

YVAN Board recruitment pack

Yorkshire & Humber Visual Arts Network (YVAN) is looking for new directors to join our Board at an exciting point in our development as we consolidate our organisation to create a closer alignment with the artist and artist-led visual arts sector in the region.

The role of a YVAN Board Member is a voluntary position and requires dedication to the organisation's values, acting as ambassadors and ensuring that we fulfil our mission and aims for the benefit of the visual arts sector in Yorkshire & Humber and beyond.

Whilst we welcome applications from all individuals, we are particularly interested in applicants with the following skills / experience to complement the current membership of our Board:

- Research & research methodologies
- Sector knowledge
- Data analysis
- Accessibility
- Climate justice in the visual arts
- Environmental sustainability
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Policy development
- Quality of life and sustainable careers for artists
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Human Resources (HR)
- Public relations (PR)

We are committed to ensuring that our Board of Trustees is representative of the diversity of Yorkshire & Humber and would like to encourage applications from people from underrepresented backgrounds, the global majority, people with lived experience of disability, neurodiversity and LGBTQ+.

About YVAN

YVAN is a voluntary-led micro-organisation, managed by part-time freelancers and 2 employees. We are funded by [Arts Council England](#) and are one of 9 regions as part of [Contemporary Visual Arts Network \(CVAN\)](#).

We prioritise individual practitioners and small-scale initiatives, including those that are artist-led. YVAN is made up of visual arts workers, individual artists and makers,

studios, collectives, higher and further education departments, researchers, visual arts organisations and artists networks.

Vision

Yorkshire and the Humber is a place where the visual arts thrive through the collective strength and collaboration across the sector, founded in the creative vision of individual artists.

Mission

To be a voice and advocate for the visual arts sector in Yorkshire & the Humber, delivering a programme that effects change in the profile, reputation and sustainability of the visual arts and artists in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Ensure the visual arts are accessible to meaningful participation and enjoyment by the diverse range of people who visit, live and work in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Amplify the important strategic contribution of the visual arts sector to place-making and quality of life in Yorkshire and the Humber.

YVAN is committed to ensuring that the visual arts in the region is contemporary, inclusive and diverse; that it opens up opportunities in fair and transparent ways; and challenges itself and partners to examine the unconscious bias and prejudice that permeate the arts and its institutions.

YVAN works towards being an anti-racist organisation for the visual arts. YVAN continues to demonstrate its commitment to CVAN's Fair & Equitable strategy through its governance and programme structures.

What we do:

- Support artists, makers and arts workers to identify issues and priorities for action focusing on: equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility; Climate Justice, and sector research to inform national policy.
- Collaborate - with organisations in supporting the visual arts through professional development, advocacy, research and promotion
- Champion & Advocate - for the role of the visual arts in leading on social and political change, and amplifying the impact from our region.

YVAN's governance and structure

YVAN Ltd is constituted as a limited company by guarantee (Company No. 10387805). With two Co-Chairs, a Board of Directors and 3 working groups, our priority is to ensure that YVAN's governance structure seeks close alignment to the needs and aspirations of the artist and artist-led in the region — our structure is

agile and able to broker new strategic relationships with tangible benefits to the sector.

Board members are Directors of the Company. The Board is the leadership body for YVAN, ensuring that strategic and operational decisions are in line with the mission and objectives of the organisation and are operated within the laws and regulations that govern.

The Board currently includes 8 members:

Helen Nakhwal: Co-chair and Finance manager

Michael Barnes-Wynters: Co-Chair and multi-disciplined audio visual creator

Sue Ball: MAAP Cultural producer, PhD

Laura Biddle: Curator and writer

Lucy Dunhill: Director of Dujo

Dr Zanib Rasool: Rotherham United Community Sports Trust, Partnership and Development Manager

Rina Arya - Professor of school of arts - University of Hull

Bailey Revill - Artist and Technician

Non-Board members are currently a freelance role: Sharon Gill - CEO: and 2 employees: Hannah Burgess - Social Media & Marketing and employee: Sarah Yaccabe - Administrator.

There is 1 fully funded Collaborative Doctoral Research who will be exploring the YVAN research question: 'Artists Networks: Whose Voice Counts? Researching the disconnects with and for artists from the Global Majority in the Yorkshire region.'**There currently are three active working groups:**

Research and Learning

HR

Finance

General guidance on becoming a board member

<https://artscouncil.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/A-Practical-Guide-for-Board-Members-of-Arts-Organisations.pdf>

Programme and Artist support

YVAN creates a dynamic responsive programme to bring tangible benefits to the visual arts sector, its public and audiences.

YVAN's programme is consciously designed to enable artists, makers and arts workers to determine the nature of activity, collaboration and debate that is required to effect change and ensure resilience in the visual arts sector in Yorkshire and the

Humber. All the key strands of the programme are offered through a co-production ethic, moving from organisational delivery to collaborative approaches including open calls for applications, invitations to tender, and for expressions of interest in research briefs.

YVAN's role is to support and profile the selected practitioners and formulate a research framework to gather, analyse and disseminate learning from the projects. By drawing on this material and data, it will inform and validate individual artists' practice and through strategic presentation by CVAN National, enhance advocacy for the sector and seek to influence policy.

We offer and run:

- Facilitation to grow the artist-led and artists networks through socials, peer support sessions and focus groups
- Snapshot research programme lead by artists for artists
- Artist-led research in the lived experience of artists and arts workers from underrepresented backgrounds as students, practitioners and academics
- Artist commissions, opportunities and signposting
- Promoting artist networks independent events, exhibitions and opportunities
- Publications
- Mentoring
- Care manifesto development
- Research placements
- Programmes with community organisations and artist networks funded by National Lottery Community Fund
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- Campaigning to petition for artist livelihoods and policy change at a regional and national level.

Partnership development

YVAN are currently seeking a new productive partnership with one of our region's Arts Council funded NPO's for the 26-29 funding round. An organisation that aligns with our core principles and is excited to collaborate with us and the wider CVAN England network.

Our most recent and active partnerships include: University of Leeds, University of Newcastle, BEAM, Wakefield Council, Disability Arts network, Flux, Steel City

Community, Apna Haq, YAWR, BME Young People and Carers Artworks Rotherham & Sheffield, Artbomb, Bradford Producing Hub, Yorkshire Sculpture international and artists networks and artist-led organisations and studios across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

YVAN is part of the national Contemporary Visual Arts Network ([CVAN](#)) and advocates for Yorkshire and the Humber as a place where artists and arts workers feel supported to practise and pursue professional careers and where their multiple contributions to society are acknowledged and valued.

For more information about YVAN, read our [Annual Report](#)
Or visit the website: www.yvan.org.uk

Director role description

Remuneration: The role of Director is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, however expenses for travel to Board meetings and expenses related to event or meeting attendance where you are representing YVAN can be reclaimed.

There are 4 board meetings each year held in January, April, July and October, primarily online. 1 away day takes place in person in the last quarter of the year.

Term of appointment: 3 years

Location: Various locations within the region and/or via Zoom

Time commitment: Minimum 4 meetings (2 hours) per year + 8 hours of additional time per quarter to take on delegated actions

Reporting to: Chair and CEO

Purpose: To be agreed depending on interest and skill set

Responsibilities: To act in the interests of YVAN and to support the organisation's values.

How to apply

Please send us a covering letter telling us why you are interested in becoming a Board Member of Yorkshire & Humber Visual Arts Network and what you think you will bring to the organisation.

Please also complete an [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion form](#) online. It is also available in [word format](#). This information will be treated confidentially.



Please email your application and Equal opportunities form to info@yvan.org.uk

There is a rolling recruitment for interested Board members with two deadlines per year. The 2025/26 deadlines are 30th October 2025 and 30th July 2026

If we invite you to join our Board, then there will also be an opportunity to observe a Board meeting before you confirm you would like to proceed.