

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER FOUNDATION APPOINTS DR. SIMON THURLEY CBE AS CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

LONDON, 11 May 2022 - Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, founded by the composer in 1992 to advance the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit, today announces the appointment of Dr. Simon Thurley CBE as Chair of the Trustees.

Dr. Thurley is replacing Chair Mark Wordsworth, who is handing over after 13 years leading the board and overseeing over £22 million of grant giving to support wider access and participation in the arts, culture and heritage.

On the board of Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation since 2015, Dr. Thurley brings a wealth of experience to the organisation, having led some of the UK's most significant cultural national institutions throughout his career. In 2016, he was also appointed Chairman of the Steering Group for Lloyd Webber's award winning restoration of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, a £60 million project which was completed in 2021.

Dr. Thurley has been CEO of English Heritage, Director of the Museum of London and Curator of Historic Royal Palaces. In 2021, he was appointed Chair of The National Lottery Heritage Fund. He has also been a Trustee and director of the British Library since 2015 and is Provost and a visiting professor of Gresham College, London's oldest high education establishment. In 2011 Dr Thurley was made CBE for services to heritage.

Dr. Simon Thurley said: *“Supporting culture, heritage and arts is fundamentally important to the future of this country. It has been an honour to serve as a Trustee of Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation programme for the past 5 years and I am delighted to take up the position of Chair as we look to work with organisations on vital projects which will have an impact in years to come”*

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation exists to:

- **champion** wider access to the arts and heritage by supporting projects that reach diverse communities and those who would not otherwise be able to participate
- **prioritise** projects that enable people to develop their abilities and careers, by providing professional education, training, apprenticeships and workplace experience in all areas of the arts, from stone masonry to youth orchestras and stage electricians
- **promote** excellence in all areas of the arts, culture and heritage
- **continue** our role as high profile champion of the benefits of engagement in the arts and heritage and the importance of diversity in the sectors

Since 2011, the Foundation has run an active grant giving programme, awarding grants of £22 million to support high quality training and personal development, as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. The Foundation also recently announced the creation of a new grant to support the restoration and preservation of Victorian Theatre buildings

For Immediate Release

- Ends -

For press enquires please contact

Kitty Abel Smith

kitty.abelsmith@reallyuseful.com

Jocasta Marron

jocasta.marron@reallyuseful.com

NOTES TO EDITOR

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit. Since inception, Andrew Lloyd Webber has been the principal provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2011, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of £22 million to support high quality training and personal development, as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities.

Significant grants include:

- £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre
- £3.5m to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust
- £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing
- Over £350,000 annually to fund up to 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need.
- The Foundation is a founding supporter of the Get Into Theatre careers website www.getintothetheatre.org