

Being a Trustee

Jenny Williamson ACR writes about her experience of the Trustee role and what she gets out of it.

What do you need to be a Trustee?

I have learnt that I did not need specific skills to be a Trustee of Icon, rather a passion for conservation, a preparedness to work with others to develop Icon, a desire to learn and time to dedicate to the work. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Trustee and would recommend other Icon members to consider it.

Why did I stand for election?

I was asked by another Trustee, Adam Webster ACR, to consider standing as a Trustee. I had not thought of it before. I did not think that I had the right skills or experience for the role, but Adam discussed it and explained what it would entail. I agreed to stand because I thought it would be challenging, I was interested in finding out more about Icon and I hoped that I could ensure that it included the interests of all conservators.

What is my background?

At the time, I was working as a freelance paintings conservator based at the National Library of Wales, and also lecturing part-time at Aberystwyth University. I had been a member of Icon since convergence, and a member of UKIC* before that, and had completed my fast-track accreditation in 1999.

What have I learnt?

I have now been a Trustee for two and a half years. The first year was a steep learning curve. I have since been on a number of committees and Task & Finish groups. From these, and the Board Meetings, I have learnt and developed skills including reading budget sheets, rigorous document editing, strategic and analytical thinking, evidence-based decision-making and communication skills. I have increased my understanding of Icon, and my appreciation of what it is doing for conservators and conservation.

What other benefits have there been?

It is good for my CPD. I enjoy the regular visits to London and some of my Trustee experience has been helpful in two recent job applications. I have particularly enjoyed meeting and working with the staff of Icon and the other Trustees, who include conservators from other disciplines and co-opted Trustees from a variety of backgrounds including media, law and education.

Jenny Williamson, ACR

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* United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, one of Icon's predecessor bodies