

Andrew Hochhauser QC and Sir John Sorrell appointed as Trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum

The Prime Minister has appointed Andrew Hochhauser QC and Sir John Sorrell as Trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) for 4 years from 20 April 2011 to 19 April 2015.

Biographical Notes

Andrew Hochhauser QC

Andrew Hochhauser QC is a barrister at Essex Court Chambers, a Harmsworth scholar and Bencher of Middle Temple, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Recorder. He specialises in commercial and employment litigation, with a substantial court and advisory practice. Some more recent high-profile work has included acting for the FSA in Financial Services Compensation Scheme Ltd v Abbey National; representing celebrity chef Gary Rhodes against his former agents; the Dresdner Kleinwort bonus claims and in the high-profile battle between inter-dealer brokers; Tullett Prebon v BGC. He is also honorary Counsel to Westminster Abbey, and is currently studying at the Courtauld Institute of Art on the MA History of Art course, specialising in British Modernism. He is the chairman of Dance Umbrella which mounts an annual Festival of international contemporary dance in London every autumn.

Sir John Sorrell

John Sorrell was born in London in 1945. He set up his first business when he was 19 and during his career of more than 40 years he founded and ran, with his wife Frances, one of Europe's biggest and most successful design businesses, Newell and Sorrell, chaired both of the UK's public design bodies (the Design Council and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), originated and developed the London Design Festival and, again with Frances, set up the Sorrell Foundation, which works with young people to inspire their creativity. John was appointed CBE in 1996 and was awarded the Royal Society of Arts Bicentenary Medal in 1998. He holds four Honorary Design Doctorates, an Honorary Design Fellowship, is an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy, was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2002 and of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2009. John was awarded a Knighthood in the 2008 New Year Honours List 'for services to the Creative Industries'. His book, 'Creative Island' (2002), features inspired design from Great Britain. A new edition, 'Creative Island II', was published in October 2009.

Notes to editors

1. The V&A's mission statement is 'To be the world's leading museum of art and design; enriching people's lives by promoting knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the designed world.' The V&A is sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and is a charity exempt from registration under the Charities Act of 1993. It operates at arm's length from the Government and is governed by a board of Trustees appointed by the Prime Minister.
2. Trustees of the V&A give their services on an honorary basis but reasonable expenses are reimbursed.

3. All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in selection or reappointment processes. In accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for political activity in the United Kingdom in the past five years to be made public. Andrew Hochhauser QC and Sir John Sorrell have declared no political activity.