



BECOME A PROGRAMME ADVISOR

Help shape The Harris

Deadline for applications: Sunday 18th January 2026

The Harris is looking to work with people from Preston to join the Programme Advisory Group.

The Harris is a Museum, Art Gallery and Library, situated in the heart of Preston city centre. We are looking for a group of people from our local community, to support us in planning our future exhibitions, activities and events.

We want to form a group of 9 Programme Advisors who can make suggestions, bring a positive outlook and fresh perspective, ask difficult questions, use their local knowledge and experience to help shape new exhibitions and events that are relevant to the people of Preston. A key part of the role is to choose exhibitions for Gallery Two, a space for exhibitions from local artists and community groups.

We want The Harris to be a place where everyone is welcome and is more community focused. This opportunity is open to everyone; you don't need to have experience of being on a group like this before. We will support any access needs that members of the group might have, and we can offer a payment of £20 per meeting to cover your expenses.

What is involved?

- You sign up as a Programme Advisor for 1 year. We are looking for 9 Advisors
- You will attend 6 Programme Advisory Group meetings at The Harris in the 12 months that you are a member of the group.
- You will give us suggestions and feedback on our exhibitions and activities programme.
- You will choose 4 exhibitions to be displayed in Gallery Two, for our 2026 -27 programme. There will be two rounds of applications during the 12 months, and you will read, score, give applicant feedback and discuss the applications to make decisions as a group.
- There will be some extra work between meetings – particularly reading and scoring the applications for Gallery Two exhibitions.

Who are we looking for?

You do not need to know anything about The Harris, museums or even have visited before to join the group.

We would like our advisory group to be a mixture of people representing different backgrounds and communities. For this reason, we would especially like to hear from:

- Young people (16 – 24yr)
- People on low incomes including unemployed and unable to work.
- People with young families.
- Local creatives
- People from underrepresented backgrounds in The Harris. For example, people from an ethnic minority in the UK, people with disabilities, neurodivergent people, carers or LGBTQ+ individuals
- People who are acting as local community representatives.

To be a Programme Advisor we hope you will be:

- Happy to share your thoughts and ideas about The Harris' exhibitions and activities with a group of peers and members of Harris staff.
- Respectful of other members of the group.
- Be interested in being a community representative and working with different types of people.
- Able to commit to attend 6 meetings at The Harris and approximately 4 hours of work outside of meetings to choose 4 Gallery Two exhibitions.

- Someone who will support their peers and The Harris in the work we do together.
- Someone who will ask questions about how our exhibitions and activities meet the needs of our visitors and the local community.

What will you get out of this opportunity?

You will have the opportunity to meet new people; a chance to make a difference in your local area, a chance to programme a gallery space and gain an understanding of how exhibitions in The Harris are chosen and displayed. You will have opportunities to learn new skills.

Meeting Dates (Thursdays, 5pm – 6.30pm)

26 February 2026 | 23 April 2026 | 25 June 2026 – Selection Meeting | 3 September 2026 | 12 November 2026 – Selection Meeting | 14 January 2027

How will people be chosen?

To select 9 advisors, we will use a fair process and refer to the list of the different types of people listed above that we hope will make a diverse team. Please note that in the case of more applications than places, we will carry out a fair selection process and keep you informed about how this works.

How to apply for this opportunity:

Fill in the Programme Advisory Group Form and tell us what you would bring to the group. Email the completed form to The Harris mailbox theharris@preston.gov.uk with the subject 'Programme Advisory Group Application'.

If you would like to speak to someone about the Programme Advisory Group and your application, you can contact Harris Communities Assistant, Millie Welbourne on 01772 906505 after Monday 5th January.