

WYSING ARTS CENTRE
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Trustee Recruitment Pack, 2024



Rafał Zajko, *Corns and Calluses*, New Block Commission, 2024. Supported by the Art Fund. Photo: Lucy Rose Shaftain-Fenner

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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 & curating.” Louise Benson, Elephant Magazine.

Established in 1989, Wysing Arts Centre is a progressive organisation in a rural setting. We enable artists and publics to engage their imagination freely and take creative risks; we believe that everybody has the right to time and space for creativity, away from the distractions of daily life.

The site is 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. Work made at Wysing is seen worldwide. An accessible digital offer increases reach and archives our work; our youth programme empowers future generations.

Wysing invites artists from across the world to stay and reflect on their practice without the pressure of producing new work: time spent without a plan can often be when the best new ideas emerge. 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.

Wysing engages people of all ages through artist-led workshops, events, online projects, gatherings and an alternative art school called *The Syllabus*. Our young people’s programme has a focus on reaching people from rural areas. In 2022, Wysing initiated a Youth Council who will have decision-making powers in the organisation.

We are funded principally by Arts Council England through its National Portfolio scheme. Further funds are raised through Trusts, Foundations and via individual giving. Wysing recently received significant support from the Freelands Foundation to grow and deliver *The Syllabus* over the next decade. More can be discovered about Wysing’s programme and history at wysingartscentre.org/ and wysingbroadcasts.art/ In 2024 we will be launching a new brand and integrated, accessible website.



Wysing Ceramic Studio Open Morning, with Wysing studio artist Isobel Meredith-Hardy, 2022.
Photo: Chloe Page

Overview

Wysing Arts Centre is governed by a board of trustees. The role of the Board is to provide vision and oversight, to be responsible for the strategic direction and effective running of Wysing Arts Centre, ensuring financial stability and compliance with governance legislation. The Board supports Wysing's senior leadership by sharing expert advice and helps keep us on track to deliver our aims.

- We're looking for three people to join our board.
- Trustee roles are voluntary and for individuals.
- You don't have to have been a board member or trustee before.
- We want people who are committed to an intersectional understanding of equity, diversity and inclusion.
- We want people who share our inclusive ethos and values and whose skills and interests align with Wysing's future direction.

Who we're looking for:

We would like to have more people on our board with skills and knowledge in any of the following areas:

- Finance and financial management
- Architecture and/ or site development
- Creative technology

We would also like to include more artists on our Board.

Diverse Representation

We're looking for people to join our board who have a range of perspectives and lived experience. 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, 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 ethnic majority, d/Deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, LGBTQI+, people who have a mental health condition, and people who experience barriers due to their socio-economic background.

As a Disability Confident Leader, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who demonstrate skills and knowledge in the areas above. Please indicate whether you identify as d/Deaf or disabled in your application.

What a current board member has to say:

Being a trustee of Wysing Arts Centre is an opportunity to support an organisation that nurtures, cares and facilitates artistic development - from young people in rural East Anglia to Turner Prize winning artists. As a practising artist and educator and a former residency artist, I've witnessed and experienced the impact that Wysing has, first-hand. Wysing is rare: it's totally committed to creating space for artistic research and cultural curiosity: I wish I could clone it, so that every county and region had its' own.
Harold Offeh, artist and Wysing Trustee.



Tammy Reynolds at Club Urania, Wysing Arts Centre and Cambridge Junction's LGBTQ+ club night, 2023.
Photo: Dani Oliver



Alastair Kwan's congee meal at Wysing's Spring Celebration, 2024. Photo: Lucy Rose Shaftain-Fenner

What to Expect

Our Direction:

In addition to supporting artists and ensuring that Wysing is an equitable, inclusive place for all, our priorities for the coming years include increasing Wysing's environmental sustainability, addressing access and biodiversity across our rural site, and diversifying our income streams.

Encouraging Artists:

As an artist-centred organisation, we are open to models such as shorter term, remote attendance or other options that would make this opportunity possible for an artist. Charity law means that the Trustee role is voluntary, but we can provide reasonable travel and sustenance expenses.

When and how our board meets:

Trustees meet four times a year in hybrid meetings. Meetings are usually in the evenings and last 2 –3 hours with breaks. Trustee sub-groups based around distinct areas of Wysing's work meet at other times. A Board away-day to discuss vision and mission happens annually.

Financial information:

Being a board member is unpaid.

Expenses are covered including access, travel, accommodation, personal support and caring expenses.

The board supports Wysing Arts Centre to achieve its mission:

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**: Create 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.

HOW TO APPLY

If you'd like to join the Wysing Arts Centre board, please apply in any way you wish. This could be by video, audio, creating a PowerPoint, writing to us - whatever you prefer. You can include up to four A4 pages, five minutes of audio or video, or a 10 slide PowerPoint presentation.

In your application we'd like you to respond to the following:

- Tell us a bit about yourself.
- Why do you want to join the Wysing board?
- What do you think you can offer and what do you want to gain?

Send your application to recruitment@wysingartscentre.org

If you have any questions or would like support to apply, please email us on info@wysingartscentre.org

If you would like to discuss the role with either Wysing's Director, Rosie Cooper or Chair, Laura Wright, then please email info@wysingartscentre.org to schedule a call.

Timescale

- Deadline for applications: Monday 24 June 5pm
- We'll narrow down applications and hold 1-1 conversations with people candidates in July.
- After conversations, some people will be invited to observe a board meeting.
- New board members will join the board for an agreed term.

Please note that some people are not eligible to become a charity trustee, please see the information below:

EXCLUSIONS FROM HOLDING TRUSTEE POSITIONS

Sections 178 and 180 of the Charities Act 2011 disqualifies anyone who:

- Has been convicted of particular offences, unless the conviction is spent. Please see <https://knowhownonprofit.org/governance/improving-your-governance-practice/trustee-recruitment-and-induction/trustee-disqualification> for more details on the offences included
- Has an undischarged bankruptcy.
- Has previously been removed from Trusteeship of a charity by the court or the Charity Commissioners.
- Is under a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.
- Anyone who has entered into a composition or arrangement with their creditors which includes an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA), and is currently on the Insolvency Service Register.

USEFUL LINKS FOR PROSPECTIVE TRUSTEES

The Essential Trustee: What you Need to Know. The Charity Commission

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>

The Hallmarks of an Effective Charity. The Charity Commission

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-hallmarks-of-an-effective-charity-cc10>

Conflicts of Interest: A Guide for Trustees

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/conflicts-of-interest-a-guide-for-charity-trustees-cc29>