

Yorkshire Contemporary

JOBS

Curator

Full-time
(35 hours per week)
Fixed Term
Salary
£35,000 — £38,000

Application pack

Thank you for your interest in the post of Curator at Yorkshire Contemporary. In this application pack you will find details of how to apply, job description, person specification and background information on Yorkshire Contemporary.



Introduction

An extraordinary opportunity has arisen for an experienced Curator to join the Yorkshire Contemporary team and work on key partnership projects in 2025, including co-curating the Turner Prize, working in partnership with Bradford 2025, Tate and Bradford District Museums & Galleries.

Yorkshire Contemporary is the new public face of Project Space Leeds (charity no. 1148716, England and Wales), previously known as The Tetley.

Ten years running a contemporary art gallery in the iconic Tetley building, on Leeds's South Bank, have built a tremendous track record and national reputation for inclusive public engagement, coupled with transformational support for visual artists.

Yorkshire Contemporary works across West Yorkshire, taking on a regional advisory and developmental role for visual arts and championing embedding participation within critical artistic practice.

In 2025, this post will deliver key partnership projects in Bradford during its year as the UK City of Culture. Working closely with the four nominated artists and in partnership with Bradford 2025, Tate and Bradford District Museums & Galleries, Yorkshire Contemporary will co-curate the Turner Prize, the UK's most prestigious art prize, at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery. Alongside this, Yorkshire Contemporary will connect artists working in the region directly to this high-profile event.



We are looking for a curator with considerable exhibitions experience, who has a demonstrable track record working directly with artists on varied projects at a high level. The Curator will have excellent knowledge and understanding of contemporary visual art in the UK. The Curator will need to use their skill and experience of working with artists and as a highly effective project manager, to deliver these high-profile projects with multiple partners.

The Curator will be based between Yorkshire Contemporary's Leeds office and Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford and will be a key part of the Yorkshire Contemporary team, reporting to the Head of Programme & Engagement and supported by the Assistant Curator. We are open to flexible working around any prior commitments or personal circumstances, but the period between May and September 2025 will require full-time working in Bradford. There is a possibility to extend this post beyond March 2026, dependant on funding.

Yorkshire Contemporary is committed to ensuring an equitable working environment. We actively seek a broad membership of staff and trustees to reflect a multitude of experiences and backgrounds. We strongly encourage applications from people who identify as D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent, come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and/or people of the Global Majority.



How to apply

To apply for the post please send a CV of no more than 3 sides of A4 and a statement of no more than 3 sides of A4 outlining how your experience relates to the job description and how you meet the person specification.

Please also complete the [Equal Opportunities](#) form here.

Applications should be clearly marked Curator, including a statement that you have completed the Equal Opportunities form, and sent via email to recruitment@yorkshirecontemporary.org by 9am on Monday 25 November.

Interviews will be held in person in Leeds city centre on Tuesday 10 December.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role please contact Bryony Bond, Director, Yorkshire Contemporary at: bryony.bond@yorkshirecontemporary.org



Job description

Job title: Curator

Contract: Fixed term until March 2026, with possibility to extend

Salary: £35,000 – £38,000

Responsible to: Head of Programme & Engagement

Purpose of role

Deliver key partnership projects in Bradford during its year as the UK City of Culture. To work in partnership with Bradford 2025, Tate and Bradford District Museums & Galleries, to co-curate the Turner Prize 2025 at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery. Work in partnership to connect artists working in the region directly to this high-profile event.



Key responsibilities:

Programme delivery

- Co-curate Turner Prize 2025, working closely with Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford District Museums & Galleries; Bradford 2025 and Tate, take the lead with the nominated artists to deliver the highest quality exhibitions, interpretation, engagement and event programme, and contribute to overall project planning.
- Lead an artist development programme for artists based in Bradford connecting to Turner Prize, supported by the Assistant Curator.
- Work with the Director and Head of Programme & Engagement to contribute to the planning and development of Yorkshire Contemporary's future programme.
- Ensure that inclusivity and relevance is at the centre of all programmes, interpretation and events.

Administrative

- Maintain effective administrative systems to support delivery of the programme.
- Maintain records relating to all projects, producing reports as required for internal and external use.

Communication

- Give talks to specialist visiting groups and participate in public events relating to the programme as required.
- Support the marketing teams with copy for use in press releases, text panels, publicity and promotional print and website material.

- Edit publications relating to the programme.
- Attend private views and other functions, liaising with colleagues and partner organisations to ensure their smooth running.
- Communicate the partnership programme internally and with partner teams.

Research and networks

- Represent Yorkshire Contemporary at external meetings and events, raising its profile through effective networking with relevant organisations.
- Develop and maintain networks and knowledge of visual arts sector in Yorkshire and nationally, including visiting exhibitions and meeting artists.

Finance and fundraising

- Monitor the delegated budgets in liaison with the Finance Manager controlling expenditure, keeping financial records, producing regular reports and feeding into budget planning.
- Contribute to fundraising applications.

General

- Champion equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the role.
- Ensure that all policies and procedures, such as health and safety, equal opportunities and safeguarding are adhered to.
- Evening and weekend work will be required, for which time off in lieu will be given.
- Participate in staff team activities and training.
- Undertake any other duties commensurate with the post as may be required.

Person specification:

Essential

- In-depth knowledge and understanding of British and international contemporary visual art.
- Track record of programming and curating major exhibitions and projects working with contemporary artists at a high level.
- A creative, versatile and dynamic mind set.
- Self-motivated and collaborative, with the proven ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- The ability to coach and manage a team of staff with experience of managing assistants, technicians and volunteers.
- Excellent research, writing and oral communication skills.
- Commitment to equity and diversity.
- Experience of evaluation and reporting for funders and stakeholders.
- Strong budget management skills.
- Rigorous attention to detail.
- Ability to work flexibly and under pressure to tight deadlines.

Desirable

- Knowledge of audiences and arts landscape in Bradford and Yorkshire.
- Experience of working with a local authority museum and/or historic building.
- Fundraising experience in public funding, trusts and/or sponsorship.
- Experience of supporting talent development in the arts.
- Experience of working in an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

About Yorkshire Contemporary

Project Space Leeds (PSL) was founded by artist-curators Pippa Hale, Kerry Harker and Diane Howse in 2006. Established to provide a platform for artists emerging in Leeds, PSL ran a gallery space for five years in Whitehall Waterfront, Leeds.

Project Space Leeds moved to the Tetley building in 2013, rebranding as The Tetley. Originally built in the 1930s as the administrative offices for the brewery, the Tetley building was transformed to house unique gallery spaces, a learning studio, an artist residency studio, offices for creative businesses, a bar and restaurant and flexible event spaces. Bryony Bond joined the organisation in 2016.

Over the 10 years as The Tetley the gallery attracted over one million visitors, with an unusually young profile for a visual arts audience, half of whom were under the age of 35.

We supported over 500 artists with commissions, exhibitions, employment, mentoring and showcasing opportunities – helping to launch successful national and international careers. Our exhibitions focussed on solo exhibitions, often giving artists their first major solo presentation and bringing their work to national attention. Exhibitions included international artists such as Madiha Ajaz, Afra Eisma, Justin Fitzpatrick and Bubu Ogisi, and UK-based artists such as Saelia Aparicio, Emii Alrai, Simeon Barclay, Emily Hesse, Samra Mayanja and Tai Shani, with Shani's exhibition the only Turner Prize winning exhibition ever to be commissioned by a Yorkshire gallery.



International partnerships with organisations in India, Pakistan and Europe, enabled projects like Antibodies, a performance residency in Goa, India that brought together artists from South Asia and the UK to develop a weekend of performance in the 17th Century Portuguese prison annex to the Aguada Fort, Candolim.

Public art projects have included a commission for Matthew Houdling to create the *The Sun Shines Every Day Forever*, a sculpture designed for play and a mural commission in Tower Works, Leeds by Zoë Power referencing the women in the industrial heritage of the South Bank.

Our acclaimed participation programme has had a particular focus in South Leeds, an area facing multiple challenges, where we have reached children and young families who are often excluded from opportunities to create and enjoy the arts. As an ambassador for the city wide programme Child Friendly Leeds, we have partnered on the annual Baby week, attracting 2,000 babies and their adults in 2023. In 2022, we launched the Tiny Tetley studio, an under-fives play space designed by artist Stephanie Jefferies that resulted in coverage in national newspapers and subsequent commissions for Jefferies at Tate and Dulwich Picture Gallery.



Present & Future

In 2024, we rebranded as Yorkshire Contemporary, reflecting the broadening of our remit to work across West Yorkshire and beyond. We are taking on a regional developmental role – to support artists across the region to reach their full potential and reaching communities directly in their neighbourhoods through projects that bring audiences and artists together.

Our core mission is to:

- Create exciting opportunities for people to see visual art for free. We present ambitious, free exhibitions across Leeds, Yorkshire and beyond; and commission compelling public art, permanent and temporary.
- Support children and adults to be creative. An immediate focus is collaborating with communities and artists to provide new art and play opportunities for children.
- Provide a platform for early career artists and nurture their practices. We continue to work internationally to foster links between artists and audiences across the globe.

Today, Yorkshire Contemporary employs a core team of five – Director, Head of Programme & Engagement, Finance Manager, Assistant Curator, and Marketing & Development Coordinator – drawing on a skilled freelance team (artists, creative facilitators, fundraiser) to develop and deliver our programmes. We are in the process of appointing an additional Assistant Curator. The charity also benefits from the skills, experience and dedication of a Board of ten trustees, who contribute expertise in business, finance, environmental sustainability, education and community engagement as well as visual arts and culture.

At the beginning of 2024 we launched Inside Out, a three-year National Lottery Community Fund supported project working to transform opportunities for art and play for children and families in Beeston, South Leeds. We regularly participate in summer outdoor events, such as Beeston Festival and have developed strong relationships with local primary schools. We deliver a regular artist-led session for under-fives in partnership with Hamara Healthy Living Centre, summer holiday activities in Cross Flatts Park and are working with Roland Road Working Men's Club to transform a derelict piece of land into a green play area. This project is informed by the Play Sufficiency framework and we are working with researchers and consultants, Ludicology to embed this in our evaluative practices.

Earlier this year, we relocated our popular under-fives play space by Stephanie Jefferies, to a new permanent home at Leeds Central Library, maintaining a free resource for families in the city centre.

In 2025, we will bring Benaiah Matheson's work from representing Grenada at the Venice Biennale to exhibit in Huddersfield and will partner with Bradford 2025, Tate and Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford to co-curate the Turner Prize 2025.

Plans are currently in development to take on a temporary space in Leeds city centre, which will provide a project space for exhibitions, alongside creative workspaces. Options for a future permanent venue are live, with the trustees recently designating £120,000 of reserves towards realising this.

We reach a wide audience through social media and press – in 2023/24 our media coverage reached 35million people and had a value of £1.23million, and have over 40,000 digital subscribers to our channels.

Yorkshire Contemporary, has been a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England since 2018 and receives core funding from Leeds City Council, through its Cultural Investment Programme – Thrive. The Inside Out project is a three year project running until the end of 2026 and is supported by National Lottery Community Fund. Yorkshire Contemporary raises additional funding towards its year-round programmes from a range of sources including trusts and foundations, with current grants from Liz & Terry Bramhall Foundation, Foyle Foundation and Leeds Civic Trust, and corporate and cultural partners.

Project Space Leeds Board

- Taneesha Ahmed
- Helen Brook
- Michelle Duxbury
- Frank Finlay (Chair)
- Steven Foster
- Arthur Lovitt
- Sarah Netherwood
- Liyen Nhuyen
- Griselda Pollock
- David Warren

PSL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DIRECTOR

**FINANCE
MANAGER**

**HEAD OF PROGRAMME
& ENGAGEMENT**

FUNDRAISER (FREELANCE)

CURATOR

ASSISTANT CURATOR

ASSISTANT CURATOR

**MARKETING &
DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR**

