



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECRUITMENT  
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EAST ST ARTS



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## A letter from the Chair

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in joining East Street Arts as a Trustee. For those unfamiliar, we are a creative social enterprise and charity, committed to enriching cities through art, social events, and educational opportunities. The core of what we do is to provide artists with all forms of support, enabling them to create and affect more.

Our initiatives are visible in various forms: from buildings and high streets to local neighbourhoods. We stand by artists, believing in their ability to inspire and transform our world with their talent, energy, and innovative ideas.

We warmly invite applications from communities historically underrepresented in leadership and governance roles. This includes candidates from LGBTQIA+ groups, d/Disabled individuals, and those representing the global majority.

We eagerly await your response and look forward to the possibility of you joining our team.

Nick Ramshaw  
Chair

**We invite new Trustees to join us in our mission. People who are passionate about the Arts, community engagement, learning, and socio-economic development. These roles are ideal if you are eager to contribute significantly to the progress of a vibrant, dynamic, and creative organisation operating in Leeds, with a national and international influence.**





## Introduction to East Street Arts

East Street Arts is a visual arts organisation and registered charity, working nationally, with our main office in Leeds. We were founded thirty years ago by artists Jon Wakeman and Karen Watson with a vision to support the visual arts sector and its artists.

Our work is expansive, and we support artists in many ways, including providing affordable creative space for artists through both meanwhile and permanent spaces across England and Wales; supporting artists, artist-led spaces and the wider sector through shared learning and research, and delivering a public programme that engages our local communities. Our main office (Patrick Studios) and our art and technology space (Convention House) are all situated on St Mary's Lane, Leeds, LS9.

# Vision, Mission and Values

## Vision (Our vision for the world)

“Artists will create positive change.”

## Mission (The work we do to achieve our vision)

“We support artists to create resilient and sustainable practices that will affect positive change in the places we live and work, whilst also disrupting social and sector inequalities.”

## Values (The values we hold and present in our daily behaviours, when conducting our work)

### Agile

We are open and responsive to new ways of working and ideas. We adapt our approach wherever possible to provide bespoke support.

### Courageous

We are challenging and proactive in our response to social, sector and wider inequalities.

### Transparent

We communicate effectively, internally and externally, to ensure we are open about who we are, what we do and why we do it.

### Inclusive

We reflect the diverse society we live in. We create a safe and caring environment for everyone.

### Original

We are unique in our approach. We ask questions, research new ways of working and innovate.

### Nurturing

We support anybody who wants, or needs, to develop an artistic practice. The support we offer is expansive and encouraging.



## Who we are looking for

We value the insight and perspective that come from a wide range of lived and professional experiences, and are committed to building a Board that reflects the communities we work with. In this spirit, we are particularly interested in individuals who bring experience in one or more of the following areas:

**Finance**, with significant experience in accountancy or financial leadership, ideally including roles such as a company treasurer. This might include supporting organisational resilience and growth, advising on financial strategy alongside the Executive Director, and an understanding of the funding landscape for publicly funded arts organisations, including grants, loans and compliance.

**Business development**, with experience in commercial enterprise and income generation. This could include developing strategies to support growth and long-term sustainability, diversifying income streams, and bringing networks and connections across the wider creative economy.

**People management**, particularly with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. We are interested in individuals with a strong track record of working with people, shaping organisational culture, and bringing sector experience that supports inclusive and equitable practice.

**Property management**, with experience of capital projects, heritage buildings or creative workspaces. This may include working within or alongside property organisations and supporting the development of ambitious projects through technical knowledge and sector insight.

**Local knowledge and representation**, particularly from those connected to communities in Leeds, including Harehills, Chapeltown, Burmantofts, Mabgate, Lincoln Green and Beeston, whether through lived experience, involvement in local organisations and grassroots groups.

You don't have to have been a trustee before. We particularly welcome applications from candidates who identify as LGBTQIA+, disabled, Global Majority backgrounds, and those living in Harehills, Chapeltown, Burmantofts, Mabgate, Lincoln Green, or Beeston.

If you resonate with any of these criteria, we're eager to connect with you. Joining the Board at East Street Arts is more than attending meetings; it's about being an integral part of a team, engaging in meaningful dialogue, representing our values as an ambassador, and actively contributing to our collective vision of supporting artists creating positive change.





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## The Role of a Trustee

As a Trustee on the Board, your role will be integral in overseeing the strategic direction, sustainability, and governance of East Street Arts. Your contributions will be vital in several key areas:

- Advancing and achieving our aims and objectives while maintaining appropriate documentation.
- Actively engaging in shaping our strategy, including the establishment of objectives and targets.
- Contributing to the development and enforcement of our values and standards.
- Overseeing the prudent management and allocation of the charity's financial resources.
- Providing support and oversight to the Directors.
- Your skills, knowledge, experience, and impartial judgement will be essential in fulfilling these responsibilities.

You can find out more on the Charity Commission website about the six main duties of charity trustees and being a charity trustee with their five-minute guides. We are also happy to arrange an informal conversation with any of our trustees.

We will provide support during onboarding and training as required to trustees.

## Terms of Appointment

Trustees are appointed for an initial term of three years, with the possibility of renewal for a total tenure of up to six years. It's important to note that Trustees do not receive a salary, fee, or any form of remuneration from the charity. However, reasonable expenses incurred in the course of their duties will be reimbursed.

All Trustees are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest that might affect their ability to act in the best interests of the Charity. They are also expected to adhere to the Board's Code of Conduct.

## Commitment Expectations

The board convenes four times a year, typically at our main office in Leeds, with meetings in a quarterly schedule of April, July, October and January. Beyond these meetings, Trustees are generally expected to dedicate at least 10 days annually to actively support the charity's initiatives. This involvement may include:

- Participating in strategic sub-committees.
- Attending various events and activities organised by the charity.
- Assisting in the delivery of specific projects, especially in areas where certain skill sets are needed.
- Engaging in networking and advocacy efforts on behalf of the organisation.

We understand that, as a voluntary role, your availability will need to be considered and we would welcome a conversation regarding time commitments and how we can make being a Trustee accessible for you.

## How to apply

### Submitting your application

To apply, please provide a copy of your CV and a cover letter (max 2 A4 pages) or voice recording/video (max 5 min) in an easily downloadable format.

In your cover letter, please provide your name, contact details and confirmation that you have the capacity to commit to becoming a Trustee, and outline:

- Why you want to become an East Street Arts Trustee
- What experience you would bring to the Board of Trustees

To apply, send your application by email to [recruitment@esmail.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@esmail.org.uk)

Alternatively, if you require an adjustment to the above forms of application for any reason, please contact us by emailing [recruitment@esmail.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@esmail.org.uk) or calling 0113 248 0040. We look forward to hearing from you.



# EAST ST ARTS

making space for artists

registered charity 1077401  
eaststreetarts.org.uk  
@eaststreetarts



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**