

Irish Museums Association Board Member's Code of Conduct

The board of directors of the Irish Museums Association (IMA) is committed to effective decision-making and, once a decision has been made, speaking with one voice. Towards this end, members of the board of directors of the IMA will:

1. Represent, without conflicted loyalty, the interests of the membership and the museum sector. This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership of other boards or as a staff member of another organisation. It supersedes the personal interests of any board member acting as an individual consumer of the IMA's services.
2. Refrain from "lobbying" other board members outside of board meetings that might have the effect of creating factions and limiting free and open discussion.
3. With regard to important issues, be balanced in one's effort to understand others and to make oneself understood while expressing additional or alternative points of view and inviting others to do so too.
4. Support, and where necessary, defend board decisions, even if one's own personal view is different. Will refrain from disclosing or discussing differences of opinion within the board outside of board meetings.
5. Respect the confidentiality of board meetings and information on sensitive issues.
6. Refrain from speaking for the IMA unless authorised to do so.
7. Not attempt to exercise individual authority over the IMA or staff members except as explicitly set forth in board/employment policies.
8. Disclose one's involvement with other organisations, businesses or individuals where such a relationship might be viewed as a conflict of interest.
9. Not engage in self-dealing or any conduct of private business or personal services between any board members and the association except as procedurally controlled to assure openness, competitive opportunity, and equal access to "inside" information.
10. Not use their position as a board member to obtain for themselves, family members, or close associates, employment within the IMA.
11. Never accept or offer lavish gifts of cash or cash equivalents, such as gift certificates. Any gifts given or received by an IMA board member must be nominal in cost, quantity and frequency.

The Irish Museum Association board expects ethical and professional conduct of itself and the individual members of the board of directors. This commitment includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum in group and individual behaviour when acting as board members.

Date Approved by Board of Directors: _____ 13 May 2015 _____
Date Review Approved by Board of Directors: _____ 6 September 2018 _____