

EEA

EMERGENCY
EXIT ARTS



Recruitment Pack: Chair of Trustees (or Co-Chairs)

Registered Charity no 1004137

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A CHAIR (OR CO-CHAIRS)

Are you interested in using your skills and passion to help one of the UK's leading outdoor arts companies continue its creative journey?

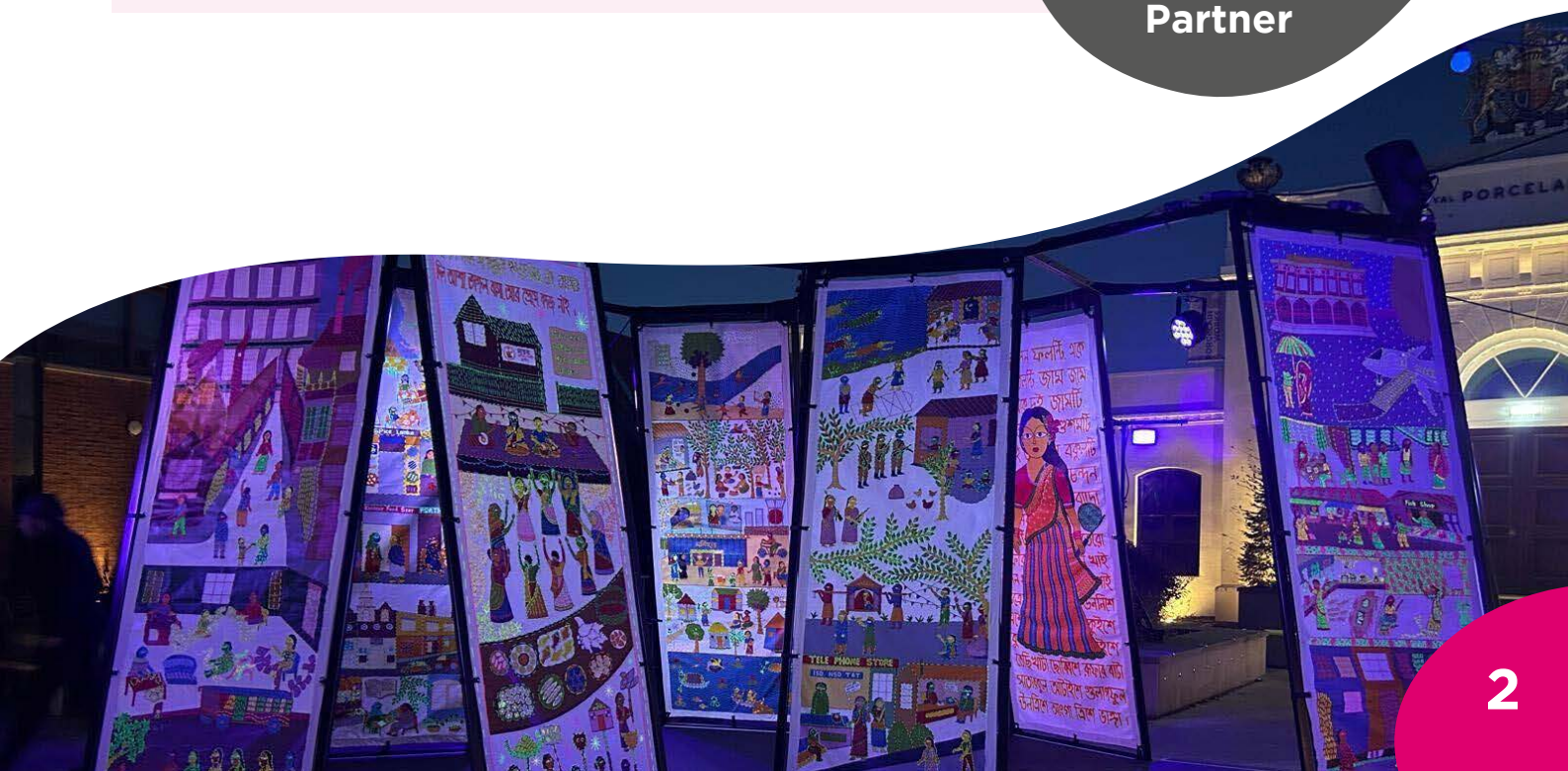
We are looking for an experienced leader to be our Chair of Trustees (or Co-Chairs) to help us deliver our vision and ambitious plans for the future.

Emergency Exit Arts is at the beginning of an exciting new era. We have a new Creative Director & CEO, we have a renewed ambition and a commitment to staying relevant and imaginative in the years ahead, open to new ideas, new ways of working and new possibilities. This is a pivotal moment to shape what comes next.

The new Chair will lead our Board and governance strategy, line manage our Creative Director/CEO and be a passionate advocate for our work.



“There’s an opportunity to be involved, to be part of something – it’s hard to take a community on a journey but EEA can”
External Partner



For the last 45 years EEA has been at the forefront of the UK's outdoor art landscape, creating impactful artworks and events in unexpected places across the UK and Europe.

Founded in 1980, Emergency Exit Arts is a charity and leader in outdoor arts, celebrated for our inventiveness, community focus and commitment to bold participatory creativity. We have been regularly funded by Arts Council England, currently as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) for over 20 years, though most of our income comes from a diverse range of ambitious clients and generous funders.

Our charitable mission drives us to reach people where they are: in streets, neighbourhoods, parks, town squares and unexpected places, whilst creating collective moments of wonder, pride and connection. We have a brilliant and dedicated staff team, a big family of artists, creatives, technicians and practitioners, and a dynamic board - working with, and for communities who often have the least access to the arts, empowering people to be creative, confident and connected through radical, collaborative artistic experiences.

We already reach more than half a million people every year, plus a further 5,000 who attend our workshops, we have a national and international reputation for excellent site specific and touring work, community and cultural celebrations and interactive performances in the public realm.

Our vision:

Enriching people's lives
through creativity

Our mission:

Our mission is to enrich
people's lives and empower
communities to flourish. We
achieve this by producing
dynamic art that sparks awe-
inspiring creativity.



We:

- Enhance places by transforming public spaces with ambitious, surprising creative work
- Enable people to be creative through accessible, inclusive participation
- Astonish audiences with unforgettable, large-scale visual and performance events
- Collaborate deeply with communities, artists and partners
- Champion equity, access and inclusion at every level of our organisation
- Our home at Rothbury Hall, Greenwich, is both a workspace and a creative incubator – full of possibility, making, collaboration and community energy

Where we are now:

A 2025–26 organisational review affirmed that EEA has:

- A powerful legacy of spectacular community-rooted arts
- Strong partnerships across London and the UK
- A passionate and committed staff and freelance team
- A financially stable but challenging funding environment
- A need for clearer vision, collaborative culture and strategic focus

We are ready to:

- Reassert our artistic ambition
- Deepen our work with communities
- Diversify and strengthen our fundraising
- Strengthen our collaborative, creative internal culture
- Develop a new multi-year strategy and vision
- Position EEA confidently as an arts charity with a compelling case for support



OUR BOARD

Our board is currently made up of Mel Wilds (Co-Chair), Martin Lowde (Co-Chair), Sita Thomas, Chloe Osborne, Kellie Blake, Gabi Spiro, Veronica Jones and Roshni Hirani (currently on Maternity Leave). We operate with the following sub-committees: Artistic, Finance and Fundraising, and People and Culture.

Meetings are held quarterly on Zoom, and trustees usually sit on one subcommittee.

This is a *voluntary position* however, travel expenses can be reimbursed and you'll be supported to take part in our artistic events and activities.

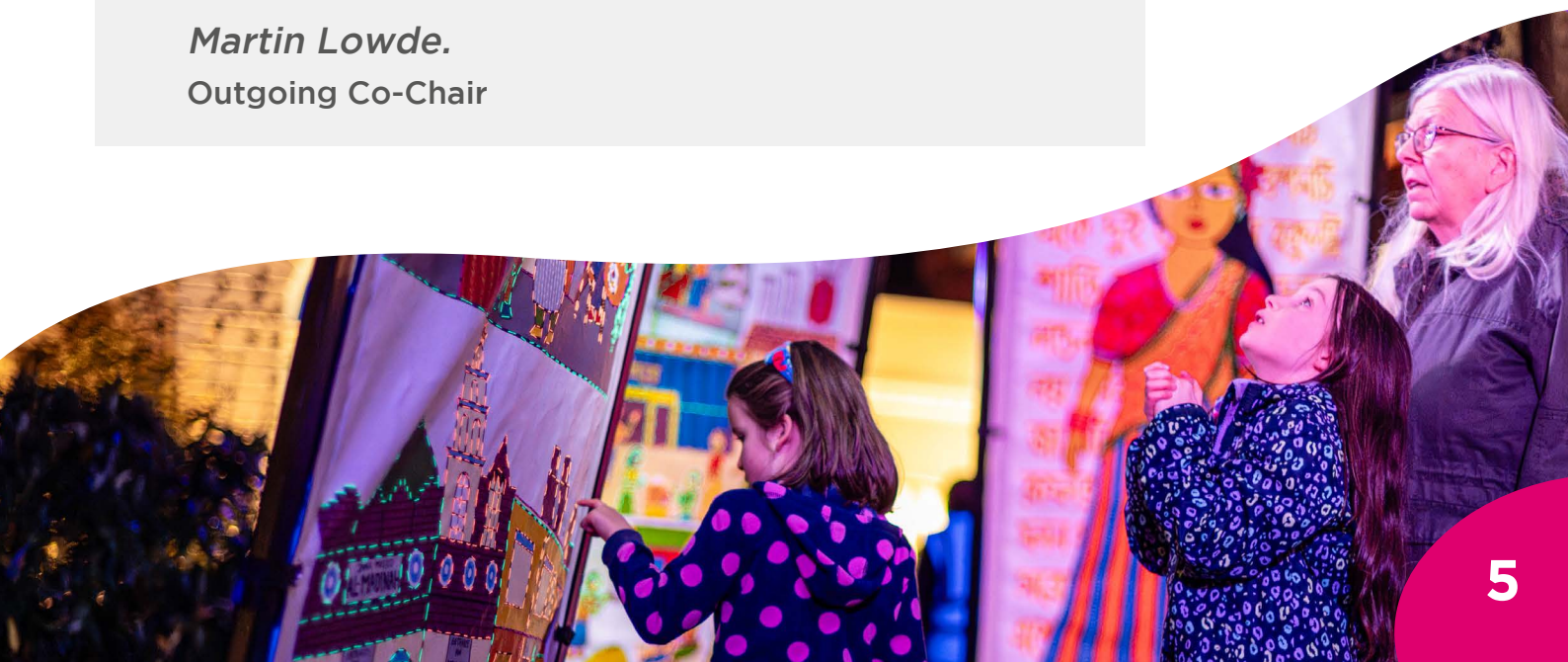
“ It has been an honour to serve as a Trustee on the EEA board for the last five years, and as Co-Chair for the last two.

Over that time, the EEA team has produced incredible work and delivered real social benefit. I've seen first-hand how Art and creative-led events can bring people together from diverse communities, and generate genuine pride in places and spaces.

Now more than ever, taking art out to the people is a vital antidote to social polarisation. This is an exciting time for EEA, and I look forward to seeing what the new Chair will achieve. ”

Martin Lowde.

Outgoing Co-Chair



WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR



We are seeking a strong, values-led leader with a genuine passion for charities and the impact they have on society, as well as an interest in the creative industries, arts, culture or heritage sector. You will be a confident leader and an effective facilitator of people – someone able to both challenge and support EEA with strategic thinking, long-term planning and a commitment to champion our work.

Perhaps you have something new and different to bring to the table – a unique perspective or a background that will encourage us to think in new ways about the way that we work and the work that we make?

At its core, we love working with people who are:

- Passionate about creativity and its power to transform lives
- Ambitious and adventurous, ready to join us as we move into an exciting next phase of our journey
- Collaborative and kind

We want to work in an organisation that represents the world we live in, the people and communities we make art with and the people we co-create with. So we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people who are currently underrepresented on charity boards including women, people from the Global Majority and/or refugees, disabled people and young people aged 18-25.

Ideally, you will have:

- Substantial trustee experience and be ready to step into a chairing role, or have previous experience as a Chair of Trustees, or have worked closely with a board in a senior leadership capacity
- Knowledge of the building blocks of an effective board, good governance practice and trustee responsibilities
- Strong communication skills and the ability to build trust, good relationships and facilitate conversation and people
- The ability to offer constructive challenge with sensitivity and be challenged in return, supporting robust decision-making
- The ability to take an objective, long-term view

CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair (or Co-Chairs) will be responsible for:

Strategic Leadership:

Providing clear, values-led guidance to shape EEA's organisational strategy, offering oversight to the charity's growth and development and monitoring progress against this.

Board Leadership and Governance:

Lead the Board of Trustees, creating an environment in which people can contribute and collaborate effectively, chair quarterly board meetings, uphold positive board culture, ensure decisions are actioned and oversee adherence to the charity's objectives and purpose.

Executive Line Management:

Line managing the CEO through regular check-ins and annual appraisals. Providing support and challenge, and ensuring accountability, personal development and professional guidance.

External Representation:

Act as an ambassador for EEA, represent and advocate for EEA publicly through attending events, building relationships and trust with partners, funders and communities.

Decision-Making:

Nurture thoughtful, collective decision-making, creating space for different perspectives and guiding the board towards choices that are purposeful and grounded in the charity's values.



Creating moments of joy, wonder, curiosity and connection.



TIME COMMITMENT

The successful candidate should be aware of the following time commitments as part of the role:

- Quarterly board meetings (2 hours plus preparatory time per quarter)
- Quarterly subcommittee meetings (2 hours plus preparatory time per quarter)
- CEO Line Management (c.1 hour per month, as mutually agreed)
- Annual appraisals (once a year; prep, meeting and follow up c.1/2 day)
- 1 away day with Board/Staff per year
- Other support, meetings, responding to phone calls and emails - pending mutual availability



HOW TO APPLY



EMERGENCY
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Deadline for applications: 5.00pm on Thursday 10th September.

To apply, please send us your CV and answer the following questions as a statement:

- Why do you want to be the Chair of Trustees for Emergency Exit Arts?
- What specific experience, expertise and qualities do you bring?
- How would you describe your approach to leadership?

Your statement can be submitted in the following formats:

- A written statement (maximum 500 words)
- A video statement (maximum 3 minutes)
- An audio statement (maximum 3 minutes)

All applicants must download and return the equality & diversity form.

We welcome applications from individuals applying as Chair, as well as from those interested in serving as Co-Chairs. If you are applying jointly as a pair of Co-Chairs, please submit a shared statement (one page) and individual CVs.

Get in Touch

For more information or an informal conversation about whether this is the right opportunity for you, please contact info@eea.org.uk and we'll put you in touch with Rachel, our Creative Director/CEO. If you would like to have an informal conversation with one of the Trustees please get in touch, we're happy to arrange this.

Interviews will take place on **24/25 September 2026**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to observe the Board meeting on **7th October 2026, 6.00pm - 7.30pm**

