

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Two new Governors appointed to the Southbank Centre's Board



*Roxana Mirica (left),
Dr Maria Balshaw CBE (right) © Hannah Goldsmith*

The Southbank Centre announces the appointment of two new members to its Board of Governors.

The new Trustees, approved by Arts Council England, are Roxana Mirica, Partner at Apax and Dr Maria Balshaw CBE, former Director of Tate.

Roxana joined the board on 26 February 2026 and Maria will take up her post from 8 October 2026.

In addition, Libby Savill (formerly Deputy Chair) has stepped into the role of Interim Chair, taking over from Misan Harriman, who will step down from the Southbank Centre Board on 13 September 2026, after serving five years as Chair. A recruitment process for a new Chair has been launched by leadership advisory firm Egon Zehnder.

Libby Savill, Interim Chair of the Southbank Centre, said: *"We are pleased to welcome Roxana and Maria to the Southbank Centre Board and very much look forward to working with them on our ambitions beyond this 75th anniversary year."*

"On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank Misan for his five years as Chair of the Southbank Centre. As Chair, Misan has overseen a transformational recovery since the Covid pandemic and he leaves the organisation in a far more resilient, financially robust and healthy position."

Elaine Bedell OBE, Chief Executive of the Southbank Centre, added: *"I'm looking forward to working with Roxana and Maria as we emerge from our hugely successful 75th anniversary celebrations. On behalf of the Southbank Centre Executive Team and staff, I'd like to thank Misan for his consistent support of our creative ambitions and for being such a vocal advocate for the vision of the Southbank Centre."*

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Roxana Mirica

Roxana Mirica is a London-based financier with nearly 20 years' experience in the capital markets.

Currently a Partner at Apax, a global private equity firm, Mirica serves as a trustee of the Apax Foundation and the London Music Fund and co-founded Leveraged Finance Fights Melanoma in Europe, leading fundraising initiatives in support of melanoma research. She is also a committed coach and mentor, supporting individuals in their personal and professional development.

A passionate advocate for the arts, Mirica has a particular love for classical music and is an accomplished pianist. As a governor of Southbank Centre, she is focused on public-private partnerships that expand access to the arts, and brings a strong belief in the power of culture to inspire connection and transformation.

Dr Maria Balshaw CBE

Maria Balshaw is a museum leader, curator and writer. As Director from 2017 to 2026, she helped engage broader audiences with a programme based on artistic boldness, inclusivity and equity. Her final exhibition at Tate, *Tracey Emin: A Second Life*, is one of the most successful contemporary art shows in Tate's history. She was Chair of the National Museum Director Council from 2020 to 2025 and on the Steering Committee of the Bizot International Museum Group from 2017 to 2026. In September 2027 she will become Master of University College Oxford.

Before joining Tate, Balshaw was Director of the Whitworth Gallery, University of Manchester; Director of Manchester City Galleries; and Director of Culture for Manchester City Council. She was a lecturer and research fellow at the University of Birmingham (1997-2002) and the University of Northampton (1993-1997).

Maria holds a Masters and DPhil from the University of Sussex. In 2015, she was awarded a CBE for services to the arts. She is the author of many books and articles, most recently *Gathering of Strangers: Why Museums Matter* (Tate, 2024).

She has had a long and active non-executive career, as a board member of Fierce Festival, at Factory International, on the National Council for Arts Council England, the Clore Leadership Programme, the Halle Orchestra, and is currently Deputy Chair of Governors for University of the Arts London, a member of the Syndicate for the Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge and on the Advisory Group for Prospect Cottage, Dungeness.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today. The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), two resident organisations (Kinetika Bloco and Tomorrow's Warriors) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

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