

A group of approximately ten diverse individuals are gathered in a room, looking down at a collection of small cards or photographs spread out on the floor. The people are dressed casually, and the room has a modern, minimalist feel with a white wall and some colorful circular light fixtures in the background.

Join our Board
of Trustees

About Studio Voltaire

Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts organisations and plays a unique role in the UK arts ecology by supporting diverse artistic talent to take risks and realise ambition.

We have developed ambitious programmes that support a diversity of contemporary art practice, encouraging access and participation from a wide range of audiences.

We have an outstanding track record of supporting artists at a pivotal stage in their careers, particularly with emerging and under-represented practices.

Placing great emphasis on risk-taking and experimentation, our pioneering programmes have gained an international reputation.

The core strands to our artistic programme are:

- Studios & Residencies
- Exhibitions
- Participation, Learning & Offsite



Studio Voltaire's key artistic aims are to:

- Support artists, offering significant opportunities for emerging and under-represented practices. We recognise that artists require time, care and resources to create ambitious work on their own terms.
- Commit to being more inclusive, creating opportunities for wider access and engagement. We strive for fairer representation across the organisation and its work.
- Seek to challenge hierarchies between exhibition making, commissioning and education. We work for parity between our programmes, establishing an experimental working model which allows programmes to dovetail and coalesce.
- Be a porous organisation and ensure audiences and partners have agency to meaningfully engage with our spaces and programmes, whether as visitors, collaborators or participants.
- Be a site of production and an essential artist community and resource in South London. We offer a unique environment for risk-taking, experimentation, knowledge exchange and critical thinking for artists and audiences.

The organisation recently completed a transformative £2.8 million capital project, to create more artists' studios, renovated exhibition space and new public spaces, including a dedicated learning and events space, public garden, café and the first-ever permanent House of Voltaire, our celebrated art and design shop. This transformative redevelopment is the most ambitious transition in our 27-year history.

Over the next year, we are looking to appoint a number of new Trustees who will bring a commitment to our organisation's mission and values, and complement the range of skills and experience of our Board.

Read more at studiovoltaire.org/about



What do Trustees do?

As a charity, we are required by law to be overseen by Board members who act as Trustees of the organisation. Trustees support and help develop a charity's work, playing important and varied roles, including: supporting Studio Voltaire's team; giving advice; acting as a critical friend; providing strategic leadership; and advocating for Studio Voltaire through the next stage of our development.

As a Trustee you will help us to:

- Support emerging and underrepresented artists and practices
- Increase access and participation within contemporary art practice
- Encourage change within the arts sector to represent the cultural diversity of London and beyond

Being a Trustee can give you the opportunity to learn about the day-to-day workings of not-for-profit cultural institutions, gaining access and a sense of deeper knowledge; Understand the wider creative sector from the inside; and make connections with other Trustees, staff and our stakeholders. You will also have the opportunity to give advice and strategic direction to the organisation's Director, Managing Director, and staff.

Trustees often find the experience very rewarding and enriching.

"Studio Voltaire is an ambitious and progressive organisation. Driven by art and artists, Studio Voltaire delivers work that is responsive to people, space and location. My role as a Trustee has been invaluable in gaining understanding, insight and experience in the many complex layers of work in the arts – including legal, financial, fundraising and communications – as well as the changing needs and purpose of art and artists. Being a Trustee provides opportunities to contribute your own experience and ways of thinking to a group of inspiring specialists, working together to find resolutions, provide guidance and offer support."

– Mark Miller, Studio Voltaire Trustee, Head of Programme & Practice, Tate Learning at Tate

"The experience of being a trustee of Studio Voltaire has been incredibly rewarding – both personally and professionally. I have had the opportunity to support and collaborate with a visionary and inspiring team; to work with a wide range of interesting people to provide overarching strategic advice; and to bring about meaningful change in an ambitious and vital organisation.

It has sometimes felt challenging to make the time to devote to Studio Voltaire, but I am so glad I have done this over the years, as it has given me very different perspectives, experiences and relationships that have been really important to my personal development. It has been time extremely well spent and I feel very proud of everything Studio Voltaire accomplishes.

I would have no hesitation in encouraging someone to become a trustee of a world-class arts organisation, and to actively contribute to one of the UK's most important public spaces, as well as to their artists and communities."

– Victoria Siddall, Chair of Studio Voltaire's Board of Trustees and Board Director, Frieze.



Trustees have the ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of Studio Voltaire and ensuring everything is above board as well as holding us to account for delivering our charitable outcomes. Being a Trustee is a position of responsibility, but you will be supported by the other Trustees, as well as the wider organisation, to make sure you understand all aspects of the role and can fully take part.

There are three official responsibilities of being a Trustee:

- Act in the charity's best interests. This is sometimes called Compliance

Trustees must ensure that Studio Voltaire complies with charity law and the requirements of the Charity Commission.

- Act with a Duty of Care

Trustees must make sure they keep up to date with what Studio Voltaire is doing. You will be encouraged to use your own knowledge or experience to ensure that the charity is well run and efficient. You will sometimes be asked to act as a representative of Studio Voltaire at meetings or events.

- You must act responsibly, reasonably and honestly. This is sometimes called the Duty of Prudence

Trustees must ensure that Studio Voltaire is, and will remain, financially sound. In particular, this means ensuring charitable funds and assets are used wisely, and only to further purposes and interests of the charity. Also, to avoid undertaking activities that might place Studio Voltaire's property, fund or assets or reputation at undue risk.

As Studio Voltaire is also a company limited by guarantee, Board members also act as Directors of Studio Voltaire Ltd for the purposes of company law. A company limited by guarantee (CLG) is a type of corporation used primarily but not exclusively for not-for-profit organisations that require legal personality.

A company limited by guarantee does not usually have a share capital or shareholders, but instead has members who act as guarantors of the company's liabilities: each member undertakes to contribute a typically very small amount (not exceeding £1) as specified in Studio Voltaire's articles, in the event of insolvency or of the winding up of the company.

Other responsibilities:

- All Trustees should ensure that they are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and take responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- You may also be required to appoint the Director, Managing Director and other senior staff through the Chair, as well as monitor the performance of the Director and Managing Director.
- Some Trustees may directly or indirectly be involved with fundraising and income generation activities, such as supporting funding applications, approaching donors/sponsors, or giving directly to the charity themselves. This is not a requirement of being a Trustee.
- Although extremely rare, Trustees can be personally liable to the charity if they cause financial loss by acting improperly and/or a third party that has a legal claim against the charity which the charity cannot meet. Further information can be found here:
<https://tinyurl.com/vwhry6my>

Further information about Trustees roles and responsibilities can be found on the Charity Commission's website here: <https://tinyurl.com/ws6apwjd>



Meetings

Trustees need to attend four board meetings per year. Meetings typically take place on a weekday and start at 10am and can last up to two hours. You can choose to join meetings in person or via Zoom, we use a combination of both.

You do not need to attend if work or illness prevents you, but do need to let the company secretary know in advance of the meeting.

Before each board meeting, a number of papers and financial reports are circulated via email, which need to be read in advance of the meeting. Typically these can take 30 minutes to read.

Occasionally, there are additional meetings and training sessions where Trustees are expected to attend. Trustees can often provide support and assistance outside of these meetings for a variety of reasons, such as providing 1:1 advice or support to staff members, or attending events to advocate for the organisation.

We want you to actively support and be involved in Studio Voltaire's work. Trustees are expected to attend occasional public and private events, e.g. exhibition previews, open studios, press launches, fundraising events and strategic planning sessions.



Who are we looking for?

You do not need to have any formal qualifications or have had previous experience as a Trustee. Depending on your personality type, there are different ways of contributing. We are looking for people who are passionate about contemporary art and the role creativity can play within our lives.

We are looking for people who:

- Have a strong commitment to Studio Voltaire, its values and ethos
- Are actively engaged with the creative sector and/or the different communities we work within
- Have good communication skills and can challenge and question positively
- Value difference and can empathise with viewpoints which might be different to your own
- Understand and accept the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of being a Trustee
- Work effectively and collaboratively as a member of a team
- Are willing and able to devote the necessary time and effort to the charity's development including board meetings, events and sessions

At this time, we are particularly keen to recruit people who fulfil any of the following:

- Are artists or have experience and knowledge of our local communities in South London, or a connection to our local area
- Have curatorial experience, or those working with larger institutions
- Have knowledge or experience in income generation, individual giving or corporate sponsorship
- Have knowledge or experience in equality, diversity and inclusion
- Have knowledge or experience in communications, marketing or audience development
- Have knowledge or experience in human resources

It is important that our Board of Trustees reflects the voices, backgrounds and experience of our stakeholders and the different communities we work with. We want to ensure that our Board better reflects a wider diversity of perspectives and experiences, to sharpen our thinking and bring richness to our decision making.

This means we actively welcome applications from people who identify as:

- Working class or those who experience financial precarity
- African, East Asian, South Asian, South East Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, Caribbean heritage and those belonging to groups who experience racism including people of Romany, Irish Traveller, Central Asian and West Asian heritage
- Disabled, D/deaf, neurodiverse or experience long term health conditions
- Being under the age of 28
- Lesbian, transgender, queer, bisexual, intersex or non-binary

Trustees must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be properly appointed as outlined in Studio Voltaire's governing documents
- Not act as Trustee if you are disqualified under Charity Commission guidance. Further details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ymj43d52>

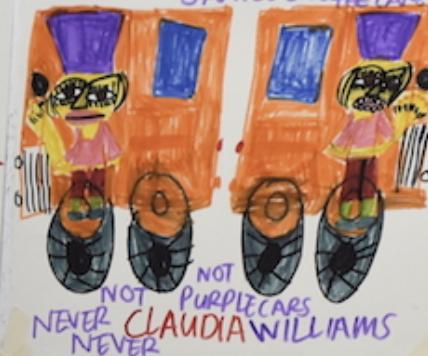


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Paying Trustees

When you become a Trustee, you volunteer your services and usually won't receive payment for your work. This is currently the standard practice and in line with charity legislation.

We acknowledge that some people may not be in a position to give their time and services for free, and that this expectation may act as a barrier to you becoming a Trustee. As an organisation that is striving for fairer equality, representation and access, we are very happy to consider how we can support people further, so they can fully participate in the role.

Trustees can receive expenses for out-of-pocket payments they have to make in order to carry out their duties. These can include, but are not limited to: accessibility costs; travel to and from meetings; telephone and broadband time for charity work; and childcare or care of dependents while attending meetings. These expenses need to be agreed upon in advance and made in accordance with our expenses policy.

We are also currently exploring whether we can offer financial remuneration for individual Trustees who are on lower incomes or experiencing financial precarity. This process would involve changing our constitution and then seeking permission from the Charity Commission. Please be in touch if you feel this would enable your participation as a Trustee.



How to Apply

We want to hear how you think you can best support us, and contribute to the important work that Studio Voltaire does.

To apply:

1. Please tell us about any experience, knowledge or skills you can bring to the role. Please also tell us why you want to be a Trustee of Studio Voltaire and what excites you about the role. This should be no more than one page.
2. Please complete our Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form here:
<https://tinyurl.com/4nsy25rm>
3. Send your application to info@studiovoltaire.org with 'Trustee Recruitment' as the subject line.

Some people may require some further support with making the application. We accept applications written on your behalf, and those presented in alternative formats including video, sound or non-digital.

You can also tell us about any barriers you feel you might experience which would affect your ability to fully participate as Trustee.

Please contact us to discuss this further at info@studiovoltaire.org or by calling our office on 0207 622 1294. If you are unable to type a full message, then simply leave your name with a contact telephone number and we will aim to respond in a timely manner.

Deadline

As we are seeking to appoint Trustees over the next year, there is a rolling deadline.

Next steps

Applications will be assessed by Studio Voltaire's Director and Board of Trustees as they are received. Potential Trustees will be invited to attend a board meeting where they have the opportunity to meet the full Board of Trustees and observe a meeting. Following this, The Board of Trustees will decide whether to formally invite you to join the Board.

Trustees serve terms of three years. The Board can renew individual membership at the end of a term, but Trustees can only serve a maximum of three terms. You may also join Board sub committees or working groups and might be required to report back to the rest of the Board on these discussions.



More information about Studio Voltaire

Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts organisations. Placing great emphasis on risk-taking and experimentation, our pioneering programmes of exhibitions, collaborative projects, artist development, live events and offsite commissions have gained an international reputation.

Studio Voltaire was founded in 1994 by a collective of twelve artists, who set up a studio space in a disused tram shed on Voltaire Road, Clapham. An artist-centered approach remains at the core of our work. We are creating an essential artists' community and resource in South London. Our current site on Nelsons Row affords a significant level of support, providing much-needed affordable and accessible studios for a diverse range of individual and collective practices. Our growing studio and residency programmes forefront artists-led development, research, experimentation and production, and provide opportunities for our audiences to engage with this process.

We have an outstanding track record of supporting artists at a pivotal stage in their careers. Investing wholly in the production of new work, we offer significant opportunities for emerging and under-represented practices, providing time, care, and resources for artists to create ambitious work on their own terms. Many of our commissions are an artist's first solo exhibition in London, or bring work by well-established international artists to UK audiences for the first-time. Artists developing new commissions for the gallery are often encouraged to respond to its architectural context, or are created onsite during production residencies. Occasional retrospective and archival shows provide an important platform for practices that sit outside of contemporary discourses, or have lacked representation in larger institutions.

Studio Voltaire commissions a wide range of ongoing and collaborative projects. We work with artists, organisations, schools, colleges and communities to create contexts for people to share and collaborate, while also supporting critical engagement and lifelong learning.



We often work beyond the walls of the gallery, initiating projects in the public realm and supporting artists to work in unconventional spaces and in new social and cultural contexts.

Through these core exhibition, participation and studio programmes, Studio Voltaire supports a diverse range of artistic practices and creates opportunities for wider access and engagement with contemporary art. We work for parity between our programmes, which impact on and inform each other.

Studio Voltaire is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio. Our programmes are funded for in their entirety through the kind patronage of individuals, sponsorship, public funding, sales of our renowned limited edition works through House of Voltaire and funding from charitable trusts and foundations. You can view Studio Voltaire's accounts and annual returns on the Charity Commission's website here:
<https://tinyurl.com/4xjy7saa>





Images

An introduction to Permaculture, led by Graham Burnett, 2017. Credit: James Allen.

David McDiarmid, *Rainbow Aphorisms*, 2017. Installation View, Clapham High Street. Courtesy of The Estate of David McDiarmid, Sydney. Credit: Benedict Johnson.

Precarity Centre, SW4 7JR, Organised by They Are Here, 2017. Credit: James Allen.

Sharon Hayes, *In My Little Corner of the World, Anyone Would Love You*, 2016. Credit: Andy Keate.

Monster Chetwynd, *Listen Up!*, 2014. Credit: Tom Carter.

Repair Café, Organised by They Are Here, 2017. Credit: James Allen.

Artist Claudia Williams in ActionSpace's onsite studio. Courtesy of ActionSpace.

Ieva Misevičiūtė in collaboration with Sanya Kantarovsky, *Apricot Juice*, 2015.

Cookie Mueller & Vittorio Scarpati, *Putti's Pudding'*, 2017. Credit: Andy Keate.

The Oscar Wilde Temple by McDermott & McGough, 3 October 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Credit: Francis Ware.

Movement workshops with dancer and dance therapist Thiru Seelan, 2017. Credit: James Allen.

Edward Thomasson, *I Woke Up This Morning*, 2019. Credit: Lewis Ronald.

All images courtesy of the artist/s and Studio Voltaire, London.