

DORSET VISUAL ARTS

Dorset Visual Arts - Information for Potential Trustees

Thank you for your interest in joining the Dorset Visual Arts' Board of Trustees. Dorset Visual Arts has a proud history of bringing together artists and makers across the county of Dorset. As the county's association for contemporary artists and makers it takes a dynamic approach to activity that supports our Members and enhances the opportunities for them countywide and beyond. Being a Dorset Visual Arts Trustee is a great opportunity to contribute to the future of Dorset's thriving Arts Scene and be at the heart of what is happening. The Dorset Visual Arts' Board takes its responsibilities seriously, but we operate in a relaxed way which makes membership as part of a small team enjoyable.

About Dorset Visual Arts

Dorset Visual Arts (DVA) is a not for profit organisation and registered charity. DVA has a membership of over 250 artists, designers and makers who live and, or practice in Dorset. Some of the Members have national and international reputations. DVA is about interaction, collaboration and, importantly, creative development. DVA's activities recognise that artists have different interests and needs in developing their work and careers, yet are so often left to find their way in isolation, particularly in a mainly rural county.

DVA is known for its biennial, flagship event, Dorset Art Weeks (DAW), reputedly the largest biennial Open Studios Event in the country. Research data shows DAW benefits the Dorset economy by approx. £2.1M. The trading arm of DVA will continue to run Dorset Art Weeks as a visual arts event open to all artists practising in Dorset, regardless of DVA membership. The most recent Dorset Art Weeks ran 25 May - 9 June 2024 and will return in 2026.

The charity arm of DVA will now focus on the creative and professional development of its artists through its different Membership categories and in June 2023 DVA relaunched its Standard Membership offer with an improved range of benefits for Members and a more inclusive offer for artists living and working in Dorset. Involvement for Members will focus on exhibition opportunities during Dorset Art Weeks, the Sherborne House programme, and plans for a range of new activities from 2025 as well as other blended activities such as residencies, workshops, network meetings and get togethers.

Dorset Visual Arts are working as the lead arts partner for The Sherborne - formerly Sherborne House - a new venture for the visual arts launched in spring 2024. The building has been amazingly restored - indeed transformed. DVA is developing an exciting visual arts focused programme designed to engage the community and wider public. It will provide a wide range of opportunities for Dorset artists, as well as those from further afield, to create a regularly-changing exhibition, display and events programme interweaving the wide range of contexts and styles in which Dorset's artists work - both locally and nationally.

Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

Board Members are in charge of the overall strategic direction of DVA. Their roles and responsibilities are broadly similar to those of the directors of limited companies, and, whilst the staff team (currently 4 freelance employees) undertake the day to day work, they hold overall responsibility for the DVA's activities, solvency and business practices. In brief, the principal duties and responsibilities of board members are:

1. to act within the powers of the organisation's constitution and articles of association
2. to promote the success of the organisation
3. to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
4. to avoid conflicts of interest
5. to exercise independent judgement
6. to declare any personal interests in transactions or arrangements

Structure and Practice

DVA Board of Trustees directs and supports the work of the staff through its meetings which usually take place between four - six times a year. Decisions in Board meetings are made on the basis of a simple majority vote of all board members.

Board meetings currently take place either in Sherborne or online using Zoom and are intended to last no longer than two hours. Apart from participating in meetings, board members need to be able to allocate time for reading and thinking about DVA papers and reports so that they can effectively discharge the responsibilities outlined above.

Skills, Experience and Abilities

We are particularly looking for individuals who have experience and expertise in the following areas:

1. Fundraising
2. Diversity and Inclusion
3. Business Management
4. Marketing

Further information

To find out more about the role or if you have any questions please contact Izzie Jobbins at news@dorsetvisualarts.org who will be happy to help or put you in touch with one of our current board members.

Fernando Velázquez, Artist + Head of Art, Sherborne Preparatory School

Megan Hyde, Art Historian

Simon Barber, Designer + Founder + Editor of Evolver Magazine, the South West's Free Arts and Culture Guide

Suzy Rushbrook, Curator + Project Manager, Dorset County Hospital Arts Programme

Victoria Jardine, Ceramicist

You can find out more about Dorset Visual Arts and our current board members and team on our [website](#).

How to Apply

To apply please send a CV and Cover Letter outlining why you would like to join the board of trustees and why your skills and experiences make you suitable for the role.

Applications should be sent to news@dorsetvisualarts.org by Friday 9th August.

It is not necessary to have previous trustee experience as training will be provided. At DVA we are committed to equality and inclusivity and strive for our staff and board of trustees to be from diverse backgrounds. We particularly encourage applications from those who are currently underrepresented in the Arts and Cultural Sector including those who are from Global Ethnic Majority backgrounds, are disabled, D/deaf, neurodivergent, or identify as LGBTQIA+.