axis

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK

January 2026

Photograph: Amy Xu. Image Description: photograph of a neon artwork by Hang Zhang in yellow, pink and blue, featuring a seated cat, amongst found church artefacts. ‘Hangover Square 2025’ (2025),

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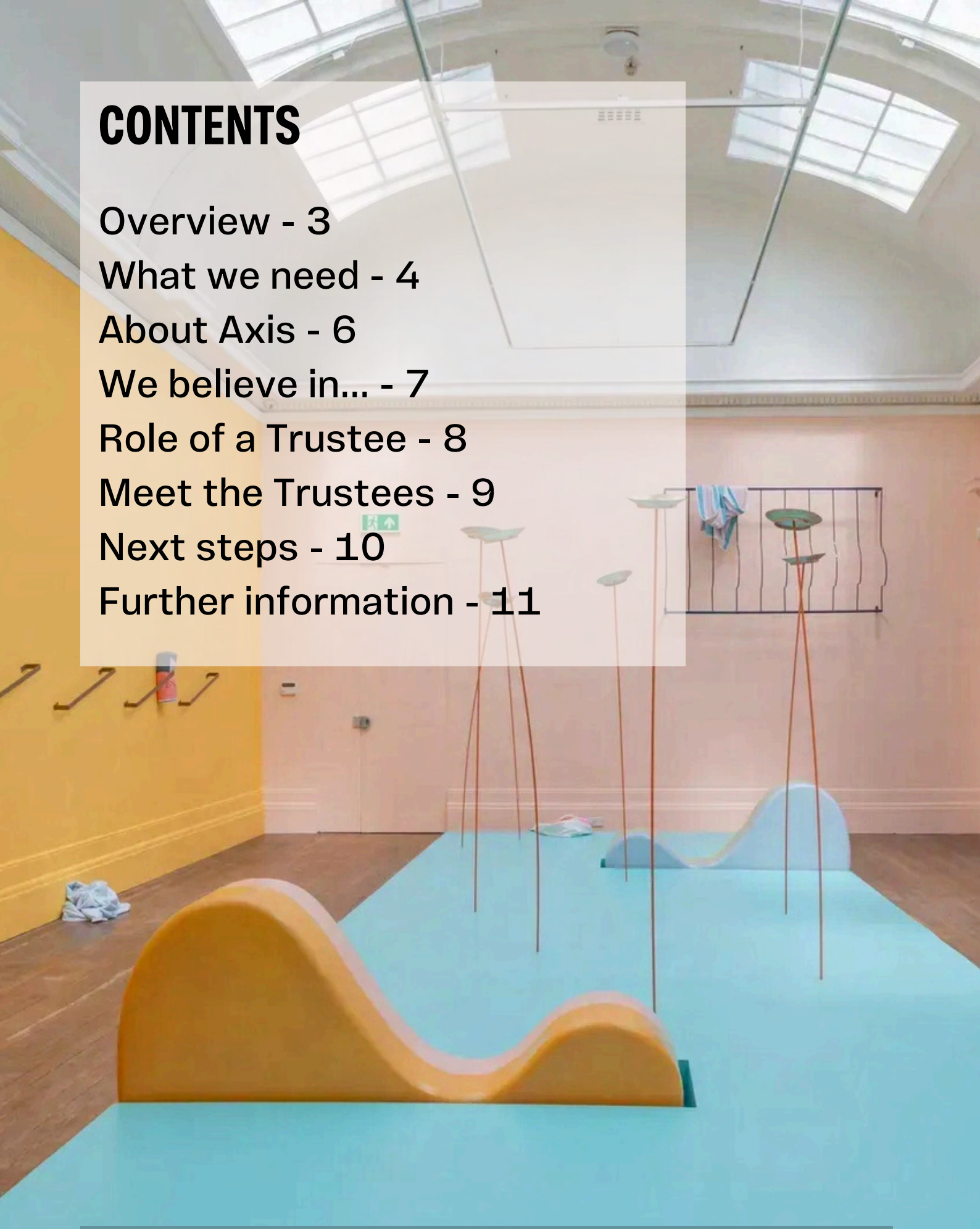

Photograph: Garth Gratrix.
Image Description: Installation, 'Flamboyant Flamingos (Dip in the Pool)' by Axis artist, Garth Gratrix at The Grundy, Blackpool (2024).

OVERVIEW

Axis are looking for new trustees to join our board and support the next stage in our organisational development.

Axis is an independent, innovative and self-sustaining digital platform for visual artists. With robust governance, strong reputation, fantastic partners and healthy financial foundations, we work hard to provide a consistently ambitious and transformative programme and offer a safe, caring space for everyone in the arts sector.

We support practice, grow visibility and foster community through our thriving calendar of events and workshops. We also run grants and bursary schemes, offer 1-to-1 mentoring and provide temporary spaces for artists – helping them to develop, connect and stay resilient.

Will you join us and make the arts a kinder, more collaborative place to be?

Image Description: A colour photograph of attendees at the 2025 Praxis exhibition in Cardiff. Photo: Jules Lister

WHAT WE NEED

We would like to appoint **3 new trustees** in 2026.

You do not need to have previous trustee or board experience. We absolutely welcome new voices and support trustees' professional development too.

Does this sound like you?

- Strategic thinker;
- Collaborative and committed to fostering inclusivity and innovation;
- Enthusiastic about contributing to Axis's mission and adapting to the changing needs of the arts sector?

If you consider yourself a champion of equal access, anti-racism and fair distribution in whatever field you work in, we would like to hear from you.

We strongly encourage applications from candidates who identify as Black, Asian or Global Majority; disabled; LGBTQ+ or in any other way marginalised in the arts and society.

Cat's Cradle, 2024 by Olivia Hicks and Carrie Stanley

Artists are currently well represented on the board and so we are keen to talk to people from other industries and fields. In particular, we seek trustees with experience/skills in the following areas:

LEADERSHIP

Leadership experience in a corporate, public, or non-profit setting.
Experience in organisational governance, risk management, and policy development.

FINANCIAL

Background in business development, earned income strategies, revenue generation and / or fundraising.
Skills in developing sustainable financial models and innovative income streams.

CURATORIAL

Experience in curating, commissioning, and collections management.
Insights from working with public or commercial galleries and connecting diverse audiences to the arts.

COMMUNICATIONS

Expertise in digital strategy, technology adoption, and audience engagement.
Experience in marketing, communications, and campaigns to promote visibility and build public support.

Image Description: A colour photograph of attendees at the 2025 Praxis exhibition in Cardiff. Photo: Jules Lister

ART FOR EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

Image description: a photograph of Axis artist Quilla Constance in 'Teasing Out Contingencies', Tate Modern, 2020

Axis is more than a charity; we're a vanguard for contemporary visual arts in the UK. Founded in 1991, our journey began with a clear vision: using technology to champion the breadth and diversity of contemporary art, making it accessible and engaging for everyone.

As an independent charity, not in receipt of public funding, we are driven by a spirit of resilience and innovation, enabling us to support the arts in ways that are as dynamic and varied as the artists we champion.

WE BELIEVE IN...

CHARITY AND FUNDING INDEPENDENCE

Our status as an independent charity grants us the freedom to innovate and commit resources to projects that truly enrich the artistic community and captivate the public. We operate beyond the influence of public funding bodies, ensuring our projects align closely with our mission and values.

LISTENING TO ARTISTS

At the core of Axis is our unwavering dialogue with artists. This collaborative approach ensures our initiatives and resources meet the actual needs of the contemporary art community, amplifying artists' voices and facilitating their creative and professional growth.

CHAMPIONING CONTEMPORARY ART

Our curated programmes, showcases, talks, events, and campaigns bring the contemporary visual arts to a wide audience. We strive to make contemporary art not just seen but also felt and experienced, encouraging public exploration and engagement.

ARTIST-CENTRED SUPPORT

We offer comprehensive support to artists, providing resources, knowledge, and opportunities essential for both artistic and professional development. Our approach is designed to nurture talent and advocate for artists' visibility and success.

INNOVATIVE SPACES FOR CREATIVITY

Through both the Vacant Space Initiative and our digital platform showcasing UK artists, we create unique spaces for art and artists to thrive. These initiatives offer artists exposure while energising and transforming communities. We are at the forefront of embedding contemporary visual arts into both the public and digital realms.

ROLE OF A TRUSTEE

This is an unpaid role.

We meet four times a year. Meetings last around two hours.

Three meetings are online and one is in person. The in-person meeting usually links to a wider away day. You will need to read papers in advance and take part in decision making.

There will also be some occasional conversations with the Executive Director or Axis staff, plus optional attendance at events. On average, the role works out at around half a day per month.

The role of the Board of Trustees is to:

- Determine policy and establish the overall strategic direction;
- Oversee the delivery by monitoring performance against objectives and targets;
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the charity's affairs;
- Where appropriate, represent Axis externally;
- To use the combined expertise of Trustees to advise and support Axis.

A Trustee should have commitment to its objectives and values, and be willing to champion Axis. They should prepared to work with the Executive Director and Axis staff to facilitate a free exchange of advice.

A Trustee must be prepared to declare and actively manage any matter arising in which the Trustee has an interest which might be perceived to conflict with those of Axis. To this end, Trustees are required to complete and submit a declaration of interests on appointment and thereafter annually.

The law places certain restrictions on becoming a charity Trustee. These are set out in Section 3.1 of the Charity Commission Essential Trustee Guidance.

Trustees are required to understand and embrace the seven principles of public life as defined by the Nolan Committee: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Trustees have the opportunity to join various sub-committees if they can contribute to the group or want to upskill.

Being a Trustee is a voluntary position. However, Axis recognises that financial barriers can prevent some people from taking part in governance. In exceptional circumstances, limited financial support may be offered to ensure that trustees from diverse backgrounds can contribute fully, where it is in the best interests of the charity and compliant with Charity Commission rules.

Image Description: a still from the film 'My Heart is Flying' by Rachel Norwood

MEET THE TRUSTEES

Our current trustees are Diana Ali, JC Candanedo, Edwin Colyer, Fiona Grady, Pam Newall, Radhika Patel and Holly Slingsby.

Fiona Grady - Co-Chair

Fiona Grady is a site-responsive artist known for her dynamic geometric artworks. Her practice centres around architectural interventions in the public realm, exploring how to utilise light and colour to transform their environment.

She has been commissioned by organisations including Canary Wharf Group, ITV, Leeds City Council, and Guy's and St Thomas' Arts NHS Foundation Trust. She has received funding from Arts Council England and the Mark Rothko Memorial Trust. Fiona is an associate lecturer at Leeds Arts University.

JC Candanedo - Co-Chair

JC Candanedo is a queer, Catalan-Panamanian visual artist and photographer based in the UK. His socially engaged practice focuses on displacement, identity, and migration, often using photography, mixed media, and performance to highlight overlooked issues and promote social change.

JC has collaborated on various community-based projects and is passionate about using the visual arts as a tool for positive transformation. He is a Fellow of the Center for Social Impact Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Image Descriptions: A colour photograph of Fiona Grady standing in front of her artwork, ‘Sun-Kissed,' 2023 Photo: Chris Winter, Wembley Park. A black and white photograph of JC Candanedo wearing a tweed coat and set against a soft-focus rural background.

NEXT STEPS

Please read the information on the **Role of the Trustees** and the **Trustees Job Descriptions**. Please email your applications to: lucy@axisweb.org

To apply, please ensure your response covers the following questions and accompanying documentation:

1. Why you want to be a trustee of Axis.
2. What experience / knowledge you can contribute.
3. How this experience / knowledge fits with what you are doing at the moment.
4. A CV
5. A completed **Conflict of Interest Form**, found here.

We will accept your application in the following formats:

- PDF / Word document (approx. 500 words - not including CV)
- 3-5 minute video / audio recording

Following your application we will ask you to voluntarily complete our **Equal Opportunities Questionnaire**. This is separate to your application and will not be seen by the selection panel.

Access

We want to be an inclusive charity. We don't always get things right, but we keep learning and trying our best. If this recruitment process is not inclusive for you, please get in touch and we will find a way that works.

Important dates

- Application deadline: midnight, 29 March 2026
- Interviews: April 2026 via Zoom
- Attend one board meeting as an observer: June 2026
- New trustee role taken up by: Summer 2026

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like an informal discussion about this role please contact Mark Smith, Executive Director by email at mark@axisweb.org

Charity Commission - Charity Governance Code

Charity Commission - Guidance: The Essential Trustee

Image Description: A colour still from 'John Barleycorn Must Die' by Axis member, Matt Rowe —shown as part of the Axis Art Film Festival