



The Portland Inn Project
Board Pack



We are looking for board members

We are a small creative community organisation, growing fast with an ambitious arts programme and capital project which is already under development on site.

We are looking for a new permanent Chair and up to two additional Board Members who can help guide us through our first years as a regularly funded Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

If you have not been part of a board before, we aim to support all new board members into the role, via a Board Induction process, where we will identify with you any support and training you may need in order to take up a position on our board.



British Journal of Photography

Established 1854



Portrait of Britain

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Our mission

We believe in the power of art; as a tool in communicating our story, representing our needs and creating space for communities to learn. We advocate for people-led change, and champion the importance of art in leading that change, and in cooperation with public services.

Founded by two artists, Anna Francis & Rebecca Davies, in 2016, The Portland Inn Project (PIP) CIC's mission is to create an arts-led community-based organisation that makes vital change in our area. We aim to galvanise and deliver community cohesion, economic, social and cultural development in the streets where we live.

PIP was shortlisted for The RIBA MacEwen Award for 'Architecture for the Common Good' in 2019, as well as being one of the winners of the White Gold International Ceramics Prize, 2020, and cited as best practice within the Local Government Association white paper 'People, Culture, Place'. PIP was the recipient of the Cultural Champions of the Year award at the BBC Stoke Make a Difference Awards, 2019 and Community Group of the Year, 2023.

PIP's deeply embedded, progressive approach has helped us deliver the architectural plan and raise significant funding for a pioneering cultural space in the neighbourhood, the first of its kind in the city. Renovation began in October 2023. Once opened in 2025, it will enable us to scale up and diversify our offer to a city-wide audience.

Details about our programme can be found here > www.theportlandinnproject.com and here > www.instagram.com/theportlandinnprojectcic/

You can find out more about the future building and our intentions for its use here > <https://www.theportlandinnproject.com/programme/the-building/>



OUR CONTEXT

We are located in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, in a neighbourhood which has historically been culturally, socially and economically marginalised. We have proven that our work can be both catalyst and support for culture to thrive in this challenging environment.

The Portland Inn Project became a Community Interest Company in 2017. The purpose of the CIC is to provide opportunities, skills, and creative activities to improve quality of life in the local community, to develop and then manage a community building, increase active citizenship, combat social isolation and improve health and well-being via culture. The CIC has 2 Executive Directors, founders Anna Francis and Rebecca Davies (both residents of the neighbourhood), and a third Non-Executive Director Nana Lyamgohn, a local who brings experience in community leadership to this role.



OUR BOARD

Our Board plays a key role in advising our ambitious organisation in our strategic creative and artistic direction, governance and financial obligations, supporting decision making across these areas. Our board is currently made up of Maria Brewster, Rule of Threes; Nichola Twemlow YMCA and Stoke Creates; John Farrar, YMCA and Emma Sumner, Public Arts Trust of India.

Alongside the CIC Board, PIP's Community Decision Making Panel meets bi-monthly to support decision making in critical areas of our work, and is made up of residents, team members, partners and representatives from local services including Stoke-On-Trent City Council's Community, Anti-social Behaviour, Environmental and Housing teams. Once a year and in person, the Community Decision Making Panel and Advisory Board coincide as a space to share ideas and plans - supporting the transparency of decision making and governance.

BOARD ROLES

We are looking for the following roles and expertise to join our Board:

CHAIR

We are looking for a dynamic Chair to lead the Board in supporting the director team, sharing responsibility and accountability with the directors, with the right skills and experience to advise on the strategy and direction of our organisation.

We are looking for someone who can not only be a great advocate for PIP, but also advocates for social and ecological justice and The Portland Inn Project's role in this movement. Ideally, you will live or work in Stoke on Trent/North Staffordshire.

The role of chair requires a commitment of approximately 1 day per month.

BOARD MEMBERS

We are also looking for new board members who can offer skills in any of the following areas:

- HR or people-management
- Good Governance especially in not-for-profit sector
- Creative Community Development
- Creative Social Enterprise

It would be advantageous if you also have experience of working with an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation or knowledge and/or passion for the arts and its role in community development.

We would require you to attend 4 Board Meetings per year (3 online and 1 in person).

Plus we would invite you to attend other events at or on behalf of PIP.

In return, we can offer

- relevant training for board members
- expenses and access costs
- the positive experience of being a part of this collective effort towards people led change





TO APPLY

To express your interest in joining our board please send your CV or a link to your LinkedIn profile, plus a short bio and a supporting statement detailing what you could bring to our Board and the outlined areas of need (in no more than 2 sides of a4), by email to THEPORTLANDINNPROJECT@GMAIL.COM by 2 April and include 'Board Application' as the email heading.

In the recruitment of our board, we are continuing our approach to representation and inclusion and would particularly be interested to hear from people with a working class and/or culturally diverse background as relevant to our neighbourhood context, and who are currently underrepresented on our board.

We are keen to provide support if needed in making an application, so if you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to get in touch via email. In addition we have an opportunity to answer any questions you may have or to discuss any support you may need and have earmarked the date Thursday, 21st March for a 15 min slot to have an online informal chat.

Please email Rebecca: THEPORTLANDINNPROJECT@GMAIL.COM to request an appointment and include 'Board Enquiry' as the email heading.

Photography by Glen Stoker & Felicity Crawshaw (BJP Award)

