

Dorset Artist Open Studios Event Governance Document

Adopted on: 01 September 2026 | Last Revised: 01 September 2026

1. Mission and Purpose

The purpose of the **Dorset Artist Open Studios** is to provide Dorset artists with an affordable, well marketed, not-for-profit, artist focused event. To connect the public with local visual artists, promote the county's cultural economy, and provide a collaborative platform for working artists through an annual, coordinated county-wide open studios event.

2. Governance Structure

The event is governed by a steering group that advises and oversees the planning, and execution of the event.

2.1 Steering Group

- This group is responsible for guiding strategic decisions, overseeing milestones, and ensuring the project aligns with our overall goals.
- To allow the group to focus entirely on objective decision-making and to protect their privacy, the names of the individual steering group members will remain confidential.
- The group consists of qualified individuals representing key areas. These include community artists, marketing, open studios management, business and event growth,
- While individual identities are private, all decisions, progress reports, and project outcomes will be shared openly with everyone.

3. Artist Eligibility & Participation

- **Residency:** Artists must maintain a working studio or reside within Dorset.
- **Shared Spaces:** Artists without a traditional studio may guest-exhibit at a registered host studio or designated community pop-up hub.
- **Code of Conduct:** All participants must agree to keep their studios open during their stated hours, display the official event signage, and maintain a safe, welcoming environment for the public.

4. Financial Management

- **Funding Sources:** The event is funded through artist participation fees, sponsorships, and brochure advertising.
- **Fee Structure:** Participation fees are set from a budget and must be paid by 23:59 on Monday 30th November.
- **Disbursements:** All expenditures are only made in the best interests of the event promotion.
- **Reporting:** A full financial report will be released following the event closure.

5. Decision-Making

- **Quorum:** Decisions are solely made based on the input from Dorset artists and the steering group/advisors.
- **Voting Mechanism:** Decisions are ideally made by consensus. Certain aspects require more discussion which is when the professional steering group/advisors make the decision.

6. Amendments and Dissolution

- **Amendments:** This governance document may be amended only if a majority of the steering group/advisors are all in agreement.
- **Dissolution:** In the event that the organization dissolves, remaining funds after all debts are settled will be donated to Dorset-based arts charities chosen by the steering group.