



HOUSE Biennial

Trustee Role outline and description

The Board of Trustees for [HOUSE Biennial](#) is seeking new Trustees to join the board and help the charity achieve its vision to deliver high quality visual arts and aligned creative outreach programmes, addressing the environmental and social impact of change, in the UK and internationally.

A five-year visioning plan is in early stages of development to support HOUSE Biennial through this time of change. We want to ensure that we build on past successes and achieve our ambitions.

We are particularly seeking trustees who are practising artists, arts professionals and/or have specialist experience in community engagement, fundraising, international cultural networks and financial management.

Background and future plans

HOUSE Biennial is a curated programme of contemporary visual arts exhibitions and events. It works with internationally respected artists and co-commissioners to develop site and socially specific new works and curatorial themes.

Conceived in 2008 to provide a commissioning platform for contemporary visual artists, HOUSE Biennial to date has promoted a wider public engagement with contemporary visual arts in the city of Brighton & Hove. Lead artists that we have worked with to date include Laura Ford, Gillian Wearing, Nathan Coley, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Mariele Neudecker and David Batchelor.

Inclusivity and accessibility are inherent to our programming, offering the potential to experience new ideas and different ways of thinking within the artistic process. We want to develop our learning and outreach programme through targeted partnerships in communities in the South East. In parallel we plan to widen our audience base and develop our national and international profile, through co-touring and relevant partnerships. Other co-commissioning opportunities are offered to a range of emerging and mid-career artists and artists otherwise marginalised from the art world mainstream, along with a wider community programme. We aim to expand its reach regionally in the South East of England, nationally and internationally in a phased programme over the next 5 years.

To date HOUSE Biennial has been successful in securing funding, predominantly from Arts Council England, on a project by project basis. The Board are looking to create a sustainable business model for HOUSE Biennial and would be interested in hearing from applicants with experience of innovative thinking and delivery in this field.

Trustees will work under the leadership of the Chair to provide insight, challenge and guidance to meet these objectives.

In 2019 Judy Stevens and Chris Lord stepped down as Directors and the Board of Trustees took the opportunity to revision HOUSE Biennial. Consultant Lucy Day has been appointed to develop our future strategy, looking at its regional and national position with the visual arts.

The Board is seeking trustees who can demonstrate some of the following:

Experience:

- Expertise in an area / areas that is/ are relevant to the organisation and its needs
- Experience of building and sustaining relationships with key stakeholders and colleagues.
- Have a connection with Brighton & Hove and the surrounding area and are able to devote enough time to engage fully with the organisation
- Be prepared to be involved with fundraising and development and show some experience of these activities.
- A track record of sound judgment and effective decision making

We are also keen to hear from:

- Individuals who could contribute their lived experience to HOUSE Biennial. Please outline how this experience might support HOUSE Biennial's development, and your own.
- A practicing artist with informed knowledge of current national and international practice and debate

HOUSE Biennial is committed to ensuring an equitable working environment. We actively seek board members to reflect a multitude of experiences and backgrounds, and encourage applications from BAME and LGBTQA+ and people with a disability.

Skills and understanding:

- An understanding of the arts, public and cultural sectors and its funders, both public and private.
- Commitment to HOUSE Biennial and a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.

- An understanding of governance issues and the responsibilities of trustees
- A commitment to promoting equality and diversity.
- Preparedness to challenge the board and make recommendations to the board.
- Willingness to be available to the staff and consultants for advice and enquiries on an ad hoc basis.
- Good, independent judgment and strategic vision.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.

Trustees will be expected:

- to give strategic direction, set overall policy, define goals, set targets and evaluate performance for the organisation
- to ensure good governance
- to ensure the financial stability of the organisation
- to ensure that Trust resources are applied exclusively to the pursuit of its objectives
- to ensure good practice in the recruitment and employment of paid staff, freelancers and volunteers
- to ensure the involvement of paid employees, volunteers and external stakeholders in the direction of the Trust
- to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees, and to represent the Trust at other meetings and functions as necessary
- to appoint the Director /CEO and monitor his or her performance.
- to safeguard the good name and values of the Trust
- to declare any conflict of interest while acting as a Trustee
- to abide by the Trust's equal opportunities policy
- to keep informed about the activities of the organisation and wider issues which affect its work
- to apply any relevant professional or other knowledge or expertise to support sound decision-making

Time commitment

There are currently four quarterly Board meetings/annum. It is expected that Trustees would sit on relevant subgroups that will be formed to support these meetings. They will attend development events, meetings with the Chair and contracted staff as required and support projects and events wherever possible. Trustees are required to attend a minimum of two Board meetings per year, exceptions will be considered at the discretion of the Chair.

Trustees would be expected to commit to an initial term of three years, after which time they may be reappointed for a further term of three years.

Remuneration

At this stage HOUSE is not able to offer remuneration for travel or other expenses. This is currently under review.

If you would like to be considered as a Trustee, please send a CV and a covering letter by email outlining why you are interested in the role and what you would bring to HOUSE Biennial to Nicola Coleby, Chair of Board of Trustees, HOUSE Biennial at nicola.coleby@brighton-hove.gov.uk .

Application deadline: Friday 28th February 2020