

As an artist, I'm a photographer and have exhibited in galleries and in other group exhibitions across Yorkshire as well participating as an artist in this year's Open Up. I am familiar with the artistic need to create and the effort required to prepare pieces for public display. I also understand the importance of Open Up as a means to bring art to a wider audience and provide a means for artists to engage with the public on what they create, their inspirations and how they work. I see this event as a valuable means to deliver greater accessibility of art and encourage a greater appreciation for it in and around Sheffield.

Perhaps more pertinent to the role of Chair of Open Up is my working history. I've spent over 20 years in administration and public facing positions, including frequently working on project delivery. I'm confident in managing multiple strands of work to maintain progress, collaborating with other colleagues and partners, identifying and mitigating risks and understanding available resources and how best to use them. I feel these skills and experiences will be important in delivering an Open Up event in 2027 that continues to support local art and artists to the same standard as it has in the past.

If I am selected as Chair of this organisation, Lizzy Alageswaran has generously offered to remain involved in Open Up as Co-Chair which will be an invaluable source of guidance and support. While Lizzy's input will be more than welcome, in light of her tenure as chair and the effort she has already delivered in bringing about the recent successes of Open Up, I am committed to keeping demands on her time and energy to a minimum beyond that which she genuinely wants to do.

The committee has been successful in recruiting a swathe of new people to the organisation and I commit to working closely with them to support and facilitate them in delivering their best to the event. Where the capacity of the committee and any other volunteers allow, I would also like to explore connections with other communities and events in Sheffield to increase the profile and appeal of Open Up and develop the diversity of our participating artists and visitors.

Andrew Rodgers