

APPOINTMENT OF

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

MARCH 2025 PBBTC

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction from Lina Lazaar
- 2 About the Foundation
- 3 The Role
- 4 Person Specification
- 5 Terms of Appointment
- 6 How to Apply



INTRODUCTION

It's an extraordinary moment to join Ibraaz, founded in 2010 as a pioneering initiative of the Kamel Lazaar Foundation. For over a decade, we have been a platform for critical discourse, and a champion of artists pushing boundaries in contemporary art from the Middle East and North Africa. From groundbreaking online exhibitions to thought-provoking essays, Ibraaz has established itself as a leading voice in the MENA art scene, offering vital new perspectives to a global audience. The Kamel Lazaar Foundation's commitment to fostering cultural exchange has been at the centre of Ibraaz's success, and we're now ready to honour that legacy by establishing a permanent physical home.

In summer 2025 we are taking our vision to the next level by opening our first ever physical building. The aim is to create a dynamic multidisciplinary institution that reshapes the landscape of art from the MENA region, empowering artists, and engaging communities in meaningful ways. As we transition from a successful digital platform to a physical hub, we need a skilled Chief Operating Officer (COO) to oversee every element of this development.

We are now looking for an energetic, ambitious, entrepreneurial candidate to help us build the framework of this institution, create operational stability, and enable us to realise our creative ambitions to be a transformative force in the art world. Working in close partnership with me, this person will be capable of translating an ambitious creative vision across a thriving six story arts hub in Central London. The COO will be a founding force in building this institution and help shape the future of contemporary art from the MENA region.

Lina Lazaar, Founder and Chief Executive, Ibraaz



IBRAAZ LONDON

Ibraaz proposes to become a platform for illuminating thought and culture located in London and networked to a world of worlds.

Situated in the heart of the Global North—but rooted to the Global South, its diasporas, and third cultures—Ibraaz will be dedicated to hosting exhibitions, gatherings, talks, and other happenings that facilitate an equitable exchange of knowledge in the 21st century.

To reimagine what art and culture can do in a changing world, Ibraaz proposes an agile and responsive model that incorporates tactics of trial and error in its evolution.

Keeping in mind the organisation's intention to evolve organically, 93 Mortimer Street and the adjacent 43 Great Portland Street space will function as a testing ground for intentional gatherings, with rooms that can function as galleries, libraries, workshops, studios, and more.

Ibraaz's core mission is to hold space for people across fields—who are actively reimagining, recuperating, and redefining past, present, and future across scales—to think together. That mission extends to Ibraaz.org, which resurrects our former iteration as an online platform: a community bound as much by consensus and alignment as by dissonance and debate.

Commissioned essays, conversations, projects, and more will be published online on a rolling basis to extend discussions and connections elsewhere.

KAMEL LAZAAR FOUNDATION

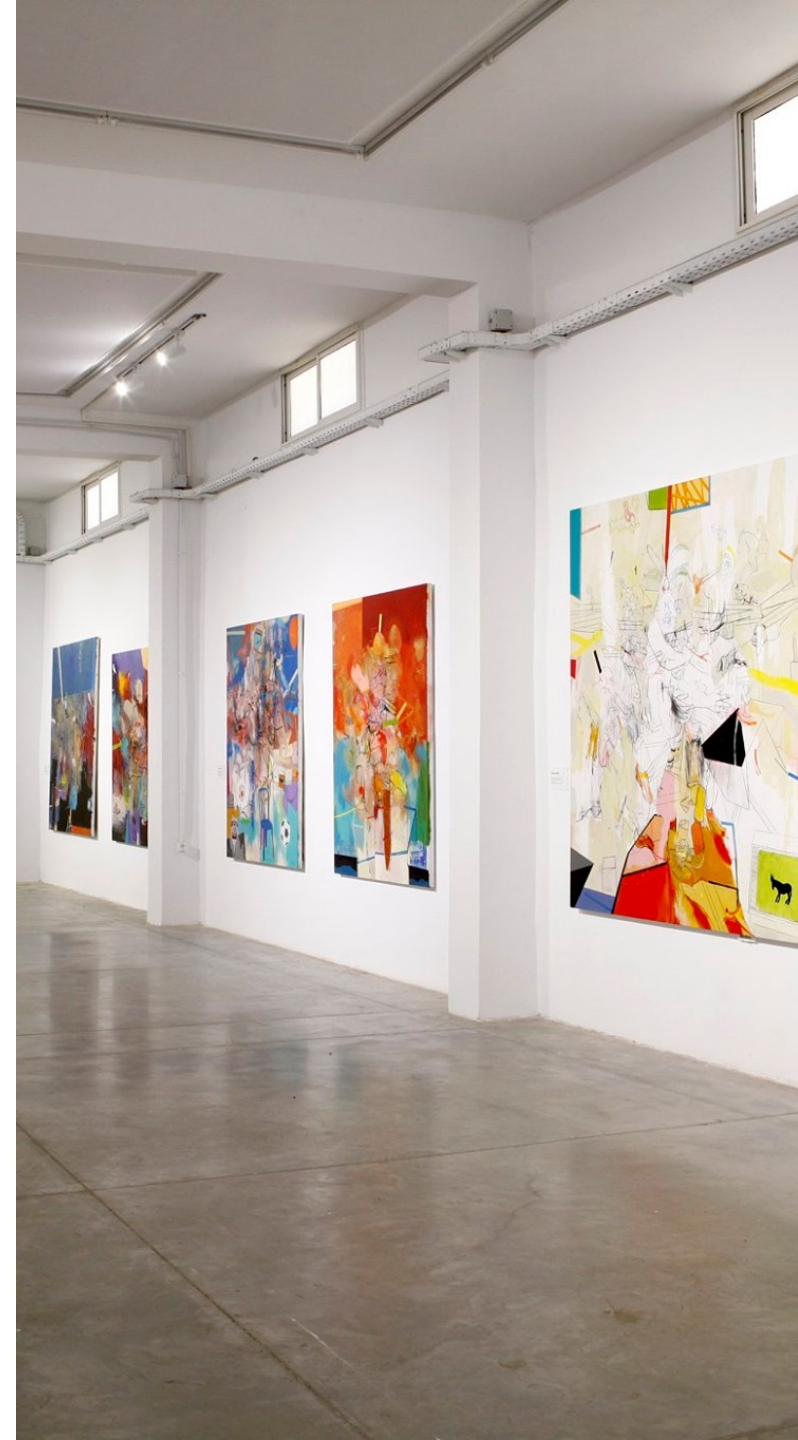
The Kamel Laazar Foundation (KLF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and support of art and culture in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Established in 2004 by Kamel Laazar, a Tunisian-Swiss financier and art collector, the foundation is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with active operations in Tunisia and other parts of the MENA region. KLF's mission is to foster cultural exchange and understanding by supporting a wide array of arts initiatives spanning several key areas including visual arts, music, literature, and the performing arts.

KLF actively supports arts education and capacity-building initiatives. By partnering with universities and cultural institutions, KLF facilitates workshops, seminars, and training programs designed to nurture the next generation of artists and cultural leaders. These programs seek to equip young artists with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a competitive global arts environment. KLF is also committed to expanding the reach of MENA artists by enabling their participation in international

exhibitions and cultural events. The foundation provides grants and financial support to artists, allowing them to share their work with a broader audience and engage with the global arts community.

The preservation of cultural heritage is another cornerstone of KLF's mission. The foundation undertakes projects aimed at documenting and conserving the region's rich artistic and cultural legacy. This includes supporting the restoration of historical sites and buildings, as well as archiving significant cultural artifacts.

Through these initiatives, the Kamel Laazar Foundation is making a profound impact on the cultural fabric of the MENA region. By fostering creativity, facilitating dialogue, and preserving heritage, KLF is not only supporting the growth of the arts but also contributing to a more inclusive and culturally rich society. Its highly successful art station, B7L9, located in an underprivileged neighbourhood in Tunis, is an exemplary model of using art and culture as a vehicle for social inclusion.



LINA LAZAAR, IBRAAZ FOUNDER & VICE PRESIDENT OF THE KLF

Lina Lazaar is the Vice President of the Kamel Lazaar Foundation (KLF), a Geneva and Tunis-based institution focused on supporting visual culture, cultural production, culture-related education, and the development of diverse connected ecosystems across the MENA region.

Lina has led KLF since 2015 and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the foundation. She has founded and leads many of KLF's prominent initiatives, including Ibraaz, an editorial platform that has been relaunched as a London-based cultural institution; the JAOU biennial, a platform for diverse international curators to deliver city-wide interventions, activations, symposiums, concerts, and large-scale exhibitions across the MENA region; B7L9, the first independent, experimental, and entirely community-managed art space in Tunis; as well as the KLF collection.

Lina previously served as a Contemporary Art Specialist at Sotheby's, London. Throughout her decade-long career, she spearheaded the development of the contemporary Arab and Iranian art market in the international auction market, including the launch of Sotheby's auctions in the

Middle East. Lina has also been a curator of contemporary art exhibitions and interventions, making her curatorial debut at the Tate Modern in 2010, followed by The Future of a Promise, the first Pan-Arab Pavilion at the 2011 Venice Biennale. Lina was also the founder and lead curator of Jeddah Art Week (JAW) in 2012, through which she brought the first large-scale city-wide interventions and exhibitions to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Lina returned to the Venice Biennale in 2017 as curator of The Absence of Paths, Tunisia's first national pavilion in over 50 years, which attracted over 300,000 visitors and was voted among the top ten pavilions at the 2017 Venice Biennale.

Lina is an advisory board member of the University of Chicago's Renaissance Society, as well as the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of HEC and holds graduate degrees from the London School of Economics (mathematics & statistics) and Sotheby's Institute of Art (in post-war contemporary art).



THE ROLE

Ibraaz is a dynamic cultural non-profit charity dedicated to fostering dialogue and understanding through multidisciplinary programming. Our space in London features six distinct areas of programming, including talks, literary and social science conferences, debates, book launches, poetry readings, concerts, and exhibitions. We aim to engage our audiences with innovative and flexible programming while exploring sustainable funding models.

In addition to our physical spaces, Ibraaz has a 7th space: our website, which serves as an autonomous online publishing platform. This platform is deeply connected to the content produced in our physical building and requires resource allocation and management of its contributors. Some contributors may overlap with those involved in the physical space, but not necessarily. The COO will need to maintain direct communication with the Editor-in-Chief of the online platform.

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) is a brand new position, and the first hire in this new iteration of Ibraaz. They will play a pivotal role in managing Ibraaz's operations, ensuring the seamless execution of our diverse programming across multiple spaces. The ideal candidate will bring a strategic mindset, operational expertise, and a passion for cultural engagement. This role requires a balance of leadership, flexibility, and a deep understanding of managing a multidisciplinary cultural institution.

MAIN ACTIVITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Operational Management:

- Oversee the day-to-day operations of Ibraaz, ensuring the smooth functioning of all programming areas.
- Manage the logistical aspects of events, including scheduling, staffing, and resource allocation.
- Ensure the physical space is maintained to a high standard, ready to host a variety of events.

Program Development and Execution:

- Collaborate with the programming team to develop a dynamic and flexible schedule of events.
- Facilitate in-house public programming and accommodate audience-driven initiatives.
- Ensure programming aligns with the mission and values of Ibraaz.

Online Platform Management:

- Allocate resources and manage contributors for the online publishing platform.
- Maintain direct communication with the Editor-in-Chief to ensure cohesive content production.

Project Management Coordination:

- Coordinate project management efforts to ensure timely and effective delivery of initiatives.
- Implement best practices in project management to optimize operational efficiency.

Team Leadership:

- Build and lead a mean and lean team to implement Ibraaz's strategy effectively.
- Foster a culture of respect, care, and collaboration within a diverse team with varying schedules, including remote team members.
- Identify opportunities for external support and partnerships to enhance operational capacity.

Financial and Strategic Planning:

- Work closely with the leadership team to develop sustainable funding models.
- Oversee revenue streams from the coffee shop, bookstore, venue rentals, and donor patronage.
- Contribute to strategic planning and long-term organizational growth.
- Manage budgets, optimize costs, and generate revenue to support Ibraaz's mission.

Partnerships and Representation:

- Build and maintain relationships with cultural organizations, particularly within the global south.
- Represent Ibraaz's values and mission to external stakeholders and partners.
- Promote a healthy organizational culture that prioritizes employee well-being and professional development.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Proven experience in operational management within a cultural institution or similar setting.
- Demonstrated ability to manage a physical space with regular events.
- Strong leadership skills with experience of motivating and managing diverse teams.
- Excellent organisational and problem-solving abilities.
- Sensitivity to cultural contexts and the ability to engage with global partners.
- Passion for the arts and a commitment to Ibraaz's mission.



How to Apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Ibraaz on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **PBBTCA**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Thursday 1 May**.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.



