



esea contemporary

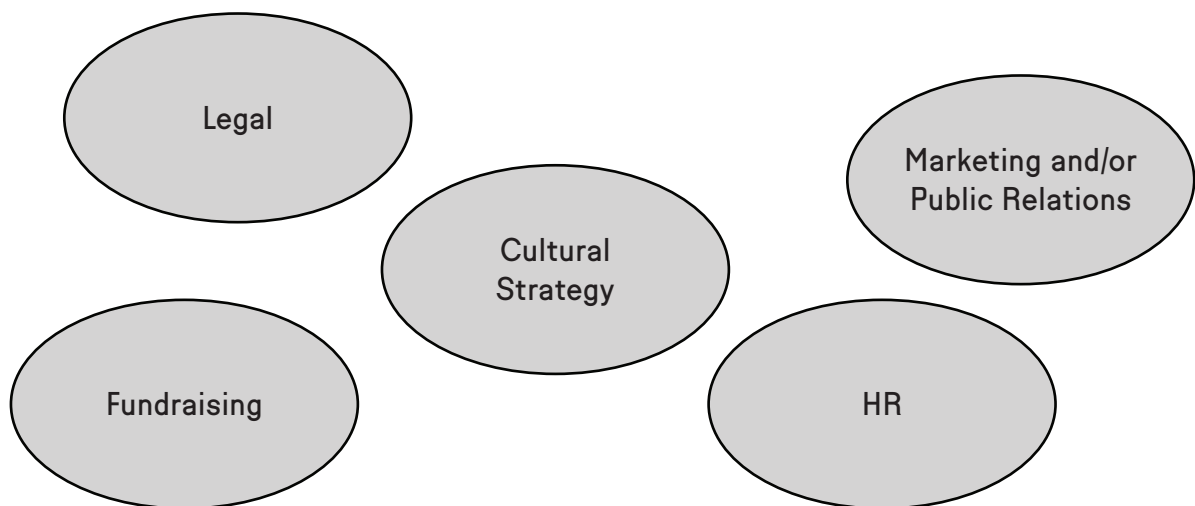
Trustee Recruitment Pack

Trustees Opportunity

We're seeking new trustees to join our Board of Directors

Our trustees oversee the strategic direction and governance of our charity and support the executive team to deliver an ambitious artistic and community programme. This is an incredibly exciting time to become involved with esea contemporary as we build on recent organisational growth, deepen our work with communities across Greater Manchester, and strengthen our national and international profile. We are keen to ensure that our leadership team has the necessary skills and experience to take our organisation forward.

We are looking for people with expertise in the following areas:



If your background is in any of these fields, and you also have a passion for arts and culture, an interest in contemporary visual art (particularly that informed by East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) cultural backgrounds), and have prior experience as a trustee, or are looking for your first trustee role, we would love to hear from you.

About Us

esea contemporary is the UK's only non-profit art centre specialising in presenting and platforming artists and art practices that identify with and are informed by East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) cultural backgrounds. esea contemporary is situated in an award-winning building in the heart of Manchester, home to one of the largest Asian populations in the UK. Since its inauguration as a community-oriented visual arts festival in 1986, esea contemporary has continuously evolved to establish itself as a dynamic and engaging space for cross-cultural exchanges in the British art scene, as well as in a global context.

About our Board

Our Board of Trustees plays a crucial role in ensuring that esea contemporary meets its targets and delivers on its charitable objectives.

Our trustees:

- Oversee the organisation's strategy and direction, and ensure our work remains aligned with our mission and values.
- Support and challenge the executive team so that the organisation is well-managed, sustainable and artistically ambitious.
- Use their expertise and networks to help build meaningful relationships with funders, partners, artists, communities and peers in the UK and internationally.

Our current Board of Trustees includes Nick Buckley Wood, aaajiao, Maria Chen, Petra van den Houten, Sam Krivinskas, Christopher Lau, Simon Li, Peter Lin, Yung Ma, Stephanie Poon, Bonnie Yeung.



Terms and Conditions

Trustees serve for an initial three-year term, renewable for a further three years up to a maximum of six years.

Location

esea contemporary is in Manchester, UK. However, we encourage applications both locally and from those outside of the region, as board meetings are hybrid in-person/online.

Time Commitment

esea contemporary holds four two-hour formal Board meetings per year. It is expected that all trustees commit to a minimum of two hours outside of these meetings to adequately prepare and digest all information or reports provided, and to be available to the Director via email or phone to provide any advice/guidance as may be requested. Further formal meetings may be required for sub committee meetings.

Remuneration

This is a voluntary role so there is no remuneration but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

Trustee Person Specification

Successful trustee candidates will be able to clearly demonstrate their experience in one of the focus areas outlined above, ideally possessing formal qualifications in their field where relevant, along with a minimum of five years' senior management experience in their sector. They may have experience of being a trustee, or be eager to make a difference in their first trustee role. They will be able to clearly demonstrate a commitment to esea contemporary's values and a willingness to act as an advocate for our organisation among their own professional networks.

Our Board should be representative of the artists, audiences, stakeholders and communities we seek to engage with. In a commitment to positive action, we particularly encourage applications from candidates of ESEA heritage, to bring the necessary lived experience and nuanced understanding to this leadership role.

Our Mission



esea contemporary empowers artists, curators, academics, and cultural practitioners whose work reflects, investigates, and is informed by topics relevant to the East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) community at large.

Our programming is dedicated to presenting and commissioning exceptional artistic productions to spur dynamic critical exchanges across cultures and communities, while engaging with local and global audiences.


In addition, esea contemporary offers distinct opportunities to inspire and elevate the next generation of art professionals and facilitate public interactions. The organisation archives and conveys community stories and memories to ensure an inclusive cultural ecology and compassionate worldview. In all its activities, it explores and initiates new ways of displaying, communicating, and researching ESEA contemporary art through inventive and collaborative approaches.

Our Values



Creativity

The organisation values creativity as a language with which to communicate experiences across diverse cultural backgrounds and enrich the lives of local and global audiences.



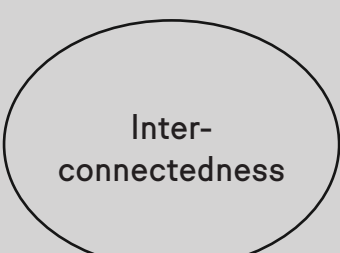
Compassion

esea contemporary approaches the presentation and contextualisation of artistic production with care and empathy, and supports the community in which it is embedded, as well as its outstanding team and dedicated partners.



Collectivity

The organisation champions contemporary art practices from the ESEA community and its diasporas, and advocates for a wide representation of its evolving lived experiences.



Inter-connectedness

esea contemporary promotes transcultural engagement by bringing people together across communities in the UK and the world through the empowerment of the global ESEA diaspora.

How to apply

Please submit a CV and a cover letter outlining your interest in joining the board of esea contemporary and what you can contribute to the role.

Please send your application to board@eseacontemporary.org by 7 January 2026; we welcome any questions about this opportunity by email to the same address.

Interviews will be held on a rolling basis.

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Gallery opening hours:
Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm;
Sunday 12am - 5pm;
Closed Mondays and Bank Holidays

X: @eseacontemp
Facebook: @eseacontemporary
Instagram: @eseacontemporary

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