

## Application Pack

### Background Information:

Peckham Platform is a cultural organisation with a civic duty. Our vision is of a more connected society and we are dedicated to creating positive change through meaningful social art. We deliver projects where local communities and artists work together at each stage to provide a programme that is uniquely responsive and relevant to place. Since 2010, we have fostered new collaborations between our local communities and prominent social artists; to co-produce bold new artworks that create open platforms for civic enquiry.

In 2021, we will launch our new venue on Peckham Square, working in partnership with London Borough of Southwark. Our new home will be at the heart of an ambitious new vision for Peckham Platform. With five times our previous footprint and new facilities; our space will be a welcoming centre for creative civic engagement and community participation. With new gallery spaces, learning facilities, and a dedicated Social Art Resource we will expand our activities, doubling our audiences, the number of participation opportunities we offer, and increasing our ability to create transformational artistic opportunities for communities facing the greatest need in Peckham and beyond.

We operate in Peckham, with 71% BAME local residents and over 40% young people - one of the highest ratios in the country. Peckham is changing rapidly, with a borough-led strategy for regeneration providing significant investment in the area in recent years and new businesses and communities moving to Peckham. Within this, a cultural scene is burgeoning, with outstanding cultural spaces and innovative creative industries emerging.

Inequality is growing, existing communities are being displaced and marginalised, and the benefit of new investment is often being felt only by a narrow cross-section of residents. Lower overall deprivation masks the continuing challenges facing Peckham, which is historically one of the most deprived areas in the country; 84% of the population live in the most deprived quintile nationally; 34% of children live in low income households; unemployment is at 15%; and it is ranked in the 12% highest crime spots in England. The situation has become critical in the context of sweeping cuts to public services decimating Peckham's support structures.



This inequality of access and opportunity is becoming even more apparent in Peckham at this time of rapid development. Operating within this complex landscape of urban change, Peckham Platform is committed to addressing social inequalities, promoting cultural democracy, and initiating long-term relationships with the arts across communities of need. Young people are at the heart of this process, as collaborators and audiences. Through our learning programmes, we use creative practice to explore alternative pedagogies that place young people at the centre of their educational development providing opportunity for their personal progression.

Peckham Platform Trustees are integral to delivering our vision of creating a more connected society promoting cultural democracy as a force for good.

The social value of art is receiving increased attention as we face a national crisis that spans socially, economically and culturally. Cultural organisations are experimenting with delivering more socially relevant work and look to Peckham Platform as a model of best practice. Our new venue is essential to helping us to expand our work to meet the needs of our community and the sector.

### **Artistic Programme**

Our artistic programme strives to be both relevant and useful to artists and the communities with whom we work. We are committed to community-led co-commissioning and creating a genuinely collaborative process.

For each commission, we focus our work on engaging communities that are at risk of being marginalised in the cultural mainstream, empowering groups to explore the issues that arise with them. In the past, this has supported the voice of women's youth services, disability, mental health, and substance abuse recovery groups. We maintain a joint decision-making process with communities right through to the exhibition, installation or event.

Our new home will provide a larger, redeveloped gallery that welcomes these communities and more to a permanent and resilient home for our ground-breaking work, building on 10 years at the forefront of social art.

Our current programme includes a three-year project funded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn and Big Lottery titled Creative Civic Change. An inter-generational, cross-cultural project capturing our community's response to a rapidly changing Peckham.



Peckham's public spaces will be reclaimed by residents as welcoming areas to come together; reinvigorated through performances, exhibitions, artistic interventions, and more. Our locality's vibrancy will be celebrated, recognising the diversity of experiences and histories that contribute to Peckham's unique identity, equally.

Our work with young people includes Arts Awards and Youth Platform, our creative in-house initiative that develops agency in young people facing multiple factors of disadvantage in Peckham. Funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Sir John Cass, in the last 2 years, we have nurtured an effective model of progressive participation, from often first out of school arts engagement, to becoming creative leaders with the skills and confidence to pursue pathways in the creative sectors. This work will be central to our organisational growth moving forwards.

*"Peckham Platform has proven itself to be a shining beacon in bringing together artists' practices and community interest to embed contemporary art in a great unfolding programme of productive dialogues in London"* Sonia Boyce, MBE, Artist.

## **Company Information**

Peckham Platform is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Its annual turnover is projected to be circa £300,000 over the next four years with over 20% of its budget allocated to artistic programme. A National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England (receiving £75k pa), the organisation relies on fundraising and commercial income generation to deliver its creative and business plans.

Peckham Platform has a core staff of 3 with a further 3 working on project funded contracts, equating to a team of four as a full time equivalent. We are committed to creating a diverse work force, offering flexibility within employment contracts, widening access to careers in the arts for volunteers, interns, apprentices and placements, and ensuring all staff have personal development plans to enable them to progress their career.

The Board of Trustees consists of eleven members who oversee the Charity and support the organisation in many ways. Trustees each bring unique skills to the organisation and contribute to the success of Peckham Platform.

## **Role Description**

**Role Title:** Financial Strategy Trustee

**Salary:** Voluntary position

**Accountable to:** Chair of Board of Trustees

**Location:** Quay House, 2c King's Grove, Peckham, London SE15 2NB

**Areas of expertise:** Development and Business Strategy with in-depth knowledge and experience in financial management

### **Scope of Role:**

We are seeking to grow and diversify our skills set on our Board of Trustees at a time of significant change. As a new Peckham Platform Trustee, you will have the opportunity to make a real impact on the organisation as we move into our new building in 2021.

We are particularly interested in people who have the following specialist development, business and finance skills to broaden the diversity of our board and support us as we grow as an organisation.

- You are able to provide support and advice on strategic business planning, short and long-term financial forecasting and rigorous financial controls
- You are a financial expert willing to provide guidance and direction on financial management
- You have an understanding of Charity SORP, and will lead the Board's duty to ensure proper accounting records are kept, financial resources are controlled and invested in line with governance, legal and regulatory requirements
- Experience in managing capital fundraising, trusts and foundations, donor and patron schemes

## **Skills, Knowledge and Experience**

- A keen interest, knowledge and awareness of the work of Peckham Platform
- Ability to objectively evaluate, analyse and scrutinise information relating to the charity
- Ability to build positive relationships and networks over time to engage different communities, audiences and stakeholders with the work of Peckham Platform
- Perceptive communications skills, ensuring everyone involved with Peckham Platform participates
- Ability to work co-operatively and collaboratively with other Trustees and staff
- An understanding of - or willingness to learn about the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- An understanding of - or willingness to learn about governance policies and procedures
- An understanding of our local communities and of the social, economic and political challenges facing Peckham and Southwark
- Knowledge of equal opportunities
- Ability to undertake a DBS check for safeguarding purposes

Previous trustee experience is not essential, we are keen to support applicants from a variety of diverse backgrounds to develop their skills and to proactively support and mentor new trustees.

We are unable to take applications from individuals who fall into the categories described in sections 178 to 180 of the Charities Act 2011. This includes:

- Anyone who has an unspent conviction for an offence involving deception or dishonesty;
- Anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt;
- Anyone who has been removed from trusteeship of a charity by the Court or the commission for misconduct or mismanagement;
- Anyone under a disqualification order under the Company Directors

Disqualification Act 1986;

- Anyone who has entered into a composition or arrangement with their creditors which includes an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA), and is currently on the Insolvency Service Register.

### **Time commitment and remuneration**

The Trusteeship is an unpaid role however all reasonable expenses incurred by Trustees will be reimbursed so that no individual is out of pocket as a result of their involvement with the charity. This includes reasonable cost of travelling to and from trustee meetings, cost of childcare while attending trustee meetings and to facilitate reasonable adjustments for a trustee with a disability.

We do ask for a commitment to attend around 8-12 days a year to the business of the charity, including board meetings, committees and training. All trustees are encouraged to sit on or Chair a sub-committee relevant to their area of expertise. Trustees serve a maximum of two three-year terms from the date of appointment. After this time trustees step down for a minimum of one year before being eligible to stand for re-election.

### **How to apply**

To apply to become a member of the Board of Trustees for Peckham Platform, please forward a comprehensive up-to-date CV together with a supporting statement explaining how your skills and experience match the requirements of the role to: [recruitment@peckhamplatform.com](mailto:recruitment@peckhamplatform.com)

Applications can also be posted to:  
Peckham Platform, Quay House, 2C Kings Grove, London SE15 2NB.

### **Deadline: 5pm on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Please also provide the names, positions, organisations and telephone contact numbers of two referees. References will only be taken once your express permission has been granted.

You are also invited to complete and return the enclosed diversity monitoring form. The information on the form will be treated as confidential, and used for statistical purposes. The form will not be treated as part of the application.