



Welcome to Independent Arts

Thank you for your interest in joining Independent Arts as a trustee

The arts – be that music, dance, visual arts and more – have a huge role to play in addressing the myriad of challenges we face on our Island. We have trusted relationships with respected funders and we are continuing to lead the field in how the arts can improve the wellbeing of vulnerable people.

We have recently appointed a new CEO and have strengthened our strategic narrative, giving both our trustees and staff a clear vision and operational direction.

We have a great staff team supported by a diverse group of arts practitioners and a growing community of volunteers. The people we serve, be they residents in care homes, school children or families, speak highly of our work. We know from feedback and evidence that we're having an impact on people's lives. Looking forward, trustees will support and guide our CEO in the implementation of the strategy, delivering services for the people who need it most.

We have a skills-based board currently with eight members and are seeking to expand our numbers and knowledge by appointing three trustees, ideally to cover:

- Health and social prescribing
- Information security
- Young person's perspective

You will find more details about each role on the following pages.

Time Commitment and Term

- The Board typically meets quarterly, with meetings lasting around 2 hours.
- Trustees are also expected to contribute between meetings and may sit on sub-committees.
- Trustees are usually appointed for a term of 3 years, renewable twice.

Application

Prior board or trustee experience is welcome but not essential. We are committed to diversity and welcome applicants from all backgrounds. If you do not meet the criteria specified but have a passion for our work, we would still like to hear from you.

To apply or find out more about Independent Arts or these roles, please visit our website independentarts.org.uk and/or email Jacquie Heany, Chair of Trustees trustees@independentarts.org.uk



A level Geography students learning print-making

About Independent Arts

Changing lives through arts

Independent Arts is an Isle of Wight charity, established in 1987, using the arts to improve wellbeing, quality of life and to reduce social isolation. We believe that art is for all stages of life, and we deliver vital services across all ages, mindful of the range of needs:

- Often older people on the Isle of Wight are amongst the most vulnerable, including those in care homes and those on the fringes of social care.
- A higher-than-average number of children on the Island live in poverty (34%).
- Mental health services are stretched, which can affect people of any age.
- Arts and wellbeing are interlinked, and we focus on bringing arts to those who might not otherwise be able to benefit from them.

Everything we do is about inclusion and accessibility, about reaching the most isolated, finding the most alienated, the disenfranchised and the dispossessed. Those in our community who may never have picked up a camera, paintbrush, danced, or ever been enabled to express themselves creatively, in any meaningful manner.

You can learn more about our programmes and impact on <u>our website</u> and in our <u>latest report</u> to the Charity Commission.

"Learning about art here is way better than school. I've liked everything about it and it's relieved my stress!"

Young person, attending one of our youth sessions

"I've had such a joyful afternoon, I struggle meeting new people and I worried about coming here, but everyone is so warm and welcoming.. I am so glad I came."

Trustee Role Description - Healthcare / Social Prescribing

Organisation: Independent Arts

Location: Isle of Wight

Time Commitment: Approximately 4 board meetings per year plus occasional support between

meetings

Reporting to: Chair of Trustees

We are seeking a new trustee with experience in **healthcare**, **social prescribing**, **or community wellbeing** to support the development of our services and ensure alignment with wider health and care strategies.

Key Responsibilities

- Fulfil statutory duties as a trustee, ensuring the charity is well-governed and compliant with Charity Commission guidance.
- Provide strategic insight into healthcare systems, social prescribing initiatives, and community wellbeing policies.
- Help the charity align its services with local health priorities and build strong partnerships within the NHS and voluntary sectors.
- Support the development and evaluation of arts-based health interventions, particularly those aimed at improving mental health and reducing social isolation.
- Act as a critical friend to staff, sharing sector insight and fostering collaboration with healthcare professionals and networks.

Skills and Experience Sought

- Experience in healthcare, public health, social work, mental health services, or social prescribing pathways.
- Understanding of NHS structures, Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), or the voluntary/community sector's role in health delivery.
- Strategic thinking and ability to contribute to board-level decision-making.
- A commitment to person-centred care and reducing health inequalities through creative means.
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills.

What You'll Gain

- The opportunity to make a meaningful impact on a small charity with a big local footprint.
- Collaborative work with a passionate and supportive board.
- The chance to apply your professional skills to a social cause.

Trustee Role Description – Information Security Specialist

Organisation: Independent Arts **Location:** Newport, Isle of Wight

Commitment: 4 board meetings per year + additional advisory support as needed

Reporting to: Chair of Trustees

We are seeking a new trustee with professional experience in **information security and data protection** to join our Board and help guide our digital strategy and safeguard sensitive information.

Key Responsibilities

- Fulfil the statutory duties of a charity trustee as set out by the Charity Commission.
- Provide strategic oversight and expert advice on matters relating to information security, data protection (including GDPR compliance), and digital risk.
- Support the charity in developing and maintaining robust policies on cyber security, digital safeguarding, and secure data handling.
- Advise on the selection and use of digital tools and platforms to ensure they meet appropriate security standards.
- Work with the board and staff team to enhance awareness and training on information security issues.

Contribute to overall strategic planning and governance in line with the charity's aims.

Skills and Experience Sought

- Proven expertise in information security, cyber risk management, or IT governance.
- Familiarity with UK data protection regulations and compliance standards (e.g. GDPR, ISO 27001).
- Experience advising or working with non-profits or SMEs is an advantage.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to explain complex issues in plain language.
- Commitment to the values and mission of Independent Arts.

What You'll Gain

- The opportunity to make a meaningful impact on a small charity with a big local footprint.
- Collaborative work with a passionate and supportive board.
- The chance to apply your professional skills to a social cause.

Young Trustee Role Description (Aged 18-25)

Organisation: Independent Arts

Location: Isle of Wight

Time Commitment: 4 board meetings per year + optional involvement in projects

Type of Role: Voluntary

Reporting to: Chair of Trustees

We believe that our board should reflect the communities we serve. That's why we're looking for a **Young Trustee aged 18–25** to bring a fresh perspective to our decision-making, help shape our future and ensure that the voices of younger people are represented at the highest level of the organisation.

What You'll Do as a Trustee

- Attend board meetings and help make decisions about the direction and priorities of the charity
- Share your views on how Independent Arts can connect with and support younger people
- Contribute to discussions on campaigns, programmes, or projects you care about
- Learn how a charity works and gain real leadership experience
- Act as an ambassador for the charity in your community or network

Who We're Looking For

You don't need to have been a trustee before or have lots of formal experience. We're looking for someone who:

- Is aged between 18 and 25
- Cares about creativity, wellbeing, and community
- Can offer ideas, insight, or lived experience that helps shape our work
- Is willing to learn, ask questions, and take part in discussions
- May have been involved in youth work, social action, the arts, or voluntary/community organisations (but this is not essential)

What You'll Gain

- A chance to help lead a local charity and influence real change
- Build your confidence and leadership skills
- Learn about governance, strategy, and how charities work
- Great experience for your CV or future career in the charity or public sector