



Call for new Trustees

Asian Arts Agency is seeking to appoint two new Trustees to play an active role in taking the Agency forward.

The Agency is one of the leading Asian arts development agencies in England and has a first class reputation for its work across the UK and internationally. We develop traditional, international and contemporary South Asian music and arts and encourage engagement by all communities in Bristol, the South West and nationally. The Agency is revenue funded by Arts Council England and Bristol City Council

We're seeking imaginative individuals who can bring energy and commitment with a strong love of South Asian music and the arts and who enjoy working as part of a team with a commitment to diversity and inclusion.

If you believe like us that South Asian music is an important part of the UK's cultural identity and share our desire to increase understanding of South Asian music and culture and bring it to a wider audience, then we are very interested in hearing from you.

You could join our Board in forming policy directions; strengthening our relationships with major venues across England and internationally; building our financial base; supporting creativity; and extending the experience of South Asian music to wider communities and young people in the South West and beyond.

We're looking for people who will make a positive contribution to the Agency and its work; share their ideas and professional expertise; and apply their skills to help advance the organisation's work and our impact locally, nationally and internationally.

Our vision is '*to mainstream high quality South Asian music and arts nationally*'. That means working with major venues like Bristol Beacon, St. Georges Bristol, Barbican Centre London and the South Bank Centre; music festivals; and with a variety of other partners in education, arts sector and communities across the UK.

Through our work we:

- *support UK based South Asian musicians to create and distribute new music through live music events*
- *bring major international artists into the UK for touring*
- *create new opportunities for promoting South Asian music at mainstream venues across the UK*
- *engage new audiences*
- *Provide talent development opportunities for national artists*
- *support UK-based Asian artists to export their work internationally*



After 15 years of successful growth, and ongoing support from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), we are at a major point in our development and have bold plans to expand our work. Over the past 15 years we have:

- produced over 600 cultural events
- these have reached diverse audiences in excess of 2 million people.
- supported over 100 World class South Asian musicians to tour and develop their work
- worked with over 50 venues and festivals across England
- taken several UK-based artists to live music showcasing and touring events internationally
- supported artists to create and promote new digitally recorded work at a major recording studios
- delivered numerous projects to engage young people and communities.

If you have the drive, commitment and ambition needed to help us achieve our vision, and can bring ideas and your professional expertise and experience to the Agency we are interested in talking to you.

The Board

Asian Arts Agency is a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status. The Memorandum and Articles of Association are based on a standard charitable model with a membership provision. The Articles state that:

'3.2 The management committee must consist of at least 4 and not more than 12 individuals, all of whom must be members.

3.3 The Board must consist of at least 50% people of Asian¹ origin, dual heritage or descent.'

There are currently four Trustees who make up the Board of Management. We do not operate any sub-committees at present and all decisions are taken at Board level or through delegated powers to the Chair and Director. The Board meets in Bristol/online 4-5 times a year. Trustees are elected for an initial term of 3 years and may serve a second term of no more than 3 years.

The Board is responsible for driving the vision of the Agency and supporting the Director and staff to take the Agency onto a new level of operation. We are seeking individuals who share our vision, enjoy South Asian music and can play an active role in taking the Agency forward.



Current Trustees

Tim Corum (Chair)

Tim has worked in arts and culture for over 30 years, principally in museums and art galleries, developing new venues, art collections cultural partnerships and festivals in Oldham, Leeds, Bristol, at the Horniman and currently in West London with Richmond Arts Service.

Lyn Porter

Lyn worked for the Bristol City Council managing the procedures around the funding of a wide range of charitable and voluntary organisations in the city. She has served as a trustee for several organisations, including of St Werburghs Community Association (Chair for 5 years); and Bristol Older peoples Forum; she also worked as artist manager for a Bristol based Bhangra music band for several years. Her interest in Asian music led to her becoming a Trustee of Asian Arts Agency.

Sandeep Marwah

Sandeep Marwah is a local businessman who runs a company supplying customers throughout the UK and Europe. He is the longest standing Board member of Asian Arts Agency joining a few years after its inception. He first encountered the classical music & dance of the Indian sub-continent during the late 70's and early 80's. As a teenager growing up in Bristol he was privileged to see the likes of Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Alla Rakha, Ravi Shankar and Savitha Sastry to name a few.

Abdul Ismail

Abdul Ismail is a prominent local businessman and a respected figure within Bristol's community. As a senior partner at the renowned Bristol Sweetmart, Abdul brings extensive expertise in business development and a passion for arts and music initiatives. His deep connections and commitment to strengthening community relationships have made him a vital advocate for Agency's cultural and creative projects.

The Director: Jaswinder Singh

Jaswinder has led the strategic development and artistic direction of the organisation since 2006, driving cultural programming and partnerships both in the UK and internationally. With over two decades of leadership experience — including roles as CEO, Artistic Director, Senior Producer, and Board Member for leading public organisations including Arts Council England; Bristol City Council; and work with DIT and BPI. He brings a deep understanding of the arts sector and how to deliver positive outcomes.



His expertise lies in shaping strategic vision; fostering intercultural collaborations; and leading transformative initiatives that champion equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within the cultural landscape.

He has produced over 600 cultural events, reaching diverse audiences in excess of 2 million people.

Who we want to join us

We're open to individuals with a range of skills & expertise, ideally within music and arts sector. We're seeking people with experience of leadership or governance role but also people with particular knowledge of South Asian music and community.

In particular we are seeking individuals with knowledge and expertise in the following areas:

- South Asian music with a national/international perspective
- PR and marketing, including digital
- Fundraising including individual and corporate giving

We will expect you to play an active part in the Agency's affairs, to see and support our work and to have the time and commitment to contribute to the future strategic development and sustainability of the Agency.

One of the great pleasures of the role is supporting our live music programmes through attendance at performances and events and meeting some of the musicians we promote and support.

We expect our trustees to support the Director and staff and assist us in securing the resources and support we need; and to promote the Agency through their own professional networks and act as advocates for our work. We are looking for individuals who will enjoy working in a small group with other trustees to drive forward our ambitious plans.

The duties of a Trustee are:

1. To ensure that Asian Arts Agency complies with its governing document, and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
2. To ensure that the Agency pursues its objects as defined in its governing document.
3. To work closely and support Agency Director to fulfil Agency's work.
4. To contribute actively to the Board's role in supporting strategic direction to the Agency, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
5. To be an advocate for the Agency at national international level, especially within the cultural and music sector.



6. To safeguard the good name and values of Asian Arts Agency.
7. To ensure that effective and efficient administration of the Agency.
8. To ensure the financial sustainability of the Agency.

In addition, to the above statutory duties, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board reach sound decisions. This may involve contributing to Board papers; leading discussions; focussing on key issues; providing advice and guidance on new initiatives; or other matters in which a trustee has special expertise.

Trustee person specification

- A commitment to the Agency and its work and South Asian music
- A commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- Good, independent judgement
- An ability to think creatively
- A willingness to speak their mind
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
- A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Time commitment

You will be expected to attending at least 75% of Board meetings (if necessary via Zoom) – the Board meets 4-5 times a year. You will also be expected to attend events on a regular basis (perhaps 3-4 times a year) – this should be an enjoyable experience!

Trustee responsibilities include reading and reviewing Board papers in advance of meetings and keeping up to breast with developments of importance to the Agency such as Arts Council England, arts sector updates and Bristol City Council policy shifts; ensuring that the Agency operates legally and in accordance with its own rules; and participating actively in the Agency's activities.

You should be ready and willing to devote the necessary time and effort to fulfil the responsibilities of your role as a Trustee.

Remuneration

Trustees are appointed on a voluntary, unpaid basis but can claim travel and other essential expenses involved in attending Board meetings and undertaking other specific duties requested of them.



We would encourage all potential Board members to speak to the Director about this opportunity in more detail before submitting an application. If you would like to set up a call, please email us at recruitment@asianartsagency.co.uk.

How to apply

Please email your CV and a brief expression of interest (2 sides of A4 max) to Jaswinder Singh recruitment@asianartsagency.co.uk

Please also complete the Equal Opportunities form via the link at our website.

Applications close **Monday 17th February 2025**