**Introduction to Lancaster Arts**

Lancaster Arts is an integral part of Lancaster University and part of the national portfolio of Arts Council England (an NPO since 2009). Our profile centres upon contemporary art practices and we work with all artforms in our spaces on campus (Peter Scott Gallery, Nuffield Theatre and Great Hall) as well as off campus in our surrounding communities and natural environment.

We believe that there are exciting possibilities at the intersection of the arts, communities and higher education to enable new and alternative ways of working and living together that address societal concerns and global emergencies. A university is a test bed for ideas, and we reflect this questioning in our own approach to working with artists. We act as an ideas lab to open up new ways to see the world, investing in courageous responses to the world as it is now, prioritising artistic work that explores the connections between social and environmental justice.

Our strapline - *where ideas, people and places connect* - highlights our distinctive approach to supporting, developing and presenting artistic work through a wide variety of arts practices and partnerships. We are proud to nurture relationships between international and locally based artists across our work. Please see [our website](https://www.lancasterarts.org/), not only for our presentational programme but for our commissions and residencies as well. Our programme is curated around annual themes. In 2024, this is [FLIGHT](https://www.lancasterarts.org/ideas/2024-flight).

**Lancaster Arts Board (LAB)**

The LAB acts as an Advisory Board and is refreshed every 3 years – 2024 is our next timeframe for this, which means we will be looking for new members to join us until 2027. The LAB is a critical friend to Lancaster Arts, overseeing and monitoring our programme for Arts Council England and supporting us to shape our programme in response to challenging times. We meet every two months and host sub groups to explore specific areas such as income generation or environmental justice. The LAB is invited to join us in all aspects of our programme as well as the training we do, such as unconscious bias and/or decolonialisation. The Chair of the LAB is a leader in the arts sector, and external to the university. Our Terms of Reference is available upon request from our Operations Manager, [Serena Mansfield](http://serena@lancasterarts.org)

**Who are we looking for**

Lancaster Arts is committed to diversity of experiences and perspectives. We are keen to work with LAB members who are interested in not only what we do but how we do it. We believe that consistent and engaged relationships with a broad range of people will enhance our ability to deliver a programme of the highest quality. We want the LAB to act as a genuine exchange with us, enabling a reciprocity of ideas and enthusiasms.

We are excited to welcome people with life experiences as much as professional expertise and as a result of a Skills Audit conducted in 2023, we are looking for understanding across the following areas:

* Income generation
* Audience engagement (with particular regard to socially engaged arts practice)
* Museums (Accredited) with knowledge of art collection management
* Public realm and/or outdoor arts
* Knowledge of evaluation methodologies appropriate for arts organisations
* Strong track record within the National Portfolio of Arts Council England
* Knowledge of international arts networks, touring and funding

The LAB must reflect the region we work within, and we would like to hear from people with Global Majority Heritage, women and non-binary people, people who are disabled, d/Deaf or who have a chronic illness, and people from working-class and lower socio-economic backgrounds.

**Recruitment process**

This is an open call for new members and distributed nationally. Please get in touch with Serena Mansfield, if you would like to know more about us.

We invite Expressions of Interest (hyper link) with a deadline of **March 31st.** We will shortlist applications according to the following criteria, inviting those shortlisted to an online meeting with the selection panel. We are looking for a balance and breadth of these backgrounds and skills across the whole group:

* Curious and interested in LA and ambitious about our potential,
* Commitment to social and environmental justice,
* Balance of gender including non-binary, and age
* Diversity of ethnicity, disability, and geography, (including priority audience groups such as rurally based residents),
* Capacity to engage with meetings and necessary support, as required by the Terms of Reference

We hope to complete this process by July 2024. Thank you so much for reading this far! We appreciate that time is always precious for all of us and we hope that engaging with Lancaster Arts may be as rewarding and inspirational for you as it for us in drawing upon your contributions.