

Shieldfield Art Works

Freelance Fundraiser

About SAW

Shieldfield Art Works (SAW) is a project of the Methodist Church in Newcastle upon Tyne which is seeking the good of the city through creative practice. We are a team of artists who support others to be creative, and use our creativity to support others. We believe that the arts help us to articulate what it is to be human and that arts participation enables joy and flourishing in unique and unexpected ways. We are blessed with a gallery, workshop room and garden on our site in Shieldfield and so try to organise ways for these assets to be a blessing to our local community.

As a Christian organisation we believe each and every person has inherent worth, bearing the image of our creator. This motivates us to listen to and seek out those whose stories may not be being heard, so that we may better understand and love those around us.

We are particularly committed to our area of Newcastle, Shieldfield, just east of the city centre. We devise and commission art projects that tell Shieldfield's story, and consider how stories from our local area relate to life outside of Shieldfield. In attempting to reflect a God who is interested in all areas of life, we are interested in the micro to the macro – art that speaks truths about the human condition, to art which speaks to the condition of our planet, and everything in between.

What we do (at a glance)

Our site in Shieldfield comprises a gallery, workshop room and community garden, from which we run:

- Three sessions of Painting for Fun each week
- Twice monthly Craft Action Collective sessions
- Gardening sessions (Shieldfield Grows) every week, with a pause in winter
- SAW Reflects events which provide time and space for deep thinking and conversation
- A programme of exhibitions in our gallery that changes throughout the year
- Our community garden is open to visitors all year round.

To read more about our vision and values please see the final page of this document.

About the Role

The fundraiser role is an opportunity to build up SAW's fundraising programme and contribute to our strategy. This is a vital part of our work as we seek to become more sustainable and resilient. The fundraiser will:

- Develop and implement a robust fundraising strategy
- Seek out new funding opportunities
- Identify, cultivate and maintain relationships with individual donors, corporate sponsors, foundations, grant-making bodies and other partners
- Lead grant writing and proposal submissions, ensuring timely and successful applications
- In partnership with SAW's programme team, gather monitoring data and submit reports on SAW's activity to our funders
- Develop our individual givers campaign including: donor engagement activities, maintaining donor databases ensuring accurate records and timely acknowledgements and collaborating with SAW's Communication Officer to create compelling fundraising materials and donor communications
- Develop CSR channels
- Develop SAW's monitoring and evaluation processes to evidence our work's impact
- Monitor fundraising performance and provide regular reports and insights to senior leadership
- Stay informed about fundraising trends, regulations and best practices

Details

Job Title: Freelance Fundraiser

Organisation: Shieldfield Art Works (SAW)

Location: At SAW/remote working

Contract Type: 12-month fixed-term

Period of work: March 2026 - February 2027

Rate of pay: £41,600 - £52,000 pro rata at 40 hours per week (£20-£25 per hour) based on experience

Number of days: 52 days, 8 hours per day

Milestones: To be agreed with the SAW Director

The expected time commitment will be at least 4 days per month. At least 2 of those days will need to be on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

What we're looking for

Essential skills and experience:

- Active Christian faith
- Able to articulate your Christian faith
- Proven ability and experience in fundraising: with key skills in developing strategy, grant writing, developing individual givers and CSR
- A good storyteller, to tell the story of and champion SAW
- Excellent organisational skills and written communication skills

- Proficiency in Microsoft Office, Google Suite/Workspace applications or similar, particularly spreadsheet programmes
- Team player
- People person - excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Desirable skills and experience:

- Experience fundraising within the arts sector

Application Process

Please apply by letter and C.V. by Tuesday 10th February, 10am to lydia@saw-newcastle.org. Please also complete the attached Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form and send it with your application. The shortlisting panel will not see this EDI form.

Interviews to be held on Monday 23rd February 2026 at Shieldfield Art Works.

Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) disclosure.

Appointment will be subject to satisfactory references.

Appointment will begin in March 2026 pending satisfactory references and DBS disclosure.

We request no contact from agencies or media sales.

Vision and values

Our vision for the future

Imagine a future where our society has embedded cultures of care, curiosity, and creativity, leading to:

- Increased access to the arts, and through arts participation, an increase in connection, personal confidence, and positive mental wellbeing.
- The flourishing of our local area of Shieldfield, where injustice is challenged and voices previously unheard are raised up.
- New spaces created where ideas of purpose, meaning, faith and theology are accessible and can be explored by all.
- A culture of deep reflection and true rest.
- Encounters with awe, wonder, beauty and joy are possible every day.
- A passion for seeking justice and a rooted engagement with the issues hindering it.
- Mutual sharing of knowledge to inspire and provide practical support.
- A net-zero green building for SAW which is fully accessible.
- Long-term, sustainable funding for SAW.

Our values

Underpinning our vision and mission are our values. These are the roots and cultures that fuel our cause. They are the doing-words that we live by.

Hospitality – We seek to make our space and activities open to all; we believe in offering sincere and abundant welcome to all people, particularly those who may not have experienced such a welcome in an arts and/or faith setting before. We give space for conversations, different perspectives and encounters covering all aspects of life.

Art & Enquiry – We use art as a way to enquire about life, believing that art has a unique ability to communicate lived experience and imagine new futures. We believe that access to art and making opportunities support good mental health, understanding that art is powerful – it can function as a tool for activism, provide moments of awe and encounters with beauty, increase understanding and empathy.

Community Activism – Through the use of art and enquiry, we seek positive change for the welfare of the city, its community and individual inhabitants. We are particularly interested in collaborating locally to enable flourishing in our area of Shieldfield, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Rest & Rhythm – As we work to live out these values, we also try to maintain a rhythm of care and rest for others and ourselves. We do this to enable us to focus on actions of quality and empathy, rather than actions of mass production, and to enable ourselves and our collaborators to live life to the fullest. We embrace the fact this will sometimes limit our productivity.