

Blast Theory Trustee Recruitment Pack

Summary

"Since the mid 1990s, the group [has] followed the trajectory of the development of media, with their acute and in-depth psychological analyses. I would call them the most contemporary media-poets of this age."

- Soh Yeong Roh, head of the Selection Committee for the 2016 Nam June Paik Art Center Award

Blast Theory is an artist group led by Matt Adams, Ju Row Farr and Nick Tandavanitj. Since 1991, we've been making innovative interactive artworks that invite everyone to question their place in society. We work across installation, performance, film, gaming and digital media. Winners of the prestigious 2016 Nam June Paik Art Center Prize (South Korea), we've been nominated for four BAFTAs and have shown work internationally including at the Venice Biennale, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and the Sundance Film Festival. In 2018, we were the first ever Artists in Residence at the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Over the past four years Blast Theory's work has seen tremendous growth in scale of projects, expanded audience reach, company profile and size of team. Blast Theory's largest project to date *2097: We Made Ourselves Over*, was a co-commission by Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and Aarhus European Capital of Culture 2017. We invited the residents of both cities to imagine their world 80 years in the future. The resulting work of collaborative science fiction resulted in five short films, two live immersive events and an app. It reached a physical audience of over 12,000 and a digital audience of over 700,000. Our work continues to be in demand around the world and the company is in a strong position.

Blast Theory is now poised to enter an exciting new phase, one which will result in our most ambitious ever work in 2021. We are already working with new partners, collaborators and funders to enable this to happen. To support this artistic ambition and to greater audience engagement and a larger public profile, Blast Theory is seeking new Trustees.

The current Chair of the Board is Anthony Lilley OBE, who joined in 2017. Anthony is a theatre and media practitioner and theorist with a background in creative, policy and academic spheres. He is a Director of Scenario Two Ltd and a founder of Magic Lantern Productions Ltd. He is a Council Member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, chairing the Creative Industries R&D Clusters Programme and advises the CEO. His work has been recognised internationally including with BAFTA, Peabody and Royal Television Society awards.

The Opportunity

As a Trustee, you will play an important role in supporting the next phase of development for Blast Theory. This will require supporting the Chair and Directors in the strategic positioning of the organisation, ensuring structured growth and advocacy across regional, national and international stakeholders.

We are looking for individuals with a passion for art, culture and technology, and a range of skills and experience. We are actively seeking three new Trustees from the areas of Finance, Marketing / PR and Audience Development.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals from under-represented groups and people under the age of 35.

Person Specifications

We are looking particularly, but not exclusively, for three individuals who have expertise in the following areas:

1. Financial Expertise

- Ability to scrutinise project budgets and accounts and offer guidance
- Understanding of the arts funding landscape
- Knowledge of banking opportunities and international tax implications
- Knowledge of film finances

A core focus for this Trustee is to ensure Blast Theory has clear and accurate financial processes and that the team are accurately monitoring the current financial position.

2. Marketing and PR Expertise

- Experience of public relations, marketing and communications at strategic level
- Excellent networks with which to help advocate for Blast Theory
- Strong insight into communications best practice
- Experience in Journalism, PR or Communications

This Trustee will help build Blast Theory's global profile as a group of interactive artists.

3. Audience Development

- Experience of audience development, finding ways to bring audiences to Blast Theory's work and maintaining their interest
- Experience with engaging audiences that are young, financially marginalised or from a BAME background
- Experience of audience database management
- Knowledge of the education sector

This Trustee will support Blast Theory in reaching our goal of creating work for and with young, diverse audiences, as well as learning about – and developing - our audiences across a range of platforms and countries.

General

Across all three Trustees we are especially interested to hear from those that have experience of:

- Working for a national broadcaster
- Working for youth organisations or youth schemes for cultural organisations
- Starting youth talent development initiatives
- Working as a journalist
- Creating podcasts or radio programmes
- Working as an Accountant or Finance Director
- Working in the arts, digital culture or film sector

Or you may come from a different background and are really passionate about Blast Theory. Even if you consider yourself an unusual fit, we are keen to hear from you.

Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees are the principal decision-making body of Blast Theory. Its members are both Trustees of the limited company and Trustees of the registered charity. The main responsibilities of Trustees are:

- To regularly review Blast Theory's vision, values and long-term strategy, working alongside the Artists and Business Director,
- To approve major policies for their fulfillment and/or implementation;
- To support Blast Theory staff in carrying out these policies;
- To agree budgets and monitor financial activity;
- To exercise overall control of Blast Theory's financial affairs;
- To support the fundraising aims of the organisation;
- To sit on recruitment panels as required;
- To ensure the company is operating within the law and with good practice;
- To have a commitment to the development and implementation of good practice;
- To ensure that Blast Theory complies with regulatory and statutory requirements;
- To act both as Trustees of the registered charity and Board of Trustees of the company limited by guarantee;
- To be prepared, where appropriate, to play their part in serving on sub-committees, working parties or steering groups undertaking work on behalf of the Board.
- To act as a spokesperson and advocate for the organisation where appropriate.

Terms and Conditions of Service

Salary: Voluntary Position.

The Company will reimburse travel and cover childcare costs.

Hours: Four Board Meetings per year, plus an average of two additional meetings every year.

Board Meetings take place quarterly at our studios in Portslade on Monday evenings, 6pm – 8pm.

Application Procedure

Please send a Cover Letter telling us how you meet one of the three Person Specification's outlined above, or why you'd be a great fit otherwise, along with a CV and completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form to Dan Lamont, Company Manager at: dan@blasttheory.co.uk

To download the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, [click here](#)

If you would like an informal confidential discussion about this role prior to apply, please contact Dan Lamont in the first instance and he will arrange for you to speak with one of the Directors.

Key Dates

Applications due: 20th January 2019

Interviews: Early February 2019

First Board meeting: 25th February 2019

BLAST THEORY

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Schedule 1: About Blast Theory

Blast Theory is a pioneering artist group creating interactive art to explore social and political questions, placing audience members at the centre of our work.

Since 1991, we have been using interactive media to create groundbreaking new forms of performance and interactive art that mixes audiences across the internet, live performance and digital broadcasting. Led by artists Matt Adams, Ju Row Farr and Nick Tandavanitj, we create interactive art that puts you at the centre of the work. Drawing on popular culture, technology and games, the work often blurs the boundaries between the real and the fictional.

In virtual and physical spaces from pubs, canals and abandoned warehouses to libraries, museums and apps – we go to unexpected places to make our work accessible to everyone.

Read more about Blast Theory here: www.blasttheory.co.uk/about-us

Our History

Blast Theory has been nominated for a BAFTA award four times and has won the Golden Nica for Interactive Art at Prix Ars Electronica, an International Mobile Games Award, three Lovie Awards and The Hospital's Interactive Art Award among others. In 2016 we were awarded the Nam June Paik Art Center Prize in recognition of the group's exploration of new boundaries in art.

Internationally, Blast Theory's work has been shown at the Tribeca Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis, the Venice Biennale, ICC in Tokyo, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney Biennale, National Museum in Taiwan, Hebbel Theatre in Berlin, Basel Art Fair, Dutch Electronic Arts Festival, Sonar Festival in Barcelona and the Palestine International Video Festival.

Company Information

Registered Company number: 3162239

Registered Charity number: 1053343

The company has been regularly funded by Arts Council England since 1994 and is a National Portfolio Organisation.

Staff Structure

Artists: Matt Adams (Director), Ju Row Farr, Nick Tandavanitj

Business Director Kirsty Jennings

Company Manager Dan Lamont

Production and Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Julia Clark

Technical Lead Michael Kane (part-time, 2 days)

Communications Coordinator Lauren Burrows (part-time, 3 days)

PR Consultant Chloe Barker (freelance)

Project Manager John Hunter (freelance, 2-3 days)

Project Assistant Abby Middleton

Associate Artists: Hannah Brady, Paul Dungworth, Becky Edmunds, Dicky Eton, Sheila Ghelani, John Hunter, Niki Woods

Schedule 2: Trustees

Anthony Lilley (Chair)

Anthony is a theatre and media practitioner and theorist with a background in creative, policy and academic spheres. He is a Director, with John Berry CBE, of Scenario Two Ltd, a new global commercial theatrical production business, a founder of Magic Lantern Productions Ltd, a digital media creative house and consultancy, and Executive Chairman of Myra Ventures. His creative work has been recognised internationally including with BAFTA, Peabody and Royal Television Society awards.

Anthony is a Council Member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council where he chairs the £85M government investment in Creative Industries R&D Clusters and advises the CEO. He has a personal Chair as Professor of Creative Industries at Ulster University and has previously held a Visiting Professorship at the UK Centre of Excellence for Media at Bournemouth University and been Visiting Professor of Broadcast Media at the University of Oxford where he was also a Fellow of Green College. He is currently a trustee of NESTA and the Crafts Council.

He has a life-long passion for the arts and began his professional career in theatre to which he has now returned. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and has also been a Trustee of the English National Opera and Chair of Trustees at Lighthouse.

In 2008, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to media and the creative industries.

Stephanie Fuller

Director of Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft

Stephanie has wide experience in the arts and cultural sectors. Until the end of 2017, Stephanie led Creative People and Places Swale and Medway, an action research programme exploring new, innovative, demand-led models for increasing arts engagement.

Prior to that she held a number of roles at Arts Council England, originally as a visual arts specialist where she devised and delivered the Art Plus programme in partnership with the regional development agency building capacity for artists and organisations to work in the public realm, then moving into management roles with responsibilities including engagement and participation, digital and diversity.

Stephanie has worked extensively in the public realm as a researcher and consultant and is particularly interested in the development of relationships between artists and their audiences and how people acquire skills in the arts. She has an MA in Art History.

Stephanie has taught at University of Brighton, University of Sussex and Kent Institute of Art & Design (now UCA) where she held a research fellowship in arts and health. She has been an advisor to South East Arts, the Crafts Council and is joining the Royal Opera House Bridge advisory panel.

Iris Maor

Media Executive and Consultant

Iris Maor is a senior media executive and consultant specialising in factual content productions for cinema, TV and digital platforms. She has been working in the independent production sector for the past 20 years as a Director of Production, Producer and Executive Producer. She specialises in set up, operational overview and management and growth strategy for creative businesses.

Iris started her career at October Films before establishing Ronachan Films with award winning director Angus Macqueen. Since then she has held Director of Production positions at several companies, including Yipp Films, Minnow Films, the Bureau of

Investigative Journalism, Sundog Pictures and Raydar Media. In addition, She has been advising NGOs on operational issues and media development.

Films she has worked on have won numerous awards and have been shown all over the world, in festivals and on various TV channels. Feature documentaries she has produced were premiered at Sundance and Tribeca festivals.

Iris has been a production consultant for Channel 4 as well as Guest Lecturer in production at Goldsmiths College, Middlesex University and London Metropolitan University.

Laura McDermott

Creative Director of Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts

The space (formerly Gardner Arts Centre) is an interdisciplinary arts hub connecting University of Sussex to Brighton & Hove and the wider national and international arts and research community.

Previously (2009 – 2015) Laura was Joint Artistic Director (with Harun Morrison) of Fierce Festival – an international festival of live art, queer politics and activism in Birmingham. The Fierce Festival programme takes place in formal arts venues (IKON Gallery, Birmingham Town Hall & Symphony Hall, mac, DanceXchange and Birmingham REP) and found sites (car parks, warehouses, Edwardian swimming pools and underneath Spaghetti Junction). The festival brings international artists into dialogue with the context of the city – its history, places and people.

In 2012-13 Laura was awarded a CLORE Fellowship in Arts Participation and Engagement, supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. As part of the Fellowship she completed a secondment at Collide@CERN, an artist residency programme at CERN – the particle physics laboratory, located just outside Geneva in Switzerland. The artist in residence at that time was sound sculptor Bill Fontana.

Laura was a creative producer at BAC (Battersea Arts Centre) in London, from 2005 – 2009, where she programmed seasons, festivals and was lead producer for the Punchdrunk and BAC co-production *The Masque of the Red Death*.

Paul Moore

Director of Future Screens NI and Co-Director of Ulster's Creative Industries Institute (CII)

Professor Moore joined the University of Ulster in 1999 and has since been active in the development of the creative arts/industries policy in the university. He was head of the School of Creative Arts and Technologies from 2008 to 2017 before serving a short period as head of the School of Communication and Media. He is now Director of Future Screens NI, the AHRC funded creative industries cluster for NI, and is a Co-Director of Ulster's Creative Industries Institute (CII). He was awarded a personal chair in 2009 becoming Professor of Creative Technologies at the Magee campus, and was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship in 2014.

His research is focused on both the creative industries and the ways in which theory and practice can be brought together in research, training and education. Most recently he has been involved in various arts data research projects with national bodies such as NESTA in the UK. He has published widely in a range of journals/books and his practice has been exhibited in a number of commissioned gallery exhibitions in London, Coventry, Belfast, Derry, Lough Neagh, and the National Gallery of Namibia.

He was the Ofcom Content Board member for Northern Ireland from 2007 to 2013. From 1995 to 2004 he was also a board member of the Northern Ireland Film and Television Commission and chaired the education committee which developed the seminal Wider Literacy policy document. In his spare time he is a freelance broadcaster with BBC Radio Ulster and has written and presented a range of documentaries for BBC national radio.