

# Role Description, Responsibilities & Application Pack for Co-Chair of New Art West Midlands (NAWM)

## Key Information

**Role:** Co-Chair, New Art West Midlands (NAWM)

**Reports to:** NAWM Steering Group

**Fee & Expenses:** Voluntary role, £300 per quarter, plus travel expenses

**Location:** Quarterly meetings are hybrid

## Key Dates

**Deadline:** Monday 3 March, 11pm

**Responses:** Friday 14 March, 5pm

**Interviews:** Friday 21 March, online or in-person

**Start date:** April/May

## Opportunity Overview

**New Art West Midlands (NAWM) is seeking a new Co-Chair who will work side by side with fellow Co-Chair Heather Peak and support Director Colette Griffin. NAWM's Co-Chairs will shape, develop and advocate for this vital network as we enter an exciting new phase of growth and delivery following a four-year hibernation period.**

NAWM's Co-Chairs will support the recruitment of a new Steering Group in early 2025. The group will be made up of representatives from regional organisations, artists and artist workers from across the breadth of the West Midlands. Steering Group members act as advisors and advocates who use their knowledges, experience, and skills to inform and champion NAWM's work. Our Steering Group will be passionate about the visual arts and active within the region's creative sector.

## About NAWM

Established in 2010, New Art West Midlands is the free-to-access Contemporary Visual Arts Networks for the West Midlands region which includes Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands & Worcestershire.

NAWM celebrates and supports visual arts in the West Midlands, fostering an inclusive future for the sector, emphasising equity and access for all arts workers. NAWM's nurtures regional and cross-regional connectivity and engagement through participation, working in partnership with artists, arts workers, and organisations to build sustainable infrastructures and deliver development opportunities.

Until 2020 NAWM was hosted by a consortium of six Higher Education Institutions in the West Midlands, supporting the Network to focus to create distinctive programmes for artists and arts

professionals at all levels, providing career-defining opportunities to develop practice. Central to NAWM's work during this period was the NAWM graduate exhibition programme which benefited 200+ artists and reached an audience of 500,000+ who engaged with work by local graduates across regional venues. Other activity included curator in residence, bursary, and research opportunities.

NAWM joined host organisation [DASH](#) in 2023 and is part of a vibrant, [national network](#) (CVAN England) leading a collective agenda for policy change across the visual arts.

## About DASH

NAWM is hosted by [DASH](#), operating as a project within the organisation and receiving £35,000 per annum via DASH's Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation settlement. DASH is a Disabled-led, visual arts charity with a vision for a world where Disability Art is equally valued. The organisation's mission is to affect sector change, to remove barriers to access, establishing Disability Arts practice as part of the mainstream. Across core activities, DASH tackles systemic inequalities to create space for extraordinary artists to make work and be heard. Talent development is at the core of what DASH does, supporting Disabled, D/deaf and Neurodivergent creatives.

## About Heather Peak

Heather joined the team at DASH in mid-2023 as Artistic Director/ CEO and is based rurally in the West Midlands and has developed an extensive network locally, nationally and internationally.

As an artist with an international profile, Heather is best known for her work as one half of artist duo Heather Peak and Ivan Morison. Heather will continue to pursue a personal artistic practice alongside her work leading and developing DASH, putting an active and leading creative voice at the heart of the organisation.

Heather Peak is an artist who has established an ambitious collaborative practice over the past twenty years, which draws together visual art, architecture and social practice.

Heather has exhibited widely across UK, Europe, Australasia, North and South America and Asia. Her work has been commissioned by Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wysing Arts Centre, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Tate Modern, National Theatre of Wales, The Hepworth Wakefield and London's Southbank Centre among many other. She also represented Wales at the 52nd Venice Biennial.

Heather works collaboratively with Ivan Morison and together the pair have taught, mentored and supported many artists, architects, students and communities over the past 20 years.

## About Colette Griffin

Colette is the newly appointed Director NAWM. She has three years' experience working with CVAN as Director of [Contemporary Visual Arts Network East Midlands \(CVAN EM\)](#), hosted by New Art Exchange, a role she now carries out alongside her work with NAWM.

Colette was Artist Development Curator at [Primary](#) (2020-2024), an artist-led contemporary visual arts organisation in Nottingham and a director of [New Midland Group](#), delivering the NMG Development Programme (2020-22), an 18-month Arts Council England funded project looking to provide routes into contemporary art.

Previously, Colette was Curator at [Mansions of the Future](#) (2018-2020), an arts and cultural hub in Lincoln adopting an approach which privileged social, site-specific, and collaborative ways of working. Other experience includes working with Nottingham City Museums and Galleries, and Ikon Gallery, Birmingham.

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## Role Description & Responsibilities

The role of NAWM Co-Chair is voluntary. The Co-Chair will receive a nominal fee of £300 per quarter, to primarily support attendance at Steering Group and Chairs meetings. NAWM will reimburse the Co-Chair's travel expenses associated with NAWM activity.

NAWM is neither a charity nor limited company, hence there are no personal liabilities associated with the role of Co-Chair or membership of our Steering Group.

### Purpose of the role

- **Vision & Strategic Goals:** Collaborate with NAWM's Co-Chair and Director to define and execute the Network's mission, priorities and measurable objectives.
- **Governance:** Lead the Steering Group in fulfilling governance duties, ensuring transparency, accountability, and the sustainability of NAWM.
- **Advocacy & Representation:** Advocate for the visual arts sector within the region and at the national level with CVAN England and beyond.
- **Support & Facilitation:** Maintain effective relationships with stakeholders, including Arts Council England, while ensuring mutual respect and care across all NAWM relationships.

### Main Duties

The list below summarises the role's duties for NAWM's Co-Chairs. Duties can be split depending on capacity, skillset and experience. Some may be delegated to Steering Group members.

- **Strategic & Financial Oversight**
  - Lead NAWM in setting a long-term vision and sustainable financial objectives.
  - Actively seek development and funding opportunities to bolster NAWM's financial situation and sustainability.
- **Representation & Advocacy**
  - Represent NAWM at sector events within the West Midlands and nationally, promoting the Network's activities, resources and values.
- **Governance & Compliance**
  - Oversee and support policies, procedures, and organisational governance.
  - Serve as a liaison between the Director, Steering Group, and host organisation.
- **Mentorship & Recruitment**
  - Recruit a dynamic, diverse and passionate Steering Group reflective of the regional arts community and geography.
  - Support, mentor and champion new Steering Group members.
- **Operational Support**
  - Attend and chair quarterly Steering Group meetings. Meetings are hybrid.

- Attend quarterly Chair's meetings hosted by CVAN England. Meetings are online.
- Serve as a counter-signatory for banking, reporting and invoicing where required.
- Evaluate the Director's performance and support them in their role.
- **Collaboration with DASH**
  - Align NAWM's activities with DASH's vision for a society in which Disability Art is core and equally valued in the visual arts sector.

### **Personal specification**

- **Complementary Skills:** Ability to work collaboratively with Co-Chair Heather Peak, complementing her skills, knowledge and expertise.
- **Enthusiasm for Sector Growth:** A significant interest in supporting NAWM's successful growth and enduring relevance within the sector.
- **Investment in the region:** A deep investment in and passion for the region's vital and vibrant visual arts ecology.

### **Applicant Information**

- Applicants are invited to contact Co-Chair Heather Peak on [heather@dasharts.org](mailto:heather@dasharts.org) to arrange a call or Zoom meeting to discuss the opportunity in further detail.
- Applicants must be an artist or arts worker living and / or professionally based in the West Midlands region.
- We encourage applications from Disabled, D/Deaf, Neurodivergent, Global Majority, working-class and under-class artists and arts workers, or those facing intersecting cultural or social barriers.
- We are open to different means of application / application submission, e.g., in the body of an email, presented as a recorded video or audio description.

### **Selection Process:**

- The application review panel and interview panel will comprise Heather Peak (DASH Artistic Director/CEO & NAWM Co-Chair), Colette Griffin (NAWM Director) and Peter Bonnell (DASH Executive Director).
- Interviews will be held on Friday 21 March and can take place online or in-person lasting 45 minutes max. In-person interviews will be held at [Ikon Gallery](#).
- Applicants asked to interview will have their travel costs covered by NAWM.
- Interview questions will be shared one week in advance.
- All applicants will receive feedback on request.

### **How to Apply:**

- Please submit a CV of two pages max. in any format. Include email and postal address.
- Please submit a statement of no more than 500 words or 2 minutes for audio / video explaining:
  - Why you are applying to become Co-Chair of NAWM.
  - How do you meet the person specification?
  - Which West Midlands Artists interest you and why?
- Please submit a completed [equal opportunity monitoring form](#).
- The email subject line should read: NAWM Co-Chair\_ [Your Name].

- Submit your application to [info@dasharts.org](mailto:info@dasharts.org) by Monday 3 March, 11pm.

If you have any questions or would like this information in a different format, please contact NAWM's Director, Colette Griffin at [colette@dasharts.org](mailto:colette@dasharts.org).