

WYSING ARTS CENTRE
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WYSING ARTS CENTRE

Curator

Recruitment Pack, October 2025



Babeworld FC Low Key Football Match as part of Queer Utopias festival, 2024. Photo: Nurbanu Asena.

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About Wysing Arts Centre

“Wysing was founded with a utopian vision to create space for artists to live and work. Today it is ... pioneering an experimental approach to artistic practice, learning and curating.” Louise Benson, Elephant Magazine.

Established in 1989, Wysing Arts Centre is a progressive organisation in a rural setting, ten miles from Cambridge city. It holds 20 subsidised studios, accommodation for up to 80 visiting artists annually, recording and ceramics studios, flexible space to experiment, present and learn, fields, woodland, and several outdoor outworks.

Wysing's mission is to support artists, and to be leading in the way we do it. We provide artists and publics with time and space to expand their creative practice, away from the pressures, habits and conventions of daily life. Our rural site is a creative sanctuary: we believe that everyone should have time and space to imagine otherwise.

Wysing supports artistic experimentation, research, risk-taking and skills development. We do this through national and international artist residencies, commissions, innovative partnerships and civic connections, events, a youth-led learning programme and affordable studio provision.

We work locally, nationally and internationally to activate vital conversations with artists, young people, publics and change makers. We advocate for artists, and for the importance of art in keeping our shared humanity alive. We empower and advocate for those underrepresented in our sector; we work to create a welcoming space where everyone can thrive.

We take a proactive, intersectional approach to equity and inclusion, and often support artists who have not been well supported by mainstream gallery and funding systems. Several artists who have spent time at Wysing have gone on to be Turner-prize or Paul Hamlyn Award winners. Some artists go on to be commissioned by Wysing to make artworks, music and performance; many participate in Wysing's lively events.

In 2025-6, Wysing is continuing a capital project focused on making Wysing's rural site more accessible and welcoming, green energy and biodiversity.

We are funded principally by Arts Council England through its National Portfolio scheme. Further funds are raised through Trusts, Foundations and via individual giving. Our new website and brand will launch later in 2025; in the meantime, more can be discovered about Wysing's programme and history at wysingartscentre.org/ and archived at wysingbroadcasts.art/



'Strike / The Mark Feeds the Score / Surface as Notation', Hannan Jones and Shamica Ruddock, commissioned and produced in partnership with Wysing Arts Centre, Forma and Knotenpunkt. Exhibition opening, 2025. Photo courtesy of Forma.

The Role: Overview

Position: Curator

Location: Wysing Arts Centre, Fox Road, Bourn, CB23 2TX

Hours: Full time, 37.5 hours per week. Some evening and weekend working necessary; additional hours claimed back under Wysing's TOIL policy.

Salary: £30-£35,000 per annum

Contract: Permanent (with review/probation in the first three months)

Line manager: Director

Line manages: Assistant Curator

Wysing Arts Centre is seeking an experienced, imaginative **Curator** to develop and deliver an ambitious artistic programme across residencies, commissions, exhibitions and events. The Curator will help shape Wysing's artist-centred vision, fostering experimentation and critical discourse, while embracing the potential of our rural setting and growing focus on biodiversity and environmental sustainability. The role involves staying research-active, and creating thoughtful frameworks for artist support, ensuring that Wysing's programme remains at the forefront of national and international artistic development.

We are looking for someone with significant curatorial experience, a deep engagement with contemporary art, and a collaborative spirit. The successful candidate will bring strong organisational skills, commitment to equity and sustainability, and the confidence to represent Wysing's values externally. This is a rare opportunity to contribute to Wysing's future direction at a critical moment for our sector, working within a supportive, values-led environment that champions curiosity, innovation and experimentation.

Key responsibilities:

Programme Development and Delivery

- Working closely with the Director and programme team, lead, conceive and deliver a diverse and ambitious programme including residencies, commissions and events, both on site and off site, ensuring that these align with the organisation's strategic priorities, vision, mission and values.
- Stay research-active: track new trends in contemporary art and artist support, experiment with new models for residencies, commission, participatory projects, and partnerships.
- Support artists/creative practitioners in the programme to develop their practice, experiment and take risks. Facilitate professional development, mentoring and peer critique for artists including those in our residency and studios programme.
- In collaboration with the wider team and freelancers, lead on the smooth delivery of programmes and residencies on and off site, ensuring that these run on time and to budget.

Engagement and Outreach

- Expand Wysing's audience reach through public programmes including workshops, events and digital projects.
- Work with Young People's Programme Coordinator and other team members to integrate youth-led activity, learning and outreach across Wysing's artistic programme.
- Work with Wysing's Director and Marketing and Communications Manager to develop and deliver a communications strategy for Wysing's artistic programme, including strong, clear interpretation, accessible content, up-to-date online presence (website, video, streaming, social media), and ensure that audience development targets are relevant and met.
- Keep the wider team and Wysing artistic community informed and connected to the residency, commissions and events programme activity.

Partnerships, Advocacy and Representation

- Represent Wysing externally: build and maintain relationships with artists, curators, funders, partner organisations locally, nationally and internationally.
- Advocate for Wysing's mission, vision, values and artist-centred approach.

Budgeting, Fundraising and Evaluation

- Working with the Deputy Director, oversee relevant programme budgets: planning, forecasting, monitoring to ensure activities are delivered on time and within budget and that payments are processed efficiently and recorded accurately.

- Contribute to identifying funding opportunities; lead or support trust, foundation, corporate, partner applications / proposals, and ensure compliance and reporting.
- Lead and contribute to the development of evaluation frameworks to track progress across Wysing's residency, commissions and events programme.
- Ensure Wysing's programme aligns with funder priorities (such as Arts Council England), and organisational strategy.
- Contribute towards Arts Council England reporting including data gathering.

Management and Internal Processes

- Line manage Wysing's Assistant Curator and identify opportunities for their professional development. Participate in staff reviews, team meetings, and collaborative planning across programme and operation teams.
- Appoint and manage freelancers where necessary to deliver specific projects.
- Administer relevant artist and partner contracts, letters of agreement, liaising with legal, technical, production and to ensure smooth delivery.
- Collaborate with the wider Wysing team to enable site wide and commercial activities aligning with the overarching business plan.
- Ensure policies (health and safety, environmental sustainability, equal opportunities, safeguarding) are adhered to. Undertake Deputy Safeguarding Lead training and actively participate in other relevant training opportunities.

Sustainability and Values in Practice

- Embed environmental sustainability across the programme: in artist residencies, production, materials, travel, energy use etc., considering the specificity of Wysing's rural setting.
- Ensure best practice accessibility and inclusive practice in all activities and ensure that Wysing maintains high standards of openness, diversity, and equity for artists and audiences.

Please note that this job description is a guide to the work: it is not wholly comprehensive or restrictive.

Person specification

Essential:

- At least three years' experience in a comparable setting.
- Deep engagement with contemporary art practice and curatorial research, combined with a commitment to developing artists' practice.
- Creative and dynamic approach to programme design aligning with Wysing's commitment to risk and experimentation.
- Strong organisational ability: managing complex projects, multiple stakeholders, budgets and timelines.

- Excellent communication skills (verbal and written), including public speaking, copy writing and other forms of interpretation.
- Demonstrable commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and ecological sustainability.
- Ability to build relationships internally and externally; partnership working.
- Flexibility: willing to work evenings/weekends when required, and able to travel for meetings, research and/or offsite work.
- Proficiency with standard office/arts administration tools (e.g. budgeting, scheduling, contract management).

Desirable

- Experience of curating internationally or with international residencies.
- Proven fundraising success: trusts, foundations, public arts funding, individual giving.
- Experience of working with marketing and communications and supporting production of digital content.
- Experience of mentoring artists or developing artist support programmes.
- Familiarity with Arts Council England's policies / funding strategies.
- Experience with project evaluation, monitoring and organisational / funder reporting.

Benefits

- 25 days annual leave plus UK public holidays.
- Access to WeCare employee assistance scheme as part of Wysing's life insurance package.
- Pension scheme in line with organisational policy.
- Professional development support and opportunities for training.
- Work in a progressive, values-led environment that cultivates curiosity, risk-taking, ecological awareness, artistic experimentation.
- TOIL for evening/weekend work.



Sahjan Kooner working with Wysing's Creative Youth Council as part of their joint residency between Wysing and Raspberry Pi Foundation, 2025. Photo: Michaela D'Agati.

Wysing's vision, mission, values and aims:

Vision: To cultivate the freewheeling imagination.

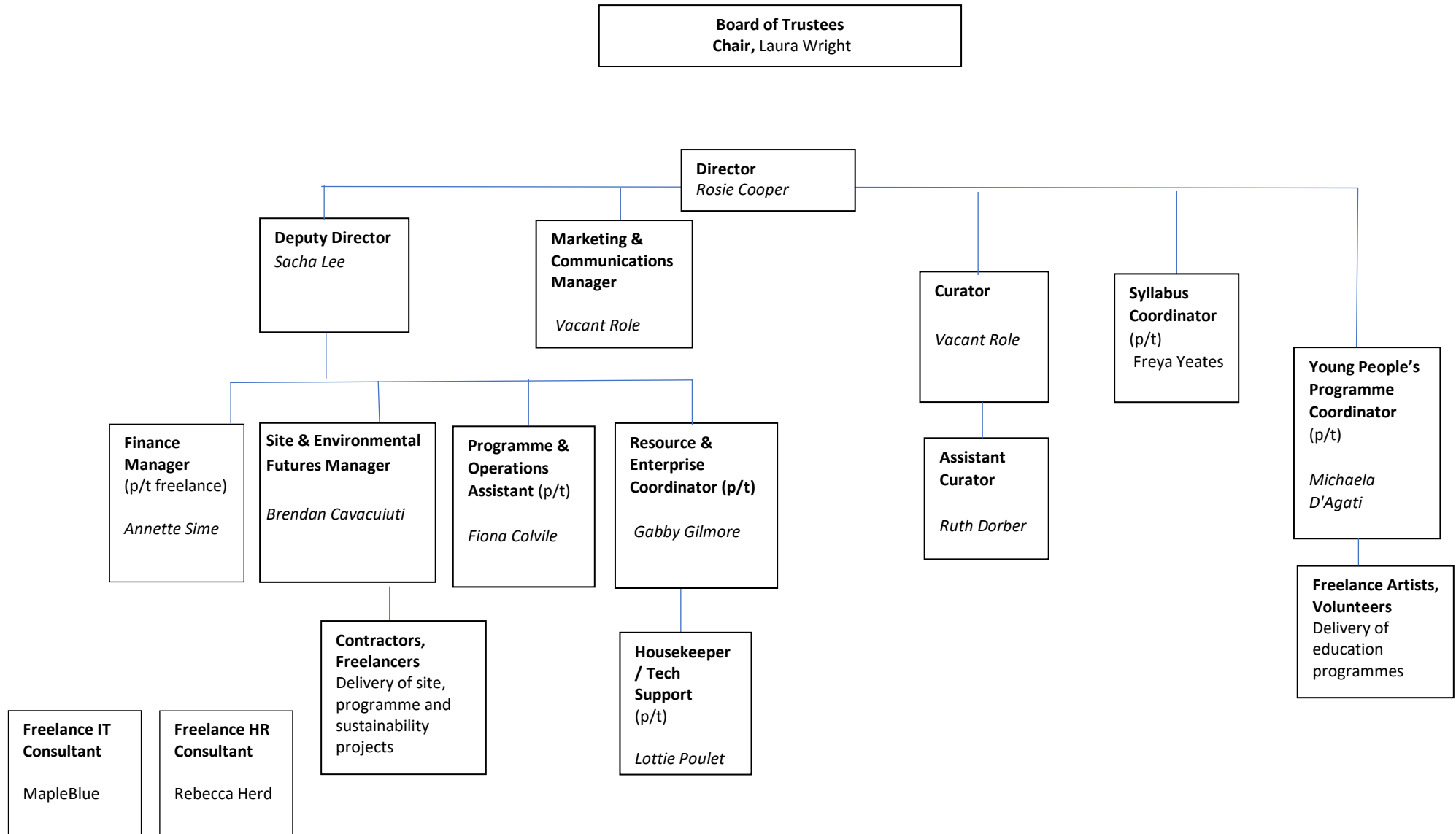
Mission:

Wysing believes in the transformative social and personal benefits of art and creativity, and that a more just world can only be achieved if everyone has equal access to the time and space needed to imagine it. Wysing provides accessible opportunities and resources to think and create, outside the habits of daily life. We support artists to develop their talent; we advocate for the immense value they have in the world, and we work to create the conditions necessary for them to have sustainable careers.

Values and Aims:

- **Collaborative:** Work together to build resources.
- **Generous:** Model change, sharing our resources equitably.
- **Agile:** Creative and seize opportunity.
- **Attentive:** Listen to what people have to say, and respond effectively.
- **Transparent:** Build trust, and be open about how we work.
- **Ethical:** Avoid causing harm to people and the planet.

Wysing Arts Centre's Organisation Chart



Recruitment Process:

The deadline for applications is 9am on Monday 10 November.

We use Submittable (an online application portal) for applications. Applications can be made via text, audio or video – please use whichever methods you prefer.

[Access the Submittable portal here.](#)

You will need to create a Submittable account. Once you have set up an account you can return to your application any time up until the deadline. Please allow enough time to approach us with any questions or queries in using the Submittable website. Our policy is not to accept applications after the deadline.

Applications can also be made in video or audio format if required. If there is another method that you would prefer to use to apply due to your access requirements, please let us know. We want to remove as many barriers to applying as we can.

In your application, please include, in your own words:

1. A statement covering what interests you about the post, and working at Wysing Arts Centre.
2. A written statement clearly demonstrating how your skills, abilities, and experience match the key points in the job description and person specification, covering examples of where your curatorial experience is relevant to Wysing's aims.
3. A short video, maximum 2mins, introducing yourself and what excites you about the role. This is for us to get a sense of who you are.
4. Current CV, maximum 2 sides of A4.
5. Your contact details.
6. Contact details for two referees.

We understand that you may decide to use AI tools to support your application, particularly for tasks such as improving clarity, or spelling. While this is acceptable, we encourage you to ensure that your submission genuinely reflect your own voice, experience and perspective. We value authenticity and are most interested in understanding who *you* are.

After we have reviewed applications, we will contact shortlisted applicants to join us for an interview and site visit. At that point, you will be invited to share any access requirements you may have to attend interview.

We expect that interviews will be held on Monday 17th November 2025 on site at Wysing Arts Centre.

Wysing reserves the right to amend this recruitment timeline.

Wysing's Director, Rosie Cooper, can be available to have an informal conversation about the position in advance. Please email rosie.cooper@wysingartscentre.org

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for everyone regardless of their background. We acknowledge that people from certain backgrounds are under-represented in the arts sector, and we're committed to doing what we can to correct this. We are particularly keen to receive applications from those who identify as global majority; d/Deaf or disabled people; people who identify as being LGBTQ+; people who have a mental health condition; and people who identify as working class now or in the past.

As a Disability Confident Leader, where possible and proportionate within the number of interview spaces available, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the vacancy. Please indicate if you identify as disabled in your application so that we can aim to ensure that we shortlist you for interview should you meet the minimum criteria. Wysing is committed to staff wellbeing and are a member of the Employee Assistance Programme of WeCare providing mental health and wellbeing support as well as many other services and access to training where appropriate.



Delaine Le Bas, Incipit Vita Nova: Here Begins a New Life (2023), created at Wysing Arts Centre in 2022 and shown at Tate Britain, 2024, as part of the Turner Prize

