

# STANLEY ARTS

12, South Norwood Hill, London SE25 6AB  
Discover more, visit [www.stanleyarts.org](http://www.stanleyarts.org)



## CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES

Recruitment Information Pack

# STANLEY ARTS

Chair of the Trustees  
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**Welcome and thank you for your interest in Stanley Arts and the role of Chair of Trustees.**



## About Us

Stanley Arts is a registered charity (Registered Charity: 1155680) housed in a Grade II-listed Edwardian building gifted to the community by inventor and philanthropist William F. Stanley in 1903. Since 2015, the building has been managed by a community-led charity established to revitalise the Stanley Halls as a thriving arts venue, honouring Stanley's original vision while reinterpreting it for the 21st century.

We are dedicated to celebrating creativity and cultural heritage through a radically inclusive programme of professional performances, artist development and community engagement. We are proud to be the home of contemporary culture within a heritage building, serving our local community and contributing to the cultural life of South Norwood and Croydon.

## Our Vision

Stanley Arts aims to be one of South London's premiere arts and performance venues, providing our local community with a vital home for cultural expression and discovery. As a radically inclusive space, we seek to welcome all audiences, with a particular focus on communities that have previously been excluded from creative spaces. We foreground under-represented voices, providing artists of colour and LGBTQ+ creatives with a platform to reach out to audiences across South London and beyond.

Our vision is underpinned by three pillars, reimagined from William Stanley's original mission of justice, liberty and science into:

- Radical inclusion
- Creative and cultural heritage
- Climate and sustainability

With a particular eye on the future, we embrace opportunities to create and share work in the areas of creative health and wellbeing, environmental responsibility and creative technologies.



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## Values

Our three core values are:

- Representation – reflecting the communities we are based in
- Partnership – working with and truly hearing the communities we serve
- Democracy – embedding agency at every level possible

In summary – we care, we learn, we are ambitious

## Our Programme

Stanley Arts is proud to present a year-round, high-quality artistic programme including our own in-house productions. We continue to grow a community focused engagement programme rooted in our Croydon home. Alongside this we deliver a bespoke programme of artist development and support. Since 2019, we've grown our audiences from 13,000 to 66,000 people annually and are proud to work with over 500 artists each year.

## Our Community

Stanley Arts welcomes all audiences and all artists, with a particular commitment to communities that have previously been excluded from creative spaces.

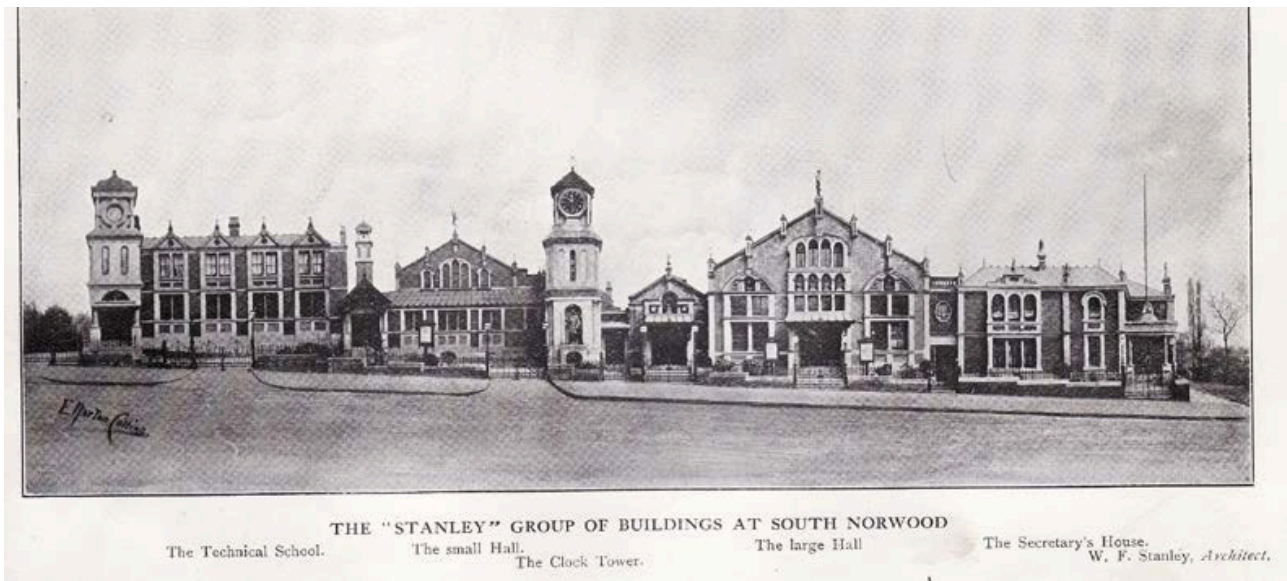
We are proud to host and partner with a diverse group of thirteen resident companies and practitioners, including resident National Portfolio Organisations Boundless Theatre and ZooCo; as well as renowned hip-hop dance theatre company, BirdGang Ltd.

- We stand up for our family.
- We stand out from the crowd.
- We stand proud of our heritage.
- We stand together with our community.
- We stand for Stanley.



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## Sector Development

Stanley Arts is a key cultural hub for Croydon and South London. We are proud to be the lead organisation for Croydon's ACE-funded Creative People and Places programme. We will be leading the consortium and team steering the delivery of £750,000 of arts activity and development, designed and delivered by the community, over the next three years, starting in April 2026.

We played a leading role in the delivery of Croydon's year as London Borough of Culture 2023–24, hosting the steering group and delivering a substantial proportion of the programme's events. Post the LBoC year we have continued to contribute to the thriving Croydon cultural ecosystem working closely with a range of sector partners including Croydon Creators and Makers, Queer Croydon and Croydon's Creative Enterprise Zone.

## Our Neighbourhood

Our neighbourhood is very ethnically diverse, with around 60% of people with West Indian and West African heritage, as well as a significant Polish community. One in three people were born outside the UK. Our population is predominantly young, with above average numbers of young families and teens.

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## Our Home and Capital Development Programme

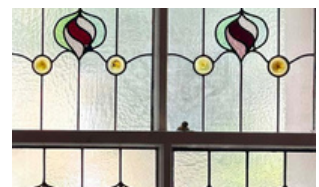
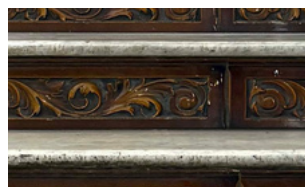
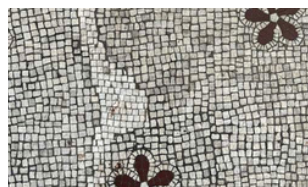
The Stanley Halls complex was built to provide a range of venues for music, art, theatre and performance for the benefit of local residents. The buildings, completed in 1909, were designed and gifted to the local community by William Ford Robinson Stanley (1829-1909), a prominent local inventor, industrialist and philanthropist. William Stanley's ambition for Stanley Halls was influenced by the Victorian ideal that music and art led to cultural, political and social enlightenment.

You can read more about the history of the Stanley Halls complex on our website at [www.stanleyarts.org/our-history](http://www.stanleyarts.org/our-history).

Investing in our physical home in South Norwood is essential. The first two phases of our capital development programme were completed in 2025. Funding partners for these stages include; Historic England, NHLF, the Mayor of London and the AHF.

Looking forward, we are excited to be developing plans for a third phase of works which will see further investment of £7.5 million in the accessibility and flexibility of our building and improved facilities for both artists and audiences.

With the inherent challenges of a Grade II-listed building, we recognise that not all spaces are currently accessible but, as we seek funding for capital improvements, expanding access across the site is at the forefront of our future development plans.



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## Chair of the Trustees Recruitment Information Pack

### **Our Board of Trustees**

With the inauguration of a new Artistic Director & CEO at the start of 2025 and £3.2m of pledged investment in place towards the next phase of capital works, we are now seeking to further strengthen the skillset of our board, building resilience into our governance.

**Position:** Chair of the Trustees (from Sept 2026)

**Term:** Three year term, renewable twice with the agreement of the Board.

**Time Commitment:** Approx 18 days per year (4 Board meetings plus ad hoc engagement)

The new Chair will be responsible for working with Board Members and the senior leadership team to meet the challenges of the charity and ensure that Stanley Arts continues to play an important and growing role in the communities – both local and those of choice – it serves.

### **The Chair will:**

- Act in the best interests of Stanley Arts, operating within the law and according to the governing documents of the organisation, as well as abiding by its policies and procedures.
- Support the objects and mission of Stanley Arts.
- Be an active leader of and spokesperson for the Board, as well as a champion and representative of the organisation with stakeholders, a manager and mentor for senior management, and a liaison and support for colleagues within the organisation.
- Spearhead external partnerships efforts and support the community-led nature of Stanley Arts.

# STANLEY ARTS

## Chair of the Trustees Recruitment Information Pack

### **The Chair's key responsibilities are to:**

- Ensure that the necessary structures are in place to deliver on Stanley Arts' vision, mission and strategic direction, and lead the board in providing oversight of the management of the Charity.
- Hold the senior leadership team to account for the performance of Stanley Arts.
- Ensure that Stanley Arts complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.
- Ensure that the organisation's governance is of the highest possible standard.
- Engage with external stakeholders and draw on their larger network as needed, acting as the main ambassador, representing the Charity in the press, or at key events.
- Acting as the named representative for the Charity with funders including Arts Council England.
- Present the Annual Report narrative and Letter of Representation on behalf of the trustees.
- Lead the board of trustees, ensuring it functions effectively, acts collectively, maintaining a diverse, skilled and inclusive team.
- Work with the CEO to set Board Meeting Agendas and lead Chair all Board Meetings.
- Join several of the Board sub-groups.
- Sign the Charity's bank mandate and approve payments beyond the financial limits of the CEO.
- Provide mentorship and advice to the AD/CEO and oversee their pastoral care and 6-monthly appraisals.

### **We are looking for someone who brings:**

- Strong governance expertise and experience of chairing meetings, boards or committees
- Collaborative, people-centred and effective leadership
- Financial literacy sufficient to lead robust Board-level scrutiny of budgets, forecasts, cashflow, risk and long-term sustainability
- Experience of or an interest in capital development projects
- A genuine commitment to the development of Stanley Arts and its role in the local community and creative industry
- Ability to offer insight, ask the right questions, and help guide good decisions.

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Trustees with skills and experience in one or more of the following areas would be particularly welcome:

- Financial management.
- Experience of medium scale Capital Projects: £5m–£10m
- Experience of Capital Fundraising.

Trustee roles at Stanley Arts are unremunerated, but reasonable, pre-agreed travel expenses will be reimbursed.

Our Board normally meets formally in the evening quarterly (four times a year) usually in February, May, August and November (on the 3rd Tuesday in the month), while working groups meet in between those general meetings on an ad-hoc basis responding to action points. We would ideally like trustees to contribute the equivalent of at least one day a month to the organisation, keeping in mind that this is a voluntary unpaid position.

Consistent with our vision, we would particularly welcome interest from people who will help our board have an ethnic diversity reflective of the community we serve and the artists whose work we present, as well as people from the LGBTQ+ community.

## **If You Have Any Questions**

If you have any questions, or wish to have an informal and confidential discussion about becoming a trustee, please contact Dr. Almiro Andrade, Stanley Arts Chair on email – [chair@stanleyarts.org](mailto:chair@stanleyarts.org) with the Subject heading Stanley Arts Trustee Recruitment 2026.

## **How to apply**

Please send your CV and a brief introductory note to Almiro at [chair@stanleyarts.org](mailto:chair@stanleyarts.org) and Antonia on [secretary@stanleyarts.org](mailto:secretary@stanleyarts.org) by 18/05/2026.

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