

Recruitment Pack

For Artist Steering Group Members

Visual Arts South West (VASW) is looking to diversify its Steering Group and we are seeking two artists to join us:

- An early-career artist (21 – 26 years old)
- A mid-career artist

Both artists will be supported by a current Steering Group member, so you do not need to worry, if you have no previous experience of this kind of role.

VASW is committed to inclusivity and welcomes applications that reflect our diverse communities irrespective of disability, gender, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or other personal circumstances.

Who are we looking for?

- Are you a visual artist who is actively engaged in the South West's Visual Arts sector and want to see it thrive?
- As a visual artist, are you an enthusiastic advocate for the visual arts within the SW region?
- Could you play an active role in helping Visual Arts South West ensure they are a strong voice for visual artists in the SW region?

Then you may be just the person we are looking for to join the VASW Steering Group and help us deliver our mission and aims, which 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
- Address the significant issues facing the sector in the region
- Develop a more resilient visual arts sector

What does being a Steering Group member mean?

You will need to be able to commit to 2 meetings per year (at present online, but depending on the Government guidelines on social distancing, there may be face-to-face meetings in accessible places in the future).

You will be paid a stipend of £150 and also expenses as necessary to cover travel and accommodation for attendance at face-to-face meetings.

Who are VASW?

Established in 2010, Visual Arts South West (VASW) is a network creating opportunities for artists, visual arts organisations and professionals across the SW region. We are part of the national Contemporary Visual Arts Network (CVAN) dedicated to working together to realise a stronger visual arts sector for the benefit of artists, arts organisations and audiences, present and future.

During the last 10 months VASW has:

- Brought members together for *Future Proof*, a symposium exploring the sector challenges and creating space for new and underrepresented voices, in September 2019 at Arnolfini, Bristol.
- Catalysed new conversations across the SW region, listening to our diverse membership of artists, curators, and organisations.
- Analysed the provision for Young People with recommendations on how to take this forward as our core programme focus.
- Launched our new website.
- Commissioned a consultation and report from Palmer Squared on the priorities and challenges facing the SW visual arts sector.
- Responded rapidly to the impact of COVID-19 on the sector by providing access to advice and resources for artists and organisations.

What does the Steering Group do?

Steering Group members are the critical friends and advocates of VASW. Steering Group members bring their expertise and perspective of the SW visual arts sector to inform VASW's work, alongside providing knowledge, new connections and partnerships to support us in the delivery of our mission.

Steering Group members play an active role supporting VASW staff. They also contribute to the development of our Business Plan and Programme.

As Visual Arts South West is neither a charity nor limited company, there are no personal liabilities associated with joining our Steering Group.

Members of the VASW Steering Group are expected to:

- Demonstrate a passion for visual arts and its ability to inspire and transform communities
- Actively listen to a wide range of views, as well as offering their considered opinions
- Be positive and proactive advocates for VASW and the visual arts sector in the region
- Prioritise maintaining a focus on sector-wide issues and the core purpose of the Network
- Be active, maintaining open communication with VASW Staff, Co-Chairs and other Steering Group members and taking a leading role in progressing agreed areas of activity throughout the year

Still interested?

To put yourself forward for one of the two artist roles, please send us:

- Your CV and Artist's Statement in one single document in PDF format
- 4 jpeg images of your work
- A statement of no more than 500 words explaining:
 - What is motivating you to apply to become a VASW Steering Group Member
 - What experiences or skills you feel you could offer

Please send your application to recruitment@vasw.org.uk by Tue 25 Aug 2020, 5pm, with Application: Early-career Artist or Application: Mid-career Artist in the subject line.

If you would like to submit a statement as a video or audio recording, your application in an alternative format please email Nella Aarne at nella@vasw.org.uk to discuss your requirements.

If you are shortlisted we will invite you to an informal online conversation with Paula Orrell, the VASW Network Manager, and one or two Steering Group members. during the week of 7th September 2020. Please indicate your availability in your Statement.

For more information about Visual Arts South West or to discuss the opportunity before applying, please email Nella Aarne at nella@vasw.org.uk.