Could you be a volunteer BFMAF Board Member?

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (BFMAF) is looking for new Trustees, and a new Chair, to join our board. Could this be you?

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (BFMAF) is looking for new Trustees, including a new Chair, to join our board. Could this be you?
BFMAF is a charity founded in 2005 in Berwick-upon-Tweed, on the border of England and Scotland. We show new cinema and artists' moving image (arthouse, documentary, genre, archival and artists' film) from the UK, Ireland and across the world. Our programming is pluralist and independent, and we work collaboratively to develop artists, audiences, filmmakers and programmers. Filmmakers and audiences travel to Berwick for the annual festival, and between festivals our year-round public programme at The Burr of Berwick, our home in the historic centre of Berwick, continues that work.

This is a great time to join our board, with 2027 being a development year for BFMAF. Rather than staging our usual annual festival, 2027 will be a time for research, fundraising and building the organisation, as well as planning our next full festival in 2028. With our main venue, The Maltings, being rebuilt, we will primarily focus on our year-round programme in The Burr, as well as applying to Arts Council England's National Portfolio for 2028 to 2033. With such broad and exciting work to think through, we'd like to do it with new board members to join our existing ones around the table.

Who do we want to meet?
If you're interested we'd love to hear from you, particularly if you're someone we wouldn't normally ask. We hope to meet people who make, programme, write about or show films and artists' moving image; people who understand charity finance or fundraising; and people who live or work in Berwick-upon-Tweed and Northumberland. We especially welcome global majority candidates, Disabled and neurodivergent people and people from low-income backgrounds, who are under-represented on our Board and whose experience matters to what we're planning. You don't need to have sat on a board before, there will be an induction and ongoing training, as well as seasoned board members to guide you through.

The commitment is around a day a month for a term of three years in the first instance. This will include: four Board meetings a year (three online including an AGM and one in Berwick), and potentially an occasional smaller sub-committee meeting. The role is unpaid, but we do pay expenses and offer access support.

Laura Simpson, our Chair, is coming to the end of her term, so we're also looking for someone to take on that role. The Chair gives more time and leads and speaks for the Board. Beyond the

duties every Chair has, we'll shape the role with the person who takes it, and we're open to a Co-Chair or Vice Chair arrangement.

If you'd like to be considered for the board role, please email your CV and expression of interest – written, audio or video – to info@bfmaf.org and we'll set up a conversation for you with one of our Directors or a Trustee. We're talking to people until the end of the year and will read notes of interest together in mid-January.

BFMAF is a Disabled-led organisation. If you have access needs, or anything would make applying easier, tell us.

About Us

The UK's Festival for New Cinema & Artists' Moving Image
Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (BFMAF) is the UK's foremost festival for new cinema and artists' moving image. BFMAF also presents a diverse programme of screenings, events, workshops, and exhibitions year round.

Motivations
BFMAF presents adventurous and risk taking cinema from around the world. It creates a platform that seeks to empower people and provide a generous place for the exploration of ideas and new perspectives.

"A work in progress", leading through collaboration, BFMAF has a resolute commitment to the mutual development of the artists, audiences, filmmakers, and programmers that make our work possible.

BFMAF enacts pluralist ideas of contemporary cinema, its history, and its curation, and continually works towards testing the boundaries of what a festival can be.

We programme from a broad range of short, medium, and feature-length films encompassing arthouse, documentary, genre cinema, artists' moving image, sound or live, archival film, installation-based or performative works of cinema.

The Festival is based in England's most northerly town, Berwick-upon-Tweed. In the setting of rural north Northumberland, on the border with Scotland, BFMAF is continually inspired by its borderlands, river, and coastal location.

Support for Artists
Internationally, BFMAF is recognised as a platform for the best artists' moving image and new cinema – particularly for underrepresented filmmakers, places, and communities.

In the UK & Ireland, we support the careers of artists, filmmakers, programmers, and critics. Locally, we are valued as an unique cultural asset in the North of England, with international reach, and as an active part of the community and calendar of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

BFMAF strives to understand and work towards optimal exhibition conditions for artists and filmmakers' work within the resources and contexts it has available. In evaluating this, the accessibility of audiences and communities that it is involved with – locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally – are of utmost consideration.

Equal Opportunity

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival is a Disabled-led organisation committed to developing positive policies and working practices which promote Equal Opportunities and prohibit unlawful or unfair discrimination.

In recognition of these aims, we particularly encourage applications from people from the Global Majority (global majority refers to people who are Black, Asian, Brown, dual-heritage, indigenous to the global south, and/or have been referred to as 'ethnic minorities'); Disabled people; and others who have experienced barriers or discrimination at work.

According to provisions in the Equality Act 2010 we will implement a 'tie-break' provision at interview stage if two or more candidates are equally qualified for the role and one has protected characteristics that are under-represented within our organisation. Where possible we will recruit the candidate with the under-represented protected characteristic(s).

Access Support

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival is Disabled-led and welcomes Access Riders from candidates. We are keen to support reasonable adjustments requested during application and recruitment processes e.g. submitting an audio or video recording as equivalent to a written application, or asking for extra time at the application or interview stage.

If you have any access needs, or barriers to access that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to let us know either before applying or as part of your application. Contact: people@bfmaf.org

Our Board of Trustees

Board Members, also known as Trustees, collectively have overall control of a charity and are responsible for making sure it's doing what it was set up to do.

The Board leads the charity and decides how it is run to ensure we make a positive impact on the communities we serve.

Board Members use their skills and experience to support their charities, helping them achieve their aims. Board Members also often learn new skills during their time on the board.

Joining the Board of Trustees is a voluntary commitment.

For more information on what being a Board Member entails, please take a look at The Charity Commission Guidelines.

You can find out more about our current Board Members here.