

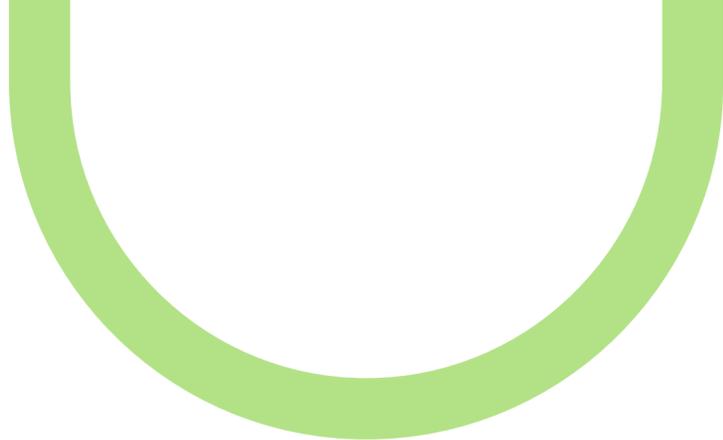


People United
Creating a kinder world



Become a People United Trustee

People United is looking for up to four new trustees who share our values and our passion for art and creativity. Most importantly, we're looking for people who believe kindness can be a powerful agent for change.



Through their pioneering work, focussing on arts and kindness People United demonstrate how artistic practice can provide a voice that brings people together, champions compassion and challenges intolerance

Dr Darren Henley OBE

CEO, Arts Council England

Chair's Welcome

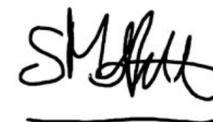
Thank you for your interest in becoming a trustee.

People United is located in Canterbury and while we are firmly embedded in our local Kent community, our work also has national and international reach. Kindness is at the heart of what we do. It is our driving force and the reason we exist.

People United has been through a period of positive change, culminating in an award-winning COVID-19 programme, an ambitious new mission, and a redefined set of values. In the wake of the global pandemic there is even more relevance and urgency to our work, and we are now poised to embark on the next stage of our journey.

The six current trustees have decided that now is the right time to expand and strengthen People United's board, and we're looking for up to four passionate people to join us – people with diverse voices, new perspectives and fresh ideas. You might be an artist or an educator, a cultural leader or an emerging talent, a national voice or a member of your local community. The most important factor is that individually and collectively, our new trustees will bring their energy, passion and different lived experiences to People United's family and to our strategic thinking. We're looking for individuals who are committed to creating a kinder world and have an active determination to use the arts to provoke change. If this sounds like you, then please get in touch.

I am proud to be the Chair of People United's board, supporting and challenging an arts organisation whose relevance has never been clearer, and whose mission has never been more vital. I hope that you will consider joining us on our journey.



Steve Moffitt
Chair of People United

About People United

People United is an arts charity based in Canterbury.

Our vision is of a thriving, creative society where we are kind to ourselves, each other and the world around us. Our mission is to use creativity to grow the conditions for radical kindness to flourish and make change happen.

We work collaboratively with communities in Kent and beyond. Wherever people gather to live, work and play, we co-create art that explores and encourages kindness as a value and an action. We also support others by sharing our learning and methodology through events, development programmes and bespoke interventions, such as our recent talks and workshops for the University of Pennsylvania, Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre, the NSEAD Annual Conference, Belong Cohesion & Integration Network and KindFest.

We focus on kindness because it sits at the heart of individual and community wellbeing. It also has the ability to challenge accepted norms and drive social change. Our practice is underpinned by more than a decade of academic research which has produced clear evidence that the arts can be a superconductor for kindness, and over the years we've used this to develop our distinct creative approach. As pioneers in this field, it's exciting to see a growing interest in kindness – from its use in everyday conversations to the increasing number of organisations, influencers and policy makers who are actively researching and exploring the positive role that kindness can play in our lives. We believe that kindness is about bridging difference, building connections, supporting wellbeing, increasing happiness and encouraging responsibility towards the environment.



We now centre our work on 'radical kindness' – kindness that is strong, that has the potential to address structural imbalances and isn't afraid to ask difficult questions, including of ourselves; kindness as activism, across difference, without apology and with the power to influence the world around us.

People United is a registered charity, a company limited by guarantee and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. We have been supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for over a decade. Other past and current funders include Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, John Ellerman Foundation, Creative Estuary, Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council.

Read more about People United, our past projects and current programme on our [website](#).

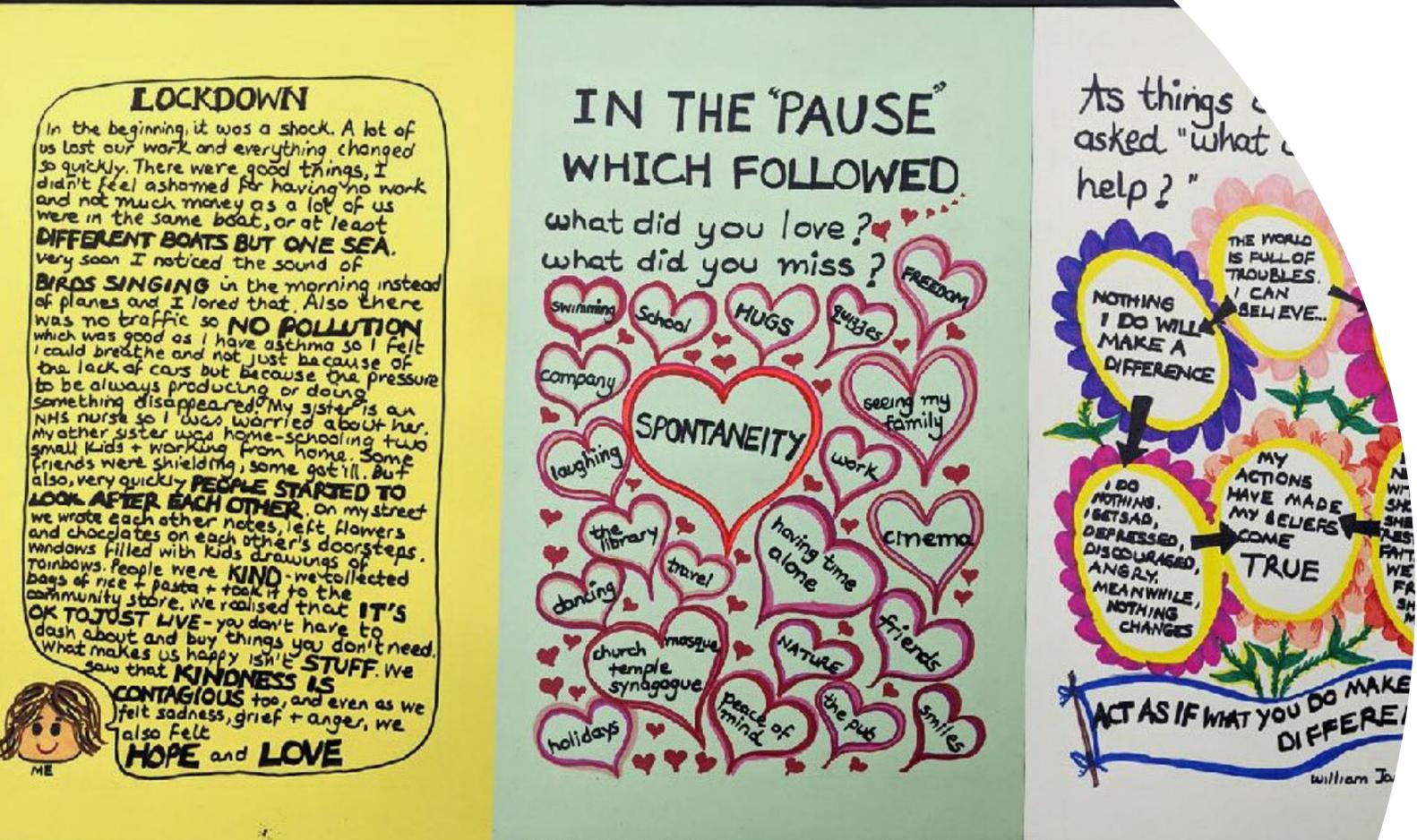
COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Our most recent activities have been strongly influenced by the impact of COVID-19, which required us to be agile, flexible and innovative as we responded to the changing situation and its implications for our practice, our partners and the communities we work with.

Our award-winning COVID-19 programme included [Kind Canterbury](#), an artwork created by Nova Marshall in collaboration with 100 local residents and businesses; [Steampunk Bob's Videogram Express](#), a collaboration with the Cares Family, who support and connect older people experiencing isolation, and the primary school children of key workers; [Kind Places & Spaces](#), which commissioned six artists to explore how creative interventions in public spaces could encourage people to think or behave in a pro-social way at a time when our relationship with shared environments was becoming more complex; and Navigating with Kindness, a series of commissioned reflections and observations, published online throughout the first lockdown. We were also commissioned by Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park in Warwickshire, to create [The Open Arms](#), a project to welcome people back into their gardens after lockdown.

The programme won an Achatas Philanthropy Award Bursary and was selected for inclusion in the Catalogue of Collaborative Change, a partnership between The London School of Architecture, ft'work, The London Festival of Architecture and The Future Fox, who came together to curate an international selection of 'exemplar' projects that emerged during lockdown. They said, "Your initiative, that collaborates across artists, charities and community, is exemplary and represents best practice in collaborative working for social impact".

As we move forward, culture, creativity and kindness will play an essential role in helping individuals and communities begin to reset and rebuild. Over the next two years People United's work will harness the strength of radical kindness in response to the impact of the pandemic, ensuring that people from a variety of backgrounds and lived experiences can access and shape meaningful creative experiences.



Our Values



KIND

We practice and promote radical kindness - kindness that is strong, systemic and transformational.



BRAVE

We challenge ourselves and others to interrogate dynamics of power, privilege and agency. We have the courage to explore complex and difficult ideas, to take risks and to use the strength of kindness as a force for change.



INCLUSIVE

We recognise and challenge the structural inequalities that affect people's lives and opportunities and strive to create equitable spaces that are inclusive, welcoming and celebrate the creativity in everyone.



COLLABORATIVE

We work collaboratively and co-creatively, bringing people together to shape mutually enriching experiences.



CREATIVE

We work flexibly and responsively, pushing our own boundaries and encouraging curiosity, exploration and innovation.



OUR WORK:

Messy Business

Over six months members of Joining Hands, Joining Hearts, a charity that supports survivors of sexual and domestic abuse, met weekly to explore the theme of self-identity with artists Sarah Cole and Annis Joslin. Together they created six short videos titled 'Messy Business.' The films were screened locally and at Cine City Film Festival in Brighton, Courage Film Festival, Berlin and the Social Arts Summit in Sheffield. After the project People United continued supporting Sarah and Annis who are working together to create STATIC, an immersive visual encounter exploring isolation, domestic abuse, childhood, memory, and love.

Anna Ray, Home. Photo: Matt Wilson



OUR WORK:

Home

This project brought together a group of mothers living in Ashford including a number of recent refugees from Syria. The group decided to explore the theme of 'home' in collaboration with textile artist Anna Ray. Over nine months the women explored their commonalities and shared experiences, discovering these were far greater than their perceived differences. Home was delivered in partnership with the Diocese of Canterbury and Ashford Borough Council

OUR WORK:

Humour

Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park in Warwickshire commissioned People United to develop a project to welcome local people into their extensive gardens at the end of the first Coronavirus lockdown. They specifically wanted to encourage visits from younger and more diverse audiences. Working remotely, we commissioned Birmingham street artist Foka Wolf to consider the role of humour as a tool for empathy and resilience. Jokes and funny stories were gathered from local people in a series of online 'Laughter Cafes' and the project culminated with The Open Arms art trail of sign-based artworks created by Foka Wolf.



Foka Wolf, The Open Arms. Photo: Michael Robertson-Smith

Your role

The Board of Trustees provides guidance, determines People United's strategic direction and exercises overall control of the charity's financial affairs. As a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered Charity, People United's trustees have duties under both company and charity law. Your main duties as a trustee would be:

- Ensuring proper and effective governance of People United in line with our charitable purpose
- Bringing ideas and expertise to the governance of People United
- Acting as a champion and advocate for People United
- Preparing for and attending board meetings (normally four per year plus one board 'away-day'), taking an active part in discussions and decision-making
- Acting with care and skill, and in the charity's best interests
- Managing the charity's resources responsibly
- Providing guidance, challenge and support to the People United team
- Attending People United events where possible
- Supporting People United's fundraising activities, building and maintaining relationships with key partners and stakeholders where appropriate

A People United Trustee should have:

- ✓ A belief in the importance of kindness, as a value and an action
- ✓ A passion for the arts and creativity
- ✓ Good judgement and decision making skills
- ✓ A willingness to collaborate and act as a member of a team
- ✓ A demonstrable commitment to equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion
- ✓ Honesty and integrity
- ✓ The ability to think creatively
- ✓ The courage to challenge
- ✓ Ambition to improve and grow the charity, increasing its positive impact

How to apply

The deadline for applications is 5pm on August 9th.

We are keen to hear from people with a range of backgrounds and experiences and welcome applications from anyone, regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, heritage, sexuality, gender and socio-economic background. There is a comprehensive induction programme and we will offer further bespoke support where appropriate.

If you are interested in becoming a People United trustee, please send your CV and a covering letter (no longer than two pages) outlining why you are interested in joining our board to jobs@peopleunited.org.uk. We also ask you to complete our Equalities and Diversity Monitoring [form online](#). Any data you provide as part of our equality monitoring will be confidential and will be processed separately from your application.

As an alternative to sending a letter, we are very happy to receive a video (3 minutes maximum). We suggest sending this to us via "We Transfer", which is a free online platform that makes it easy to send larger files.

If you would like an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply – or just want to find out more about us – please contact Janice McGuinness our CEO, by sending an email to janice@peopleunited.org.uk to arrange a telephone conversation.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview, which may be in person or by Zoom.

If you have any access need or there are any barriers to access please let us know in your application, or if you'd like to discuss prior to applying please email us on jobs@peopleunited.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application.



At a time when communities need kindness more than ever, People United are a guiding light

Michele Gregson

People United Trustee and General Secretary of the National Society for Education in Art & Design

People United's explorations of kindness as something radical – requiring courage and honesty – has influenced my own thinking.

Maria Amidu

Artist, former Trustee and current People United Advisor



OUR WORK:

Kind Places & Spaces

Kind Places & Spaces was a series of six micro-commissions exploring the positive impact that creative art and design can have in community spaces. The concept included a kindness dispenser, playful billboard posters, a shop of kindness and a socially distanced floor marking toolkit. Several of the ideas are now being realised, including architect Amanda Moore's 'do-it-yourself' street marking design, which was subsequently commissioned as part of the Southampton Inside Out initiative to make better use of public spaces.

Our Board

The Board of Trustees:

Steve Moffitt - (Chair) Chief Executive of A New Direction

Michele Gregson - General Secretary of the National Society for Education in Art & Design

Moya Maxwell - Executive Director at Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company

Simona Uberti - (Treasurer) Director of Finance and Business Services at Meadowfield School

Emma Wilcox - Project Director of Creative Estuary

Liz Flynn - General Manager of Chaos Cards

We also have newly established Advisory Panel, whose role is informal. Its first four members are:

Suzanne Alleyne - Cultural thinker and inaugural Arts Council England Changemaker

Professor Robin Banerjee - Head of the School of Psychology at the University of Sussex

Ben Thurman - Policy and Development Officer for the Carnegie UK Trust

Maria Amidu - UK-based visual artist and writer, and LAHP funded PhD Candidate at the Royal College of Art, London

Knowing that People United has a real and documented impact deep into the communities it touches is a real motivator for me

Simona Uberti

People United Trustee and Director of Finance & Business Services at Meadowfield School



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**THE ROGER
DE HAAN
CHARITABLE TRUST**

**CREATIVE
ESTUARY**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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