

Could you make an impact on our board?

We're seeking exceptional people to join our board of trustees.

It's an exciting time at Bluecoat as we start to realise the ambitions of our ten-year strategy: *Bluecoat 2030*. As a board member you'll play a key role in helping us achieve ambitious goals – including welcoming more than 1 million visitors every year.

Who we're looking for

We are looking for people who have experience and expertise in three specific areas: arts, finance, and social investment. We also want to appoint an additional board member with broad cultural interests who has a wide network of connections in the Liverpool City Region and a deep understanding of culture, society and politics in Liverpool and the North West.

If this sounds like you and you also have:

- A passion for the arts.
- The ability to contribute some time to the board – minimum of four (two hour) and two extended meetings a year and attendance at events.
- Previous experience of Board membership – public, voluntary or private sector.

And are committed to the values of Bluecoat (set out below) we would love to hear from you.

A bit about us

Bluecoat is Liverpool's contemporary arts centre, a working home for artists, and a place where audiences can experience art in new ways.

A bustling cultural venue that sees 700,000 visits each year, our city centre location, our building's heritage, and our hospitality business attract an audience diverse in age, gender, disability, ethnicity, and socio-economic background.

We offer a dynamic programme of exhibitions, live events, workshops and discussions covering a range of art forms including visual art, music, dance and literature. Our participation programme enables people who might otherwise face barriers to engagement to be involved in the contemporary arts. Bluecoat, based in a grade I listed building, is also home to a community of creative retailers, working artists' studios, a cafe and a bistro.



Our history

Our building, with its distinctive architecture, is the oldest in Liverpool city centre. Built 300 years ago as a charity school for poor children, it has been an arts centre for the past century.

Bluecoat's eighteenth-century origins are connected to the sea, when many merchants supported the school with funds derived from maritime trade, including transatlantic slavery. We continue to interrogate this and other colonial histories through exhibitions, performances and projects, working with artists and communities, as well as ongoing research.

Bluecoat has always played a major part in Liverpool's cultural life, from hosting the likes of Picasso and Stravinsky during the early twentieth century, to developing relationships with artists such as Yoko Ono and George Melly. Our public programmes have attracted national acclaim for hosting leading figures from the arts and entertainment worlds while nurturing new talent locally.

Surviving wartime bombs and turbulent political and economic times, Bluecoat remains a symbol of Liverpool's resilience and creativity. Today, it's more popular than ever, with a mix of architecture, arts, shops, café, a garden to relax in, and a wealth of stories. Find out [more about our history](#).

Our vision

Things are changing at Bluecoat. Our new ten-year strategy is focused on being a space for the public to experience contemporary art and visual culture in new and exciting ways. As a worksite for artists we will experiment with new ways of bringing process and progress into the public domain, working in purposely inclusive ways with artists who find this an exciting prospect.

We will open-up our building's cultural legacies to artists and audiences through interpretation, engagement and research. Evolving our hospitality and catering is a key element in achieving this vision.



Our brand

A recent rebrand gave us four new brand pillars, a communications principle, visual identity and tone of voice. The four pillars each represent a priority for the coming years – not necessarily where we are, but where we are heading:

1. Breaking new ground

Bluecoat is Liverpool's contemporary arts centre - the first, the original. A place defined by 100 years of radical thought and creative reinvention. An independent arts centre that continues to nurture artistic talent and break new ground. Part of Liverpool's past, key to its future, Liverpool has the fastest growing city centre population in the UK, growing 181% between 2002-2015.

2. Unlocking the creative process

Bluecoat brings people into the heart of the creative process, creating new opportunities for individuals and communities to interact with artists as they work. A place not just to look at but to engage with art.

3. Inspiring curiosity

Bluecoat is a creative playground, a supportive space in which to unearth new ideas and embrace something out of the ordinary. It is a place that sets out to inspire: here, you can make, debate, and participate in new and unexpected ways.

4. Purposefully inclusive

Bluecoat is an inclusive home for artists and creative practitioners. A place that sees potential in many voices under one roof. A platform for artists with different viewpoints and from backgrounds under-represented in the sector. Here, artists can find their voice and share their work with a wider and more diverse public.

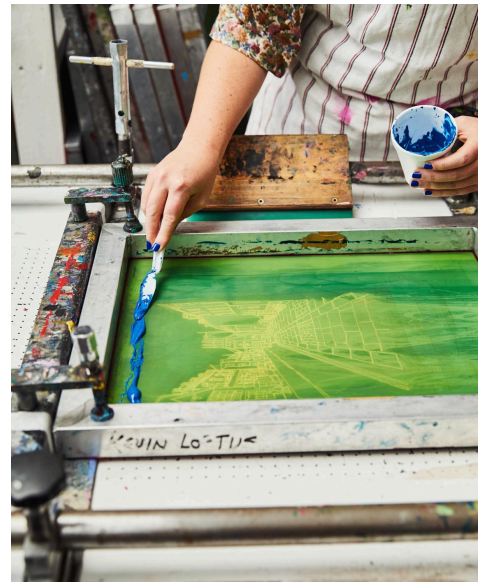
How can you play a part?

Joining the board is an opportunity to contribute to the evolution of Bluecoat. Across our organisation we value collaboration, sharing knowledge, and lively debate. We're looking for people with experience and expertise to bring new perspectives – your voice could play a key role in our future growth.

What we're looking for

We're looking for people who want to help us to achieve the aims of our strategy Bluecoat 2030. You'll need to understand and support our purpose and vision too.

Here are the specific skills and experience you'll need for each role:



Board member with arts background

If you have a strong arts background, we'd love you to be an advocate for Bluecoat in and beyond the arts community. You'll be able to influence key artistic decision makers on behalf of Bluecoat and raise the profile of our artistic work. Through your deep experience of the challenges and opportunities in arts organisations you'll also contribute to strategy development and our operations.

You'll need:

- Experience in a contemporary arts practice environment.
- To be engaged with current debates and issues in arts policy and/or artistic practice.
- Access to knowledge about funding, policy and artistic practice that goes beyond our insights and that we would find it hard to access.
- To bring national and international cultural reference points with relevant new relationships to Liverpool.
- To offer new and alternative artistic perspectives.
- To be networked and culturally influential, with evidence of ambition and achievement.

It would be great if you have:

- A proven track record of working in the arts at a senior level – a senior leader in an arts organisation, a producer, critic, curator or artist.
- Knowledge and experience in building-based organisations.
- A reputation as a 'cultural innovator'.
- At least three years' experience as a board member

Board member with finance background

We're looking for an expert who can support our strategic and financial planning as we grow and evolve. You'll ensure we understand and fulfil our financial responsibilities and have the processes in place to plan and manage major developments. And you'll support our staff in key negotiations with funders and other stakeholders. Extending our networks for fundraising will also be key and you'll be an advocate for Bluecoat and help to raise our profile.

You'll need:

- A formal financial qualification and to be familiar with charity finances.
- Knowledge of and interest in the arts, artists, arts participation and heritage.
- Access to new networks and knowledge that we would find it hard to access.
- To be well networked and influential, with evidence of ambition and achievement.

It would be great if you have:

- Audit experience.
- At least three years' experience as a board member.



Board member with social enterprise background

We're shifting our focus to become more of a social enterprise and less dependent on statutory funding. We're looking for someone who can help us navigate that while maintaining our core purpose. You'll ensure we understand the role of social enterprise and the contribution it can make to our mission. There will be key negotiations with social investors we'll need your help with as well as support to open up our prospect pool for social investment. You'll extend our networks and be an advocate for Bluecoat in the social enterprise sector.

You'll need:

- Direct professional experience of a social enterprise and relevant finances.
- Knowledge of and interest in the arts and culture, artists, arts participation and heritage.
- Access to new networks and knowledge that we would find it hard to access. .
- To be well networked and influential, with evidence of ambition and achievement.

It would be great if you have:

- Experience of evaluation and monitoring.
- Experience of social enterprise investment.
- At least three years' experience as a board member.



Board member with local networks

If you have a broad knowledge of the culture and politics of Liverpool and the North West and a wide network of connections we'd love to hear from you. You'll be a passionate advocate for Bluecoat in the region and beyond, helping us to extend our network of supporters and stakeholders. Introducing new potential partners who can help us to widen our profile and impact will also be key. You'll also be able to contribute knowledgeably to our strategy and help to position us as a major arts, heritage, and visitor attraction both locally and nationally.

You'll need:

- An extensive knowledge of the cultural and political life of Liverpool, the LCR and further afield.
- To be engaged with current debates and issues and able to bring understanding of these and their impact on contemporary culture to discussions about Bluecoat's work.
- Access to knowledge about local policy, policymakers, politics and culture that goes beyond our insight and we would find it hard to access.
- To bring national and international cultural reference points with relevant new relationships to Liverpool.
- To be well networked and influential, with evidence of ambition and achievement.

It would be great if you have:

- Knowledge and experience in a cultural field.
 - At least three years' experience as a board member.
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The essential information

When do the Board meet?

We meet quarterly and hold two away-days per year.

How do I apply?

Just send a CV or summary of your experience and a statement setting out what you would bring to Bluecoat to: recruitment@thebluecoat.org.uk

Is there a closing date?

No. We'll keep the board recruitment process open until we fill our existing vacancies.

What is the recruitment process?

If we think you'd be a good fit for an open position on the board, you'll be invited to a short interview.

We are seeking new board members immediately but also plan as part of this process to create a panel of people who could be future board members when more vacancies arise.

Want to know more?

Find out more about Bluecoat and our work: thebluecoat.org.uk

Check out our social platforms: Facebook: facebook.com/theBluecoat | Twitter: [@thebluecoat](https://twitter.com/thebluecoat) | Instagram: [@the_bluecoat](https://www.instagram.com/the_bluecoat)

For an informal conversation about joining the Bluecoat board please contact our chair Peter Mearns: peter.mearns@live.co.uk or Bluecoat's chief executive Mary Cloake: mary@thebluecoat.org.uk

Equal opportunities

Bluecoat is committed to becoming an inclusive and diverse organisation and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender status, religion or belief, marital status, or pregnancy and maternity. Bluecoat is an equal opportunities employer and will provide reasonable support throughout the recruitment process to applicants who have a disability.

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