

The Real Photography Community Interest Company



Photography for People

Could you affect the future of photography in Bristol and the Southwest?

Email stpaulsdarkrooms@gmail.com for expressions of interest or visit us at the darkrooms on Tuesday 9th January 6.00 – 8.00

Who are we?

The Real Photography company is a community photography company based at the darkrooms at the St Pauls learning Centre in Bristol, the largest community darkrooms in the Southwest. We have large custom-built darkrooms in the centre of Bristol alongside classrooms and above a café.

For over six years we have built up connections with many organisations in the area and established ourselves as a respected and unique organisation, known throughout the UK and Europe.

As well as providing facilities for printing, through applying for grants we have worked with thousands of people showing them the wonder and enjoyment of the chemical darkroom both for gaining new skills as well as for purposes of well-being.

We are looking to increase the number of our directors to give a contemporary direction to community photography with an aim for it to provide wellbeing to the local community and to become a centre of excellence in the UK for community photography and its education.

We have recently signed a 5-year lease on the space.

What is a director of a CIC?

As a true CIC no one is specifically in charge and no one owns any of the equipment or assets. The space is leased to the managing organisation, 'The Real Photography Company' by the St Pauls learning Centre. We have a five-year lease and pay rent on the space.

A director directs the development of the darkroom's future alongside the other directors and directing the company to become a sustainable asset both in Bristol and nationally, however this will be up to everyone.

Ideally, we need at least five active directors who can take on specific roles in the company however this would be decided upon as the need and people skills arise.

The position could be a minimum of 4 hours per week, contributing to weekly meetings and to be a 'critical friend' for the other directors. There is also the opportunity to be far much more involved, to help realise the potential of the darkrooms and the spaces we have available to us.

What will you be doing?

Here are a few ideas:

- To apply for funding for projects which can be offered to the local community.
- To generate and carry out ideas and approaches to stimulate and reinforce the importance of the photographic darkroom and alternative photography in education and wellbeing.
- To promote links with organisations and individuals in the local community.
- To generate awareness of the darkrooms to organisations and individuals.
- To promote the darkrooms as a place for people to hire.
- To identify organisations involved with promoting subjects with links to photography such as natural history, history, science, astronomy, chemistry art etc to encourage them make use of the darkroom and learning centre facilities.

- To maintain the financial sustainability of the CIC.
- To promote sustainable photographic techniques and practices
- To network with other similar organisations throughout the UK.
- To share duties such as maintaining the darkroom and showing others how to use the space.
- To open pathways to enable students of photography to be involved with the community of Bristol.
- To cooperate with other photography organisations in Bristol to promote combined interests and love of analogue and experimental photography.

Do I get paid?

Sometimes! Some project funding includes staffing costs although much of the management of the organisation is unpaid.

Person specification

Essential

To have had experience working with volunteers or in a volunteer setting

To have an awareness of the importance of darkroom, analogue and experimental photography for social interaction, community cohesion and the education of new skills

Commitment and ambition to developing the potential the darkrooms and to becoming a sustainable resource for future generations.

Able to attend weekly meetings, preferably in person, and contribute to the creation of a weekly agenda for discussion at meetings.

Able to have a long-term commitment to the position (1 year +)

To be willing to undertake training.

Desirable

To have experience and knowledge of photography

To have had experience in education

A commitment of the future of photography in Bristol.

An interest in history, science, chemistry and 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.

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