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**OPEN CALL - Join QEST’s first Youth Advisory Board!**

**Help shape the future of craft. Apply by Friday 28 June 2024.**

**Who are we looking for?**

We are seeking 8 young people aged between 16-25, with an interest in craft and creative subjects, to join QEST’s Youth Advisory Board (YAB).

The ideal board member is someone passionate about the future of craft and willing to share their opinions on a range of topics, to support QEST in its work to increase diversity and the participation of young people in the craft world.

If the following sounds like you, then we’d love to hear from you!

* Passionate about craft
* Willing to contribute and challenge opinions
* Enjoy working in collaboration with others – respectfully listening and sharing ideas
* Interested in promoting the importance of hand-skills
* Committed to making positive difference
* Looking to develop your professional skillset

Help us become a youth-informed charity and make the craft sector diverse, inclusive and sustainable.

**A little about us – who is QEST?**

The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) is a charity that transforms the careers of talented and aspiring makers by funding their training and education, creating pathways to excellence and strengthening the future of the UK’s craft sector.

Our [*Crafting Tomorrow*](https://www.qest.org.uk/crafting_tomorrow/) programme aims to inspire a new generation of makers by offering opportunities to develop hand skills, meet professional craftspeople, and explore careers in craft and making.

Here at QEST we are always learning and trying to improve, and the Youth Advisory Board has been formed to help us with this, so we can continue to maximise the impact of our work.

You can find out more about QEST, our partners and alumni [**here**](https://www.qest.org.uk/about-qest/).

**How you can help:**

We want to champion and support young makers, so it is important that we listen to those with lived experiences and ask them to contribute to our work.

As a board member you will be invited to share your opinions on a wide range of topics and issues, relating to:

* Challenges young people face in starting careers in craft
* Challenges within your craft area, the wider craft sector and community
* Issues arising for QEST’s Board of Trustees and Staff
* QEST’s *Crafting Tomorrow* programmes and the support we provide young people
* QEST’s communication, marketing and outreach strategies

Your voices are crucial, providing diverse perspectives that will enrich our charity’s decision-making at every level.

**Benefits of participating:**

* Personal and professional development in an upbeat, positive and interactive environment
* The opportunity to network and discuss issues with likeminded individuals
* The opportunity to participate in training and contribute to fundraising activities, projects and events
* Develop your knowledge and understanding of the charity sector, and provide you with experience relevant to the sector

**Commitment:**

The Youth Advisory Board meetings will be held online three times a year. and members will be invited to attend one in-person meeting per year (with travel and refreshments provided).

QEST’s Youth Advisory board members will be appointed for a two-year term, with an option to renew for a second term, or until they are 25. Members will act as ambassadors and critical friends of QEST and will be asked to agree to a code of conduct (drawn up by members), and our EDI and Safeguarding policies.

**How to apply:**

Applications to join QEST’s first Youth Advisory Board are open until **5pm** on **Friday 28th June 2024.**

The application form is made up of two parts:

1. Personal details
2. Personal statement

We want to find out more about you in whatever format makes you most comfortable and allows you to express yourself best, so you can complete the personal statement as a video/audio submission (5 minutes) or a written statement (600 words). More details about how to submit and what to include are in the form.

To apply, please click [**here**](https://qest.tfaforms.net/33).

If you have any questions, access needs, or would like to discuss anything prior to applying, please do not hesitate to get in touch at [sally.angus@qest.org.uk](mailto:sally.angus@qest.org.uk) or by calling 020 7798 1535.

Please note: if you are under 18 you will need the permission of a parent or guardian to apply.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement:**

QEST believes that diversity of all kinds enriches its mission to support and champion excellence in craft and making. It is committed to achieving greater equity, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) across the organisation, its wider network and amongst those it supports and the wider craft industry. QEST’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion statement can be seen [**here**](https://www.qest.org.uk/about-qest/edi/).

**Safeguarding:**

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of everyone involved in our organisation and the work we do. We believe that everyone, especially children, young people, and anyone in vulnerable circumstances, has the right to be kept safe from harm, abuse, and exploitation. QEST’s Safeguarding statement can be seen [**here**](https://www.qest.org.uk/safeguarding-policy/).