

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN MUSEUM BOARDS

1

MUSEUM BOARDS ARE AGING

- The average art museum trustee is 68 years old.
- In contrast, 74% of the U.S. population is under 60.
- Museum trustees are older than average nonprofit trustees (only 43% of whom are over the age of 55).³

83%

of museum trustees are over age 50¹, up 8% since 2017²

2

YOUNG TRUSTEES BRING UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- Boards with higher percentages of members aged 39 and younger are more involved
- They are more likely to ask others for donations, have concrete fundraising expectations and provide more fundraising contacts⁴

3

BOARDS ARE ALMOST HALF FEMALE

- Nearing U.S. population, 52% female

49%

of Museum trustees are female, up 4% vs. 2017

4

RACIAL DIVERSITY IS UP

- 23% of boards report having only white members, down from 46% in 2017
- Museum boards remain less diverse than the U.S. population, which is 56% non-Hispanic white
- Non-White museum trustees are younger, with an average age of 58⁵

82%

of Museum board members are white, down 7.3% vs. 2017

Sources:

[1] American Alliance of Museums. 2024. "Museum Board Leadership: a National Report, 2024." April 23, 2024. <https://www.aam-us.org/2024/04/23/2024-museum-board-leadership-a-national-report/>

[2] American Alliance of Museums. 2018. "Museum Board Leadership: a National Report, 2017." January 19, 2018. <https://www.aam-us.org/2018/01/19/museum-board-leadership-2017-a-national-report/>

[3] BoardSource. 2021. "Leading with Intent: BoardSource Index of Nonprofit Board Practices." <https://leadingwithintent.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-Leading-with-Intent-Report.pdf>

[4] Lilly Family School of Philanthropy with Johnson Grossnickle + Associates and BoardSource. 2018. "The Impact of Diversity: Understanding How Nonprofit Board Diversity Affects Philanthropy, Leadership, and Board Engagement." <https://scholarworks.indianapolis.iu.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/fa039f5c-a986-4ee4-8a60-186078d1fafa/content>

[5] Black Trustee Alliance and Ithaka S+R. "2022 Art Museum Trustee Survey: The Characteristics, Roles and Experience of Black Trustees." 2022. <https://sr.ithaka.org/publications/the-bta-2022-art-museum-trustee-survey/>