

From the Chief Executive

June 2021

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the success of Bishopsgate Institute. We welcome your application and will look forward to assessing your suitability for the role(s) for which you apply.

Perhaps you already know us well, as one of our regular students, performers, tutors, researchers or partners. Perhaps you know of us from a visit during Open House weekend, or you came to see West Side Story or perhaps you've heard of our special collections and archives. You might have even danced or rehearsed here every month before Covid struck.

We're a very small organisation, which means everyone plays a role beyond the strict boundaries of their job description. Our team is passionate, feisty, highly skilled and collaborative, so you'll fit right in if you're interested in everything we do, and in supporting colleagues across the organisation.

My vision for the organisation

For 126 years, Bishopsgate Institute has been providing opportunities for people to come together to learn and discover in extraordinary spaces. The nature of those opportunities continues to evolve over time, but we remain true to the motto our founder William Rogers chose for us: *senesco non segnesco*, which loosely translates as I never stop learning. I see this statement of intent applying equally to the staff team, our Board and our programming.

I hope it also motivates our students, participants and partners. I see Bishopsgate Institute, therefore, as an independent and energetic creative hub where the City of London meets the East End: an incubator for talent and skills development, a place that welcomes all sorts of people to explore their subject of interest with like-minded people. That means classes and rehearsals and workshops and social dances and study days and performances and archive research and orchestra play-throughs and talks and walks and debates and salons and concerts and new writing development and... things we probably haven't even thought of yet. I want there to be an energy around the building as this activity usually goes on in our various spaces through the weekday daytimes, evenings and weekends.

During the pandemic, we have had to learn and adapt quickly to ensure we still serve our audiences, and this has included developing livestream and hybrid event formats that have helped us reach people that might never come to the building. We look forward to continuing to welcome them online as we begin to re-open our building to in-person activity.

We are financially independent, although Covid has hit us hard. Eventually, I would like us to generate sufficient surplus from our activities to plough back into the programme, enabling us to invest in new and exciting projects and ideas. I want our profile and reputation to be an excellent and valued contributor to the cultural life of London and the world.

You'll find much more about who we are and what we do on our website, which I strongly encourage you to explore and enjoy before you submit your application.

A note on Covid

We closed our building in mid-March 2020 and, like most other organisations working with the public, had to suspend most of our in-person activity. Most of our team worked from home. Now restrictions are lifting, our archive researchers' service has resumed, and we can accommodate much more venue hire. Our free weekly lunchtime concerts currently run in-person and live streamed, and while most of our courses currently remain online, we are starting to resume in-person activity within guidelines.

Because ours is a venue-based team that relies on creative collaboration and stimulation, the hope is to have everyone back in the office, albeit flexibly, later this year; our team is fully up to speed on our safety measures and risk assessments. But I'd be lying if I said these were ordinary times. We are having to adapt and prioritise those projects that are the most urgent and which can help replenish the lost income of the past 6 months and beyond. More than ever, we rely on having talented and committed people in our team. Perhaps you could be one of them?



Francesca Canty
Chief Executive & Artistic Director