

Penny Egan appointed as Chair of the Geffrye Museum

Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture, has announced today that Penny Egan has been appointed as Chair of the Geffrye Museum. The term will be for a four-year period, from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013.

Biographical Notes

Penny Egan is the Executive Director of the US-UK Fulbright Commission, taking up the post in February 2007. Prior to this she was the first woman to lead the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) in its 250 year history. She was appointed to the post in 1998, stepping down in 2006. She was previously RSA Programme Development Director (1994 – 1998) and RSA Lecture Secretary (1984 – 1994). Her early career includes the posts of Press and Publicity Officer at the Crafts Council (1978 – 1982); Press Officer at No 10 Downing Street (1975 – 1978), and Press Officer at the Victoria & Albert Museum (1972 – 1975). Penny was a member of the Design Council for nine years stepping down in December 2008. She is a Trustee of Sing London and the think-tank DEMOS, and began her first term of office as a lay member of the Warwick University Council in 2007.

Notes for Editors

The Geffrye Museum is a specialist museum of English homes and gardens, particularly of the urban middle classes. It is set in beautiful Grade 1 listed, eighteenth-century buildings, formerly the almshouses of the Ironmongers' Company, located in Shoreditch, East London. Established in 1914 by the London County Council, the museum was transferred to an independent trust in 1990 and is supported by government grant through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Richard Hunting will step down as Chair on 31 December 2009, after 10 years as Chair and 5 years as Vice Chair.

The post is not remunerated. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the appointments process. Penny Egan has not undertaken any significant political activity during the last 5 years.