

Spike Island



Spike Island is looking for new Trustees to join our Board.

Spike Island is a dynamic arts centre that supports, produces and presents contemporary art and culture. We engage audiences in our work through a diverse programme of exhibitions and events; and we directly support artists through new commissions, studio provision and critically engaged artist development opportunities.

Join our Board of Trustees

Our home in Bristol is one of Europe's largest studio complexes. We are proud to host over 70 studio artists, over 35 creative businesses, over 160 Associates, and hundreds of MA/BA Fine Art students of UWE Bristol. Our community is built to support artists to develop their careers, gain new knowledge, and grow their networks.

The Board of Trustees is critical in setting and overseeing Spike Island's mission, and working with the executive team to lead on and enact the vision for the organisation's future.

You don't have to have previous experience as a Board member or Trustee, or be from an arts or culture background. 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 particular skills and life experience to this dynamic organisation, with its broad business model that enables us to support, produce and present exceptional contemporary art.

The Board is looking to expand our group of Trustees as we move into our next phase of development, and is interested in recruiting candidates with skills and experience in the legal sector, particularly commercial and charity law.

We need our Board of Trustees to be representative of our city, the artists and arts professionals we work with, and the audiences we seek to engage. We therefore strongly encourage applications from people who identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic, young, disabled, LGBTQI+, working class, or living or working in areas of socioeconomic deprivation in Bristol.

A message from our Chair

Thank you for your interest in joining our Board of Trustees. Never before has it been so important to support and recognise the value of arts and culture.

Becoming a trustee of Spike Island offers the opportunity to contribute to Bristol's reputation as a key creative and cultural city, and to shape Spike Island's increasingly important role as a major international centre for contemporary art.

Spike Island is known and respected by artists and audiences across the world. Whether you are visiting our galleries for an exhibition (always free to enter), having lunch in our bustling café, or enjoying a 'behind the scenes' event in our large complex, we aim for you to have a memorable creative experience.

As we emerge from the impact of COVID-19, our team is working hard to strengthen our already diverse business model and to ensure that the organisation continues to develop and thrive. Simultaneously, we are dedicated to significantly improving our work in areas of equality and diversity. Our commitment to diversity and equality is well demonstrated by our artistic programme, but we know that we could and should do much more to engage with Bristol's diverse communities through our governance and staffing. We must transform our working culture in order to make Spike Island more representative of our city. Our Board of Trustees is instrumental in bringing about this change.

As a trustee, you will be supported by a small and dedicated staff team who work with creativity and passion for the organisation.

We look forward to receiving your application and discussing these ideas with you in more detail.



Role Description



Pacita Abad *Life in the Margins* (2020) Installation view, Spike Island. Photograph by Lisa Whiting

SPIKE ISLAND

Spike Island Artspace is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

THE BOARD

The Board has between 7 and 15 members, plus 3 co-opted members.

All members of the Board serve in an individual capacity. They have a duty to support the work of Spike Island as a whole, rather than to act as representatives of a particular interest group.

All members are unpaid, non-executive Directors of the Limited Company, Spike Island Artspace. Though these positions are voluntary, travel expenses may be reimbursed for travel outside Bristol. Spike Island is also a registered charity, so Board members are also Trustees and subject to charity law.

The Board is supported by a small professional staff team led by the Director.

THE ROLE AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The role of the Board is to provide leadership, continuity of purpose and accountability. The primary duty of Trustees is to act with honesty and good faith in the best interests of the organisation.

The Board's duties also include:

- agreeing policy
- setting budgets
- employing and supporting staff
- advocacy and fundraising
- monitoring performance against aims and objectives
- financial, legal and charitable responsibilities

THE TYPE OF PEOPLE WE ARE

LOOKING FOR

People who are enthusiastic about and committed to contemporary art, and who are sympathetic to the needs of artists. We are also seeking Trustees who will add to and complement the skills and experience of other Board members.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE NEEDED

We are currently looking for Board members who have skills and experience in the legal sector, particularly commercial and charity law.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS MUST ALSO:

- have credibility and standing within the arts community in the UK or within their own profession
- act as an advocate for Spike Island
- have the ability to operate as an effective Board member at formal meetings and to discuss, listen to, evaluate and have respect for different views
- be willing and able to make time to attend quarterly Board meetings
- be prepared to offer advice and expertise in their specialist areas
- be willing to participate in additional meetings, events and interviews from time to time
- attempt to remain aware of developments in the fields relevant to the organisation
- be loyal to Board decisions and maintain confidentiality
- serve the organisation as a whole rather than a particular interest group within it
- support senior staff
- avoid conflict of interest in relation to any matters of personal interest

Role description



Jo Lathwood: FACTORY at Open Studios (2018)

RESPONSIBILITIES AS A BOARD MEMBER

Our Board Members will be expected to:

- attend 4 Board meetings a year and to read the papers prepared for each meeting in advance
- attend exhibition previews and other events and meetings wherever possible
- know the organisation's mission, aims, objectives, policies, programmes, operations and needs. New members will need to familiarise themselves with the relevant documents

THEY MAY ALSO BE ASKED TO:

- become a member of one of the Board's sub-committees
- serve on a policy or strategy group looking at a particular area of Spike Island's operations
- be a member of a recruitment panel for senior staff positions at Spike island
- give informal advice and guidance to staff, rooted in their own areas of expertise
- assist with and contribute to fundraising campaigns

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE AND TENURE

This is an open call recruitment process.

Applications received will be reviewed against the criteria listed in the role description and shortlisted for interview.

All applications are treated as confidential and the recruitment process is carried out in line with equal opportunities principles.

The normal term of office for Board members is three years, but Board members may be appointed for a further term if they wish and if the remainder of the Board unanimously approve. The absolute maximum period of office for any Board member is seven years.

OUR CURRENT TRUSTEES

ANDY BRAITHWAITE (RETIRING)
Commercial and intellectual property lawyer

LINDA BROTHWELL
Artist and studio holder. Associate Lecturer at Royal College of Art, London

LOUISE O'DONNELL
Chief Executive,
John James Bristol Foundation

CATHERINE FRANKPITT
Founder and Director,
Strike Communications

TESSA JACKSON OBE
Independent curator,
writer and cultural advisor

JACQUELINE KINGSLEY
Fundraising and organisational
development specialist

MARIE BAK MORTENSEN
Head of Exhibitions & Interpretation,
Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

PAULA NEWPORT
Director of People and Culture,
Aardman Animations Ltd

IMRAN PERRETTA
Artist and Educator

JAZLYN M PINCKNEY
Inclusion Producer,
South West Creative Technology Network

PROFESSOR DOROTHY PRICE
Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art
and Critical Race Art History,
The Courtauld Institute of Art, London

How to apply

To apply, please visit spikeisland.org.uk/join-our-board and complete an online application form and equal opportunities form.

The application asks for your contact details; your particular skills and experiences; an outline of your reasons for wanting to become a Trustee of Spike Island; how you meet the skills and experience we're looking for; and how you would act as an advocate for Spike Island and the charity's interests.

If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please contact Robert Leckie, Director via recruit@spikeisland.org.uk (with the subject line 'Trustee application query') in advance of applying.

If you would rather submit a video or audio file application, please contact the Office & HR Manager by emailing recruit@spikeisland.org.uk or calling 0117 929 2266. Your application will need to include the same details as required by the online application form.

Shortlisted prospective Trustees will be invited to interview with a small group of Trustees and the Director. We reserve the right to close applications when the position(s) has been filled.



If you require this information
pack in a different format
please get in touch
recruit@spikeisland.org.uk

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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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