

The Real Photography Community Interest Company



Photography for People

Could you be part of the future of photography in Bristol and the Southwest?

Who are we?

The Real Photography Community Interest Company (RPC) established in 2017, is based at St Pauls Darkrooms at St Pauls learning Centre in Bristol, the largest community darkrooms in the Southwest. We have spacious well-equipped custom-built darkrooms in the centre of Bristol alongside classrooms and above a café.

For seven years we have built strong connections with many local organisations and established ourselves as a respected and unique organisation, known throughout Bristol, the UK and Europe.

The RPC runs regular Community Photography Projects, working with local residents and community groups, eg. refugees and asylum seekers, people recovering from addiction, people at risk of homelessness, schools and universities, disabled groups, young people and older people such as the Windrush Elders. External funding enables provision of free opportunities for participants to experience the wonder and enjoyment of analogue photography and learn new skills in a supportive friendly environment, improving wellbeing and contributing to community cohesion.

St Pauls Darkrooms are open 7 days a week in an accessible building for individual photographers and groups to hire on a sessional basis for their own developing and printing. We have black and white and colour facilities, from 35mm to large format, a UV lightbox, and hold free monthly inductions. We programme courses and workshops which are open to the public and 1:1 tuition and technical support for artists' projects is also available.

How does being an RPC Director work?

Our Community Interest Company is run on the basis of teamwork and co-operation - we make decisions in our meetings by consensus. No one person owns the equipment or assets; the Real Photography Company has a five-year lease and we pay rent to the Ethical Property Company who manage St Pauls Learning Centre and are our landlords. Learning Centre staff manage the building, utilities, Darkroom bookings, security and opening times.

Directors will work with others, including our volunteers, as part of the RPC team, to develop the future sustainability of the Darkrooms as an asset both in Bristol and nationally; how this takes shape will be up to everyone.

RPC currently has 3 Directors; ideally we need at least four more Directors who can take specific roles in the company and make a commitment to working with us. You don't need to be good at everything – we are flexible and aim to make the most of all our Director's aptitudes and experience, but we do need people to make a positive contribution and take an active role in our programmes and projects.

The position could be a minimum of 4 hours per week, contributing to weekly meetings and acting as a 'critical friend' for other Directors and volunteers. There is also the opportunity to be much more involved, eg. to implement your own projects, workshops / courses and help realise the potential of the darkrooms and the spaces we have available to us.

Job Description

The purpose the Director's role includes the following:

- To raise awareness of the importance of analogue darkroom-based photography in education and wellbeing – includes acting as an advocate for St Pauls Darkrooms as a base for projects, workshops and courses.
- To network and build strong links with organisations and individuals in the local community. Also identifying organisations involved in work with links to photography, eg. natural history, history, science, astronomy, chemistry and art and encourage them to support our work.
- To co-operate with other photography organisations in Bristol to promote combined interests and love of analogue and experimental photography.
- To help maintain the financial sustainability of the CIC. This may include working on applications for project funding to enable partnership work with local community groups and educational / arts / photography organisations.

- To attend meetings, help generate ideas and discuss plans for future projects, courses and workshops at St Pauls Darkrooms.
- To take an active part in programming, managing and delivering projects, courses and workshops, teaching and leading groups where appropriate.
- To share duties such as managing and maintaining the darkroom.
- To open pathways to enable students of photography and our volunteer team to be involved with the community of Bristol.

Do I get paid?

Sometimes! Project funding usually includes staff costs for admin, publicity, tuition and technical support, paid on a freelance basis. However, much of the management of the organisation is voluntary. You can also run your own courses and workshops at the Darkrooms on a freelance basis, in which case you will be paid from the income generated.

Person Specification

Essential

- Commitment and ambition to developing the potential of the darkrooms in order to become a sustainable resource for future generations.
- Experience of darkroom-based photography, with an awareness of the importance of traditional analogue and experimental photography for creativity, learning, social interaction, and community cohesion
- Experience of recruiting and co-ordinating volunteers or in a volunteer setting.
- Able to attend weekly meetings, preferably in person, ability to contribute to the creation of a weekly agenda for discussion at meetings, and to take and circulate minutes when required.
- Able to make a commitment long-term to the position of Director (1 year +)
- To be willing to undertake training.

Desirable

- To have experience and knowledge of photography.
- To have experience in teaching or education.
- A commitment of the future of photography in Bristol.
- An interest in history/ science/ art/ chemistry/ environmentalism in relation to traditional photography.
- To have skills in social media and marketing.
- To have experience in fundraising.

- To have contacts within the Bristol photographic world.

Meet us at the Darkrooms and find out more:

Tues 9 Jan 2024

6 – 8pm

St Pauls Learning Centre, 94 Grosvenor Rd, Bristol BS2 8XJ

Email stpaulsdarkrooms@gmail.com if you have any other questions or to send an expression of interest.

We look forward to hearing from you!