



Trustee Recruitment Pack

www.skimstone.org.uk

Are you passionate about making a lasting difference with local communities, and amplifying important stories?

Skimstone Arts is an energetic, artists-led team committed to supporting diverse artists and those at risk of isolation to create work with, for, and about the world that matters to them. We are looking for new trustees to join our multi-arts charity to help steer us through an exciting period of growth as we seek to expand our work and reach more communities across the North East.

About us

Skimstone Arts flies the flag for artistic activism. We encourage people to be inquisitive, to challenge norms, embrace differences, interrogate equality, discover new ways of seeing and to forge individual and collective meaning, and in doing so to connect to others.

We exist to support diverse artists, people and communities at risk of social isolation to create work with, for and about the world that matters to them.

We celebrated our tenth birthday in 2018 and became a registered charity in England in 2019 (1182284).

We create collaborative theatre, music and art with artists and researchers. We develop artistic practice with diverse individuals and communities to reflect challenges in society. We have embraced digital technology during the pandemic to make our events more inclusive and accessible to all members of the community.

Our reputation and influence for inclusive artistic work with and for people in the most socially-vulnerable groups in the North East of England has also grown during the pandemic.

We originate important professional touring music and performance work inspired by societal challenges and themes - we contribute to the national debate on isolation and loneliness, on inclusion and identity, and mental health including dementia.

We work with our;

Young Artists Collective (vulnerable young people aged 16-25 years) and their band Reality Boots

The Sun and The Soul Company, Stockton (people of all ages with lived refugee and asylum seeker experience) and Stockton Commissioning Group, Stockton on Tees

Byker Commissioning Group, (people facing poverty and isolation living in Byker Ward of Newcastle upon Tyne

Other Youth Music funded organisations across the region

Older people in day care and care home settings

who produce high quality music performances and artworks and support with event management and production.

Our vital work is supported by funding, strong relationships with wide-reaching networks, and the company's governance through its Board of Trustees.

You can find out more about our work in our [Trustee annual report and accounts 2020/21](#) and [Artistic Impact Report 2020/21](#) or on our website www.skimstone.org.uk Our annual reports for 2021/22 are published in autumn 2022.

Location

Skimstone Studios are in i4 Quayside, Newcastle Enterprise Centres, Quayside, Albion Row, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE6 1LL.

Time commitment

Our board meets four to six times a year with meetings typically lasting 90 minutes. Meetings are currently a mixture of virtual and in person at our studio in Ouseburn.

We also have an annual away-day to review our mission, artistic direction, and funding strategies. Board members are expected to contribute to specialist sub-committees and ad hoc Task and Finish Groups which are established as required.

Board members are encouraged to attend our performances, exhibitions, and events, in their roles as ambassadors for Skimstone Arts.

The trustee role

Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the organisation. They set policy, objectives, and targets, and they evaluate performance. They safeguard the financial stability of the organisation, along with its good name and values, and approve the annual budget and business plan.

Trustees are unpaid directors who have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring Skimstone Arts is solvent and financially sustainable, is well-run, and delivers to our [charitable objects](#).

What are we looking for?

We seek people who are empathetic and supportive of Skimstone Arts 'aims, ethos and objectives, and who have some of the following attributes and experience:

- Empathy with our mission and vision, including an appreciation for multi-arts (music, performance, film, photography, visual art)
- A commitment to our public benefit purpose
- An ability to think strategically, focusing on major issues
- Experience of leadership
- Effective networking skills with established networks
- Effective communication and advocacy skills
- A readiness and ability to play a leading role in fundraising
- An ability to command respect amongst regional stakeholders and national decision makers in the public and private sectors.

We are particularly keen to hear from individuals with experience in any of the following areas:

- **Performing arts, including music, artistic direction, digital arts, and experience of national arts organisations (including creative case for diversity; touring and events);**
- **Social activism, including compassion towards people living with isolation, with disadvantage, with poor mental health;**
- **Health & wellbeing, including the social sector and research into isolation;**
- **Business administration; including HR management, law, finance, governance and accountability;**
- **Fundraising and diversification of funds; research, evaluation and impact-reporting; coaching & mentoring.**

These are themed areas where you might identify some skills and experience - we do not expect you to fulfil every area of a theme.

Previous trustee experience is not required and we welcome applications from all ages and backgrounds, especially those with lived experience of the themes we explore in our work.

Application process:

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact us for an informal chat with Wendy Scott (Chair) or Sarah Drummond (Vice Chair) prior to submitting their application via trustees@skimstone.org.uk.

We ask applicants to make their submission with their CV (resumé) and a short covering letter which sets out your interest in becoming a trustee and the relevant experience you would bring to the role - please email both of these documents to trustees@skimstone.org.uk.

We hold recruitment rounds twice a year and are presently seeking new trustees to join the board at the autumn annual general meeting 2022.



