



Lancaster Arts Board Chair of Advisory Board

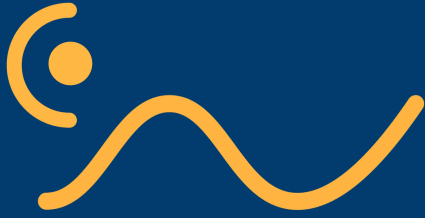
Candidate pack
June 2026



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**Lancaster
Arts**
Where ideas, people and places connect

Image: Cellist Maja Bugge responding to Forough by artist Sena Başoz



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National Portfolio Organisation
Board Members



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Introduction



A welcome from the Director, Lancaster Arts

Thank you for your interest in the role of Chair of the Lancaster Arts Board (LAB).

Lancaster Arts is a dynamic and ambitious combined arts organisation, embedded within Lancaster University and supported as a National Portfolio Organisation by Arts Council England. Our programme spans disciplines and contexts, bringing artists, researchers, students, and communities together through work that is responsive, socially engaged, and internationally relevant.

The LAB plays a vital role in shaping and supporting this work. As an Advisory Board, it provides strategic insight, advocacy, and critical support to ensure that Lancaster Arts continues to develop its vision, strengthen its impact, and grow its profile regionally, nationally, and internationally.

At a time of both opportunity and change across the cultural and Higher Education sectors, the leadership of the Board is more important than ever.

We are now seeking an Advisory Board Chair who will bring clarity of vision, strong leadership, and a spirit of collaboration to the role.

Working closely with me, the Vice-Chair, and Board members, the Chair will help guide Lancaster Arts through its next phase of development, including supporting our strategic priorities, championing our values, and ensuring we remain responsive and resilient in a complex environment.

This role offers a unique opportunity to operate at the intersection of the arts and Higher Education, engaging with diverse stakeholders across the university, the cultural sector, and civic life.

The Chair will act as an ambassador for LA, advocating for its work, strengthening partnerships, and helping to extend our reach and influence.

We are looking for a Chair who shares these values and we welcome expressions of interest from individuals who bring strategic expertise, cultural insight, and a genuine passion for the arts and their role in shaping society.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Director, Lancaster Arts

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About us



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Image: Lancaster Arts were excited to welcome quartet, [Ensemble Échappée](#), for an evening of music from composers unafraid to rip up the rule book, perfect for our theme of Dissent.

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About Us

About us

Lancaster Arts: where ideas, people and places connect

Lancaster Arts is based at Lancaster University in the north west of England and encompasses the Nuffield Theatre, the Great Hall and the Peter Scott Gallery, as well as locations on campus and in the region, in natural settings, community centres, car parks, and historic buildings.

Our artistic programme includes commissions, Creative Gatherings and artist residencies alongside our presentational programme. Almost half of our programme takes place outside our venues, especially in places where you might not expect to find it. We have a long-established artistic reputation for the creation, development and presentation of cutting-edge contemporary arts and are proud to be part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio (NPO) as a combined arts organisation.

Artistic work has now been presented at our venues and in the surrounding region for over 55 years, celebrating a broad range of artforms, which include contemporary circus, classical and contemporary classical music, performance art (live art, theatre, dance) and visual art. In the last 3 years, we have produced ambitious commissions and festivals such as [LANDING, Are You Lost?](#) in partnership with the National Landscape Association, and [HereNowThis](#). Often the artists we work with do not define themselves within any one artform and we frequently mix them up as in our recent [concert in the gallery](#).

A remarkable and diverse mix of artists, poets, theatre and dance makers, performance artists, musicians and orchestras from the north west and across the world have shared and created work here and include (as a tiny snapshot): Action Hero, Bobbie Baker, BBC Philharmonic, Rebecca Chesney, Jez Dolan, Forced Entertainment, Braimah Kanneh-Mason, Kate Fox, James Fox, Gandini Juggling, Ellie Harrison, Simon Armitage, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Raja Shehadeh, Tony Heaton, Adrian Howells, Andy Holden, Peter Liversidge, Lost Dog, Manchester Camerata, Russell Maliphant, Proto-type Theatre, Rajni Shah, Rob St John, Roderick Williams, Louise Ann Wilson, Lucy Wright, and Zuppa.

Many artists have written about their work with Lancaster Arts [here](#).

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About Us



Lancaster Arts also takes care of the Lancaster University Art Collection, a rich and varied collection spanning thousands of years, from ancient Egypt and Greece to contemporary work. We offer opportunities to experience the collections through visiting our gallery exhibitions, arranging a behind-the-scenes visit to see works not on display, or connecting with the collections online.

Our vision is of a world where social and environmental justice drives change for our future and is inspired and provoked by artistic practice.

Our mission is to create the conditions for art to make change, alongside our collaborators.

And alongside a wide range of people, friends and our Board, we have also developed our approach to environmental justice - [please take a look.](#)

“Lancaster Arts is a distinctive cross-arts organisation in an academic context – Lancaster University – an environment that supports the questioning of what constitutes the artistic, the social, the political and the personal.”

Live Art Development Agency

How we work

Lancaster Arts has adopted a thematic approach to our whole programme in order to enable a necessarily complex programme of multiple artforms that responds to and works across the whole university. The approach integrates commissions, workshops, site-specific work and artist development opportunities such as residencies, performance and exhibitions. This enables our programme to speak across artforms and through new approaches to ideas and concepts.

Our themes arise from listening to a wide range of partners, audiences and participants, academics and artists and relate to what is happening in the world today. Examples of past themes have been Women and Circus, Water, [Age & Ageing](#), [Ritual](#), [Flight](#), [Land](#), for 2026, [Dissent](#) and for 2027, this will be Time.

We have a collaborative programming team who work together to ensure a rich, diverse and varied programme throughout the year.

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Role description



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Image: An installation in a barn in the Forest of Bowland by artist Rob St John, part of Nature Calling.

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Role description



Role details

Purpose of LAB

The Lancaster Arts Board (LAB) exists to support Lancaster Arts in becoming a vital connector and enabler of creative practice, bringing together artists, academics, communities, and audiences to address the complex challenges of our time through imagination, inquiry, and collaboration.

LAB provides strategic guidance, oversight, and advocacy for Lancaster Arts and plays a critical role in ensuring the relevance, impact, and sustainability of its programme.

The acronym LAB for this Advisory Board is purposeful, fostering a creative environment for the exchange of ideas.

Purpose of the role

The Chair of LAB works with the Vice-Chair to ensure that the Board functions effectively and contributes fully to Lancaster Arts' (LA) strategic direction and delivery.

The Chair acts as an ambassador and advocate for LA, helping to strengthen its visibility, impact, and connections across the University and the cultural sector, whilst ensuring its continuing relevance, increasing national profile and strategic impact. The Vice-Chair directly supports and deputises for the Chair and leads on operational and board management activities.

Terms of appointment

- The Chair is appointed for a term of 3 years, renewable once for a maximum of 6 years, subject to annual review.
- The Chair will typically attend 4 in-person Board meetings per year, the annual Away Day, and selected LA events.
- The role is voluntary and not remunerated other than expenses and relevant costs.

Please note

- LAB meetings rotate across campus and on occasion, external venues. There is a preference for live meetings, avoiding hybrid meetings, wherever possible.
- All members are expected to attend at least two-thirds of meetings annually.
- An annual Away Day, includes Trustees of the Peter Scott Gallery Charitable Trust and the Ideas & Connectors Group and offers space for strategic visioning, reflection and the development of imaginative ideas and solutions.

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Role description



Key responsibilities

Board leadership

- Lead LAB in fulfilling its Terms of Reference and contributing to the development of LA's vision, mission, and strategic plan.
- Chair quarterly LAB meetings and the annual retreat, ensuring purposeful agendas, inclusive discussion, and collective decision-making.
- Foster a collaborative and dynamic Board culture in which members are active, informed, and mutually supportive.
- Liaise with the Chair of the Peter Scott Gallery Charitable Trust to ensure consistent communications and visions.

Strategic oversight

- Provide support and challenge to the LA Director and leadership team, acting as a critical friend.
- Guide the Board in addressing the dual priorities of Lancaster University and ACE, ensuring alignment with the University's Arts and Cultural Strategy and ACE Investment Principles.
- Encourage imaginative thinking and creative response to change.

Advocacy and influence

- Represent LA to senior University stakeholders and advocate for the resources needed to deliver LA's strategic priorities.
- Represent LA to external stakeholders including funders, partners, artists, and academic and civic leaders.
- Support the development of LA's regional, national, and international profile.
- Promote LA's values of creativity, inclusion, environmental responsibility, and public engagement.

Board development and governance

- Work with the LA Director and LAB administrator to ensure effective recruitment, induction, and rotation of Board members.
- Support the use of champion and link roles among LAB members to deepen strategic engagement.
- Contribute to the periodic evaluation of the Board's effectiveness and impact.

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Role description



Attributes and experience

The Chair will have:

- A strong track record of leadership in the cultural sector or a closely related field. National or international reputation desirable.
- A strategic outlook and the ability to navigate the intersection of Higher Education and the arts.
- Skilled facilitation and communication, with confidence in convening diverse stakeholders.
- A clear commitment to inclusion, environmental responsibility, and socially engaged practice.
- Capacity to act as a public advocate and connector for LA.
- An enthusiasm for Lancaster Arts and an understanding of our work.

Image: A placard from Henna Asikainen's giant nest, part of her exhibition, Lintukoto/Haven



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Terms of reference



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Image: Invisible Flock's Microtonal workshop

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Terms of reference



Terms of Reference: Lancaster Arts Board (LAB)

Background

Lancaster Arts (LA) is an integral part of Lancaster University and a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) of Arts Council England (ACE). It operates as a Combined Arts organisation supporting, developing and presenting a contemporary art programme. LA has been an NPO since 2009.

Governance

LA is part of the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Lancaster University. The Director of LA reports to the Pro Vice Chancellor for Arts, Humanities, Management and Social Sciences and is accountable to the University Council, providing an annual Assurance Report.

LAB interacts closely with the Peter Scott Gallery Charitable Trust, responsible for the art collections of Lancaster University and the Ideas & Connectors Group, a community sounding board that takes part in and informs the programme.

LAB members will:

- Provide strategic oversight of LA's vision, mission, and Strategic Plan.
- Ensure compliance with Arts Council England's NPO obligations, including the Investment Principles and annual Activity planning cycle.
- Support LA in navigating the dual demands of Higher Education and Arts Council England accountability.
- Support LA's leadership during periods of transition and change.
- Act as ambassadors, advocates, and enablers of LA's work across academic, cultural, and civic sectors.
- Bring fresh ideas and strategic perspectives to inform LA's direction and help to connect the organisation with the artistic communities at a local, regional, national and international level.
- Offer critical friendship to the LA team and champion creative risk-taking, responsiveness, and imaginative leadership.
- Support 'task and finish' or sub group responsibilities such as Income Generation or Environmental Action Plans that are aligned to LA priorities.
- Provide guidance on operational matters including budgeting, fundraising, and programming.
- Engage proactively with LA's public programme, commissions and artist support activity, attending at least two events per season.

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How to apply



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Image: What Happens If - an artist and academic partnership programme connected to our 2026 theme of Dissent.

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How to apply



Lancaster Arts is working exclusively with Charisma Charity Recruitment.

Expressions of interest should be submitted through the [Charisma website](#) and include:

- A comprehensive CV
- A supporting statement (no more than two pages) summarising why you're applying and how you meet the person specification

For an informal and confidential discussion about the role, please contact:

Katherine Anderson-Scott, Executive Director of Charisma Charity Recruitment on 01962 813300 or email info@charismarecruitment.co.uk.

Charisma welcome and encourage expressions of interest from people of all backgrounds. We do not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, colour, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status or other category protected by law.

Closing date: Thursday 13th August 2026

Interviews with Lancaster Arts: from 1st September 2026 onwards

Charisma vetting interviews must be completed by EOD on 20th August prior to shortlist submission on 21st August.



Image: Lancaster Arts Team - Are You Lost?



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