

CVAN EM Steering Group Recruitment

Call for Applications

CVAN EM is seeking **new members to join our Steering Group** at an exciting moment of growth, investment and regional development.

Open to Artists and Arts Workers based in the East Midlands

Deadline: Monday 11 May, 10am

Responses: Tuesday 19 May, 5pm

Role: Voluntary, 4 meetings per year & 1 Development Day

Start: October 2026 (handover meeting in July 2026)

We are recruiting:

- **2 Sponsored Artist / Freelance Arts Workers** (*£200 per quarterly meeting + annual development day*)
- **2-3 Organisational Representatives** (*arts workers e.g., curators & producers working in a visual arts context and supported by their employer to attend and contribute*)

Applicant Q&A: Monday 20 April, 2pm (online, via Zoom)

Contact Colette Griffin at colette@cvaneastmidlands.co.uk to book onto the session, or to request an online 15 minute 1-2-1 conversation (subject to capacity).

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Who We Are

CVAN EM is the free-to-access **Contemporary Visual Arts Network** for the East Midlands, encompassing Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland.

Since 2008 CVAN EM has been part of the national [Contemporary Visual Arts Network](#), first established to support Arts Council England's 2006 visual arts strategy. We work alongside 8 other regional Contemporary Visual Arts Networks to amplify voices, debate, and democratic change across the sector. Our strength lies in our network.

CVAN EM's Director is supported by a growing [Steering Group](#), made up of representatives from regional organisations, arts workers and artists working across the East Midlands who act as advisors and advocates. Our Steering Group is dynamic and diverse, passionate about the arts and active within the creative sector in the region. Key responsibilities include:

Please refer to our [Terms of Reference](#) for a full overview of Steering Group responsibilities.

What We Do

We celebrate and support arts and culture in the region, fostering an inclusive long-term future for the sector, emphasising equity and access for all arts workers.

CVAN EM nurtures regional and cross-regional connectivity and engagement through participation, working in partnership with artists, arts workers, and organisations to build sustainable infrastructures and deliver development opportunities.

How We Do It

CVAN EM is hosted by [New Art Exchange](#) (NAE). We operate as a project within the organisation and receive £35,000 per annum via NAE's Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding settlement. Additional activity is made possible via fundraising, partnership working and support from the national CVAN.

NAE is a ground-breaking, award-winning and internationally recognised creative space in the heart of Hyson Green, Nottingham dedicated to promoting excellence in culturally diverse contemporary arts through our exhibitions, events and engagement initiatives.

National Network

CVAN East Midlands is part of the wider [Contemporary Visual Arts Network](#), connecting with regional networks across England to support visual arts nationally.

Why Join Now?

This is a **pivotal moment** for CVAN EM.

Our 2026-27 priorities focus on:

- **Advocacy & Influence:** strengthening the East Midlands' voice nationally
- **Artist & Arts Worker Investment:** creating paid opportunities and partnerships
- **Regional Visibility:** spotlighting East Midlands talent across the UK and internationally
- **Inclusive Infrastructure:** developing a dynamic and representative network

In 2026 – 2027 we are also delivering [Ode to the Midlands](#), an 18-month Arts Council England funded programme supporting mid-career artists through commissions, partnerships, and digital innovation.

What Does the Steering Group Do?

Steering Group members:

- Advise and support CVAN EM's Director on **strategy and priorities**
- Act as **advocates** for CVAN EM regionally and nationally
- Contribute to **sector insight, debate and development** drawing on their unique skills, knowledge, lived experience and geographical perspective and understanding.
- Attend **4 meetings per year (January, April, July, October)**
- Take part in **working groups and an annual development day**

CVAN EM is neither a charity nor limited company, which means there are no personal liabilities associated with Steering Group. Membership

This is an unwaged role, with sponsored members only receiving a nominal fee of £200 per meetings.

All Steering Group members are reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when attending in-person meetings.

What You'll Gain

- Professional development and leadership experience
 - Peer learning and networking across the region and nationally
 - Opportunity to shape the future of the region's visual arts sector
 - Annual externally facilitated development session
-

Who We're Looking For

All applicants must be:

- Based in and passionate about the **East Midlands** (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland).
- **Over the age of 18** and not currently studying at undergraduate level.
- **artists, freelancers, or arts workers** (including curatorial, production, technical, engagement or learning roles)

We welcome applications from individuals who:

- Are committed to **equity, access and inclusion**
- Bring **strategic thinking, lived experience and/or creative insight**
- Are motivated to **actively contribute and collaborate**

For full details on responsibilities, please refer to our [Terms of Reference](#).

Access & Inclusion

CVAN EM is committed to accessibility and inclusion.

- We welcome and encourage Access Riders
- Meetings are a mix of online, hybrid and in-person
- Information will be shared in advance for all activity

If you have any questions or access needs, please get in touch at colette@cvaneastmidlands.co.uk

How to Apply

Please submit:

- Name, organisation (if relevant), email address, postal address
- A short statement (max 500 words or alternative format) outlining:
 - Your practice/role
 - Why you're interested
 - What you would bring to the Steering Group
- Supporting materials: a CV and/or portfolio or website link (this can be a link to your organisation's website)
- If you are applying for a sponsored role (freelance), or organisational role supported by your employer

Alternative formats (audio/video) are welcome.

Send to: Colette Griffin at colette@cvaneastmidlands.co.uk with the subject line [CVAN EM Steering Group Recruitment] by **Monday 11 May 2026, 10am.**

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by Colette Griffin, Director of CVAN EM and two current Steering Group members. Applicants will be processed using a numerical scoring methodology, considering applicant responses shared in the short statement against the **'who we are looking for'** criteria outlined in this pack. Shortlisted applicants will then be discussed, taking into consideration supporting materials.

Application Form

Applicant Details	
Name:	Address:
Organisation (if relevant):	
Email:	
Website:	Postcode:

Application	
A short statement (max 500 words or alternative format) outlining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your practice/role Why you're interested What you would bring to the Steering Group 	
Role Applying for (please highlight the relevant response):	
Sponsored Role (freelance)	Organisational Role (supported by your employer)

Key Term Glossary

Global Majority: CVAN EM define “Global Majority” as a collective term that refers to people who are Black, Asian, Brown, dual heritage, Indigenous to the global South, and/or people who have been racialised as ethnic minorities.

Visual Arts: CVAN EM considers the visual arts to focus on contemporary artistic practice and include fine arts, crafts, photography, moving image, live art and performance, socially engaged art, new media and digital art, and any crossover with design, architecture or other creative disciplines.