



Contemporary
Visual Arts
Network

‘Where Visual Arts meet Policy Change’

London Contemporary Visual Arts Network C.I.C. (CVAN London) is a free-to-access research-led, sector support and advocacy network for artists, arts workers, art galleries, arts organisations, studios and art schools.

CVAN London is a publicly funded, independent network, regularly working in community settings and often in residence with members across the city. All London boroughs are represented in our membership. Our programme and priorities are shaped by our members for our members.

We deliver peer-to-peer networking events, professional development training, knowledge exchange and artist-centred research. An annual London Visual Arts Review is co-created by member organisations and informs our advocacy and research-led programme of Equality, Education, Sustainability and Data Matters. This is delivered through the Anti-racist and Equitable Visual Arts (AREVA) programme, Climate Adaptation Action Planning and Creative Learning Hub. We engage multidisciplinary research to develop ways to sustainably care for our people, places, & environment and evidence the value of the arts, not only by economics but in relational terms.

Our members, staff and Steering Group reflect London’s plural communities: we believe art is good for us, for society, and we are interested in what art can do with others.

Working Nationally

CVAN London is the newest, born-digital network of nine regions comprising [Contemporary Visual Arts Network \(CVAN\)](#). We work collectively on a shared mission to realise a stronger, more fair, equitable and resilient visual arts ecology.

CVAN is part of the visual arts alliance, a collective of visual arts networks from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Contemporary Visual Arts Network London Steering Group

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Terms of Reference

Purpose

The CVAN London Steering Group provides strategic oversight and guidance to ensure the network's activities reflect its values, priorities, and the lived experience of its members. It plays a central role in steering CVAN London's work across advocacy, sector development, and policy influence.

The Steering Group supports the network's commitment to:

- Equity, care and structural change
- Long-term artist-led infrastructure
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Fair conditions and sustainable practices
- Representation in cultural policy debates

It does so by guiding delivery of the following 2025-7 priorities:

- Championing the Right to Stay: Secure, affordable, long-term space for artists and organisations in London.
- Advocating for Fair and Equitable Conditions: Improve the working lives of artists and cultural workers, particularly freelancers and those with complex needs.
- Building New Models for Collective Change: Support mutual aid, shared infrastructure, and new forms of collaboration.
- Advancing Artist-led R&D as Cultural Infrastructure: Position artists as leaders in social innovation and research.
- Ensuring Representation in Policy and Creative Industries Debates: Assert a confident voice for London's visual arts sector within local and national policy.

Terms of Membership

Members will:



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- Serve for three years, with this term to be renewable every three years by mutual agreement. Following the creation of the Community Interest Company in 2025, the first term of membership will be staged to manage potential risk of the loss of institutional knowledge.
- Represent the diversity of London's visual arts ecology across organisation type, practice, geography, and protected characteristics.
- Commit to the principles of anti-racism, care and equity, as developed through the AREVA programme and CVAN London's collective work.
- Attend four meetings annually, actively participate in discussion and contribute to papers, reviews and decisions. Join additional meetings and participate in task groups.
- Support the network's advocacy and communication efforts externally.
- Engage with one or more of the 2025 priorities, contributing insight and accountability.
- Support the growth of the CVAN membership and work to actively encourage others to join.

New members may express interest to the Chair and will be appointed in consultation with existing members to ensure balanced representation.

Special Advisors may be invited to provide expert knowledge to the Steering Group and paid a nominal stipend for their contribution.

Steering Group Chair Responsibilities

The Chair (or Co-Chairs) will:

- Set the agenda with the Director and circulate materials at least five working days ahead of meetings and include Declarations of Interest and Risk Register.
- Guide meetings, encouraging broad participation and clear decision-making. Follow up with members who miss multiple meetings and manage transitions where necessary.
- Ensure the group reflects the evolving priorities and needs of the sector.
- Ensure the Co-Chair or a delegated member presides over meetings in the Chair's absence.

General

Governance and Decision Making Process



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- Decisions will be made by majority vote where consensus is not reached.
- Members may nominate proxies with prior notice, though proxies cannot vote or participate in discussions.

Frequency of Meetings

- The Steering Group will meet three times a year.

Meetings and Administration

- The group will meet at least four times annually.
- Members will receive an agenda, minutes, director's report, decision papers, and relevant updates at least five working days before each meeting.
- Administrative support will be provided to manage logistics and communication between meetings.

Working Principles

The Steering Group commits to:

1. **Collective Accountability:** Uphold CVAN London's values and priorities, ensuring they shape all decision-making, manage risk and provide financial oversight.
2. **Equity and Accessibility:** Recognise and respond to barriers faced by underrepresented groups in the sector.
3. **Solidarity and Collaboration:** Promote peer-led learning, mutual support, and sector-wide cooperation.
4. **Transparency:** Foster open, respectful dialogue and clear communication within the group and with the wider network.

Statement on Race and Equity

CVAN London acknowledges the systemic nature of racism and inequity in the arts. The Steering Group will actively support CVAN London's work through the AREVA framework, promoting policies and practices that centre care, justice and structural change.