



THE STRADLING COLLECTION

Trustee Recruitment Pack

A UNIQUE COLLECTION—A REMARKABLE MAN



Ken Stradling MBE

The Stradling Collection is unique in that it came out of the world of retailing post-war craft and design. It is a spectacular collection of 20th and 21st Century design and applied arts, containing over 650 pieces of studio ceramics, 300 pieces of Scandinavian and British studio glass and many items of furniture, industrial design, decorative objects, paintings and prints. Of international significance, it is also a wonderful repository of stories about the designers, manufacturers and crafts people and the collector himself all set in the context of Bristol's place in design history.

The Collection's Bristolian founder turned 100 in January 2022 and ended his remarkable life in July this same year. Ken Stradling started as a buyer at the Bristol Guild in 1948 and rose to become one of two Directors by 1965, retiring in 2006. During his incredible 60-year stewardship at the Guild, he collected many of the items that he also sold in the shop and the gallery. In reflecting the stock at the Guild, this collection shows how his personal vision helped shape the tastes of shoppers at such an exciting and innovative era of design and crafts. The Guild became a key destination for Bristolians to see and feel new exciting ceramics, glass, lighting, furniture, and home-creating objects sourced from makers in Britain, Scandinavia and throughout Europe.

Ken was deeply committed to sharing his love of design and making, and in 2006 he established a charitable trust to give his Collection a permanent home at 48 Park Row, Bristol. Through Ken's generosity and vision, the Stradling Collection is, and will remain, a jewel in Bristol's cultural crown.

THE STRADLING COLLECTION TODAY

Today, The Stradling Collection exists to care for the Collection and inspire and educate current and future makers, making it available to everyone for study and to enjoy.

The gallery at 48 Park Row features changing displays from the Collection, loan exhibitions which respond to it, or artworks created through our learning programme by children and students engaging with all its amazing variety. Sometimes our exhibitions feature all these types of work, and a varied activity programme engages people of every age and experience.

As a small charity, we value the support of our loyal volunteer stewards who work closely with our part-time Curator and Centre and Programming Officer. The Collection is currently open to the public four days a week.



ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Board of Trustees is critical in setting and overseeing our mission, vision, and values, and in supporting the staff team to implement our projects and programmes. You don't have to have previous experience of being a Trustee to join us, nor do you have to come from an arts, design, or cultural background. A passion for our organisation and Collection is the most important requirement.

We are seeking people who appreciate the value arts and design contribute to society and the part we play within this ecology, particularly in Bristol and the West of England.

The Trustees are planning to expand as we move into the next period of our development and are ideally looking for people with the following skills:

Finance – You don't have to be a chartered accountant, but we would like someone who has experience of dealing with charity budgets and accounts and day-to-day finance.

Fundraising – To contribute ideas and energy into a new business model which acknowledges an increasingly challenging fundraising environment. This would include individual giving, bids, and legacy development.

Community Engagement – To help to identify and build relationships with members of cultural, academic, and educational organisations and communities.

SHOULD YOU HAVE FURTHER OR DIFFERENT SKILLS TO THESE, WE STILL WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A BOARD MEMBER

With fellow Trustees and the staff team, you will be involved in the following activities:

- Attend four in-person board meetings a year
- Contribute to specific task and finish groups as appropriate
- Volunteer stewarding twice a year
- Oversee the development of a new strategic business plan
- Help to update policies and procedures on an annual basis
- Proactively develop relationships with potential funders
- Attend exhibition openings and other events

You will be appointed for a period of three years with an option to serve for a further three.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are inspired to apply, we will be delighted to hear from you!

Please send your CV with a supporting statement expressing your interest in becoming a Trustee, outlining the skills and expertise you could bring to the organisation, and any other experiences you think could add value to the role to admin@stradlingcollection.org

Email: admin@stradlingcollection.org with "Trustee Application" as the subject line.

Or

For an informal conversation prior to applying, contact Karen White at Chair@Stradlingcollection.org.

If you would like to arrange for a Curator's Tour of the Gallery prior to applying, please contact Curator@Stradlingcollection.org

