UK Architects Declare role description: Steering Group recruitment

UK Architects Declare seeks suitable applicants from among signatory practices to join our Steering Group.

Deadline for applications - extended to 8th March 2024.

Introduction

UK Architects Declare is a growing network of architectural practices committed to addressing the climate and biodiversity emergency. Over 1,300 practices have signed our declaration (among over 7,900 signatories in different sectors across 28 countries under Built Environment Declares).

Our work builds on systems thinking, with a Plan for Change that aims to move the UK towards a bold vision for 2030: "A built environment planned, constructed and operated within planetary boundaries to deliver environmental justice and to support the flourishing of all life for all time."

Our dual approach has a focus on building agency and delivering change by:

1. Supporting and encouraging our signatory practices on pathways to delivering their declaration. We know this is challenging. Everyone has different starting points. No one can claim they've arrived.

2. Demonstrating where leaders in government, institutions and industry can change the systems behind the crisis, moving us away from degenerative 'business-as-usual', beyond 'sustainability' and towards fully regenerative solutions.

We wish to recruit new members to our Steering Group as we develop our programme and fundraising. We have applied to the Charity Commission to register as a Foundation CIO and, when this is approved, new SG members will join existing members as trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation; further details of what this involves will be supplied to applicants.

New SG members will contribute to the full range of the Steering Group's discussions and decisions.

What is involved?

Our part-time manager and communications officer manage AD's website, newsletters, social media and other administrative activities. Steering Group members actively lead on many aspects of our work through 'task & finish' or standing subgroups. Activities that you might be involved in or lead include:

- Engaging signatory practices: e.g. through our regular Meet the Steering Group Zoom sessions for small groups of practices, and confidential Design Conversation meetings with individual signatories to discuss aspects of projects that challenge points in our shared declaration.
- Developing guidance and other support for signatories: recent initiatives include our Practice Guide (2021), Practice Action Masterclasses (2022) and Regenerative Design Primer (2024).

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- Developing policy or advocacy to Government and others: e.g. responses to government consultations, letters, open letters, and programmes such as our Building Blocks to Transform the Built Environment manifesto (2024).
- Devising initiatives to help shift the goals of the system: e.g. a Regenerative Architecture Index (2024) to benchmark practices' shift from approaches that move beyond 'sustainability' and towards fully regenerative solutions.
- Planning events for knowledge-sharing in the sector, and speaking on AD issues at other organisations' events.
- Raising funds to develop and sustain our programme: e.g. identifying and inviting larger practices for annual contributions.
- Networking with other UK and global initiatives: e.g. BED steering group and AD Global network meetings (both online).

Why are we recruiting now?

As our scope and reach has grown, so has the work needed to plan and deliver our activities. Over the past couple of years, the Steering Group has:
- Expanded to 15 members, building our collective expertise and knowledge.
- Set up small 'task & finish' SG groups on evolving priorities, which can also bring in external expertise through volunteers (associates) from outside AD.
- Set up SG standing groups on fundraising, finances and communications.

We now wish to expand the Steering Group to up to 20 members as we enter our next phase, and replace members who have recently stood down.

What are we looking for?

As well as a shared passion for helping architects to address our climate and biodiversity emergency and a commitment to contribute to Steering Group and subgroup meetings, we are seeking individuals with expertise to contribute in any of these areas:

- engagement among our signatories, including larger practices
- engagement within the built environment sector and with funding sources.

You might have gained this through previous professional experience in charity or voluntary sectors and/or their current role in an architectural practice. You might be at an early stage in your career or be looking to contribute experience from many years in the sector. Recognising the lack of diversity in our built environment, we welcome applications from people who are currently under-represented, including better representation of Black and Asian people, gender, disability, and those with lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage.

The Steering Group seeks to represent the range of practices in the UK, by size, structure and location.

What are Steering Group members' commitments?

- This is a voluntary position, however, there is a preference that commitment is within the applicant's practice time.

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- Steering Group members are committed to addressing the climate and biodiversity emergency and developing AD's capacity and capability, rather than representing the interests of their practice.
- There is an expectation to attend regular Steering Group meetings and meetings of one or more of our subgroups. Meetings are usually online, but occasionally in person or hybrid:
  - o Full Steering Group: usually every 4 weeks on Friday (8.30-10.30am).
  - o Subgroups: as needed, between the full SG meetings.
- While this will vary with the nature of AD activities and specific projects over the year, the expectation is to commit 3-4 hours/week, including meetings.

What is the expected start date and membership term?

Start dates and initial terms of office as a trustee of the CIO will be agreed with successful applicants. These can be up to three years.

What is the application process?

This is a two-stage process.

Stage 1:

Please email hello@architectsdeclare.com by the close of 8th March with:

1. A 1-page CV
2. A completed copy of the table below, included within your email.

Full name	
Architecture practice/company	
Job title	
Please list relevant qualifications/expertise /additional roles	
300 word description of what knowledge, skills or expertise you offer and your interest in UK Architects Declare.	

Stage 2:

If shortlisted, you will be invited for an informal, online discussion with members of the Steering Group.