

Q & A

OVERVIEW

Over the last 30 years, BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York - along with BAFTA Scotland and BAFTA Cymru (Wales) - have advanced BAFTA's name and reach beyond what has been possible from a single base in London.

In 2010, a new agreement among BAFTA, BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York took great strides towards uniting our global operations, resulting in closer working relationships between the UK and the US. We often refer to that agreement as One BAFTA.

Today, our members are being given the opportunity to continue the journey we began 10 years ago; an opportunity to bring BAFTA's UK and US operations even closer.

With changes to UK charity law coming into effect, we see it as an unmissable opportunity to fulfil our ambition to be a British organisation with global charitable impact; a network of expert BAFTA members across the globe, with more high-profile international events and stronger links between the branches and our industries.

It is an opportunity to protect the future of our organisation while preserving our heritage; an opportunity to ensure our charitable activities have maximum impact; and an opportunity to unite under a shared set of global values and principles, strengthening our membership and our standing in our communities.

The benefits include a truly global membership network, more opportunities to stage international events, global sponsorship and fundraising opportunities, and strengthened press relations, marketing campaigns and communications.

We hope that you will read our proposals and vote to approve them.

A NEW WAY FORWARD

How will uniting BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York affect current members in the US?

Current members should not notice any change on a day-to-day basis, and in many ways the experience will be enhanced over time. Benefits such as access to screenings and events will remain the same. Existing memberships in BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York will become memberships of BAFTA North America. The Board and Committees of BAFTA North America will continue to be comprised of elected and appointed members.

Why are you making these changes?

Uniting BAFTA in the US, and strengthening BAFTA's brand globally, is about growth. We are bringing together the local expertise of the various regions, giving BAFTA's two current US operations a wider geographical remit in North America, and a greater, clearer role in setting and delivering BAFTA's overall global strategy.

In addition, the unification will allow BAFTA to comply with modern charity, legal and governance best practice. It will provide more financial and management support from BAFTA to its US operations, and enable BAFTA to utilize the expertise, knowledge and skill sets of those in the US.



Why doesn't BAFTA already operate as one organisation? Haven't we talked about One BAFTA before?

In many ways, BAFTA already operates globally. The strategic decision 10 years ago to move towards unifying BAFTA in practical and constitutional terms has resulted in many of the opportunities and benefits that BAFTA, and its members, now enjoy.

BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York already have one member each on BAFTA's Board of Trustees, and there is greater communication and collaboration between staff and committee members.

This vital next step will further align BAFTA's ambitions and decisions across its global operations with its teams of staff and volunteers working more closely together, as do many other well-known international organisations and companies.

What would happen if we didn't change our structure?

The world and the industries we represent continue to evolve; staying the same is not an option. BAFTA's strength as a unified organisation will enable us to achieve maximum impact and respond to change with clarity, consistency and stability as we work more closely together.

Is this change in reaction to anything specific?

These changes represent BAFTA's global ambitions. We will be more impactful across the film, games and TV sectors and will be able to broaden our scope by working together while remaining relevant and effective.

Does naming the new entity BAFTA North America suggest that we will expand into Canada, Mexico or other regions?

Yes, this is a strong possibility. To give one example of why this is relevant to BAFTA, there are more people working in games in Montreal than in any other city in the world. However, the BAFTA North America operation will continue to have its own staff, committees and Board located in the US, which will oversee activity for members and other audiences in the US and across North America.

Is this a takeover of BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York by BAFTA in London?

No. BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York are already part of BAFTA, and BAFTA North America will have greater resources and financial support.

GOVERNANCE

Will BAFTA North America remain a non-profit?

Yes. BAFTA North America will remain a separate non-profit organisation with 501(c)(3) status in the U.S, with its own Board and Staff. BAFTA will remain a British charity under UK law.

Who will make decisions?

The BAFTA North America Board will provide leadership in determining the strategic direction for BAFTA's activity in North America, in line with global objectives. In addition, it will have responsibility for local policies such as operating plans, budgets, committee selection and personnel, staff appointments, and board and officer elections, consistent with mutually developed global objectives and strategic plans.



Who will actually run BAFTA North America?

BAFTA North America will have its own Board of Directors, as well as committees and staff, with its own by-laws and governing documents.

Will activity continue in New York as well as in Los Angeles?

Yes. Activities, programs, and membership will continue in New York and Los Angeles. The current entity entitled BAFTA New York will join BAFTA Los Angeles and form the new legal entity, BAFTA North America. BAFTA staff in both regions will combine to continue their vital work for our local members and communities as part of the wider BAFTA team.

What will happen to the Boards and Committees of BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York?

The separate Boards and committees will transition over time, to form one Board of Directors and one set of Committees for BAFTA North America.

Which BAFTA committees already have US members?

The BAFTA Board, Learning & New Talent Committee, Film Committee, Games Committee, TV Committee, Membership Strategy Group, Finance and Audit Committee and the BAFTA Council all have co-opted members from the LA and NY branches, or have regular guests from the U.S. branch Boards, Committees or Staff attending the meetings by video conference.

If I want to be a Board member of BAFTA North America, how do I go about it?

Eligible Members will be able to stand for election to the Board of BAFTA North America. After a period of transition, the new Board will be comprised of a combination of elected and appointed members and will include no fewer than six Directors elected from the voting members of BAFTA North America.

Will I be able to vote in the Board elections?

Full members will be eligible to elect Directors to the Board of BAFTA North America. BAFTA New York Professional Members will not have formal voting rights in BAFTA North America but any Professional Members with the prerequisite experience will be encouraged to apply for Full voting membership.

What sort of governance should we expect with this new way of working?

The proposed by-laws of BAFTA North America have been finalised. The result will be that the Board of BAFTA North America will have day-to-day autonomy over running the affairs of BAFTA across North America and the Board of BAFTA will be fully consulted and provide final approval for BAFTA North America's annual plans, budgets and any proposed changes to its governing documents.

Will I be asked to vote on anything?

Yes. After you have read the proposals, we strongly encourage you to vote and support these proposals.



MEMBERSHIP

What does this change mean for my membership?

There will be very little day-to-day change, but once the proposals are adopted you will be a member of a fully integrated global organisation. Communications and services including international events booking will be enhanced.

Will my Membership Dues or Donations be Tax Deductible?

BAFTA North America will be a 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation, just like BAFTA Los Angeles and BAFTA New York are currently. You may wish to consult your tax advisers or the IRS to determine whether a contribution is deductible.

Will my Film Awards voting rights remain protected as they are now?

Provided you continue to meet the eligibility criteria, renew your membership and actively engage with the voting process to either vote or abstain in each round of voting – as with any BAFTA member, anywhere in the world - your rights will remain unchanged.

How is BAFTA adopting diversity and inclusion into what it does?

BAFTA is committed to driving positive change across the industry and is constantly reviewing its policies across membership, nominations and voting processes. Following the Film Awards in 2020, a steering group was formed to lead an extensive review, comprised of a range of BAFTA board and committee members, BAFTA staff, external industry figures, independent advisors, and leading diversity advocates and academics. The results of these discussions and the changes being implemented have been published and are available to read in full [here](#).

BAFTA believes that all talented individuals, regardless of their background, should be given the best possible opportunity to succeed in the film, games and television industries. The future of these industries relies on new blood being discovered, nurtured and introduced. We run hundreds of events, initiatives and programmes throughout the year to give new and emerging talent the opportunities to not only have their voices heard but to also learn from the best in the business and make vital connections.

195 PICCADILLY

How will members outside London benefit from the 195 Piccadilly project?

A redeveloped 195 Piccadilly in London will allow BAFTA to produce and broadcast more events globally, enable us to further support the next generation of talent, increase income to support charitable activity, as well as offer first-class facilities to visiting members.

What's happening to the 195 Piccadilly building?

Our plans for the building include adding a new floor and doubling the capacity, installing the latest technology and improving the layout of all current spaces.



EVENTS

Will there still be events that I can go to in New York and Los Angeles?

Yes – and in time, we hope in other locations too. Currently these are virtual events, until a time when it is safe to resume in-person activity.

What will happen to the current programs in those regions?

Programs will continue and, in many ways, will expand through global collaboration. We believe BAFTA events should be tailored to serve the needs of the local audience, while some initiatives will be global.

Events harness the expertise of our winners, nominees and members to benefit the industry and support the next generation of talent. All regions will have the flexibility to program BAFTA events to the particular needs of the local audiences, but will also ensure that BAFTA's learning events look and feel similar and are moving in the same strategic direction.

Will the pre-existing activities agreed in 2010 remain guaranteed?

Yes. In 2010, as part of the strategic agreement to unify BAFTA, a number of existing events and initiatives were guaranteed to continue. These include the Britannia Awards, BAFTA Tea Party and TV Tea, networking events, Learning and New Talent activity, community outreach, and film and TV screenings.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Will BAFTA support NA financially?

The new agreement between BAFTA and BAFTA North America will allow the US operation to play a more significant role in BAFTA's global strategy and allow BAFTA to provide greater financial support.

The intention is for BAFTA North America to fund itself, however BAFTA will be able to consider offering financial support to any development or new initiative proposal which BAFTA North America puts forward as part of the BAFTA global strategy.

What will happen to BAFTA LA's and BAFTA NY's reserves and local fundraising?

These will remain with BAFTA LA and BAFTA NY and will transition to BAFTA North America upon its creation.

GLOBAL BAFTA

What are we doing in Asia and why?

BAFTA Breakthrough China promotes a spirit of open, creative collaboration and cultural exchange with China. The same aims apply to planned activity in India. The industries we work in are now truly global and BAFTA is addressing that, hence increasing global activity and relationships.