



Education + Engagement  
Nature + Wildlife  
Health + Well Being

Commissions + Community  
Leisure + Experience  
Art + Culture

**SAW's MISSION** is for Somerset to be a place where people expect to engage with excellent visual art that is surprising and distinctive. There are currently nearly 400 members consisting of artists, curators, galleries, organisations and groups.

## BECOME A TRUSTEE

We are looking for a dynamic new trustee who is dedicated to developing the visual arts. Our existing diverse Trustees are critical in setting a new look Board with a broad open minded outlook, overseeing our mission, and work with the staff team to lead on and enact the vision we share for the organisation's future. Supporting our vital network in the next major phase of its development. From rugged rural coastlines to clustered urban environments, we connect artistic communities throughout Somerset as a way of raising visibility, advocate diversity and develop resilience across the visual arts sector.

As a Trustee you would advise the senior team at SAW to achieve excellence in producing and presenting contemporary art and culture and enable us to engage audiences through a diverse programme of exhibitions and events; which support artists and artist-led organisations through new commissions, subsidised studio provision and critically-engaged artist development opportunities that widen access to our programme and facilities. Our community is built to support artists at any stage in their careers to develop their careers, gain new knowledge, and grow their networks.

We work with a wide range of partners providing opportunities for artists via research, residencies and commissions, developing new visual arts new audiences and engaging with local communities who may have little contact with the arts. Somerset Art Works aim to embed learning throughout a wide range of activities as well developing learning programmes, providing opportunities for professional artists to work with schools, colleges and communities.

You don't have to have, an arts background or years of experience to apply. What we do want are diverse, enthusiastic and committed applicants who believe in the fundamental value of arts and culture, and who are able to apply their passion and particular skills to this dedicated organisation, with its broad business model that enables us to support, produce and present exceptional contemporary art.



## RECRUITMENT PACK FOR TRUSTEES

### ABOUT SAW

We are a registered charity. Our Mission is to advocate, challenge and enable the visual arts to thrive in Somerset and the South West England, with a National and International reach.

Our core aims are to:

- Raise the visibility of the Somersets visual arts sector
- Advocate for diverse perspectives in our area
- Focus on addressing the significant issues facing the sector in the region
- Develop a more resilient visual arts sector

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.

### RECRUITMENT WITHIN SAW

We have been examining our process for recruitment and we are committed to addressing barriers to visual arts participation caused by structures of discrimination, which we recognise to be intersectional. We are actively recruiting a trustee who wants to join and support our work in changing the culture of boards and organisations in the region as well as the wider sector.

### SAW TRUSTEE ROLE DESCRIPTION

- This is a voluntary role. You will work as part of the existing board ensuring the effective performance of its governance responsibilities.
- To ensure there is an effective relationship between the Board and the organisation, staff, volunteers, members and stakeholders including Arts Council England.

### MAIN DUTIES

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

- Ensuring the overall structure and delivery, to fulfil its responsibility, giving support and guidance to fellow trustees, staff and members.
  - Working with the board to achieve the appropriate vision and long term strategic objectives, where needed.
  - Supporting the work on and around ensuring the financial situation and sustainability.
  - Representing the sector within the sector, serving as an additional promoter of Visual Arts within Somerset with the relevant stakeholders.
  - Appraising and supporting the Directors.
  - Governing and supporting the procedures and policies.
- With the Board ensuring positive relationships with key stakeholders.
  - Demonstrating an appetite and willingness to further develop the role of **SAW** in the sector, supporting the organisation to strive for excellence.

### KEY QUALITIES

- Knowledge of and commitment to the work we do and the visual arts sector in the region and nationally and internationally.
- Good meeting and presentation skills.
- A supportive and confident style, which other trustees will support you in developing.
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work with others.
- Commitment to the ongoing support of strengthening the visual arts sector.
- As a trustee you will be expected to attend quarterly meetings, which take place, 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.
- As a trustee we ask you attend quarterly, and when needed, meetings (which are held monthly) to represent SAW nationally.

NB: This is a voluntary opportunity. Reasonable travel expenses can be considered for Trustee 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

If you have any questions regarding the Role Description or applying, please contact

[info@somersetartworks.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetartworks.org.uk)

*'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. SAW 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 SAW to address the complexity of oppressive structures and to support inclusion for all.*