

Vacancy: Volunteer Trustee

Lewisham Arthouse's (LAH) associated charity South East Arts London (SEAL) are currently looking to recruit a volunteer trustee with expertise to assist in matters relating to the historic building - ideally an architect or surveyor. This comes as the organisation finds itself at an exciting and dynamic stage - expanding our ambitions to ensure a secure future and committing to the development of our role in the local community.

LAH is a cooperatively-run not-for-profit, well-established, artist-led organisation, located in an elegant historic building in Lewisham. LAH is currently based in a Carnegie library, formerly Deptford Central Library, Grade II listed, 1910 -1914 Designed by A. Brumwell Thomas (1868 -1948). You can read more about the architectural history [here](#) and a timeline of the organisation, founded in 1992 is [here](#)

Our main activity is studio provision, and we have over 40 artist studio holder 'members'. Besides renting space, each studio member commits at least 5 hours per month, meaning that the organisation is largely self-run and managed. As a place where artists and communities can learn, share, and collaborate, Lewisham Arthouse activities include educational and community workshops, public events and exhibitions, as well as offsite outreach education work across the borough.

The current SEAL board includes:

- John Drewitt (Chair), Retired Consultant at Forsters Solicitors
- Amanda Francis, University Lecturer (UEL) and long-term artist-member of LAH studios
- Helen Kaplinsky, Independent Curator working and living in Lewisham
- Mark Waugh, Director of Business Development at Design and Artist Copyright Society.

LAH is committed to creating an inclusive and diverse environment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or age. If you have an access requirement/s upon application we will do our best to accommodate you and use it as an opportunity to develop our inclusivity standards.



For more information about the role description, person specification and the current organisational affairs, please contact Reuben Thurnhill, Administrator: reuben.thurnhill@lewishamarthouse.org.uk

Deadline: Monday 1st February 2021, 5pm

Role description:

The trustee position is voluntary. The board meets 3 times a year for 1.5-2 hours. Whilst expertise of a particular trustee might be called upon between meetings this is generally only in an advisory capacity, with consultants and contractors employed to undertake major tasks. Trustees responsibilities are covered by Charity Commission guidelines found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

Person specification:

- Help steer the vision for the development and use of the building (including articulating narrative in negotiations with Lewisham Council)
- Strategic leadership in building management (future proofing and safety)
- Ideally acquainted with cultural and creative industry building use

Current organisational affairs:

- The affordable rates of studios are made possible through a no-rent license agreement between LAH co-op and Lewisham Council.
- The council requested that the co-op adopt a clearly accountable organisational structure and as part of this process LAH applied and successfully set up the charity South East Arts London (SEAL) in 2015 (Registered Charity No: 28058R).
- The trustees, appointed to manage SEAL, are currently supporting a business plan to transfer responsibility for the upkeep of the building from Lewisham Council to SEAL, who would like to take on a long-term lease.
- LAH currently has healthy finances, with a robust amount of cash in the accounts ready for reinvestment and further responsibilities when the lease is taken on. The key source of revenue is studio rent. The organisations' operations are run by one paid administrator and the members through working groups.



- A recent building survey concludes there is no major structural work required and the building (insurable rebuild cost) is valued at £6.5m.
- The trustees recently secured LAH's Asset of Community Value status, protecting the building from redevelopment for 5 years.
- Planned investment over the next five years includes further opening up the building to the public with some cosmetic work done to the front-of-house area to create a more welcoming environment and increased accessibility, including additional facilities based on the ground floor.
- LAH are looking at ways to improve access and inclusion for all. Last year members established an access and inclusion committee, appointed an inclusion consultant and have agreed to dedicate a percentage of profits towards training and programming in this area.

Application info:

- Please send a cover letter (max 1 page) and a brief CV to LAH Administrator reuben.thurnhill@lewishamarthouse.org.uk
- Deadline: 1st February 2021
- Interviews: March 2021

