



Info@futureeverything.org
@FutureEverything
<https://futureeverything.org>

Federation House,
2 Federation Street,
Manchester
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Chair of the Board of Trustees

Job Description and Information

FutureEverything is seeking an exceptional, dynamic individual to join the organisation as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Established in Manchester in 1995, [FutureEverything](https://futureeverything.org) is an award-winning innovation lab and cultural organisation that has helped shape the emergence of digital culture in Europe. Through a curated programme of events, art commissions, critical conversations, collaborative projects and prototyping, FutureEverything pushes creative boundaries and stimulates new ways of thinking, across a diverse range of sectors, disciplines and audiences. Taking an action-research, artist-led and human-centred approach, FutureEverything is passionate about bringing people together to discover, share and experience new ideas for the future, creating opportunities to question and reflect on the world around us.

Resilience and response to COVID-19

The past few months, and as the world has slowly been navigating their way through the current pandemic crisis, FutureEverything focused on the need to reflect on their work and evaluate their role as an arts organisation. This period - after internal/external conversations, exchanges with artistic communities, colleagues and audiences, and more importantly after rescoping and redesigning of programmes in response to the pandemic - has confirmed the agility and resilience of the organisation, placing it in a favourable position and positive trajectory for the future.

Organisational strengths, and in particular emphasis on open, collaborative, research and artist-led approach, have played an important role in this response and proved to be valuable methodologies in resisting the crisis and moving to the next phase.

This is a well-timed opportunity and a key role for the new Chair to help set the direction of this incredible organisation, working with the world's leading artists, thinkers and organisations to create change.



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THE ROLE OF THE BOARD IS TO

- Provide strategic and entrepreneurial leadership and direction in pursuit of the organisation's objectives
- Act as ambassadors for FutureEverything nationally and internationally
- Champion best practice throughout the organisation
- Take responsibility for the principles of good governance
- Uphold and regularly review policy
- Behave with integrity and in the best interests of the Organisation
- Encourage investment, growth and positive change
- Oversee the performance of the executive management team

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD AND THE CHAIR

- Approve the organisation mission
- Approve the business plan and model
- Agree the strategy and planning process and maintain the strategic vision
- Appoint and appraise the Creative and Executive Directors
- Advocate for and promote the organisation
- Oversee and support FutureEverything's programming policy
- Assist with fundraising, sponsorship contacts and opportunities
- Ensure legal and financial obligations are adhered to
- Oversee Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities, Ethics and other necessary policies
- Oversee organisational changes or restructures
- Attend Board meetings and events (4 annual meetings, currently taking place online)

ELIGIBILITY AND DUTIES OF THE CHAIR

We are seeking an individual with strong leadership skills, ideally with 5+ years in a leadership role, and track record of working with or in the cultural sector. The ideal candidate will have diverse national and international networks from the culture and other sectors, experience in fundraising and sponsorship, and a commitment to FutureEverything's mission. The Chair should be able to commit their time to the role as required.

We particularly welcome applications from those with disabilities (both seen and unseen), LGBTQ, and Black and Minority Ethnic candidates, as they are under-represented within our organisation.



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The Chair should:

- Provide leadership to the organisation
- Understand the vision and mission of the organisation, and its non-profit, community-interest status
- Ensure the Board understands its role and responsibilities
- Ensure the Board understands the vision and objectives of the organisation
- Act as a spokesperson for the organisation
- Ensure diversity and a good range of skills
- Ensure those skills are used
- Ensure that meetings are effectively run, minuted and decisions are taken
- Ensure succession planning for the Chair, Board and Creative/Executive Directors
- Ensure the Creative/Executive Directors have the support they need and maintain a discerning relationship based on trust, respect and mutual dependence

The Chair is committed to FutureEverything's vision to give rise together to a truly participatory culture and society. They should be able to engage and contribute to the development of strategies and business models required to maximise the impact and value of FutureEverything's work. They will ideally have experience of overseeing business and development strategies to stimulate growth in digital and creative or a related field. They should be able to exercise strategic judgement and be able to manage the Board. They should be present, supportive, honest and focus on the organisation and not themselves. Above all they will be passionate about the role of innovation and art as vital contributors to society and have a strong sense of public benefit.

Attendance and availability

- Attend quarterly Board meetings and any "extra-ordinary" meetings (currently online)
- To fulfil the agenda for the Board meetings in consultancy with the Creative/Executive Directors
- Attend organisational events, notably promotional events
- To provide advice and support to the Creative/Executive Directors, by telephone/email or in person, if required
- To review annually the roles of Board members and Creative/Executive Directors

Term of Service

3 year term. Maximum service 2 terms (6 years). **This is a volunteer role. Expenses for travel to Board meetings will be covered.**



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Expressions of Interest

Interested candidates should contact us by email, with the following material:

- Cover letter highlighting their interest in the role and reasons for applying, as well as the skills and attributes they can bring to it, and experience in any similar role
- CV
- Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form (downloadable from our website). If you require this in any other format, please contact us on info@futureeverything.org

Please email the above material to info@futureeverything.org

Deadline for expressions of interest: Monday 22 February 2021

Interviews: w/c 1st March 2021

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Irimi Papadimitriou, Creative Director, on irini@futureeverything.org and Claire Tymon, Executive Director, on claire@futureeverything.org

Appointment

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a meeting with the Directors. The prospective Chair will also be invited to observe a Board meeting prior to the decision of the appointment. The role is voluntary, but travel expenses for Board meetings will be covered.

Please note that some people are disqualified by law from acting as a trustee including anyone who:

- Has an unspent conviction for an offence involving deception or dishonesty
- Has been involved/charged with money laundering, bribery, perjury, a range of terrorism offences, sexual offences, contempt of court and perverting the course of justice, among others
- Has been removed from trusteeship of a charity by the Courts of the Charity Commission for misconduct or mismanagement
- Has been disqualified from being a company director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.
- Is an undischarged bankrupt



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APPENDIX

ABOUT FUTUREEVERYTHING

The FutureEverything team comprises seven highly skilled individuals all passionate and dedicated to the future success of the organisation. With increased support and encouragement from the Board, we are exploring new and innovative ways to research, develop, lead, plan, deliver and evaluate our activities. Our approach to business planning is driven by our values and skills, while we are creating an equal approach to decision making processes with clear leads for accountability and responsibility.

Organisation Mission and Vision

The FutureEverything mission is to bring positive societal change through art, design and technology. We empower citizens by increasing access to and participation in digital arts and culture.

Our vision is to be at the forefront of digital culture, harnessing art and participatory experiences as a lens to reflect on the world around us.

Digital transformation, emerging technology, but also critical thinking, collaboration and participation are core to our mission. Evolving from annual festival to innovation lab and cultural agency, we're passionate about bringing people together to discover, share and experience new ideas for the future.

Objectives

Content Creation:

Explore groundbreaking new and critical ideas reflecting on digital culture, contemporary issues and emerging technologies, exploring their impact on society and the natural environment through a curated programme of art, design and storytelling.

Research Driven:

Create and implement an action-research approach for our programmes, allowing for the formation of an inclusive, open and experimental platform that promotes critical thinking and ideas, knowledge exchange and skills sharing, and ensuring a transparent purpose and process is communicated and then evaluated to inform our future activities and approaches.



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Collaborative approach:

Ensure in all our work, including art commissioning, curated conversations and participatory workshops, there is a collaborative, interdisciplinary and inclusive approach.

Strong Foundation:

Embrace a collective, open, collaborative and connected future for FutureEverything, ensuring the (internal) team are empowered to be creative and pro-active, leading a (external) partnership-led approach, securing the future of the company to be sustainable and resilient.

Lead by example:

Provide strategic leadership for the arts, culture and tech sectors, influence and promote best practice and enhance and advocate for arts led research and programming.

Curatorial Strategy

FutureEverything has been pushing the boundaries of new media art, engaging the wider arts community, the technology sector, city makers, policy-makers, businesses and academics around digital creativity and social change. From art commissions and interventions, critical conversations and debates, cross-sector collaborative projects, prototyping and knowledge exchange sessions, the outcomes are exemplars for the way digital tools can be shaped, customised and adapted to enable artistic expression and audience development.

In a fractured, unequal society, but also at a time of big technological changes, our collective responsibility to reach as wide an audience as possible has never been more pressing. The need to ask questions and provoke discussion about a society obsessed with data collection, quantification, surveillance and algorithmic control, while at the same time people face injustice, exclusion and discrimination, is more important than ever. And there is a much bigger need to interrogate the moment we are now in, as humanity is in the middle of a long term pandemic, global recession and mass unemployment, but also in an ongoing environmental crisis, inequality and the spread of division and fascism.

The arts are a lens to help people view, reflect, understand and act.

By opening doors to experimentation, collective thinking and making, by encouraging people to participate, question and not passively consume, at FutureEverything we aim to nurture critical thinking and prepare the next generation for new challenges ahead. Using art processes and conversation, we aim to create neutral spaces that can transcend borders and engage different disciplines in constructive dialogue. Spaces like these have an important role in initiating and shaping critical discussions about pressing issues of



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our times, foregrounding the impact of technology within society to examine how people can play a central role in shaping the future, rather than being fed a vision of it from a handful of powerful corporations.

Art and design have a significant role in engaging with and exploring contemporary challenges, and enabling much needed conversations around these to happen. Artists have always had a pioneering role in terms of being the first to reflect on the present, on society, culture and the future, asking difficult questions, while raising awareness about power and powerlessness in the age of digital information.

Through our programmes we are bringing together artists, designers, engineers, technologists, makers and the public to explore, understand and discuss complex ideas and current issues, placing an emphasis on collaboration, exchange, participation and critical response.

Our portfolio includes recent projects such as:

[this place \[of mine\]](#), an ambitious new programme of online commissions, live touring art and a Young Producer programme for Greater Manchester, bringing together people from across the region to co-imagine the future of our high streets and town centres.

[Trickle Down, A New Vertical Sovereignty](#), a tokenised, four-screen video installation and soundscape attached to the blockchain. Composed of auction scenes, auction performances and choral interludes, the artwork seeks to explore value systems and wealth disparity across different communities, from prison inmates to market shoppers to buyers at Sotheby's auction house.

[Innovate Manchester](#), an ambitious new events programme bringing together business, academia and creative thinkers to collaborate on ideas for a more sustainable future. In collaboration with MIDAS and the Business Growth Hub.

[Unintended Consequences](#), an exhibition, lab and public engagement project exploring stories of environmental change present within the landscape of Quarry Bank.

[Second Sight](#), a new online arts space from Barnaby Festival in partnership with artists in Macclesfield and FutureEverything curated to bring together and showcase the work of Macclesfield's artistic community.

[e-waste Makerspace](#) at Cisco Live, an interactive makerspace commissioned by George P. Johnson on behalf of Cisco for Cisco Live 2020, Barcelona (Cisco's annual conference and expo attracting nearly 20,000 delegates each year), exploring themes of the circular economy and inviting attendees to reimagine and repurpose e-waste in creative ways.



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[Outside the Box: Public Art in Qatar](#), a forum initiating conversation about art in the public realm and its role in mediating dialogue and changing perceptions of place. Commissioned by the British Council, in partnership with Qatar Museums and Qatar Foundation.

[Future Sessions](#), an ongoing conversation through workshops and events that happen locally, globally, and throughout the year. Putting into practice our Festival as Lab approach, the events are an inclusive space to explore, experiment and expand on visions for the future, together.

[Future Focus](#), a new online space of critical conversations, talks and debates, as well as cross-sector exchange, networking and collaboration.

[Atmospheric Memory](#), a major co-commission with Manchester International Festival, Science and Industry Museum, FutureEverything and ELEKTRA/Arsenal, Montreal. A daring artwork and breathtaking immersive installation by artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer that scours the atmosphere for voices, transforming them into something we can see and touch.

[EVERY THING EVERY TIME](#), a public realm data sculpture by artist Naho Matsuda that transforms city data streams into poetic narratives, presented on a custom-built split flap display. The work debuted at SXSW 2019 (Austin, Texas), and has since toured to Bristol and Qatar British Festival.

[Yemen: Say Hello To Connect](#), an interactive, travelling digital artwork created in collaboration with Imperial War Museum North to complement the *Yemen: Inside a Crisis* exhibition, taking the conversation beyond the museum's walls and onto the streets of Manchester.