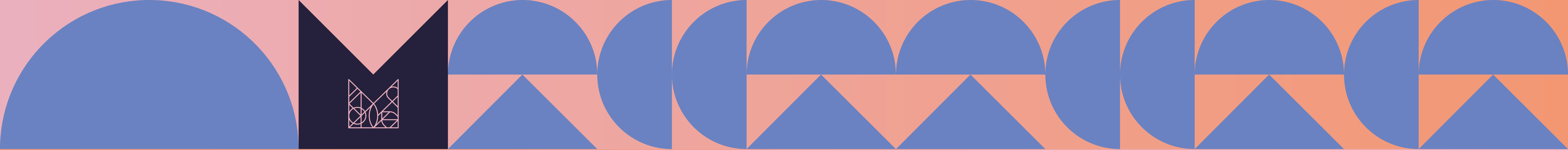


THE NATIONAL  
**FESTIVAL  
OF MAKING**

**Board  
Recruitment  
Pack**

[festivalofmaking.co.uk](https://festivalofmaking.co.uk)



**The existing Board is seeking to appoint a new Chair and two new Board Members as we further expand its Membership to support the organisation's governance.**

## About Us

**The National Festival of Making is a unique celebration of UK making, from the kitchen table to the factory floor. Presenting a programme of work that combines art, manufacturing, making and communities; we commission national and international artists to create world-class works, a year-round programme and a participatory free family festival for all to enjoy.**

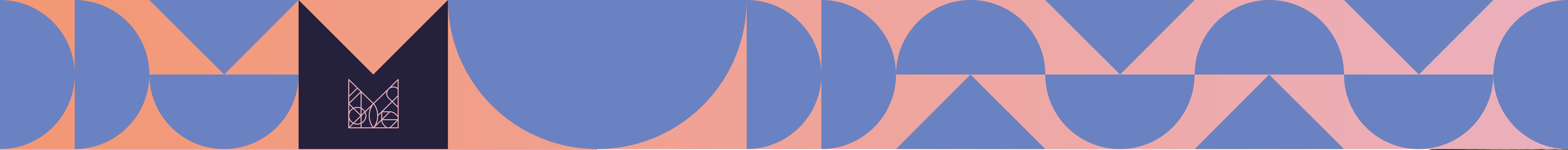
Each year, approximately 40,000 visitors attend the festival, to take part in hundreds of making activities, performances, talks and tours and experience original artistic commissions with artists and manufacturers as part of its headline commissioning programme, Art in Manufacturing.

Launched in 2017, the organisation has become of significant strategic importance across the region, attracting national artists and audiences, and global media attention.

In 2023 Festival of Making CIC was selected by Arts Council England as a new National Portfolio Organisation 2023-2027, further solidifying its ability to deliver against Arts Council England's strategy, Let's Create.

Since its inception, the organisation and its work have been critically important to the expansion of Blackburn's local, cultural ecology. It has delivered more than 30 artist residencies and commissions, engaged national and international partners and sponsors, worked with thousands of children and young people through the act of making and co-created year-round cultural and creative opportunities for all to enjoy - all delivered by a dynamic team with unique and varied skills and sector experience collectively bringing knowledge and expertise to programme delivery.

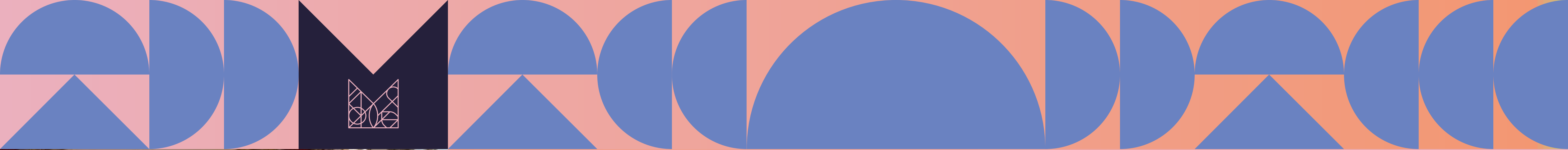
This is complemented by a vast range of diverse partners from manufacturers to marketers, stakeholders (both public and private sector) and an incredible force of committed volunteers.



**By joining the Board** you will be part of a team that creates opportunities for tens of thousands of people to take part in high-quality artistic and making experiences, engaging the cultural industries with the industrial sector and regional communities.

The Board, with the organisation's Directors, will be responsible for steering the Community Interest Company towards deeper levels of engagement, a continued focus on artistic quality, development of year-round work, financial resilience, business development and governance; all while maintaining and expanding the existing advocacy role the National Festival of Making plays in place-specific cultural creation in the North of England.





## The Board is seeking to appoint a new Chair and two new Board Members

### Role of the Chair of the Board

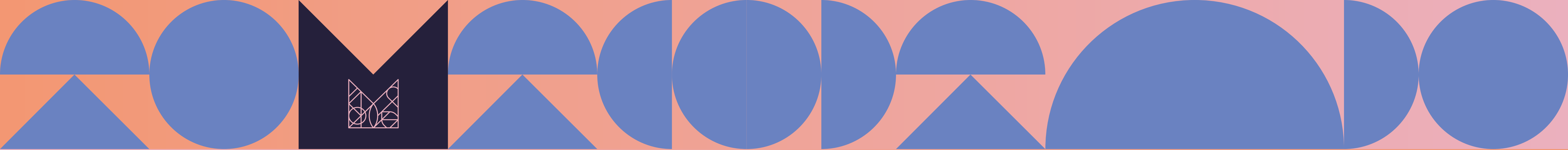
Working closely with our Directors, you will lead our Board, ensuring that it governs the CIC effectively, upholding the organisation's values, vision and mission.

We are seeking an exceptional leader with a passion for the arts and a track record of successfully working with not-for-profit boards. As a critical friend to our Directors, you will provide both support and challenge, bringing strategic vision, leadership acumen, and a commitment to the cultural sector.

### Role of Board Member

We are looking to recruit up to two new Board Members to continue to strengthen and diversify the team and specialisms. We see great value in expanding the number of appointed non-executive Board Members to have oversight of our company development and who have worked in a meaningful strategic role within their sector or area of work. As we look to develop the experience and knowledge base of the Board, we especially encourage candidates with expertise in the following professional practices to apply:

- ▶ **Expertise in Legal, Commercial, and/or Finance and Audit**
- ▶ **Directorship of an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations or Arts Leadership**
- ▶ **Maker Industries and/or Manufacturing**
- ▶ **Working with Young People**
- ▶ **Expertise in Digital Technologies**
- ▶ **Fundraising**



## Further Details and Application Guidance

We are committed to the Arts Council England Creative Case for Diversity and recognise the inequalities within the sector. We would welcome applications from those who reflect the diverse nature of the local communities we serve, particularly in Blackburn, Lancashire.

Festival of Making CIC is committed to equality for everyone and we encourage you to apply no matter what your age, caring responsibilities, disability, gender, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. We actively encourage candidates from all backgrounds and from all sectors.

In this recruitment cycle we are particularly interested in hearing from those with a lived experience of disability and from candidates of Black, and/or South Asian heritage backgrounds.

We will support any access requirements you may have during the recruitment process and ensure that reasonable adjustments are in place as required by the Single Equalities Act 2010. If you require any access support if selected for an interview or require further information (including access support), please contact the Director leading this process using the contact details below.

**These are voluntary positions with travel and expenses to board meetings refundable.**

**Board meetings are quarterly (four per year) and diarised at a suitable time for all members - we have found weekdays between 3pm and 5pm to work well with the existing board.**

Meetings are generally held online but with the opportunity to travel to the North West, generally in Blackburn.

- ▶ Between meetings, we encourage Board Members to join specific working groups relating to our organisational objectives including: Environment; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Financial Resilience; Ambition and Quality.
- ▶ It is also important that Board Members attend and support the annual festival which takes place in July each year along with other ad hoc events throughout the year.
- ▶ Board members will act as advocates for the National Festival of Making, championing the organisation's work within the wider cultural industries and other sectors.
- ▶ Appointments are for three-year terms by mutual agreement, with the option of an additional three years (this is with the exception of the founding members).

## How to Apply

Please send a CV and a cover letter setting out the skills, experience and networks you could bring to the role, in addition to the reasons why you would like to become a Festival of Making CIC Board Member.

**Please clearly state if you are applying for the role of Chair or Board Member or if you would like to be considered for either role.**

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**Closing Date**  
**12 June 2025**

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**Interviews will take place on**  
**23 June 2025**

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**Festival Dates**  
**5 & 6 JULY 2025**

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Applications should be sent to  
[applications@festivalofmaking.co.uk](mailto:applications@festivalofmaking.co.uk)

For any further information or questions relating to this recruitment please email Director, Lauren Zawadzki  
[lauren@decopublique.co.uk](mailto:lauren@decopublique.co.uk)

