

RIG NIC

JUMP ON BOARD

Trustee Recruitment Pack

Registered Charity: 1158837



Welcome to RicNic and thank you for your interest in becoming one of our trustees. Running for 20 years, we have developed a long history of nurturing creativity and emerging arts talent. This extends both across our participant base, staff team and board of trustees. We actively encourage applications from first time trustees and experienced board members alike



Our History

RicNic began as a summer holiday project created by students after their GCSE's in 2004 at a school in Winchester. Given a few weeks, the use of their school hall and a few hundred pounds in donations, they staged 'Guys & Dolls' taking on all roles on and off the stage. Combining the surnames of their two student directors (Richards & Nicholls) RicNic was born.

After a successful first show, the gauntlet was thrown down to subsequent year groups to take up the same post-exam project. After a few years in the school hall, the shows moved to performances at the Theatre Royal Winchester where they ran successfully every year up to 2019!

RicNic became a CIO in 2015 and expanded projects to different locations across the South East (with summer musical productions in Oxford, London and Bristol).

In 2019, RicNic employed their first full time Executive Director and began to extend our project reach into new areas, opening a summer musical in Burton on Trent, Staffordshire and developing an outreach programme of workshops for schools.

Understandably, the coronavirus pandemic halted our in-person performances and workshops, but we endeavoured to keep some opportunities open to engage our young participants. The summer of 2020 saw a series of online cabarets filmed, produced and performed by our summer musical companies and many alumni members and later that year we launched an online workshop and classroom activity programme that catered for distanced learning and class lockdowns.

The enforced break during the pandemic allowed time for valuable reflection and to identify where RicNic could have most impact in the future. We took the decision to focus our projects in areas where there were fewer cultural opportunities for young people, and to reshape our programme offer to include different creative skills and explore new work.

The past 5 years have been an exciting, sometimes turbulent, period of testing new models, understanding our place in the sector, finding out what our young people want from us. We have focused on working in and around the West Midlands, Staffordshire and Cheshire, have developed strong community partnerships and are able to offer a year-round programme of activities which are FREE to access

You will be joining us at an exciting point in our development as we enter our 21st birthday year!



Our Programme

RicNic delivers projects across four strands of work, catering for ages 5-25 and supporting those with no creative experience as well as those wanting to develop a career in the creative industries.

Own The Stage

Workshops & short term projects developing confidence and creative skills

Engage

Mentoring & training opportunities in the creative sector

RicNic Productions

Youth-led theatre productions, media projects & community events

RicNic Commissions

Workshops & short term projects developing confidence and creative skills

RicNic Foundry

In addition, we run regular FREE after-school sessions for young people in Walsall. RicNic Foundry promotes intergenerational learning through creative projects. With sessions running for different ages, each group hands work to other groups to inspire their own creations.

Previous Projects

Show Me - a short film project written, filmed and performed in 2 days by participants in Burton-upon-Trent and Walsall:
https://youtu.be/FOZD0dBJAWk?si=kKLO_hP5-H_JasZq

Where The Bees Fly - a multi arts project combining all strands of our programme and featuring a new musical composed, produced and performed by a young company
<https://youtu.be/YKK-7YdUcPY?si=aRyIP43GkZXrmjAl>

Current Projects

This year we are excited to be working with young people across Walsall, Sandwell, Lichfield, Tamworth, Stoke-on-Trent, Burton-upon-Trent and Crewe.

We are partnering with Walsall Council, Walsall Maker Festival, Walsall Cultural Compact, Manor Farm Community Association, Crewe Town Council, Bloxwich Academy Matrix Trust, Cheshire College South & West, Sandwell College, Stoke City 6th Form, The Brewhouse Arts Centre, New Art Gallery Walsall, Encore Theatre Bar, Lichfield Fuse Festival



The RicNic Team

Board of Trustees

Our board of trustees support the Executive Director in the strategic development of the charity, providing guidance at quarterly meetings and ad hoc advice throughout the year.

Staff Team

Executive Director - full time

Projects Development Manager - part-time

Outreach Co-ordinator x 2 - part-time

Projects Assistants - short term through the year

RicNic Associates.

Every year we offer a series of paid placement opportunities to young people looking for work experience in the creative industry. As our annual Associates cohort they support projects and take on responsibility for specific aspects of our work including audience development, social media, event planning support and fundraising support.

I am a creative young person who is enthusiastic to learn and I already know how hard it is in the arts industry to be recognised and get to where you want to be but RicNic are helping me on my journey in so many ways and I am so excited for where my future takes me. By taking my placement with RicNic they have added to this excitement and self development.

Sophie - Associate 2023

RicNic Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors group is formed of previous trustees, staff and participants, alongside individuals working professionally in the creative industries. They support our work by offering guidance and mentoring support.

We are committed to supporting young people across our projects, placement opportunities and staff team. We actively invite our participants to share their creative ambitions with us so that we can support their development through our Associates and paid Assistant roles. We also follow an accessible open recruitment process for staff roles, providing interview questions in advance.

Currently everyone on our staff team, with the exception of the Executive Director is aged under 25.



Trustee Role and Responsibilities

RicNic's trustees are a valuable group of individuals who oversee the development of the charity, support the Executive Director and staff team and act as advisors and advocates for our work. Each trustee brings their own individual skills and experiences to the table which help to shape different perspectives as we plan our future.

The trustees are responsible for

- Ensuring that our staff and projects work to uphold our ethos and vision and are carrying out its work for the public benefit.
- Supporting the team on governance, strategy, HR and legal matters
- Representing the charity and promoting its work
- Acting in the charity's best interests

Trustees make decisions about the charity together, working as a team. By bringing a range of skills and experiences between them, this ensures balanced discussions and decisions are made.

Requirements & Commitments

- Four board meetings per year (*online meeting usually on a weekday evening*)
- Up to 10 days ad hoc support across the year for the staff team or attending projects with our participants
- Supporting projects by sharing our social media posts & campaigns
- Attending networking events to promote the charity (where possible and if needed)
- No financial liability
- Trustees usually take on their roles for 3 years and this can be renewed up to 3 times

Specific roles on the board -Recruitment 2024

In this round of trustees recruitment, we are keen to hear from individuals with financial experience, business management or corporate experience, as well as from individuals living in the areas we work in, those aged 18-30 and those who have not held trustee roles before.

Training will be available for all.

To apply please write to our Executive Director, Jennifer Holyhead at
jennifer@ricnic.org.uk

telling us why you would like to join the RicNic board and what you would bring to the charity.

If you would like an informal chat before applying, please contact us to arrange a convenient time.

