



**Birmingham Big Art Foundation**  
(Birmingham Big Art Project)  
**Trustee Recruitment Pack**

Deadline for applications 12 noon Friday 31 January 2020  
Interviews to take place week commencing 10 February 2020

# Introduction

The Board of Birmingham Big Art Foundation (Birmingham Big Art Project) is seeking to appoint two new Trustees to join the board and help the charity achieve its mission of creating a landmark public artwork made with and for Birmingham through the production of Susan Philipsz 'Station Clock'.

We are particularly seeking trustees who have:

- Specialist experience in fundraising, crowd-funding and partnership working
- Connections to communities across Birmingham
- Specialist experience in the production and/or promotion of large-scale contemporary music, arts and cultural events

Birmingham Big Art Foundation is committed to diversity and inclusion. We actively seek board members to reflect a multitude of experiences and backgrounds. We particularly encourage applications from BAME and LGBTQ+ candidates, people with a disability and people under the age of 40.

We hope that you feel that you have the enthusiasm and expertise to contribute to the success of Birmingham Big Art Project.

For the purposes of this brief, 'Birmingham Big Art Project' and 'BBAP' refer to Birmingham Big Art Foundation a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.

## Candidate Profile

Birmingham Big Art Project Trustees have a collective passion for contemporary art and culture with varied backgrounds, skills and expertise.

### Skills & Experience:

- Well established, diverse professional networks
- Experience from a relevant sector including; the arts; Birmingham and its communities; business; fundraising; academia or other relevant expertise;
- The skills and interests to help raise the profile and achievement of Birmingham Big Art Project
- Objectivity, fairness, integrity, wisdom, discretion and good judgment;
- Strategic vision, creative thinking, independent judgement and ability to focus on practical issues;
- Effective advocacy and communication skills;
- A willingness to play an active role in fundraising;
- A track record of commitment to promoting equality and diversity

### Knowledge & Understanding:

- An interest in contemporary visual art
- An understanding of and commitment to Birmingham Big Art Project and its role in the cultural ecology of Birmingham and the UK
- A desire to work in the best interests of Birmingham Big Art Project, without regard to personal interest or benefit

- An understanding of good governance in business, the public or not-for profit sector and the responsibilities and legal obligations of trustees. More details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>
- No significant conflicts of interest

## Role & Responsibilities

Birmingham Big Art Project has a board of Trustees with a broad range of skills and experience, drawn from a variety of occupations and backgrounds.

Trustees are not expected to take on sole responsibility for their area of expertise, as the Board is collectively responsible for its decisions and actions. Trustees are expected to involve themselves in committees and other matters according to their particular interests and skills.

The Board of Trustees have the same general legal responsibilities to the company as any other director. They are collectively responsible for the success of BBAP.

### **The objective of the Birmingham Big Art Project is to:**

- Deliver an iconic and innovative permanent public artwork for Birmingham
- Celebrate the culture and heritage of Birmingham
- Add value to Birmingham's cultural offer and enhance the city's reputation
- Reinforce Birmingham place on the world's cultural map

### **The Board's role is to:**

- Provide entrepreneurial leadership of the Company within a framework of prudent and effective controls which enable risk to be assessed and managed
- Set the Company's strategic aims, ensure that the necessary financial and human resources are in place for the Company to meet its objectives, and review management performance
- Set the Company's values and standards and ensure that its obligations to its shareholders and others are understood and met

### **Key responsibilities of Trustees are to:**

- Constructively contribute to the overall strategic direction, policy, objectives and targets
- Take an active role in the preparation and approval of the business plan
- Observe the Birmingham Big Art Project Board's articles of association, charity and company law and other regulatory requirements;
- Participate in Birmingham Big Art Project Board's various sub-committees;
- Act as the employer of Birmingham Big Art Project's Director, Commissioning Agent and the Artist.
- Comply with Birmingham Big Art Project Board's diversity and equality policies;
- Ensure that Birmingham Big Art Project Board's activities are evaluated effectively;
- Safeguard Birmingham Big Art Project Board's financial stability, including approval of the annual accounts;
- Approve the annual budget and advise on major resource issues;

## Time Commitment

- Time commitment is usually the equivalent of up to half a day per Month, although more may be required from time to time. This comprises three Board meetings annually, an AGM and other sub-committees as necessary. In addition, time will be needed to study meeting papers, attend periodic meetings with the Project Director and Commissioning Agent and BBAP events;
- Trustees are appointed for a three-year term, renewable for an additional three-year term;
- Board and committee meetings are held in Birmingham
- The position is unpaid, although reasonable travel and other expenses will be reimbursed.

## Eligibility

The law places certain restrictions on becoming a charity trustee. For example, you cannot be under the age of 18, previously been removed from trusteeship of a charity by a Court or the Charity Commission, disqualified under the Company Director's Disqualification Act 1986, or been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty. If you are in any doubt about your eligibility, visit :[www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)

## How to Apply

If you would like to apply for this opportunity please send the following to [domingabbap@gmail.com](mailto:domingabbap@gmail.com) by **12 noon, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**:

- A letter of application outlining why you are interested in the role, your relevant skills and experience and how you feel they will be of benefit Birmingham Big Art Project.
- A CV identifying your main achievements to date, details of any current board appointments and the names and contact details of two referees.
- A completed Equality + Diversity Monitoring Questionnaire. This should be sent as a separate document in order to ensure that once downloaded it remains entirely anonymous. It is solely used for monitoring and will not be seen by the appointment committee.

An appointment committee of current Board Members and our Commissioning Agent will review applications and invite a short-list of applicants to interview.

Interviews will take place in Birmingham in the week commencing 10 February 2020.

If you have any queries about the role or recruitment process you can contact us via [domingabbap@gmail.com](mailto:domingabbap@gmail.com). For more information about Birmingham Big Art Project please visit [www.birminghambigartproject.org](http://www.birminghambigartproject.org).

We look forward to hearing from you!

Glyn Pitchford, Birmingham Big Art Project (Chair)

## About Birmingham Big Art Project

Birmingham Big Art Foundation was established in 2015 with the aim of commissioning an internationally significant landmark public artwork for Birmingham that could support and expand the idea of a twenty first century city. We believe that art is a vital part of our city's past, present and future.

In 2016 we ran the 'Birmingham Big Art Project' competition which resulted in a shortlist of proposals by Roger Hiorns, Susan Philipsz, Heather and Ivan Morison, Brian Griffiths and Keith Wilson. Following an exhibition of the shortlisted proposals Susan Philipsz was appointed as artist for the Birmingham Big Art Project commission with her proposal 'Station Clock' in 2017.

Station Clock is a large-scale aural clock, comprising of twelve digits representing the twelve tones of the musical scales, using different vocal combinations for each digit. The sounds of Station Clock will be made of up to 1,092 voices from Birmingham's diverse population. The voices that make up this sonic sculpture will sound on the hour every hour and last for between five and twenty five seconds, sounding very low overnight and fuller during the day, culminating in a large chorus at noon. The sounds and silences in-between will be part of the artwork, creating a unique experience that unfolds over twenty four hours, seven days a week.

Throughout 2019–2020 we are delivering the city-wide '12 Tones' programme, enabling 1,092 Birmingham citizens to take part in artist-led workshops and contribute their voices to Station Clock. Twelve Tones is supported by Birmingham City Council and Arts Council England and being produced by Eastside Projects in partnership with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.





### **Susan Philipsz**

Susan Philipsz, born in 1965 in Glasgow, lives and works in Berlin. Over the past two decades, she has explored the psychological and sculptural potential of sound. Since the mid-1990s her sound installations have been exhibited at many prestigious institutions around the world including Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria (2016); Tate Britain, Duveen Galleries, London (2015); Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2014); The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2013); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2011); Museum Ludwig in Cologne, Germany (2009) among others. Philipsz was the recipient of the 2010 Turner Prize and in 2012 she debuted a major work at dOCUMENTA 13.

### **Eastside Projects (Commissioning Agent)**

Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (Since 2008) Eastside projects commission, produce and present a range of art practices and demonstrate ways in which art may be useful as part of society. Utilising our expertise and specialist knowledge we develop and produce projects with Birmingham's diverse publics and creative communities creating long term, sustained relationships and artworks which support the reimagining of the City.

### **Current Trustees**

#### **Mike Ward (Chair)**

Michael has over 30 years' experience as a corporate lawyer, advising private and public companies and private investors. Michael has been instrumental in the development of the Gateley corporate team becoming one of the leading corporate teams in the UK. He has influence among all the major business bodies in the Greater Birmingham area and is a past President of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

#### **Glyn Pitchford (Vice Chair)**

Glyn has over 30 years' experience as a chartered surveyor arbitrator and former non-exec chairman of a number of companies. He was formerly on council of Aston University and on Estates and Finance committees and Business Representative on City Region Board.

**Cllr. Ian Ward**

Birmingham City Council Leader, Councillor Ian Ward, has been a Councillor since 1995. He served as Deputy Leader of the Labour Group from 2005-2017 and was Deputy Leader of the Council from 2012 until 2017 when he was elected Leader.

Ian has participated in many partnerships and boards during his varied political career ranging from Birmingham Royal Ballet and West Midlands Arts Council to the West Midland Combined Authority and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership. He is currently Chair of the Eurocities Culture Forum.

**William Wong**

William is a director of the multi award winning Chung Ying Restaurants, joining the group in 2013. He is a trained accountant, working in the life and pensions industry and the automotive sector previously. William also holds an MBA from Warwick University.

**Joe Jordan**

Mr Jordan is a consultant gynaecologist and worked at the Birmingham Women's Hospital from 1966 until his retirement from the NHS in 2002.

**Stephen Hartland**

Before retiring in 2019 Stephen worked as Head of IT in the West Midlands Region for Royal & Sun Alliance before transferring to IBM as an IT Consultant in -

2002. He remains a professional Member of the British Computer Society and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts since 1997.

Stephen is a Board Member and Trustee of The Birmingham Civic Society, for which he set up and chaired the Planning Committee (2001 to 2007) and chairs the Public Art Committee (2002-2007 + 2012 -present). Stephen has sat on the Executive Committee of the Birmingham & West Midlands Victorian Society since 2002, becoming Chairman in 2009.

As well as being active in these societies, he sat on the Board of the Perrott's Folly Company (2003-2008), created to ensure the preservation and promotion of the Georgian folly in Edgbaston said to have been the inspiration for one of Tolkien's Two Towers. He was also founder member and Chairman of Birmingham Trees for Life (2005-2007) which planted its 85,000th tree in the city in 2018.

**Robin Barnes (Honorary Treasurer**

Robin is a partner of JW Hinks chartered accountants and is its representative member of the National Association of Specialist Dental Accountants and Lawyers (NASDAL).

Alongside being a Trustee and Treasurer of BBAP he is a trustee and treasurer of the Birmingham Civic Society.