

# the children's ART SCHOOL



## Becoming a Trustee at our Charity



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## Welcome to The Children's Art School

Hello and thank you for your interest in joining our Board as a Trustee. We're looking for enthusiastic people to join us who support our vision, mission, values and goals. We believe creativity teaches children they can change their world and that engagement in art and culture strengthens communities, develops creative thinking skills and improves lives. We want to ensure that regardless of geographical, economic or cultural background extraordinary creative opportunities are accessible to all children and young people.

Becoming a Trustee at The Children's Art School means joining a talented Board who are skilled, creative, collaborative and supportive. We are committed to building upon our strengths and achievements as a creative organisation and working in new ways to establish a more sustainable future, ensuring progressive change is at the heart of our purpose. It's fulfilling to think that every decision, every action and every contribution at Board level supports more and more children to be able to gain extraordinary creative experiences. We strive to ignite creativity and affect change. You will find out what's important to us and why within this pack. We hope this inspires you to consider if you could be one of our next Trustees. Please reach out to us if you have any further questions.

**Julie Eustance**  
Chair of the Board





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## About us

### Joyful opportunities facilitating creativity and power to change.

The Children's Art School is an active children's arts organisation based in Holmfirth but working across Kirklees. Founded as a CIO in 2015 TCAS has built a reputation for its exciting and dynamic approach to creative practice for children and young people aged 2–18.

TCAS has come a long way over the last few years. Since 2020, alongside our regular art school programme in Holmfirth, we have delivered Our Biennale, a Kirklees wide arts festival for children and young people, created 6000 bespoke activity packs for children most in need during the pandemic, devised and delivered a remote participatory project for Holmfirth Arts Festival, supported Woven Festival to develop their programme for children and young people, developed and delivered a 'My School is at the Museum' programme with Chol Theatre for Tolson Museum, developed a Kirklees wide outreach programme in areas of high free school meal need and set up the Maker World space in Huddersfield town centre.

Through crucial partnerships with Evoke (Kirklees cultural education partnership), Kirklees Youth Alliance and Kirklees Councils' Play team and Culture and Tourism team we have become a strategically positioned children's arts organisation with year-round high-quality arts offers for children and young people. In partnership with artists, families and teachers, children aged 2-18 years are makers, inventors, creators, producers, exhibitors and collaborators in studios, galleries, museums, schools, public spaces, shopping centres, at home and online.

Our aims align with Kirklees Council 'Huddersfield Blueprint' and Play Strategy, the National Strategy for Creative Education and Art Councils 'Let's Create' strategy. It's important to us that what we do is visible and regularly accessible to all children and that our offers are high quality, inclusive and innovative. Through play, imagining and making we support children and young people to develop confidence in their own creativity and in their ability and right to affect and change the world they live in.





# Creativity teaches children they can change their world

## Our mission

To create extraordinary, hands-on, creative opportunities for children and young people facilitating joyful and adventurous engagement in art and culture in order to develop creative thinking skills, champion individual creativity strengthen communities and improve lives.

To be visible, in order to normalise regular engagement with hands on creative activities for children and families and to ensure that regardless of geographical, economic or cultural background creative opportunities are accessible to all children and young people.

## Our values

The Children's Art School is a learning organisation, reflective and creative in strategy and practice. Our values underpin everything we do:

- A fair and safe environment where everyone is valued
- A space for big ideas to grow.
- Empowering children and young people to be amazing.
- We are curious and dynamic.
- Learning and creativity is at the heart of everything we do.



## Our aims

1. To deliver high quality hands-on arts opportunities for children and young people of all ages regardless of geographical, economic or cultural background, exposing them to artists and artistic practices and developing creative thinking skills, improving self-confidence and well-being and supporting CYPs progression into creative careers. To develop projects that are as thought-provoking as they are playful.
2. To champion and celebrate the creativity of children and young people through increased visibility and by providing platforms which celebrate CYPs creative expression.
3. To contribute to the development of vibrant cultural communities in Kirklees. To devise and deliver creative and ambitious participatory place-based opportunities with local communities in order to support regeneration and place making aims of Kirklees Council.
4. To support the development of artists around community engagement skills, sharing good practice and offering training programmes which support local artists to share their skills with and inspire children and young people.
5. To be a progressive and dynamic organisation developing the way we listen to and work with our communities in order to continue to be relevant to local children and families. Prioritising collaboration and partnership working, responding to the changing needs of our community and playing our part in the wider development of a diverse children and young people's cultural sector.
6. To support the development of Kirklees and the UK as a creative and cultural place, supporting CYPs progression aims into creative careers in order to strengthen the UKs creative industry and supporting it to reflect the passion, creativity and diversity of our society.
7. To use our platform to increase awareness of the climate crisis and individual environmental responsibility through modelling good practice and storytelling.
8. To develop and access new income strands in order to become financially resilient and be able to deliver our ambitious mission to give access to all CYPs to high quality participatory cultural experiences.



## What we do

As a CIO focused on art education our values and strategies are strongly aligned with Arts Council England's Investment Principles and Outcomes. A diverse model of investment supports our work including income generated from our Saturday Art School and after school clubs, grants from Arts Council England, National Lottery Awards for All and other funding from trusts and foundations. We are committed to our strategic partnerships to develop and share resources and build a common vision for children, young people and culture in Kirklees. Key partners include Evoke (the Kirklees cultural education partnership), Woven, Kirklees Council, Kirklees Youth Alliance, Chol Theatre, Kirklees Libraries, Kirklees Museums and Holmfirth Arts Festival.

## The Children's Art School

We are delivering and developing a range of regular offers for CYPs from age 2-18 years through our regular art school clubs at Holmfirth Tech and at our Maker World space in Huddersfield town centre. Our work is led by, involves and references artists and contemporary artistic practices. Our approach is fundamentally experimental and ambitious, embracing creative risk taking. Our projects are presented to public audiences whether it be local, national or international.

## Our Biennale

In partnership with Evoke we deliver Our Biennale, a bi-annual Kirklees wide arts festival for children and young people. Our Biennale aims to champion and showcase the creativity of children and young people. In 2021, working with 7 partner organisations Our Biennale reached over 3000 children engaging them in high quality, new artistic experiences. Projects led by The Children's Art School reached audiences across the world through the Kirklees Cuckoo project, part of a global action around climate change and through Moulding Memories, which was showcased as part of the Royal Academy Young Artist Summer Exhibition.



## Outreach Art School

In 2020-21 we worked with arts organisations, community hub leaders, libraries, schools and youth groups throughout Kirklees to develop remote and outreach programmes which responded to community needs and took arts and culture into children's homes and into their communities so that children from all areas of Kirklees and any cultural and economic backgrounds were able to access arts and culture throughout the pandemic.

## Maker World

In 2021 Maker World has become an integral part of The Children's Art Schools offer, actively supporting Kirklees Councils cultural regeneration plans to bring visible creativity and vibrancy to Huddersfield town centre. Maker World is an inclusive, accessible and visible creative space which offers regular hands-on creative activities, projects and events for children and families.







## Where we are now

This is an exciting time for The Children's Art School. With the recent successes of Our Biennale, Maker World and our remote and outreach responses to the ongoing pandemic we are looking to expand and develop our offers through community and place-based approaches.

That's why in 2022 we will apply to become an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation to secure 3 year investment from 2023 and are looking to further diversify our investment model and build our entrepreneurialism.

We want our organisation to grow to be more diverse and representative in our governance, artistic leadership, our staff and artistic communities. Our commitment is to continue building and developing as a creative organisation, reimagining and reviewing our work in terms of artistic, environmental and socio-cultural opportunity. Through a resilient and sustainable model of governance we will drive our mission to promote a powerful message of children's creative potential and the power of participatory arts experiences to create community cohesion, affect well-being and improve lives. We believe that vibrant offers for children, families and young people have a huge role to play in developing cultural communities. Our work will positively impact Kirklees and its aim to be a creative and cultural place.





## Who we're looking for

Trustees over the age of 16, individuals who are interested in our purpose and vision, excited by our values and motivated to go on a journey with us to grow our cultural governance and creative leadership.

According to the Young Trustees Movement, less than 3% of charity Trustees are under 30. Nationally The level of ethnic minority individuals on large charity boards is just 6.6%.

Aligned with our vision and mission we are looking to develop a board which represents more clearly the diverse cultures of Kirklees. We welcome and encourage conversations with young people and people from Black, Asian or other minority ethnic backgrounds interested in finding out more about this opportunity. We also welcome interest from parents of children and young people that engage with us.

We have many areas of expertise and different skills on our Board. And we would like to build on this. Because we want to augment the skills we already have, the areas that are a priority for us include:

- **Artists and cultural leadership**
- **Social entrepreneurialism and business strategy**
- **Technology and digital media**
- **Environmental responsibility**
- **Inclusivity and diversity**

Our approach to working with artists is about being inclusive, honest, equitable and valuable for all. These principles apply to our governance, team and working culture too. Our goal is to continue to build a culture of inclusivity and to support a wider range of ideas and experiences on our Board as well as through governance beyond Board members. In everything we do we want to reflect the society we live, learn, play and work in and to think collaboratively about how we continue to grow a caring and connected governance culture.





## Your involvement as a Trustee

The Children's Art School is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission (No1161225). You will be a Trustee of the charity. As a Trustee you will work with the Chief Executive Officer to set the strategic direction of the company artistically, educationally, financially and operationally. You will set and monitor ambitious targets and check and challenge progress across our strategic objectives.

Using insight, data and shared experience, you will help good decisions to be made that support and guide organisational development, programme improvement and reach, achieving high-quality ambition with equity, diversity and inclusion at the core. Having a diverse group of Trustees is important to us, bringing collaborative thinking, group creativity and playfulness to think differently and make bold decisions.

### Your involvement would include:

- Attending four formal meetings per year including the charity's Annual General Meeting.
- Engaging in open discussion sessions in between Board Meetings and 1 Development Day including developing ideas and planning with the staff team.
- Attending some of The Children's Art School events and activities happening throughout the year in venues, schools, libraries and community settings.
- Taking part in sub-groups as required such as fundraising and finance and inputting into working groups to establish and embed the ACE Investment Principles: Ambition & Quality, Inclusivity & Relevance, Dynamism, and Environmental Responsibility, over the long term.
- Advocacy and networking, championing children and young people's voice, creativity and influence in arts and culture.
- Taking part in the recruitment and selection of members of the senior leadership team.

## As a Trustee at The Children's Art School, we welcome what you care about and what you're interested in. You will:

Join a friendly and creative Board of up to 6 trustees, and wider community of artists, partners and participants.

Be offered a clear process of induction to support you in your interests as you develop in your role as a Trustee at The Children's Art School.

Have the opportunity to develop your contacts, strengthen your networks and build your understanding of cultural policy, children & family arts engagement and social & cultural impact.

Develop your specific areas of interests through shared experience, collaborative thinking, and good and effective decision making.

Become part of a movement and future thinking to change cultural governance, to establish strong leadership and shared power, transforming governance beyond the board room.

Have fun along the way too!







## How to apply

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee at The Children's Art School and joining our Board, please get in touch. You can do this as an expression of interest in any format you choose.

As part of your expression of interest, we would like to know why you would like to be a Trustee at The Children's Art School. We would like to know:

- **What you care about?**
- **Why you would like to help and become involved with The Children's Art School. What can you bring and what would being on our board do for you?**
- **What would help you become involved?**

You don't need to have been a Trustee before or be an arts practitioner or arts specialist, instead you will have a commitment and energy to guide our organisation at this exciting period in our organisational, leadership and artistic development.

Please address your expression of interest to Julie Eustance, Chair of the Board and email this to Chloe Williams, Creative Director via [chloe@thechildrensartschool.co.uk](mailto:chloe@thechildrensartschool.co.uk)

Julie can also be contacted if you'd like an informal discussion, to find out more about us, the work of the Board and our future ambition.

## Key Dates

- **Friday 1st April, 2022:** Deadline for expressions of interest
- **Saturday 7th May, 2022:** Shortlisted candidates are invited to meet our current trustees at Maker World, Piazza Centre, Huddersfield.

The Children's Art School works to create an environment where everybody is welcome and safe at work, confident to express different opinions and be their authentic selves. Our imperative is we inhabit a working environment that enables us to challenge structures and practices, to ensure that diversity is at the forefront of our organisation. We strive to be fully inclusive and are particularly interested in receiving applications from people from backgrounds which are under-represented, whose voices need to be heard, so that all young people can thrive.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## Contact details

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