

The Architectural Heritage Fund – Chair of the AHF Credit Panels and AHF Trustee

Vacancy:	Chair of the AHF Credit Panels and AHF Trustee
Salary:	Voluntary and unremunerated (reasonable expenses are reimbursed)
Duration:	Up to 3 terms (one term is 3 years)
Application:	Please submit a CV and covering letter (up to 2 pages) explaining why the role interests you and how you meet the knowledge, skills and experience areas we are seeking. Please send to The Architectural Heritage Fund, by email: oliver.brodrick-ward@ahfund.org.uk
Deadline:	9 th June 2025
Interview:	Interviews will take place on w/c 30 th June.

About the AHF

Founded in 1976, the AHF is the UK's leading social investor in heritage-led regeneration, putting sustainable heritage at the heart of vibrant local economies. We fund charities and social enterprises across the UK to reuse historic buildings for a variety of new uses, particularly in areas of economic disadvantage. The AHF works across all four nations of the UK offering advice, grants, loans and other forms of social investment to organisations seeking to reuse historic buildings for community benefit.

In the last three years AHF awarded 645 grants and loans and a total of £23 million in new investment into heritage projects across the UK. We have just launched the £5m Heritage Revival Fund in England and have been awarded nearly £2m from Historic Environment Scotland, the largest grant under its Partnership Fund.

We are the UK's leading heritage social investor and the only specialist lender to organisations regenerating historic buildings. AHF has two lending funds, its historic endowment / lending fund (circa £10m); lending decisions for this fund are overseen by the AHF Credit Panel. The Heritage Impact Fund (circa £7m) is a partnership fund focused on both heritage and social impact; lending decisions for this fund are overseen by the Heritage Impact Fund Credit Panel. We are actively fundraising for new funds, and we also work in partnership with Social Investment Business and Key Fund to deliver partnership lending funds targeted at a range of needs; this includes the Energy Resilience Fund.

This is a unique opportunity to join the Board of an ambitious organisation that plays a unique and long-standing role in place and heritage-led regeneration. As well as funding, we also provide advice and guidance to social enterprises and charities undertaking adaptive reuse projects – this advice is rated incredibly highly, scoring 92/100 in our most recent evaluation report. AHF was also recently rated A for its approach to Diversity, Accountability and Transparency by the independent Foundation Practice.

About the role

The Chair of Credit Panel is a Trustee of the AHF and reports on the activities of the Panels to the Board of Trustees. [Details of the responsibilities of a Trustee are set out in the separate Trustee role description – [see here](#)].

Key responsibilities of the Chair of Credit Panel

The Chair of Credit Panel oversees the two credit panels that makes decisions on the two lending funds currently managed by the AHF. Key responsibilities include:

- Chair the quarterly Credit Panel meetings of the AHF (plus occasional ad-hoc online meetings if urgent decisions need to be made), overseeing decision making on loan and social investment applications in accordance with the AHF's policies and delegated authority. This will include approving the agenda and the draft minutes of Committee meetings.
- The Chair will help the Panels weigh considerations of risk, community benefit, heritage significance, financial return, security, the availability of funds, and other matters, in making lending decisions.
- Working with the Director of Investment and CEO, provide support with issues of non-performing debt, if needed, and decisions on amendments to existing terms and conditions of loan facilities, and any other matters which may arise.
- Alongside the CEO and Director of Investment, the Chair will help ensure that the Board is kept informed of the work and decisions of the Panel.
- With the CEO and Chair of the Board, ensure that the Panels have sufficient experience and expertise to make well-considered and effective decisions. This will include assisting with the recruitment of new members, including co-optees.
- Assist the AHF with the strategic development of new lending funds and products, including with partner organisations, and potentially sourcing new forms of business and investment.
- The post-holder will act as a critical friend and sounding board to the Director of Investment.
- Be a high-profile ambassador for the AHF and be sympathetic to the aims and objectives of the charity.

Person specification

The Chair of Credit Panel should have the relevant skills and experience for the role and be suitably qualified. Ideal candidates will have:

- Some experience of governance / chairing roles (although not necessarily in a formal Chair capacity) and strong communicator, with the ability to explain complex issues clearly.
- Experience of investment (not necessarily social investment), ideally within a property development context.

- Broad understanding of legal and financial guidelines set out in current legislation, charity law and company law.
- The skills to analyse loan applications, financial information and funds.
- Good interpersonal skills with the ability to build and foster consensus on issues of standards and process.
- Demonstrate commitment to creating a culture of EDI across the Credit Panels' areas of responsibility and promoting a diverse range of views and perspectives.
- The time required to fulfil the role.

Remuneration and time commitment

The position is unremunerated. The appointment would be for an initial 3-year term, with the opportunity for renewal (up to a maximum of two further terms).

We estimate the time commitment for the Chair of Credit Panel (to include Credit Panel and Board commitments) is around 7-10 days a year. There are currently four Credit Panel meetings per year, taking 2-3 hours. See the Trustee role description for frequency of Board meetings. Most Credit Panel meetings are in person, but some are held online. The post holder would be required to occasionally meet with the CEO and Director of Investment and Chair of the Board.

Diversity

In line with [Our Commitments to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) and Fair Work](#), the AHF is particularly interested to receive applications from candidates from diverse backgrounds with the skills and experience we are seeking. You can find more details of the AHF and the impact of our work at: www.ahfund.org.uk.

How to apply

To set up an informal discussion with the CEO, Matthew Mckeague or the Chair, Ros Kerlake, about the role, please contact: Oliver Brodrick-Ward on 0207 925 0199 or email oliver.brodrick-ward@ahfund.org.uk.

Applications should be submitted via CV (including two references we can contact should you be successful in your application) and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to the email address above.

Closing date: 9th June 2025