

Trustee Recruitment Pack

2026



independentarts.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 297474
Company No. 02147908



Welcome to Independent Arts

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in joining Independent Arts as our treasurer trustee

We have a skills-based board currently with ten members and are seeking a suitably experienced treasurer

Over the last few years our experienced team of staff and volunteers have made tremendous progress in growing both the volume and scope of our work. We have:

- **Established and sustained The Creative Hub:** This vital space, in the heart of Newport, provides a safe haven for connection and artistic expression.
- **Continued to deliver a range of creative activities for example:**
 - Make and create – a drop in space for over 18s to experiment with different art media.
 - Arts Lab – a youth arts group with a mental wellbeing and social action outcome
 - Mindful Moments – for adults to promote a calmer state of mind
 - Helping Hands – mental health peer support led, goal setting
 - Chess Craft – intergenerational beginners' chess in a safe and kind, noncompetitive setting.
 - Gallery, windows and merchandise to draw in supporters and participants alike
- **Developed a new organisational strategy:** clearly defining our purpose as a community-led, creative health charity and focusing our fundraising approach accordingly
- **Continued our vital work in care homes.** Our practitioners bring creativity, joy and connections to residents across the Island, improving their quality of life.



While so much progress has been made, the need for our work remains clear. 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. With trusted relationships with respected funders, we are continuing to lead the field in how the arts can improve the wellbeing of vulnerable people.

We 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 welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, identities and life experiences. If you believe you have the skills, experience and qualities we are looking for, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Jacquie Heany,
Chair of Trustees

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 creative 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. We provide opportunities to 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 [our website](#) and in our [latest report](#) to the Charity Commission.

“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.”

Participant of Creative

“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

Role Description – Treasurer Trustee

Role Purpose

As a member of the Board of Trustees, the Treasurer provides oversight of the charity's financial affairs, ensuring that resources are managed responsibly, financial systems and controls are effective, and the organisation remains financially sustainable.

The Treasurer supports fellow trustees to fulfil their collective responsibilities and helps ensure the charity complies with its legal and regulatory duties in line with Charity Commission and Companies House guidance.

Key Responsibilities

- Work with the CEO to provide strategic oversight of the charity's financial affairs and financial sustainability.
- Guide the Board in understanding the charity's financial position and implications of decisions.
- Monitor the organisation's financial performance against budgets and forecasts.
- Review and present financial reports, budgets, management accounts, and annual accounts to the Board in an accessible way.
- Support the CEO in annual financial planning and the preparation of annual budgets.
- Oversee the preparation and submission of annual reports and accounts.
- Ensure appropriate financial systems, controls, and risk management procedures are in place, including an annual review of the risk register.
- Ensure the charity complies with legal, regulatory, and financial requirements, including Charity Commission, Companies House and relevant accounting obligations.

Trustee Responsibilities

As a Trustee, the Treasurer also shares responsibility with the Board for ensuring the charity:

- Carries out its purposes for the public benefit.
- Complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and other relevant legislation and regulations.
- Acts in the charity's best interests and manages resources responsibly.
- Exercises reasonable care and skill in decision-making.

- Acts with integrity and supports good governance.
- Protects and promotes the reputation, values, and work of Independent Arts
- Trustees are expected to act collectively and share responsibility for Board decisions.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience

The Treasurer should ideally demonstrate:

- Experience in finance, accounting, budgeting, financial management, or business planning.
- Ability to understand and interpret financial information and communicate it effectively to a range of audiences.
- Strategic thinking and good judgement.
- Awareness of risk management and financial oversight responsibilities.
- Understanding of charity governance, Charity Commission and Companies House responsibilities, or a willingness to learn.

A formal accounting qualification would be welcomed but is not essential.

Personal Qualities

The Treasurer should:

- Be committed to the values and mission of Independent Arts.
- Demonstrate integrity, sound judgement, and accountability.
- Work collaboratively and positively with trustees, staff, volunteers, and partners.
- Be supportive, inclusive, and committed to diversity and community participation.

Time Commitment

- Attendance at quarterly Board meetings (2-3 hours) and quarterly Finance and Resources Committee meetings (1.5 – 2 hours).
- Approx 4 hours per quarter work with the CEO to review and prepare quarterly financial reports and papers for the Board.
- Support for financial planning and annual reporting requirements.
- Trustees are usually appointed for a term of 3 years, renewable twice.



How to Apply

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

Your application should include

- Your CV.
- A supporting statement

Applications should be submitted to trustees@independentarts.org.uk and all applications will be acknowledged by email.