



The Furniture Makers' Company
the furnishing industry's charity

The Furniture Makers' Company
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REGIONS

BECOMING A REGIONAL ASSOCIATE



The Southern Region's Summer Party

The Furniture Makers' Company is the City of London livery company and charity for the furnishing industry.

Our vision is for a thriving British furnishing industry with a talented workforce delivering high-quality products, which supports those in need from within its ranks and those who have served it in the past.

We achieve this through three pillars of activity – education, excellence and welfare.

EDUCATION

We have developed a comprehensive and enriching education programme to develop, steward and inspire the next generation of designers, makers, retailers and leaders to make it stronger and more prosperous than ever before.

EXCELLENCE

We recognise excellence and the highest standards in design and production through our coveted Guild Marks - the Bespoke Guild Mark, Design Guild Mark and Manufacturing Guild Mark.

Each Mark raises the profile of British design, innovation and manufacturing, helping to build a thriving industry for the future, as well as bringing prestige and publicity for award holders.

WELFARE

Our charity has been supporting the welfare of employees in the UK furnishing industry for more than 100 years, through good economic times and bad.

We are here to help anyone from the industry, past or present, who has fallen on tough times by awarding financial grants.

WHY SUPPORT THE FURNITURE MAKERS' COMPANY?

The Furniture Makers' Company is a modern livery company whose community of supporters and members comprises of individuals and businesses that make up the diverse, vibrant and creative UK furnishing industry. It is a force for good and our regional associates help us fulfill our vision. On getting involved, you will be warmly welcomed into a friendly and supportive group of furnishing industry colleagues and professionals.

WHAT IS A LIVERY COMPANY?

City of London livery companies comprise London's ancient and modern trade associations and guilds. The earliest guilds date back to the 12th century when people working in the same craft in London grouped together to regulate competition within their trade and maintain high standards.

The term livery company was introduced when guilds started introducing their own clothing and regalia – or livery – to distinguish their members from other guilds. Today, there are 110 livery companies that support matters of trade, education, charity and fellowship within their sector. They also play an integral part in the City's governance.

The Furniture Makers' Company was founded as a guild in 1951 and granted livery status in 1963, becoming the 83rd livery company of the City of London and only the sixth to be formed since the reign of Queen Anne ended in 1714. It was incorporated by Royal Charter in 2013.

WHO CAN BECOME A REGIONAL ASSOCIATE

All our regional associates must be linked in some way to the furnishing industry. This helps us maintain industry relevance and facilitate meaningful business connections.

You could be a designer, manufacturer, distributor, craftsman, retailer, supplier, lecturer, PR practitioner or journalist – all are welcome. We encourage and welcome diversity – sectoral and cultural – within our ranks and would be happy to hear from you, even if you have now retired..

What our regional associates tend to have in common is a passion for the furnishing industry, a philanthropic desire to 'give back' and a wish to meet and converse with like-minded individuals.



The Yorkshire Region's Curry Night



The Northern Winter Ball

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR REGION

Although Furniture Makers' Hall is situated within the Square Mile of the City, our influence and work as a national members' organisation and UK-wide charity for the trade spreads beyond London through our regional network.

Regional association enables furnishing industry colleagues to build links with local industry colleagues and get involved with events and initiatives in their area, charitable and otherwise, without the formality of officially joining the livery.

Regional association is recommended to those in the industry who are new to The Furniture Makers' Company and want to discover more about us before joining as a freeman.

Currently, our regional network is segmented as follows:

EAST OF ENGLAND

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk.

HEART OF ENGLAND

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland.

NORTH EAST

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and County Durham.

NORTH WEST

Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

SOUTH WALES

Blaenau Gwent, Breconshire, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, City of Newport, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea, Torfaen and Vale of Glamorgan.

SOUTH WEST

Cornwall, Dorset, Devon, Gloucestershire and Somerset.

SOUTHERN

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire.

YORKSHIRE

East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Joining your region provides an excellent opportunity to give back to a sector which has given you a career. The specific benefits you receive will depend on the level of involvement you undertake.

DEVELOP YOUR NETWORK

As a regional associate, you will be invited to join the locale's committee and are welcome to attend any events within your local area. Each region has a calendar of social events, business orientated seminars and activities that provide associates the opportunity to meet, get fresh perspectives, widen their knowledge and help them to develop professionally and personally.

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Regional association offers the opportunity to socialise on a regular basis and nurture lifelong friendships and invaluable business relationships.

GIVE SOMETHING BACK

As the charity for the furnishing industry, we offer members the opportunity to make a positive impact on the industry by supporting our charitable activities. You can also collaborate with other members through rewarding committee work in your region.



Socialising around the country



Northern Big Shots

INTERESTED IN TAKING THE NEXT STEP?

If you are interested in becoming a regional associate or progressing in your membership journey, we invite you to get in touch with our regional development executive to find out more.

Each of our regions hold regular committee meetings, where you can hear more about the benefits of getting involved. There is plenty of opportunity to ask questions and to meet other associates in a social setting. If you are interested in attending a session, please contact us.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATE RATES

Annual regional association fee is £25+VAT.

Should you require fee invoices to be made payable by your business please arrange with the regional development executive.



For more information, please contact our regional development executive:

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www.furnituremakers.org.uk/regional