

Art League Governance Service: Another Way to Support The Art League!

The Art League is looking for volunteers to serve on our various governing bodies. As you know, The Art League plays a valuable – even essential – role in the lives of many artists and art lovers. Our excellent and varied classes, the numerous annual exhibitions in our Gallery, and new ventures such as our lecture series and travel opportunities, enable Art League members and supporters to learn, grow, and be part of a diverse, supportive network of artists and supporters. And our outreach to the larger community uses the visual arts to reach out to the underserved with programs like IMPART, SOHO Old Town (a Space of Her Own), and the Geri Gordon Scholarship Fund.

In moving forward with The Art League's programs and operations, we have before us both great opportunities and significant challenges. We want to ensure that our decision-making reflects a broad range of experiences and perspectives, so we are launching a new effort to identify people willing to devote some time and effort to serve on our committees, Advisory Council, or Board of Directors. Many have found such service to be an enjoyable way to give back to an organization important to them as well as an opportunity to get to know and work closely with other artists and supporters at a successful, highly respected arts organization.

The Art League can benefit from the service of people with varying experience and expertise, including – but certainly not limited to -- land use and urban development, finance, arts education, fundraising/development, community relations, and nonprofit organization governance.

Set forth below is a brief summary of our governance structure – if you think you might be interested in serving in some capacity, please let us know by completing the brief form at the end of this document *[link to form to be added]*.

Committees. Like most organizations, the Board of Directors relies on committees to carry out some of its responsibilities or to provide the analysis and in-depth review to inform the Board's decisionmaking in specific areas. Some of our committees include individuals who are not Board members. Membership on some committees (for example, Finance or Strategic Planning) requires specific types of expertise or experience; others (for example, Development) require time and enthusiasm but not specific training or experience (though such background is certainly a plus).

Advisory Council. The Board also has an Advisory Council composed of individuals with experience or expertise that may be helpful to the Board but who are not currently able or ready to serve on the Board itself. Members of the Council supplement the knowledge and experience of the Board members and

often attend and participate in Board meetings and/or serve on Board Committees.

Board of Directors. As a general matter, The Board of Directors, operating under The Art League’s Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, is responsible for setting overall policies; monitoring the organization’s financial health, operations and overall performance; and assuring the availability of resources needed for The Art League’s operations. (Managing and carrying out the day-to-day operations of The Art League, including the Gallery, the School, and the Store, are the responsibility of the Executive Director and the staff, rather than the Board.)

Individuals elected to the Board are expected to attend and participate constructively in Board meetings (generally four to six meetings per year); to serve on Board committees; to be positive and professional representatives of the Board to The Art League community, the public, and other individuals and organizations; and to be willing to make decisions in the best interests of The Art League after a full consideration of the merits. (For more information on specific Board responsibilities, please see The Art League Board of Directors Responsibilities and Service Agreement at *[insert link]*). Board members are elected for one-year terms and often serve multiple terms to ensure continuity in the Board’s functioning.

The Board’s Nominating Committee, which includes both Board members and Art League members who do not serve on the Board, nominates Board candidates who are qualified and willing to serve. **While not a requirement of the By-Laws, and exceptions may be made in appropriate circumstances, individuals are not customarily nominated to the Board without at least some prior Art League governance experience, such as service on the Advisory Council or a Board Committee (see above).**

Interested? If you think service on one of these governing bodies would be a good way for you to support The Art League and its operations, or if there is someone else that you would like to recommend for a role in The Art League’s governance, please let us know by filling out the brief form below. Send the completed form to nominating@theartleague.org and we will be in touch with you.

Contact Information

Your name:

Your email address:

Your phone number:

Relationship to The Art League

Are you an Art League exhibiting member? For how long?

A student? For how long?

A donor? For how long?

Other relationship to The Art League (please describe):

In what capacity are you interested in participating in Art League governance?

Committees?

Advisory Council?

Board of Directors?

Please briefly describe your education, employment, and/or other experience and skills relevant to your proposed service to The Art League.

If there is someone else you would like to recommend for a role in Art League governance, please provide his/her name, email address, and phone number as well as a brief description of the skills or experience that he/she could bring to The Art League.