



Royal College of Art

Biographies of principal non-executives and executives

Professor Christoph Lindner, President and Vice-Chancellor, Royal College of Art

Professor Christoph Lindner is President and Vice-Chancellor of the Royal College of Art, the internationally renowned art and design postgraduate university, where he also holds the title of Professor of Visual Culture. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Geographic Society.

An interdisciplinary scholar of cities and visual culture, he has over 20 years of experience at public research universities in the United States, Europe, and the UK. His leadership work has focused on advancing educational access and equity, intercultural understanding, and environmental sustainability in the art and design fields.

Professor Lindner joined the RCA in April 2024 from his role as Dean of the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment at University College London. Before joining UCL, he served as Dean of the College of Design at the University of Oregon and, prior to that, Professor of Media and Culture at the University of Amsterdam. During his time at Amsterdam, he created and led the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Analysis, co-founded the Amsterdam Centre for Globalization Studies, and directed the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis.

He has been a visiting professor at New York University, The New School, University of California-Berkeley, University of Edinburgh, University of Freiburg, Queen Mary University of London, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, and the University of London Institute in Paris. He is a Trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum, general editor of the Cities and Cultures book series at Amsterdam University Press, editorial board member of Places Journal, and a member of the international advisory board of Aarhus University's Faculty of Arts in Denmark.

Professor Lindner grew up in France and Switzerland and completed his PhD at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author or editor of 15 books in the fields of art, architecture, media and cultural studies, and urban geography.

Non-Executive Leaders

Sir Jony Ive KBE, Chancellor, Royal College of Art

Sir Jony Ive KBE is a designer.

He joined Apple in 1992. As chief design officer, Jony was responsible for all hardware, user interface and packaging design, as well as the major architectural projects Apple Park and Apple retail stores. He led the design team for more than two decades, creating the iMac, PowerBook, MacBook, iBook, iPod, iPhone, iPad, AppleWatch, AirPods and HomePod.

Co-founder Steve Jobs referred to Jony as his creative partner.

He holds more than 14,000 patents worldwide, uniquely spanning both software and hardware design.

Born in London, Jony studied industrial design at college. He was appointed a Royal Designer for Industry (RDI) in 2003, an honorary fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (HonFREng) in 2006. Jony was awarded the RSA's Benjamin Franklin Medal in 2004 and the Professor Stephen Hawking Fellowship by the Cambridge Union Society in 2018. He holds honorary doctorates from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Rhode Island School of Design and the Royal College of Art, where he currently serves as chancellor.

In 2019, Jony and long-time friend and collaborator Marc Newson gathered the creative collective LoveFrom, which includes Airbnb, Apple and Ferrari amongst its first collaborators. Jony is frequently voted one of Britain's most culturally influential figures.

Sir Peter Bazalgette , Pro-Chancellor, Royal College of Art

Sir Peter has spent a lifetime in television where he's been a news journalist, a documentary maker, a creator of entertainment formats and an independent producer at Endemol. In 2012 he was knighted for services to broadcasting. He also served as President of the Royal Television Society and on the boards of DCMS and Channel 4. He took a lead on broadcasting policy which led him into championing the Creative Industries in general.

In the field of the arts, as well as his time as Chair of Arts Council England, Sir Peter chaired a steam museum, English National Opera, and currently heads the non-fiction book prize, the Baillie Gifford. He's also the author of The Empathy Instinct, which explores the positive role of the arts in society. In September 2017 he published the Independent Review of the Creative Industries. He was commissioned by the UK government to put forward proposals for a sector deal in the Industrial Strategy green paper.

In terms of higher education, Sir Peter is a former non-executive at UKRI (UK Research & Innovation). He's been working closely with the AHRC (Arts & Humanities Research Council) as it develops its links with the Creative Industries. He also served as Deputy Chair of the National Film & TV School, another graduate college. More recently he's become a founder member of SHAPE, the campaign promoting the value of arts & humanities. He is Hon Professor of the Creative Industries at Manchester University.

Principal academic and executive leaders

Professor Naren Barfield, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost

Professor Naren Barfield is Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost at the Royal College of Art. He has held a number of senior leadership positions in UK higher education and has contributed to the strategic development, support, leadership and assessment of research, knowledge exchange, innovation, and postgraduate research and taught programmes across the arts and humanities, both nationally and internationally.

Since 2011 he has worked at the Royal College of Art, and has led significant growth in postgraduate programmes, student enrolments, research intensity and quality, industry partnerships, executive education, and internationalisation. He was a member of RAE2008 Sub-panel 63, REF2014 Sub-panel 34, and AHRC Peer Review Panel 2: Visual Arts and Media (2005–8), is a member of the V&A Research Institute Steering Committee (VARI), a graduate of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education Top Management Programme (TMP18), and has been appointed as a Council Member for Research England.

Internationally, Professor Barfield has been appointed to the Working Group on Models for the Assessment of Higher Art Education Institutions by the European League of Institutes of the Arts (2018), and is an advisor and assessor on research in China, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand, and has led international partnership agreements with universities in China, Japan, Singapore and the US.

Professor Paul Anderson, Dean of the School of Design, Royal College of Art

Professor Anderson is Dean of the School of Design at the Royal College of Art and received his MA in Industrial Design from the Royal College of Art in 1986. He joined Glasgow School of Art in 1993 where he launched the Digital Design Studio (DDS) and developed an international profile in research into fundamental human computer interface issues associated with 3D interfaces, haptics, 3D sound and gesture-based interaction supporting real-time 3D visualisation. He has served as an on-call consultant to government agencies, and is an active member of SPIE and ACM SIGGRAPH. Cultural and academic affiliations include Fellowships of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce and the Royal Geographical Society.

Kerry Curtis, Dean of the School of Communication, Royal College of Art

Kerry has extensive leadership experience in higher education. Prior to joining the RCA in April 2021, she was Head of Bath School of Design at Bath Spa University, leading teaching and curriculum innovation in disciplines both within and beyond the School of Communication's portfolio. Kerry's student-centred strategies ensure that students are challenged and supported in their practice and can thrive within a collaborative community of artists, communicators, designers and researchers. During Kerry's RCA 1997 graduation show in MA Textiles, she was appointed as the new textile designer for Alberta Ferretti and subsequently worked in-house for Valentino and Nina Ricci. Kerry has

a wealth of industry experience delivering high-profile collaborations with the British Council, Indian Design Council and through the development of textiles for brands such as Chloé, Stella McCartney, Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Givenchy, Dolce & Gabbana, Lanvin and Fendi. Kerry has also created work for music videos, illustration, styling and exhibition curation. Kerry's current research focuses on design approaches to disaster responses, with experience of working on participatory scenarios related to climate change in her project Imagining Neutopia, which fabricates and documents fictional events to further Climate Change discourse.

Dr Adrian Lahoud, Dean of the School of Architecture, Royal College of Art

Prior to his current role at the RCA, Dr Adrian Lahoud was director of the MA programme at the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths and a research fellow in the Forensic Architecture ERC-funded project; studio master in the Projective Cities MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design at the Architectural Association; and director of the MArch Urban Design at the Bartlett, University College London. Dr Lahoud's research explores the idea of scale within architecture and urban design especially with regards to climatic and environmental transformations. His work has been widely published and he lectures internationally, more recently at the Princeton School of Architecture, Columbia University, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Tate Britain and Haus der Kulturen der Welt.

Professor Ken Neil, Dean of the School of Arts & Humanities, Royal College of Art

Ken has over two decades of teaching experience in higher education and previously held senior academic posts at The Glasgow School of Art. Ken studied painting and the story and Philosophy of Art at Edinburgh University, before achieving an MFA in Painting from Edinburgh College of Art in 1995. He completed a PhD in art theory in 2003. Ken has written extensively on contemporary art and theory, and is currently on the editorial board of the Journal of Visual Art Practice. His research and writing relate to three fields: contemporary art and art theory; issues for creative education; and the visual culture of the everyday.