

OPEN THEATRE
CHAIR OF THE BOARD
RECRUITMENT PACK



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WHO ARE OPEN THEATRE?

Open Theatre is a change-making organisation, passionate about creating better opportunities for children and young people with learning disabilities to explore and develop their unique creativity and personal agency.

We Do Difference Differently


We have created our own non-verbal theatre practice over thirty years, based on the principles of connection, agency, creativity and capability, collaborating with young people with learning disabilities aged 5 – 25 and beyond. The practice is both a well-established theatre-making process and a proven educational pedagogy.

We work in committed long-term partnerships with schools, communities and arts venues to develop a wide range of programmes, performances and projects that support young people to play an active role in the arts. We advise and encourage the creative industries and society to be more radically inclusive of all young people with learning disabilities.

Our work takes place in the West Midlands region as well as nationally and we have developed several international partnerships including most recently in Australia and the Netherlands.

We are an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), not-for-profit company and registered charity. Our ambition is to model and investigate ways to transform the West Midlands into a place of best practice and excellence in the arts for children and young people with learning disabilities. Our portfolio of work has grown significantly over the last ten years.

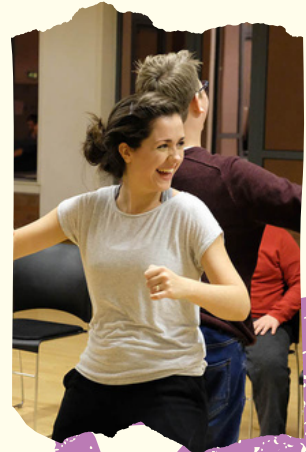
Our Chair was appointed in January 2019. Therefore, their six year term as Chair for Open Theatre ends in January 2025.

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WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for a committed individual, who is passionate about our work and making change for young people with learning disabilities. This could include:

- Knowledge of the arts and experience of Arts Council England and their funding streams.
- Knowledge and understanding of learning disability. This could be through direct or non-direct lived experience, or through other life experiences.
- A collaborative person with a passion for the Company's work, who shares our values and has some understanding of the issues affecting young people with learning disabilities.
- An understanding of arts funding and financial management to examine annual and quarterly budgets. This can also be supported by other members of the Board.
- The ability and time to support our Director and the Leadership Team and see the work of the company in person.
- Previous experience of a trustee role or working with a Board. An understanding of good governance in terms of Charity and Company Law and ensuring that the board is effective in its role and oversight of the organisation's strategy.
- We are looking for someone based in, or with easy access to, the West Midlands to allow for regular in-person communication, attendance at meetings, seeing our work and our commitment to environmental responsibility.

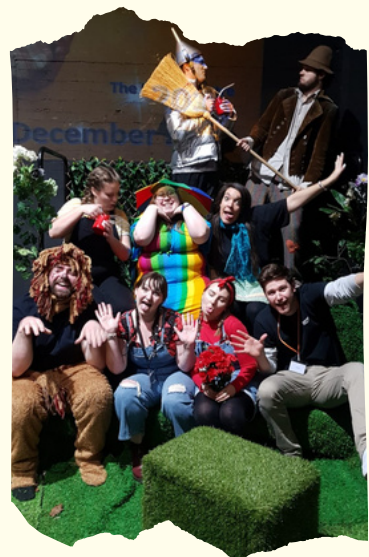


TERMS AND EXPECTATIONS

- There are four board meetings per year, attended where possible in person but with digital provision for those with access needs. Board meetings usually take place in Birmingham City Centre.
- There are also two annual Board Away Days to support strategic planning.
- There are Board sub-groups (including finance and safeguarding) which the Chair and/or Board members with delegated responsibilities are invited to attend as required.
- We would consider 2 people applying together as Co-Chairs for this role. A current board member is also able to step into a Deputy Chair role.
- The role is an unpaid, voluntary position.
- Reasonable travel expenses to meetings will be provided.
- The Chair is expected to attend a range of Open Theatre's performances, programmes, and fundraising events.
- The position will be a three-year term, with the option to extend for a further three years on agreement of the Board.

USEFUL LINKS:

- [Open Theatre's Company House Memorandum of Articles and Accounts.](#)



HOW TO APPLY

We encourage everyone to apply in a way that best suits their needs and responds to the questions below.

This could be a written statement, bullet points, a voice note or a video.

If you require any support in applying, please contact our Access Advocate, Grace O'Malley on grace@opentheatre.co.uk and we can support you to do this.

Please see our Chair of the Board Role Description (separate document) for full details of this post.

Based on the information above and the Role Description, please detail:

- **Your interest in becoming Open Theatre Chair of the Board**
- **Your suitability for the role in general**

Please send applications to recruitment@opentheatre.co.uk.

Please apply by **Wednesday 27th November 2024, 5pm.**

All suitable applicants will be invited for an informal conversation after this date. This will be followed by an interview with the Director, members of the Board and a representative from Arts Council England.

If you have any access needs that are not covered by our application process then please email recruitment@opentheatre.co.uk to discuss.

