**Terms of Reference**

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| **Name** | Contemporary Visual Arts Network East Midlands (CVAN EM) |
| **Vision** | CVAN EM wishes to contribute to a flourishing visual arts habitat in the East Midlands, where artists, organisations and audiences prosper. |
| **Remit** | CVAN EM is a regional sector support organisation made up of and working for and with artists and venue-based and independent visual arts practitioners, organisations, collectives and projects, in all corners of the region. The region encompasses Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland.  CVAN EM considers the visual arts to span a spectrum of art forms, including fine and applied arts, crafts, fine art photography and artist moving image, live art and performance, where they derive from a from a visual arts sensibility, new media and digital art, where they manifest in a visual form, and crosses over with design and architecture – and to cross boundaries with other social practices and creative disciplines.  We also work with the museums and other sectors where they work with contemporary artists and art practices, and/or have contemporary collections. |
| **Mission & aims** | Our mission is to celebrate, strengthen and advance contemporary visual arts practice and the visual arts ecology in the East Midlands. We do this through activity designed to act as a catalyst for artistic, professional and organisational development, engaging and connecting those working within the visual arts in the East Midlands to each other and the sector beyond the region.  We aim to:   * safeguard the future of visual artists and create opportunities for artists, organisations and audiences for the visual arts in the region to prosper; * fostering equality of opportunity for artists across the region to participate in and benefit from a professional visual arts environment, and; * raise awareness of the wealth and breadth of visual arts practice in the East Midlands, and the value it adds to the region’s cultural life. |
| **Objectives** | Our objectives are to:   * contribute to the sustainability of the visual arts workforce in the East Midlands, increasing skills, confidence, opportunities and visibility; * support participation of regional visual artists in a professional visual arts sector; * support the region’s visual artists throughout their careers, from new graduates to established practitioners; * increase regional assets in the form of new artworks, resources and exhibitions; * help nurture visual arts audiences in the region and increase their demand for regional contemporary art practice. |
| **Audiences & participants** | CVAN EM’s primary audience is professionals who (and those aspiring to) work in and with the visual arts, based in the East Midlands, including:   * artists and artists groups * organisations, institutions and curators (independent and venue-based) * educational and research-based institutions * commissioners, commercial galleries, collectors and agents * agencies with a remit for professional development and audience engagement   We will reach out to a similar audience outside the region and will seek to engage with a non-specialist audience through joint programming with publicly-facing partners |
| **Values** | We will exemplify the following values and encourage our partners to be:   * accessible and transparent * innovative, enabling and agile * ambitious and rigorous * principled and fair |
| **Governance** | CVAN EM is hosted by Leicester Print Workshop, which provides it with a secretariat, and overseen by a voluntary Steering Group, made up of regionally-based individuals working within institutions and independently. |