



## News Release

20 January 2025

# Baroness Minouche Shafik Announced as New Chair of Trustees of the V&A

**Baroness Minouche Shafik** has been appointed by the Prime Minister as the new Chair of Trustees of the V&A. Her term commenced on 1st January 2025.

Minouche Shafik is an economist, policymaker, and higher education leader who has spent over three decades in leadership roles across a range of prominent international, national and academic institutions. She was the youngest-ever Vice President of the World Bank at the age of 36, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, President of Columbia University and of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). She is currently chairing a major review of international development for the UK government, having previously served as Permanent Secretary in the Department for International Development.

She received her BA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, an MSc from LSE, and a DPhil from St Antony's College, Oxford. She holds a life peerage and is a crossbench member of the House of Lords. She received a damehood for services to the global economy, was Deputy Chair and a Trustee of the British Museum and currently serves on the Board of the Gates Foundation.

**Tristram Hunt, V&A Director said:** *"We are delighted that Baroness Shafik has been appointed as Chair. Minouche brings a wealth of experience across higher education, government relations, the creative industries and finance. Crucially, she is passionate about the collections and the cosmopolitan mission of a global museum like the V&A."*

**Baroness Minouche Shafik said:** *"I am thrilled to be taking on the chair of a family of museums that put creativity at the centre of everything. The V&A brings the fruits of human ingenuity to the public and inspires everyone to appreciate and create the things that express our humanity. I look forward to working with the Director, fellow trustees and all the staff of the museums to do even more to bring beauty, challenge and innovation into all of our lives."*

**Arts Minister Sir Chris Bryant said:** *"Through the V&A family of museums the history of human creativity, imagination and innovation are open to the British public. As the family expands with two new free sites in the next 18 months Minouche Shafik will be a*

*pivotal figure in continuing the V&A's success into the future."*

Minouche Shafik succeeds **Sir Nicholas Coleridge** who stood down as Chair of Trustees in November 2023. She joins the V&A at a pivotal time for the organisation, as it continues to expand its family of museums with two new free cultural destinations, **V&A East Storehouse** and **V&A East Museum** opening in east London in the next eighteen months. This follows the opening of **Young V&A** in London's Bethnal Green in June 2023, which recently welcomed its one millionth visitor and won Art Fund Museum of the Year 2024.

A world first in size, scale and ambition, **V&A East Storehouse**, opening in May 2025, will offer unprecedented access to the behind-the-scenes world of the V&A's busy working stores and immerse visitors in over half a million works spanning every creative discipline from Biba and Balenciaga to the Ballets Russes and the Sex Pistols to Samurai swords. Created with young people and rooted in east London's heritage, **V&A East Museum**, scheduled to open in spring 2026, will celebrate making and creativity's power to bring change.

Exhibitions such as ***Making Egypt, Cartier, Design and Disability*** and ***Marie Antoinette Style*** will see the V&A continue to build upon its ambitious and world leading exhibition programme, alongside national and international partnerships and tours, and the continued transformation of **V&A South Kensington** with projects such as the redevelopment of the historic **South Asia Gallery** due to open in 2028.

**DCMS** is committed to ensuring that the boards of public bodies benefit from a range of talents, backgrounds, and perspectives, and welcome applications from across the country. To hear about new Public Appointment opportunities, please sign up to the DCMS Appointments Network.

**ENDS**

**For further PRESS information please contact the V&A press office on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502 or email [press.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@vam.ac.uk) (not for publication).**

### **About the V&A**

The V&A is a family of museums dedicated to the power of creativity –its power to entertain and move, to enrich our lives, open our minds and change the world. We celebrate and share that power through a programme of exhibitions, events, educational and digital experiences, a collection of 2.8 million objects, and through our support for new works and commitment to conservation, research and sustainable design. Together, our work tells a 5,000-year-old story of creativity, helping to advance cultural knowledge everywhere, and inspiring the makers, creators and innovators of today and tomorrow. We are always working to broaden our audiences so that everyone can be part of the V&A – because the V&A and the power of creativity belong to us all.