



Come and join us to help shape Culture Forum North and its future.

Culture Forum North seeks to strengthen the diversity, skills and experience of its Steering Group.

Since its creation in 2016 this open network of partnerships between Higher Education and the cultural sector across the North, has brought together a wealth of knowledge and experience, both in its partners' individual areas of expertise and in the group's collective understanding about the value, and potential impact of partnership working.

Over the next 12 months, we aim to take CFN to the next level; to consolidate activities, develop a sustainable business model, and put it on a firm footing for the future.

With over 70 organisational partners, 600 members and recognition across sector bodies regionally and nationally, we are well placed to lead a national conversation on the potential of cultural and higher/further education partnership, and the development collective strategies that respond to the challenges we face post-Covid.

We are looking for 3 new members to join the Steering Group and play a vital role in supporting the network to develop and deliver its vision, mission and activities.

Role: Culture Forum North Steering Group Member

Fee: Voluntary and unpaid. Expenses to attend Steering Group meetings will be considered

Term: Four years. Current students and those who have graduated within the past two years, may request a one-year term if preferred.

For queries and to discuss the role contact Francesca at cultureforumnorth@leeds.ac.uk

For further information and how to apply, see below

What is Culture Forum North?

Culture Forum North is an open network of partnerships between Higher Education and the cultural sector across the North.

Through this dynamic platform, innovative programmes are developed and shared, achieving impact beyond individual partnerships, making a meaningful difference to our society regionally and nationally.

Our Vision...

A compelling voice for the value of cultural partnerships.

Our Mission...

To create a unique space for knowledge exchange and conversations that advance cultural partnership working and enable our members to achieve more together – locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Our activity

Our programme includes themed symposia, opportunities to share best practice, hosted discussions and the dissemination of case studies, provocations and partner activity relevant to cultural and HE/FE partnership.

Our plans in 2021

Over the next 12 months, we aim to take CFN to the next level; to consolidate activities, develop a sustainable business model, and put the network on a firm footing for the future.

The tectonic shift in our sectors since March 2020 is reshaping our priorities and resources. We understand the pressing need to re-evaluate the potential and value of higher education and cultural partnerships.

In response, Culture Forum North is ‘Creating a new Vision for higher education and cultural sector partnership’ with Arts Council England and the South East Cultural Innovation Forum and Midlands Higher Education and Cultural Forum.

Through a three-stage programme of research, discussion and evaluation, our goal is to develop a vision, a framework and recommendations for how the HE and cultural sectors can work in concert as we rebuild after the pandemic.

During this time, we also want to broaden the remit of our steering group, to ensure that is representative of our membership base.



The Role of the Steering Group

The Steering Group plays a vital role in supporting the Forum during a pivotal stage in its development. The role includes:

1. Providing a transparent and robust governance structure
2. Overseeing strategic direction:
 - a) Ensuring CFN has a relevant and compelling vision and mission that clearly conveys the purpose of CFN to champion, critically review, support and enable cultural partnerships;
 - b) Contributing to the development and review of the business model and making suggestions and decisions to maximise the financial security and resilience of the Forum;
 - c) Reviewing CFNs financial, communication and programme plans to ensure these deliver value for money; inspire strong sector engagement; are well managed; meet funding objectives and are aligned with the CFN vision and mission;
 - d) Contributing to the development and review of CFN strategies and ensuring they are fit for purpose and aligned to the CFN vision and mission;
 - e) Reviewing risks, issues and opportunities and making recommendations and decisions to mitigate risks and issues and evaluate opportunities;
3. Advocating for and raising the profile of CFN regionally, nationally, and internationally and encouraging new members to join.
4. To commit to regular Steering Group attendance (typically 4 meetings per annum) and to actively engage in Steering Group away days and development opportunities. Meetings will take place online or rotate geographically to accommodate the geographical spread of Steering Group members.

Being on the Steering Group is a voluntary role, however we will consider covering expenses to travel to meetings. During the pandemic meetings will be taking place virtually.

Terms

Steering Group members are recruited into their role for a period of four years. The chair or co-chairs of the Steering Group is recruited from existing Steering Group members and I remain in post for a period of 2 years.

We estimate the time commitment to be about three hours per month. The Steering Group meets four–six times per year. Between meetings there may be occasional correspondence and discussion.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for three additional members to join the Steering Group. We are particularly seeking applications from those who may fit one of more of the following criteria:

- Those whose characteristics are underrepresented in the cultural and higher education sectors, including race, gender, disability, culture, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.
- Those who work in Further/Higher Education.
- Those who work in the cultural sector in organisations not core funded by the Arts Council.
- Those based in rural areas/North East.
- Those who are currently studying at University or are recent Graduates.
- Those who have not previously been a board member or a trustee.
- Those who have a strong affiliation and association with culture and higher/further education in the North of England

How to Apply

Further Information

If you are interested but would welcome a conversation in advance of submitting an application, please contact Francesca Russo, CFN Coordinator at cultureforumnorth@leeds.ac.uk

Application Process

We want to make applying as straightforward as possible, so please answer the following questions on one side of A4 max. You can also submit your application by voice or video recording or another format that meets your access needs. Please make sure your video lasts no longer than 5 minutes.

- Tell us about yourself and your background.
- What experience, knowledge and skills do you think you could bring to Culture Forum North or what do you hope to learn?

- Why do you want to be on the Steering Group and what excites you about this opportunity?

Selected applicants will be invited to have a conversation with the [CFN Project Team](#) and if together we think you're a good fit, we'll invite you to the next Steering Group Meeting.

Deadline: 19th July at 12pm. Applications will be considered the following week. This is a rolling recruitment process therefore there will be numerous points across the year in which we will open for applications.

