



Message from our Chair

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for considering becoming a Trustee of Belfast Buildings Trust.

At BBT, we believe that regeneration that is informed by the city's heritage and culture isn't about transforming buildings but the lives and livelihoods of the people around them. Our work is driven by the conviction that Belfast's historic buildings and cultural stories are not relics of the past, but powerful resources for the future.

BBT's Trustees play a vital role in guiding and amplifying this mission. We are now seeking individuals with expertise in financial investment, property development, audience development, and architecture or project management to help us achieve even greater regeneration impact.

It is an exciting time to join us. With a significant capital project in development, anticipated expansion of our skills-focused engagement work, and ambitious plans on the horizon, your skills and insight will help shape the future of BBT's regeneration work - ensuring that the Trust continues to deliver meaningful social, cultural, and economic outcomes for Belfast.

We look forward to welcoming individuals who share our passion for place, people, and purposeful regeneration.

Kathryn Collie
Chair, Belfast Buildings Trust



About Belfast Buildings Trust

Belfast Buildings Trust is a charity that delivers physical, social, and economic regeneration by using and reusing what makes Belfast special. For nearly 30 years, our work has focused on delivering regeneration outcomes that transform places, empower people, and shape Belfast's future.

We do this through capital regeneration, public engagement, policy development, and mentoring. Our approach is rooted in four strategic themes: skills, health and wellbeing, housing, and culture, to ensure that our work delivers meaningful, long-term benefits for people.

We believe that heritage and culture-led regeneration is a powerful catalyst for positive change - breathing new life into historic buildings, driving creative and innovative growth, and fostering civic pride.

Since 1996, we have worked with hundreds of partners to reimagine and regenerate some of Belfast's most significant buildings, rescuing them from dereliction and unlocking their potential as vibrant, accessible, and meaningful assets for the community. Beyond buildings, we have commissioned and created showcase cultural projects and instigated international partnerships that have authentically connected Belfast's people with the city's stories while helping them to build and develop their creative skills.

Our work demonstrates that regeneration is more than bricks and mortar. It is about empowering people to be involved in shaping their city, revitalising neighbourhoods, and creating opportunities. It is about building a more connected, more enterprising city in ways that meet people's needs by using and reusing what makes Belfast unique.

Our Impact

To date, BBT has:

- Restored and repurposed historic buildings such as the former St. Patrick's National School and Christ Church, creating multi-purpose and mixed-use assets that are relevant for people in the city.
- Delivered award-winning projects like The Belfast Opera and initiated Belfast's journey to becoming a UNESCO City of Music, connecting people to the city's stories and encouraging cultural participation.
- Saved the globally recognised at-risk landmark of Carlisle Memorial Church, and enabled its public use as a 'meanwhile venue' while continuing to work to involve local people in exploring its long-term future use.
- Mentored and supported hundreds of community groups and social enterprises on regeneration opportunities, including governance, project development, project delivery, and engagement practice.
- Advocated for heritage and culture-led regeneration to be valued as a core driver of Belfast's future, influencing policy and practice through regular engagement with central and local government bodies.



We are ambitious about the future. Among our most exciting current work is the next stage of our capital work at Carlisle Memorial, which we aim to complete in 2027, and our 'Creative Belfast' engagement, a strategic partnership with nine other cultural and creative skills organisations to develop programming that supports young people in developing employable creative, cultural, and heritage skills while activating the use of landmark buildings across Belfast.

Through imaginative partnerships and a focus on heritage and culture as vital drivers of Belfast's opportunities, we aim to deepen our impact - delivering bold, people-centred projects that make the most of what makes Belfast special while helping to build a stronger, more vibrant city.

Priority Skills

While we welcome expressions of interest/applications from anyone who shares our passion and vision for using what makes Belfast special, at this time, Trustees will prioritise appointing individuals with expertise in the following areas:

- **Financial Investment/Business Development**, including social finance or commercial partnerships, perhaps with exposure to regeneration or property projects.

We are particularly interested in people willing to inform and help guide how the Trust develops and secures sustainable investment to maximise our resilience and growth and support our drive for financial sustainability.

- **Property Development**, urban regeneration, or real estate, with a desire to support work that delivers community-focused outcomes.

We are particularly interested in people willing to help identify and provide strategic oversight on project feasibility and commercial potential while ensuring that our projects are impactful and meet community needs.

- **Audience Development**, marketing, or communications, perhaps especially with a passion for inclusive public programmes and broadening reach.

We are particularly interested in people who are willing to advise on and guide new ways to engage and inspire people in our work, to increase public participation and deepen community connections, and to help us ensure our regeneration projects are accessible, relevant, and people-centred.

- **Architecture and/or Project Management** in adaptive reuse, conservation, or other project management areas that align with BBT's regeneration work.

We are particularly interested in people who have a desire to support how we deliver high-quality regeneration outcomes by providing technical oversight on building projects, advising on construction processes and design quality standards, and supporting our oversight of project timelines and budgets.



BBT welcomes expressions of interest/applications from people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. We would particularly welcome an application if you will bring new perspectives to our future work on regeneration, public engagement, and people-focused development.

The Role

As a Trustee, you will play a key role in guiding and supporting our work - ensuring we remain bold, strategic, and impactful in our regeneration efforts.

Key Responsibilities

- **Strategic Oversight:** Shape and monitor the Trust's regeneration work, ensuring it delivers sustainable social, economic, and cultural outcomes.
- **Financial and Operational Governance:** Provide scrutiny and support on BBT's financial health, fundraising strategies, and project delivery.
- **Project Support:** Provide additional project delivery support to the staff team, aligned with your skills and experience.
- **Advocacy and Influence:** Leverage your networks and expertise to champion BBT's mission, secure new opportunities, and promote regeneration in Belfast that prioritises using and reusing what makes the city special.
- **Support and Challenge:** Work constructively with the staff and fellow Trustees to hold the organisation accountable to its objectives.

Commitment & Support

This is a voluntary role. Trustees are not paid, but reasonable expenses, such as travel costs, can be reimbursed.

Board Meetings currently take place between four and six times per year, as a mix of in-person and online, lasting approximately 90 minutes.

Trustees are encouraged to attend BBT events and site visits to engage directly with the Trust's work.

New Trustees will be welcomed and fully introduced to the Trust's work with:

- One-on-one meetings with the Chair and Development Director.
- An overview of BBT's current projects, future plans, and governance structure.
- Opportunities to visit sites and meet with key project partners, offering firsthand insight into our work.



How to Apply

To apply, please:

- **Submit a CV and cover letter (ensuring that both are no longer than 2 pages each)** outlining your relevant experience and why you are interested in becoming a Trustee of Belfast Buildings Trust.
- Send your application by **5pm on Monday 9th June** to shanequinn@belfastbuildingstrust.org

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Shane Quinn at shanequinn@belfastbuildingstrust.org

We look forward to hearing from you.