

We actively encourage applications from those who are under-represented in the industry, including women, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), disabled and LGBT+ candidates.



**APPLY BY 5PM, JULY 31<sup>st</sup>  
online at: [www.fashion-district.co.uk/newchair](http://www.fashion-district.co.uk/newchair)**

*Fashion District launched on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2018, bringing together a founding 18 partners with a joint vision to make London the global capital of fashion technology and innovation.*

*Together, we will nurture talent, create new jobs and innovative products. We will drive economic and social transformation, and create a legacy to be proud of.*

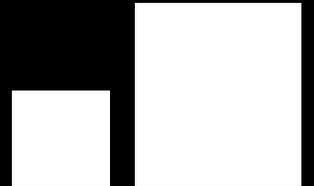
**HELEN LAX, DIRECTOR,  
FASHION DISTRICT**





**ual:** london college  
of fashion

SUPPORTED BY  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**



**FASHION DISTRICT CHAIR  
BRIEFING PACK**

[WWW.FASHION-DISTRICT.CO.UK](http://WWW.FASHION-DISTRICT.CO.UK)

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‘THE FASHION DISTRICT IN EAST LONDON WILL CREATE A CLUSTER THAT PAVES THE WAY FOR EVEN MORE GROWTH AND INNOVATION. LONDON IS A GLOBAL CAPITAL FOR CULTURE AND CREATIVITY, AND THIS EXCITING NEW DISTRICT WILL SECURE EAST LONDON’S PLACE AT THE CENTRE OF FASHION’.

JUSTINE SIMONS OBE,  
DEPUTY MAYOR FOR  
CULTURE AND THE  
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES,  
GREATER LONDON  
AUTHORITY



## ABOUT US

### AT ITS CORE

The Fashion District brings together fashion, technology, business and education in east London to meet, compete, collaborate and innovate - nurturing talent, generating new jobs and developing new products.

#### OUR AMBITIONS

'MADE IN BRITAIN'  
MANUFACTURING

A GLOBAL HUB OF  
FASHION TECHNOLOGY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
BENEFIT TO EAST LONDON

EAST LONDON FASHION  
HERITAGE REVIVAL

#### OUR OBJECTIVES

##### FASHION SKILLS

To develop fashion skills creating opportunity and a pipeline of talent

##### FASHION SPACES

To increase affordable fashion space available

##### FASHION CONNECTIONS

To act as a coordinating hub to create a connected fashion community

##### FASHION INNOVATIONS

To stimulate innovation, exploit technology and support enterprise

##### FASHION INVESTMENT

To increase access to finance and investment

#### USEFUL DOCS

[FASHION DISTRICT - OVERVIEW](#)

[FASHION DISTRICT - LAUNCH BROCHURE](#)

[FASHION DISTRICT: RESEARCH & EVIDENCE](#)

[FASHION DISTRICT: TERMS OF REFERENCE](#)

## CONTEXT & GOVERNANCE

The Fashion District is funded by London College of Fashion, UAL, which employs a small team, a Director and a Programme Coordinator, and provides resources to ensure delivery of a core programme. Funds for workstream activities are levered from a range of organisations and represent a combination of public funded grants, business sponsorship, donations and budget contributions. A key objective for the next phase is to increase revenue and generate further funding opportunities.

The largest grant of £2.4m was awarded to the Fashion District partners from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund to deliver three capital projects; The Trampery Fish Island Village, Poplar Works by Poplar HARCA and the Fashion Capital Tailoring Academy at Fashion Enter.

The Terms of Reference for the Fashion District Board can be found at the end of the pack. These set out the purpose and rules about the structure of the Board and the way it should conduct itself. The Board is comprised of up to 14 members with representation from sub-sectors of the fashion industry, education, business, and delivery partners.

The Board's Terms of Reference specify that the members will:

- shape the long term vision for the programme and provide strategic direction and leadership
- assist to identify resources, opportunities and networks to implement the strategy
- monitor performance
- promote the interests of the Fashion District

Given the nature of partnership working across the key partners of Fashion District the Chair must act and be seen to act impartially, and not be influenced by her/his business or other relationships.



*Poplar Works by Poplar HARCA*

## THE ROLE

### TITLE: CHAIR, FASHION DISTRICT

The role requires an exceptional candidate with strategic vision who is passionate about leading the initiative through the next phase of its development, including the implementation of a strategy for 2020-23.

The Fashion District is seeking to appoint the Chair to take up the role in June 2020 which will entail chairing the Board at scheduled meetings, 3-4 times a year and acting as the programme's ambassador and strategic advisor. This new role will develop the original Stakeholder Board, previously chaired by the GLA and London College of Fashion, UAL, in to a new governance vehicle for the future.

## MAIN DUTIES

The main duties of the Chair are to:

- chair meetings of the Board and promote it's effective operation, ensuring members work together and have confidence in the conduct of its business
- assist in recruiting candidates to the Board and ensure that new members receive a full briefing about their role
- work closely with the Director and advise on relevant matters
- act as an ambassador for the Fashion District promoting its reputation and assisting with fundraising activities
- ensure regular reviews of the effectiveness of the Board's governance
- ensure that the Board operates with full regard to diversity and equalities and to the principles of public life.

For this role, the Chair will need:

## ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

- significant experience of working in the fashion industry and a working knowledge of its sub sectors
- a keen interest in the creative and cultural industries and empathy with the values of the Fashion District
- ability to think strategically, to engage with issues outside direct personal experience, bringing insight and perspective, to support organisational strategy
- knowledge of innovation and tech and a demonstrable commitment to sustainable practice to influence and champion the future of fashion
- prior experience on a Board in the private, public, or education sectors

“UNIBAIL-RODAMCO-WESTFIELD IS DELIGHTED TO SUPPORT THE FASHION DISTRICT AND WORK TOGETHER ON THE RETAIL FUTURES INNOVATION CHALLENGE PRIZE.

IT WILL PUT TECHNOLOGY AT THE CENTRE OF RE-IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF THE RETAIL ENVIRONMENT AND ENHANCE THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE”

MYF RYAN,  
CMO EUROPE,  
UNIBAIL-RODAMCO-  
WESTFIELD

## ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES

- strong leadership skills with experience of complex, values-led organisations
- excellent communication skills including the ability to influence at senior levels and support others to do so
- ability to network and build relationships, including those that generate and support funding
- high level of flexibility and commitment
- a commitment to diversity and equality
- impartiality, confidentiality, tact and diplomacy

## TIME COMMITMENT

- The time commitment of the role of the Chair is approximately two to three days a month, including attending meetings (this can fluctuate due to business circumstances), representing the Fashion District externally, maintaining an effective working relationship with the Director, and strategic engagement with the activities.
- In addition to three Board meetings a year the Chair attends the Stakeholder Forum twice a year. More details of the nature and extent of involvement can be discussed with shortlisted candidates.

## REMUNERATION

- The position is not remunerated but necessary expenses will be paid.

## TERM OF OFFICE

- The Chair of the Board will be appointed by the Board for a term of office of up to three years; and can be reappointed for a further term, not exceeding six years in total.



*Retail Futures: Fashion District Innovation Challenge Prize 2019 Launch Event at*

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the role of Chair of the Fashion District, please provide the following information via [www.fashion-district.co.uk/newchair](http://www.fashion-district.co.uk/newchair) no later than **5pm, July 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**.

- Name & Contact Details
- An up-to-date CV
- A supporting statement (maximum 2-3 sides) that outlines your interest in the role and your fit against the criteria set out in the skills and knowledge section
- Details of 2 professional referees (including contact information). *Referees will not be contacted without your prior consent.*

For a confidential conversation about this role please contact Helen Lax, Director, Fashion District, at [helen.lax@fashion-district.co.uk](mailto:helen.lax@fashion-district.co.uk);

### **Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form**

We are committed to meeting the standards set out in our Equality and Diversity recruitment policy; this includes not discriminating under the Equality Act 2010 and building an accurate picture of the make-up of the workforce in encouraging equality and diversity.



### TIMETABLE

JULY 31 2020  
Application Deadline

W/C SEPT 7 2020  
Interviews

Retail Futures Winners Sparkbox, GIBBON & Miro Solutions and Judging Panel & Sponsors from Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield, Stylus, John Lewis & Partners, Farfetch, True Capital, Fashion Innovation Agency, at the Fashion District Innovation Awards & Investment Supper 2019.

