



## GOLDSMITHS' CRAFT & DESIGN COUNCIL

### **The Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council Member Application August 2020**

The Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council (GC&DC) are seeking new Council members and are inviting applications from individuals with sufficient experience, knowledge and skills in the relevant specialist fields of craftsmanship and design, business, governance, finance, operations and marketing.

Founded in 1908 by the Goldsmiths' Company who remain our lead Patron, the GC&DC is a non-profit charitable organisation dedicated to the promotion of the highest levels of craftsmanship and design within the silversmithing, goldsmithing, jewellery and allied crafts. The main vehicle for this is through its prestigious annual Awards and educational initiatives. The Council is currently composed members and Trustees who generously volunteer their time and expertise in managing and promoting the annual competition, Awards ceremony and the numerous initiatives of the GC&DC throughout the year.

To further strengthen the GC&DC and increase its diversification of expertise and skills, we are seeking to appoint experienced Council members who are committed to supporting the core mission of the GC&DC: to promote and drive excellence and innovation in the industry.

Further detailed information on the skills, specifications, roles and responsibilities of Council Members, and the guidelines on how you can apply are provided below.

In addition, for reference and context, please consult the [history and work of the GC&DC](#) and a [summary of our most recent Awards](#).

***The deadline for applications is midnight on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020.***



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### ABOUT GC&DC

As a charitable organisation, the central aim of the Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council is to promote excellence in the industry through its prestigious annual Awards. Today, the Council continues its work from its original mission statement:

*"to encourage, stimulate and promote the pursuit of excellence in craftsmanship and design amongst all those in the United Kingdom who work within silversmithing, goldsmithing, jewellery and the allied crafts."*

### THE CRAFTSMANSHIP & DESIGN AWARDS

The annual GC&DC Awards embrace every aspect of craft and design activity currently being practiced in the UK industry. The competition currently comprises of 31 sections and other special Awards, that cover 2D and 3D design and 3D craftsmanship, spanning the breadth of the crafts and skills of the industry. Entrant submissions are received in January at The Goldsmiths' Centre where they are anonymously judged by skilled and experienced practitioners drawn from their specialist fields of expertise within the profession.

The Council nominate top award-winning work for consideration for the Major and Premier Awards, which are Awarded to outstanding entries. The competition culminates in an annual Awards ceremony held in March at Goldsmiths' Hall, attended by Award-winners, their guests, our Patrons, Sponsors, Judges and the press.

The Council Awards ceremony is followed by a number of industry focused exhibitions and events to promote the breadth and benchmark standards of GC&DC's award-winning work, at which our Council members and Trustees help to host our guests and supporters.

### STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

#### Council Members & Trustees:

The GC&DC Council members are at the heart of the Council's work and as elected volunteers, give their time freely in organising and managing the annual competition, Awards ceremony and the subsequent exhibition and events held at Goldsmiths' Hall.

- Of the current Council members, there are 7 elected trustees, including the Chairman and Vice Chair who frequently meet throughout the year. Meetings are usually held in the early evening at Goldsmiths' Hall in London but are currently taking place via video conference due to social distancing.
- Our existing Council members have expertise spanning diamond mounting, jewellery, polishing, enamelling, setting, silversmithing, smallwork, technology, retail, finance, communications and design.
- Council members are appointed for an initial 5-year term, after which they may be re-elected for a further 5-year period of office.
- Council members are fully briefed prior to meetings which are conversational, and action focussed. There is an annual AGM and a full Council meeting that takes place during the competition period to debate and decide on the Major and Premier Awards.
- Council members are expected to represent the GC&DC at key industry events, including New Designers, IJL, Make Your Mark, at Freeman and apprentice/master receptions, Gem-A Awards, private views etc. on a voluntary basis.



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- Trustees are elected from its Council membership on a yearly basis.

### **Consultants**

We have three part-time consultants at the GC&DC who oversee the Council's administration and the running of the annual competition, Awards ceremony, exhibitions and events.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

In light of the anticipated uncertainty following Covid-19, we are aware that this will, and has, impacted the work of the GC&DC and what we deem as our usual course of business. Forging ahead, Council have formed a plan that will see us through the year ahead, with a competition and Awards that will be leveraging our digital resources, tools, experience and expertise.

We endeavour to keep the ongoing plans fluid, allowing us to remain flexible and adaptable to any changing situations, and more positively, it will provide us with a great opportunity to innovate and offer a revised and ever-improving GC&DC competition and Awards.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS: ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **ROLE**

Council members form the core function of the GC&DC. Their role is to provide expertise, experience, knowledge, advice and support to the Trustees to fulfil their responsibilities in the furtherance of GC&DC's mission statement. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to be at the heart of a tremendously creative and innovative industry and above all, we are seeking individuals with a great passion and commitment to both the industry and the objectives of the GC&DC.

### **EXPERIENCES & SKILLS SOUGHT**

The skills sought in the make-up of our Council should always be reflective of the industry, aiming to represent the traditional skills as well as embracing the new and emerging. It should also comprise of individuals who are versed in the ever-evolving world around us, from issues of sustainability and social responsibility to business, diversity, finance and governance, matters that are all central to being a relevant and inclusive organisation that can continue to serve our industry with integrity and resolution.

The specialist skills and experience that we seek are listed below and are by no means limited to these. If you have experience and skills in an area or craft that is not listed, and that you believe is relevant to the Council and industry, please state and explain this in your application.

- Engraving
- Diamond Mounting
- Chasing
- Modelling
- Lapidary & Carving
- Medal Design
- Setting
- Retail
- Fine and High-end Jewellery
- Fashion and/or Commercial Jewellery



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- Marketing
- Technology & CAD
- Education
- Governance / Legal
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Finance
- Fundraising

### RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Time Commitment

- The role of Council member is voluntary and an unpaid appointment.
- As part of the process the full Council meets to discuss its business and projects, usually twice a year, held at Goldsmiths' Hall and/or The Goldsmiths' Centre. The GC&DC Trustees, drawn from its membership, meet at least four times a year. Meetings normally last 2 hours, and it is important that you attend to be able to contribute ideas and opinions to Councils work.
- In addition to attending the Council meetings each year, Council members are expected to attend and help at the Awards ceremony at the Goldsmiths' Hall, London, and other GC&DC events.
- Council members are required to participate in discussions, requests for nominations, voting and other matters of governance as and when necessary, over email.

#### Experience & Skills

- Proven experience in one or more of the specified skills and areas listed, or otherwise as suggested, will be of value to Council in furtherance of its aims.
- A good understanding of the mission and vision of the GC&DC, and a commitment to championing our message of excellence to and in the industry.
- Willingness to contribute and lead on topics of discussion, promotional activities and fundraising opportunities where relevant.
- An ability and willingness to draw upon contacts where necessary and appropriate for the benefit of the GC&DC and the profession.
- A commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion, fairness and equality in the Council, its work and objectives.
- Enthusiasm and passion for jewellery, silversmithing, goldsmithing and allied crafts is fundamental.

### HOW TO APPLY

Please send the following details to [info@craftanddesigncouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@craftanddesigncouncil.org.uk)

- A copy of your CV (including your contact details).
- A covering letter outlining the following (500 words max):
  - o reasons for applying;
  - o relevant trade experience and area/s of speciality;
  - o motivation to become a Council member;
  - o the contribution you can make to Council.
- References x 2 (trade / sector of business & personal).

**Deadline is midnight on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Interviews will be held in October 2020 via Zoom**

*If you would like further information or background on the role or on Council, please contact our consultants Alma Geller and Banita Mistry at [info@craftanddesigncouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@craftanddesigncouncil.org.uk)*