

PRESS RELEASE 28 July 2021

Queen's Hall announces new Board Members

After a callout earlier this year, we are proud to announce the appointment of five new Trustees as we finalise exciting plans for reopening.

The new members bring with them extensive experience from the creative sector combining both local and national knowledge. We are delighted to welcome Rachel Adams, Councillor Cath Homer, Angeline Lucas, Garry Lyons and Lynn Turner.

Jonny Tull, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Queen's Hall said, *"Ahead of our much-anticipated return to live audiences it is absolutely fantastic to be able to welcome our five new Trustees to the Queens Hall. Katy and her team have exciting plans for our reopening, so we're very much looking forward to our new colleagues bringing their skills, perspective and rich experience in support of that."*

Rachel Adams has worked in the cultural sector for over 30 years and her current role is Project Director of Museums Northumberland, the Creative People and Places programme in South East Northumberland. She said, *"QHA has an inspiring mission to be the creative heart of the community. I am delighted to join the board and look forward to playing a part in all the opportunities ahead, working with the other trustees and staff, all of whom have done a brilliant job during the pandemic."*

Councillor Cath Homer has represented Hexham East at Northumberland County Council for the last eight years and has sat on the North East Cultural Partnership Board, the LGA Sport, Culture and Tourism Board and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Culture and Wellbeing, so understands all too well the vital role the sector plays in delivering economic, social, education and health benefits. Cath commented, *"I've always been a huge supporter of Katy and the team at Queen's Hall Arts and I'm delighted to be re-joining the board in such exciting times, with QHA taking the leading role in the Hexham cultural network and the cultural programme connected to the Hexham High Street Heritage Action Zone."*

Angeline Lucas brings 20 years' of experience working in the creative industries and founded the award-winning North East Dance Co-operative. Being neurodivergent and disabled, Angeline is extremely passionate about inclusion: committed to increasing equality of opportunity within the arts and promoting accessible high-standard cultural experiences for all. She explained, *"Growing up in Northumberland, the Queen's Hall afforded me countless invaluable opportunities to access and explore the arts — the impact of which cannot be overstated. These opportunities enriched my life, expanded my horizons, enhanced my education and provided essential refuge. It is an absolute honour to now serve as a Trustee and be afforded the opportunity to give back in recognition of the pivotal role the Queen's Hall has played in my life — to continue the QHA tradition of creating an inestimably positive impact in the lives of others, as it did mine."*

Garry Lyons is an award-winning playwright, scriptwriter and producer. He has written for the National Theatre, playhouses all over the UK, and extensively for television and radio. He said, *"As a recent arrival in Hexham, I'm delighted and flattered to have been invited to join the Queen's Hall board of trustees. It's fantastic that Hexham has such a thriving arts*

venue, and I'm excited at the chance to contribute to the next phase of its development. Obviously, the immediate challenge is to see the centre reopen successfully as we come out of the pandemic. This will be no easy task. But I have every confidence that under Katy Taylor's leadership the newly refurbished Queen's Hall will bounce back as a thriving community hub, with packed spaces offering something for all tastes and every part of the town and surrounding area."

Lynn Turner has a long association with Queens Hall Arts having been instrumental in the initial setting up of the charity. A 30-year career in culture and tourism in Northumberland has seen Lynn work for both Tynedale and Northumberland County Council and more recently, Lynn worked as Director of Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust. Lyn said, *"I am excited to be joining the Board of Queen's Hall Arts. Creating opportunities for people to engage in arts and culture has always been important to me and I am passionate about the benefits it brings. From skills development, self-confidence and mental wellbeing, to pure enjoyment and escapism, the arts can enrich people's lives in so many ways. There has never been a more important time for Queens Hall Arts to play a leading role in the cultural offer in Northumberland."*

[You can find out more about the QHA Board of Trustees here >](#)