

# Yorkshire Contemporary

## JOBS

## Director

**Full-time**  
**(35 hours per week)**  
**Permanent**  
**Salary**  
**£45,000 — £50,000**

### Application pack

Thank you for your interest in the post of Director 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

Yorkshire Contemporary is looking to appoint an exceptional Director to lead the organisation into its next chapter. After successfully leading the organisation for the past eight years our current Director, Bryony Bond, is moving on to new challenges.

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.

The organisation is in a strong financial position, with ongoing funding from Arts Council England (as a National Portfolio Organisation), Leeds City Council and National Lottery Community Fund. It has key strategic partnerships in place across West Yorkshire and beyond, working in partnership with Bradford 2025, Tate and Bradford District Museums & Galleries, it will curate the Turner Prize 2025 at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery. It also has options for future venues in development and excellent relationships with artists and local communities.



The Director will have the opportunity to work with the board of trustees to shape and deliver a new vision for Yorkshire Contemporary, defining the trajectory of the organisation's future and establishing a new venue. We are looking for an individual with the energy, experience and commitment to drive forward Yorkshire Contemporary's development as a transformative regional visual arts organisation.

The Director is responsible for the overall artistic vision and leads on the financial and operational management of Yorkshire Contemporary. The role requires a passion for contemporary art and community engagement, coupled with a practical and pragmatic approach.

This is an exceptional opportunity for the right candidate to bring bold new plans to an important visual arts organisation nationally and transform opportunities for artists and audiences in West Yorkshire.

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 Director, including a statement that you have completed the Equal Opportunities form, and sent via email to [recruitment@yorkshirecontemporary.org](mailto:recruitment@yorkshirecontemporary.org) by 9am on Tuesday 26 November.

Interviews will be held in person in Leeds city centre on Wednesday 11 December

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



# Job description

**Job Title: Director**

**Contract: Permanent**

**Salary: £45,000 – £50,000**

**Responsible to: Project Space Leeds Board via the Chair**

**Line Manager of: Head of Programme & Engagement, Finance Manager**

## **Purpose of role**

Working closely with the Board and the staff team to provide overall artistic and strategic direction and leadership for the organisation and to ensure the effective management of Yorkshire Contemporary, its operations, activities and finances.

## **Key responsibilities:**

### **Artistic and strategic leadership**

- Lead the development of strategy to set the direction and build the reputation of the organisation. With the support of the Ambition & Quality Champion on the board of trustees, ensure that we are setting bold ambitions and measuring the impact of our work. This will include identifying and appraising options for a new permanent home for Yorkshire Contemporary.
- Work with the Head of Programme & Engagement to develop and deliver the artistic and engagement programme, ensuring that agreed artistic outputs and outcomes are achieved.
- Devise a programme that is inclusive and relevant, which connects deeply to audiences and supports artists who are inclusive of and represent the communities we serve.

### **Partnership management and development**

- Maintain and build upon Yorkshire Contemporary's relationship with key stakeholders and partners, such as Arts Council England, Leeds City Council, Bradford 2025, National Lottery Community Fund and others.

### **Fundraising and financial oversight**

- Oversee global and project budgets and fundraising targets, working with the Finance Manager to maintain the financial health and long-term financial sustainability of the charity.
- Identify and secure funding for Yorkshire Contemporary's programme and activities from a variety of public and private sector sources.
- Ensure that the Activity Plan and Investment Principles Action Plan is updated and conditions set out by Arts Council England for National Portfolio Organisations are met.
- Ensure accurate and timely reporting to all funding bodies and partners, complying fully with their requirements.

## **Team leadership and management**

- Lead, manage and support the Yorkshire Contemporary team ensuring compliance with best HR practice including one to one meetings, annual appraisals and encouraging continuous professional development.
- Develop and maintain the organisational culture which encourages all staff to work collaboratively and to the best of their abilities, including leading staff training and meetings.
- Develop effective strategies and policies to develop and maintain Yorkshire Contemporary's artistic and operational excellence, including adherence to health and safety and equality policies.
- Take the lead for championing equity and diversity, with the support of the Inclusivity and Relevance Champion on the board of trustees, to ensure an equitable, inclusive and diverse working environment.

## **Marketing, advocacy and communications**

- Represent Yorkshire Contemporary in the media and other appropriate arenas.
- Be an active advocate and ambassador for the organisation, city and region.
- Actively contribute to the arts and wider cultural leadership network in Leeds, Yorkshire and nationally.

## **Governance**

- Report fully and accurately to Yorkshire Contemporary's Board and committees on all key issues affecting the organisation.
- Ensure the organisation maintains an up-to-date risk register and portfolio of governance policies, which are reviewed regularly and are compliant with current legislation.

## **General**

- Work with the Environmental Champion on the board of trustees to develop and deliver against our environmental action plan across operations, programme and marketing.
- Carry out all reasonable duties as deemed appropriate by the Chair.
- Take a positive approach to problem solving.
- Be willing to work evenings and weekends as needed.

## Person specification:

### Essential

- The ability to formulate, articulate and inspire others with your strategic and artistic vision for the organisation.
- Excellent current knowledge of artistic practice and key developments in the field of contemporary visual art within the UK and internationally.
- The ability to speak effectively on behalf of the organisation at a range of public events and with the media.
- Direct experience of artistic leadership with a proven track-record of successful programming.
- The ability to lead, motivate and inspire a team of staff. You will have experience of managing staff on a day-to-day level including recruitment, line management, managing staff performance and appraisals.
- Enhance and maintain relationships with key external stakeholders and partners including; Arts Council England, Leeds City Council, Bradford 2025, as well as with the communities and the wider publics Yorkshire Contemporary serves, including outreach activities.
- Experience of working in creative and practical collaboration with artists, arts organisations and partners to deliver a wide-ranging programme of activities.
- Commitment to developing and actively promoting and implementing equity and diversity in all aspects of Yorkshire Contemporary's operations internally and externally.

- Excellent networking and communication skills. Able to communicate with people at all levels verbally and in writing using negotiating and influencing skills effectively and appropriately.
- A broad range of fundraising experience in public funding, trusts and/or sponsorship with a proven track record of securing and managing bids.
- The ability to write reports for a wide range of audiences, including funders and board of trustees.
- The ability to create and supervise budgets, understand cashflows and forecasting.

### Desirable

- Knowledge of the arts and funding landscape in Leeds and Yorkshire.
- Senior Management experience in a visual arts organisation.
- Experience of working with a Chair and board and a good understanding of the requirements of running a registered charity.
- Experience of working in an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.
- Capital development and fundraising experience.
- Experience of working with children and young people.

# 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 Houlding 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 a Curator (fixed term until March 2025, with the possibility of extension) to deliver our partnership programmes in Bradford, including the Turner Prize 2025, and 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 work in partnership with Bradford 2025, Bradford District Museums & Galleries and Bradford Producing Hub on programmes in Bradford during its year as UK City of Culture, including 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

