

Ikon Board of Trustees Announcement February 2018



Oliver Longmore

Ikon is pleased to announce the appointment of Oliver Longmore, Corporate Banking Manager, Handelsbanken UK as Chair of the gallery's Board of Trustees. Longmore will be joined by two new board members, Soweto Kinch, award winning alto-saxophonist and MC, and Nick Smith, CEO, Elonex.

Oliver Longmore has served on Ikon's board since 2014 and alongside his enthusiastic support for contemporary art he has a wide interest in the arts, in particular music. Longmore has recently taken on the role of Corporate Banking Manager at Handelsbanken UK, having worked there as Individual Banking Manager since 2015. Previous to this, Longmore held the positions of Banking Manager at Bank of Cyprus UK and Financial Adviser at Legal & General, Vice-Chair of the Access to Finance Committee at Coventry and Warwickshire LEP, advised the Warwickshire Rural Growth Network Micro Enterprise Grants Panel and was a Trustee at Orchestra of the Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon.

"I am delighted to take this wonderful opportunity as Chair of Trustees at Ikon Gallery. As a Birmingham resident and having been involved with Ikon since 2014 I have seen first-hand the outstanding work of the team at Ikon to further public engagement with contemporary art both onsite and within our local communities. I look forward to doing my part to ensure that Ikon can continue to engage, inform and stimulate its audiences for many generations to come."

Longmore replaces renowned architect Glenn Howells, who has served as Ikon's Chair for many years. Stephen Pallister, Partner, Wiggin Osborne Fullerlove Solicitors, a longstanding board member, also steps down, however both continue to be involved with Ikon.

Jonathan Watkins, Ikon Director, says:

"We are thrilled to have inspired musician Soweto Kinch and digital technology entrepreneur Nick Smith joining Ikon's Board of Trustees, looking forward very much to having their company as we embark on new adventures. At the same time, sad farewells to Stephen Pallister and Glenn Howells who have been two of the longest and brightest shining stars in our firmament but then we are cheered up by the good news that they remain engaged and involved with Ikon. Our new Chair is Oliver Longmore, banking executive extraordinaire, who could not be more committed to Ikon and the good cause of contemporary art."

Multi-award winning saxophonist and MC, Soweto Kinch has made a huge impression in both the jazz and hip-hop communities. He has amassed an impressive list of accolades and awards on both sides of the Atlantic, including a Mercury Music Prize nomination, two UMA Awards and two MOBO awards for best Jazz Act. Kinch's projects also extend beyond recorded albums, as lead presenter for BBC Radio 3's new weekly show *Jazz Now* and as host for *The Flyover Show*, a day-long music and arts festival housed beneath an inner city motorway flyover in Birmingham. www.soweto-kinch.com

Nick Smith is the CEO of Edgbaston-based technology firm Elonex, a leading manufacturer of LED display systems and influential digital outdoor media owner. Smith has led a revolution in the digital signage market over recent years, creating the fastest growing network of digital advertising billboards in the UK and engaging with countless businesses to help maximise their brand awareness. Previous to buying Elonex in 2006, Smith built his reputation as a digital technology entrepreneur by driving innovation in the computer and consumer electronics sector, and was responsible for launching the very first Smart TVs, eBooks and tablet devices in the UK. Smith has a great passion for contemporary art, is keen to see how ever evolving digital technology might lead us on a journey towards new forms of art and is a long-time supporter of Ikon. www.elonexoutdoormedia.co.uk

Ikon's full Board of Trustees:

Chair: **Oliver Longmore**, Corporate Banking Manager, Handelsbanken UK

Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities, Birmingham City Council

John Cloughton, Former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham

Professor Helen Higson, OBE, Professor of Higher Education Learning and Management; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Aston University

Soweto Kinch, award winning alto-saxophonist and MC

Jenny Loynton, Director, Loynton & Co. Solicitors Ltd

Nick Smith, CEO, Elonex

Victoria Tester, Chief Operating Officer, Shakespeare Martineau

Ikon is a registered charity no. 528892 and is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

Ikon relies on the generous support of its visitors and partners and there are many ways to help - make a donation, hire the gallery for your event, join as a Patron, sponsor an exhibition or event, use our independent shop and café.

Social Media Handles:

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery

Note to Editors:

1. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. ikon-gallery.org
2. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ikongallery), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ikongallery) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ikongallery).

3. For more information or high-res images please contact Rebecca Small, Head of Communications or Emily Luxford, Communications Manager at Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email r.small@ikon-gallery.org or e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org

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Soweto Kinch



Nick Smith