



OPEN EYE GALLERY BOARD MEMBER

Recruitment Pack

**OPEN
EYE
GALLERY**

ABOUT US

Open Eye Gallery is a leading photography organisation and charity with a base in a purpose-built space in an iconic building on Liverpool's prestigious Waterfront. We are the only dedicated photography gallery in the North West of England and receive core funding from Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

Our scale enables us to be fleet and innovative and our partnership model enables us to be responsive, so we consistently punch above our weight. We proactively take risks to spark crucial conversations and enable creative expression.

Our programme begins with people - with local, regional and international communities – and it is built around the agency of photographs and photographers. We work with people to push for social change and we lead on socially engaged photography nationally. Bringing different voices, photographers and communities together, we establish projects where the collaborative process is just as important as the final product.

We are more than a gallery. A wide range of partnerships have transformed our impact in recent years, enabling us to work extensively beyond the gallery, creating



Home. Perspectives at Open Eye Gallery © Rob Battersby

programmes with new communities, supporting diverse talent, developing exhibitions that are relevant, carrying out research and lab projects, hosting residencies and learning with communities.

We work closely with several universities, including jointly devising and running photography B.A. and M.A. courses.

All welcome, always! We act and communicate in a way that is generous, nurturing and friendly. We want everyone to make themselves at home in our spaces and join us in celebrating difference, speaking out against racism and all discrimination. We seek to include, always.

We're open source and free to use. As much as possible, our staff, space, online channels and networks are open and free for people to use. Our open processes and platforms make it easy to contribute to and co-author our programme.

Our work goes from grassroots to global. Photography is a tremendously powerful way of bringing different cultures into conversation together. We work with local residents and international partners to support representation, empathy, equality and inclusivity.

We believe photography is for everyone and can meaningfully inform our present and inspire positive futures.



Forest, Yan Preston at Birkenhead Priory © Yan Preston



One Day At A Time Boys © Gary Lambert

We work with people to explore photography's unique ability to connect, to tell stories, to inquire, to reflect on humanity's past and present, and to celebrate its diversity and creativity.

At Open Eye Gallery we are committed to sustainable practices, working to reduce our impact on the environment. We have embedded monitoring and reporting on our carbon usage and updating our knowledge via staff training and active learning with climate focused groups.



Clickmoor on Climate at My Clubmoor, Liverpool © Installation shot by Rob Battersby

"Through photography, I think we've been able to talk to each other on a deeper level and the friendships have bonded because you bring them things out in your pictures that you might not say in words, you know, quite intimate things"
– participant from *Clickmoor*

Our programming utilises the tremendous power of photography to bring communities together to affect positive social and environmental change. Our national lead for socially engaged photography and our extensive partnerships enable us to work with environmental experts, creative and community activists, providing platforms to champion their work in neighbourhood and public spaces across the north west.

Our exhibitions, in-gallery and offsite, reach over 600,000 people per year and over 6,000 people engage with our events, workshops or socially engaged programme, and many more engage online.

“Today people are curating their lives using photography. With 4 billion images uploaded to social media each day, photography is now as important as text and oral communication in our understanding of the world. At Open Eye Gallery we are privileged in working with the expertise and creativity of photographers, the vibrancy of communities and mutual respect of partners to explore the agency of photography at this moment in history.”

– Sarah Fisher, Executive Director



MWALULA by Hellen Songa © Installation shot by Rob Battersby

“Open Eye Gallery, where I <...> discovered photography, was what I’d do for the rest of my life. Having a voice that people want to hear is a rare privilege.”

– Simon Norfolk, Photographer

We are motivated by both the insight of the photographer and the potential of photography to enable a diversity of voices to explore everyday creativity.

Our track record of working with excellent photographers is reflected in our archive which contains over 1,700 prints, a valuable resource for scholarship, exhibition and education. It contains works gifted to the gallery – some of which dates back to the 1930s – and works commissioned by the gallery with a strong emphasis on works made in the city region.

Open Eye Gallery is governed by a Board of Trustees, is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. We have a core team of twelve staff and an ability to adapt, frequently employing project staff so we can embrace new opportunities.

Many of our partnerships continue beyond an initial project so that over the years, partner staff have become very much part of our extended family. We have a reputation for friendliness and our excellent track record of supporting career development has established both a loyal volunteer programme and an impactful student placement programmes.

For more information, visit openeye.org.uk

OPEN EYE GALLERY

Young Board Member Advert

Open Eye Gallery is dedicated to building an open and inclusive organisation, with a team that represents the different backgrounds, perspectives, and skills from the communities we serve.

Our Board of Trustees are volunteers who oversee, shape and support everything we do. For example, our Board provides direction and challenge to the leadership team, monitors any risks to the organisation, and plays a major part in shaping Open Eye Gallery's future.

We would love to have a younger person's perspective on our Board, to bring fresh insight, energy and lived experience to our team. We are looking for someone between the age of 18-27 – you could be a student, creative practitioner or participant on one of our projects. We would like to know what you are most passionate about and interested in. For example, you may be interested in the environment and climate crisis, digital communications, technology or how galleries are run.

Our Board meets four times per year, with some additional time required to read Board papers and attend sub-committee meetings. You will be a Board Member for a term of one year, with the option to renew for a second term. As a Board Member you might like to attend events and exhibitions hosted by Open Eye Gallery or our partners. Additional involvement will depend on what you want to bring, and what your interests are.

Our Board meetings do have a formal structure, but it is a process of collaboration where everyone has a voice. Previous experience on a Board is not necessary as training will be provided. This position would suit an individual taking their first steps to develop wider Board level experience and an insight into how the cultural sector works. During your time on the Board, you will be paired with an existing Board member as a mentor to support you in the role.

Becoming a Board Member is a voluntary position, travel expenses to the interview and subsequent board meetings will be reimbursed. Board Meetings take place at Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool – with the option to attend online if in person attendance is not possible.

What would make you a good Board Member?

- An enthusiasm for the work of Open Eye Gallery and a commitment to our core values, aims and objectives

- Ability to bring your knowledge, understanding and expertise to the table
- A commitment to the whole first term (one year)
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- Understand the responsibility and the confidentiality of the role
- Having the confidence but also being a good listener and wanting to learn
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to put forward opinions and build trust and respect with colleagues and stakeholders
- Open-mindedness and ability to take a view across the full range of issues

Interested? We'd love to meet you!

On Friday 15 March we are hosting an informal brunch at Open Eye Gallery between 11 AM – 1 PM. Interested applicants are invited to come along to meet the team, hear more about becoming a board member, and ask any questions you may have over a coffee and a croissant! Please sign up [here](#) if you would like to attend.

Application Process

To apply, please submit the following information to jobs@openeye.org.uk:

1. Application Form
2. Please fill in our anonymous [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#)

Email: jobs@openeye.org.uk

Post: Open Eye Gallery, 19 Mann Island, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool, L3 1BP.

If you would prefer an alternative way of applying (e.g., by sending a video, or arranging a casual discussion about the role) please reach out to Natalie Meer on email: natalie@openeye.org.uk.

We strongly encourage applications from all backgrounds, and we fully recognise the value of a team that is made up of diverse skills, experiences and abilities. We are particularly keen to hear from people of colour, and those living with disabilities.

Closing Date: Sunday 5 May at midnight.

Successful candidates will be invited to an informal interview where you can tour the latest exhibition and meet the team. Interviews to take place on Thursday 16 May.

Please let us know in your application email if you have any access requirements.

Glossary of Terms

Board Meeting. Our meetings happen four times a year, each January, April, July and October on the last Monday of the month. Here we discuss and vote on decisions. Topics such as how to allocate our budget, how to expand our programme or administrative matters such as updating company policies are discussed.

Charity. A charity is set up for a public benefit, in our case - the arts. Charities do not make profits, all the money we raise goes back towards achieving our aims. A charity does not have owners or shareholders who benefit from it.

Governance. This includes the policies that guide the Board's structure and decision making.

Subcommittee. A subcommittee is a smaller group of Board Members that focus on a particular area, for example, we have a Finance subgroup.

Term. The period of time that you serve on the Board, we are looking for a one year commitment.

Trustee. Trustees have overall control of a charity and are responsible for making sure it's doing what it was set up to do. They may be known by other titles, such as: directors; board members; governors; committee members. We call our Board of Trustees, Board Members.