



## The Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore

The Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore or Florence Cathedral Works has existed since 1296. The Opera was founded to oversee construction of the new cathedral and bell tower, followed by the completion of the architectural structures, the embellishment of the monumental complex and the preservation and enhancement of its historical artistic and architectural heritage. The Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore has also been responsible for the Baptistry of San Giovanni since 1777 and for the Museum since 1891.

---

The Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore, in its capacity as a “fabbrica”, is subject to the Concordat Laws of 1929 and 1984. It comprises seven members appointed by the Interior Ministry. In 1998 the Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore was legally recognised as a not-for-profit organisation (ONLUS) charged with pursuing the “protection, promotion and enhancement, in their religious, civic, cultural and historical functions, of the cathedral of S. Maria del Fiore and of all the other monuments and buildings in its care”.