

Recruitment Pack

for Chair / Co-Chairs

Visual Arts South West (VASW) is seeking a new Chair / Co-Chairs, working with the Steering Group and staff, to support this vital network in the next major phase of its development.

From rugged rural coastlines to clustered urban environments, Visual Arts South West connects artistic communities throughout South West England as a way of raising visibility, advocating diversity and developing resilience across the visual arts sector.

About

Visual Arts South West is a sector support organisation. Our Mission is to advocate, challenge and enable the visual arts to thrive in South West England.

Our core aims are to:

- Raise the visibility of the South West's visual arts sector, both in the region and nationally
- Advocate for diverse perspectives our area
- Focus on addressing the significant issues facing the sector in the region
- Develop a more resilient visual arts sector

We are an independent organisation, part of the national Contemporary Visual Arts Network (CVAN), and funded by Arts Council England as part of Spike Island's National Portfolio Organisation.

We collaborate with artists, artist collectives, galleries, museums, non-arts organisations and educational institutions to work together towards a resilient sector. As a sector support organisation, we seek to connect different agents working in the visual arts within our dispersed region and to reduce barriers between individual practitioners, organisations and funding. We see it as our role to analyse what our sector needs and evidence to our stakeholders that the already established and continuously developing field is worthy of sustained investment.

For further details visit: <https://www.vasw.org.uk/sector-support>

Recruitment

Visual Arts South West (VASW) is seeking a new Chair / Co-Chairs. VASW has been examining its process of recruitment and is committed to addressing barriers to visual arts participation caused by structures of discrimination, which we recognise to be intersectional*. We are actively recruiting a Chair or Co-Chairs who want to join and support our work in changing the culture of boards and organisations in the region as well as the wider sector.

As VASW is neither a charity nor limited company, there are no personal liabilities associated with the membership of our Steering Group. The Steering Group is currently leading on the development of roles for artists and young people within the group, with commitment to considering intersectionality, to reflect and represent the sector and region, championing diversity at its core.

The Role: Chair / Co-Chairs

This is a voluntary role and we are open to expressions of interest for both 'Chair' and 'Co-Chair' positions, having successfully operated with both models. We welcome applications from solo applicants who are looking to Chair or open to Co-Chairing, and from paired applicants interested in the Co-Chair model. You can specify your interest at the point of application.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

For: Visual Arts South West (VASW)

Role title: Chair / Co-Chairs

Reports to: VASW Steering Group

Purpose of the role:

- to lead the Steering Group in ensuring the effective performance of its governance responsibilities
- to work in partnership with the Network Manager to help them achieve the objects set for VASW
- to ensure there is an effective relationship between the Steering Group and the organisation, staff, volunteers, members and stakeholders including Arts Council England, Contemporary Visual Arts network (CVAN) and Spike Island

MAIN DUTIES

Note: the list below summarises the role's duties, some of which may be delegated to the Vice Chair and other Steering Group members. A full list of duties will be provided as handover notes.

- Ensuring the overall structure and delivery of Visual Arts South West, including its staff and Steering Group, to fulfil its responsibility, giving support and guidance.
- Working with the Network Manager and Steering Group on setting an appropriate vision and long term strategic objectives, leading on this where needed.
- Supporting the work on and around ensuring VASW's financial situation and sustainability.
- Representing the sector within VASW and VASW within the sector, serving as an additional promoter of Visual Arts South West to relevant stakeholders.
- Appraising and supporting the Network Manager.
- Governing and supporting the procedures and policies of VASW

- With the Network Manager and Steering Group, ensuring positive relationships with key stakeholders, including Spike Island and Arts Council England, whilst playing an active role in the national CVAN Chairs group.
- Demonstrating an appetite and willingness to further develop the role of VASW in the sector, supporting the organisation to strive for excellence.

KEY QUALITIES

- Knowledge of and commitment to the work of VASW and the visual arts sector in the region and nationally
- Good meeting and presentation skills
- Supportive and confident leadership style
- Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Excellent communication and leadership skills
- Ability to lead whilst working with others
- Commitment to the ongoing support of strengthening the visual arts sector regionally and nationally for artists, organisations and audiences

ATTENDING MEETINGS

- The Chair / Co-Chairs will be expected to attend quarterly Steering Group meetings, which take place across the South West of England, for half a day. Travel expenses for Artists to attend meetings are provided, but where members are affiliated to organisations, we ask that the organisation or the individual cover the cost of the travel.
- The Chair / Co-Chairs will be expected to attend quarterly, and when needed, CVAN meetings (which are held monthly) to represent VASW nationally

NB: This is a voluntary opportunity. Reasonable travel expenses can be considered for Steering Group members not attending as representatives of organisations, such as freelancers.

How to apply

If wish to put yourself forward for the role, please write or record (in video or audio) a short Expression of Interest (maximum 1 side of A4) telling us:

- Who you are and about your relevant background and experience
- Why you're applying
- How you meet the Role Description
- What you feel you can bring to the role as Chair / Co-Chair of Visual Arts South West

Please submit your Expression of Interest to recruitment@vasw.org.uk by Tuesday 29th September 2020, 5pm.

We aim to appoint a Chair / Co-Chairs in October for the appointee(s) to begin in the role in November. Interviews will take place within the week of the 19th October.

If you have any questions regarding the Role Description or applying, please contact VASW's Vice Chair, Emily Bull, by emailing Emily.bull@creativeyouthnetwork.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can contact Paula Orrell at VASW, on paula@vasw.org.uk, but please be aware that Paula is on leave during the month of August.

* 'Intersectionality' refers to the interconnected nature of social categorisations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. Visual Arts South West are committed to equal access and diversity, supporting those who identify as or who feel marginalised and discriminated against. The term 'intersectionality' is used and championed by VASW to address the complexity of oppressive structures and to support inclusion for all.