

A man with dreadlocks and glasses is shown in profile, holding a long wooden staff vertically. He is wearing a black t-shirt with the text "STREETWISE OPERAAA" visible. In the background, a woman is smiling. The setting appears to be an indoor space with a wooden ceiling and green walls.

**Trustee, Treasurer
& Chair of Finance Committee**

STREETWISE OPERAAA



PHOTOS: REY TROMBETTA

About Streetwise Opera

Streetwise Opera is an opera company that enables people who've experienced homelessness to find inspiration and empowerment while they rebuild their lives and identities. We support participants to develop as creative people and, as we amplify their voices, change how society views homelessness.

We engage world-class artists, both established and emerging, to co-create bold new work and reimagine traditional repertoire. We create opera that is for everyone and, by bringing together diverse voices, change how society views opera.

We run weekly creative workshops in arts venues in London, Manchester and Nottingham, for people who are recovering from homelessness alongside projects and taster sessions in frontline homelessness settings. We work with our participants to stage public performances in high profile venues; previous productions have included **The Passion**, an immersive staging of Bach's St Matthew Passion in the historical surroundings of Manchester's Campfield Market, and **Re:sound**, a cycle of nine new micro-operas on the theme of cities, performed in all three regions and culminating in Streetwise performers from all regions coming to together to perform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, backed by the BBC Concert Orchestra. We were shortlisted for the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Award for Civic Arts Organisations in 2022; we were selected as one of the top 100 Changemakers by the Big Issue in 2020, and and were shortlisted for an RPS Award in the Impact category in January 2024.

This is an exciting time for Streetwise Opera. Our Artistic Director and Chief Executive have both been in post for just over two years, and in Summer 2024 we will be delivering **Re:Discover**, a year long project that culminates in the co-creation and performance of three new operas inspired by the music of composers of African and Caribbean heritage. We have other ambitious artistic plans in train for the coming years, all of which see us embedding co-creation into all the work that we make and working with world-class artists and partners to challenge perceptions of both homelessness and opera.



Organisation

Streetwise Opera is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. The management is overseen by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Linden Ife.

Our staff team comprises:

Chief Executive	Trusts and Foundations Manager
Artistic Director	London Programme Producer
Head of Development	Manchester Programme Producer
Head of Marketing	Nottingham Programme Producer
Head of Producing & Participation	General Manager
Development Officer (Individual Giving and Events)	Arts Administrator

We also work with freelance workshop leaders and support workers within London, Manchester and Nottingham.

Our current board of trustees comprises:

Olivia Brown	Colin Jones (Treasurer)
Paul Emery	Alexis Paterson
Rachel Engel (Vice-Chair)	Jessica Plant
Christine Eyers	Phillipa Reive
Linden Ife (Chair)	Julia Strong
David Johnson	David Tapper

Our current trustees have a range of backgrounds and experience: music, public relations, tutoring, mentoring, legal, finance, arts in criminal justice, health and wellbeing. Two have lived experience of homelessness.

“We are flying high and on top of the world! I look at my fellow performers. Our eyes are sparkling and our faces aglow with so much joy and pride! We are all-powerful and we can do anything!”

Streetwise Opera performer

The role of Treasurer

The Treasurer holds a crucial role on the Streetwise Opera Board and is essential in supporting the team to base ambition and risk on solid financial planning and forecasting. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee and leads the Committee in giving financial updates and recommendations to the Board.

In addition to the general responsibilities of a trustee (outlined below in the section entitled What We Ask Of You), duties of the Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee include the following.

- Chairing the Finance Committee of the Board and liaising regularly with the Chair on Streetwise Opera finances and areas of risk;
- Overseeing and approving budgets;
- Ensuring that the financial resources of Streetwise Opera meet its present and future needs;
- Ensuring that the charity has an appropriate reserves policy;
- Reviewing and presenting financial reports to the Board;
- Ensuring appropriate financial risk management is in place;
- Ensuring that adequate financial controls and procedures are in place and that the organisation operates within a sound financial framework;
- Reviewing bank reconciliations, payroll and other accounting records as appropriate;
- Authorising major items of expenditure;
- Liaising with any paid staff and volunteers about financial matters;
- Advising on the financial implications of Streetwise Opera's strategic plans;
- Ensuring that the charity has an appropriate investment policy;
- Monitoring Streetwise Opera's investment activity and ensuring it is consistent with Streetwise Opera's policies, legal responsibilities, aims and objectives;
- Ensuring that the accounts are prepared and disclosed in the form required by funders and the relevant statutory bodies, for example the Charity Commission and/or Companies House;
- If external scrutiny of accounts is required, ensuring that the accounts are properly independently examined and any recommendations are implemented;
- Advising on the appointment of independent examiners, if applicable, review their performance and report to the Board;
- Liaising with independent examiners and tax advisers on behalf of the Board;



- Keeping the Board informed about its financial duties and responsibilities in line with good governance, legal and regulatory requirements;
- Contributing to the fundraising strategy of Streetwise Opera;
- Making a formal presentation of the accounts at the annual general meeting and drawing attention to important points in a coherent and easily understandable way;
- Sitting on appraisal, recruitment and disciplinary panels as required.

In addition to the qualities we look for in Trustees, the Treasurer should have the following attributes and experience:

- Appropriate financial qualifications such as ACA, ACCA or CIMA
- Some experience of charity finance, fundraising and pension schemes
- Strong commercial and financial acumen
- Ability to operate strategically and see the bigger picture
- Experience of committee work and/or governance roles (ideally with a good understanding of effective governance in a charity context)
- Chairing and/or facilitation skills, with the ability to steer and manage meetings in an efficient, productive and relationally inclusive way
- The skills to analyse proposals and examine their financial consequences
- The ability to communicate financial information to non-finance specialists
- Being prepared to make unpopular recommendations to the Board when necessary
- A willingness to be available to staff for advice and enquiries on an ad hoc basis

What we look for in our trustees

Our Trustees are people who have a keen interest in the arts and/or empowering people who have experienced homelessness alongside a willingness to contribute time, imagination and commitment to the role, to our thinking and to our future success and resilience.

We would particularly welcome applications from people who are currently under-represented on our Board:

- with lived experience of homelessness
- who identify as Global Majority*
- who are aged 18 - 35
- who identify as disabled or neurodiverse



* Global Majority refers to people who are Black, African, Asian, Brown, dual-heritage, indigenous to the global south, and or, have been racialised as ‘ethnic minorities’.” Source: **Global Majority: we need to talk about labels such as ‘BAME’**.

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you’re not sure because of, for example, your working hours, employment status, caring responsibilities, level of experience, socio-economic or cultural background or access needs. We would still love to hear from you so we can talk about any concerns.

What we ask of our trustees

- To develop a clear understanding of the responsibilities of being a trustee (more information can be found here: **For aspiring trustees | Getting on Board**)
- To serve an initial term of 3 years, with the possibility of re-appointment until 9 consecutive years’ service has been reached.
- To attend, either virtually or in person, 4 x 2-hour board meetings per year and relevant sub-committee meetings (Finance, HR, Nominations and Development [Fundraising] – held virtually) as required. Travel expenses for in-person meetings are provided. Board meetings currently take place between 6-8pm on Tuesday evenings, but, if this does not fit in with other responsibilities, we would be happy to discuss.
- To attend performance events and other engagements whenever possible.
- To advocate and champion Streetwise Opera’s work, values, ambition, and strategic direction.

Trustee roles are voluntary and unpaid; however, reasonable out of pocket expenses can be covered.

What you can expect from us

- A thorough induction process to introduce you to Streetwise Opera’s work and the responsibilities of being a Trustee;
- Opportunities to attend workshops and events and to speak to Streetwise Opera performers, artists and staff;
- Timely notifications of Board meeting dates and Board papers distributed a week in advance;
- A warm and welcoming meeting environment where debate and challenge are encouraged and all Trustees are supported to express their views;
- Additional support and/or training on any aspects of the role that are new or need further development.



Time commitment

The time commitment required of the role of Treasurer is likely to equate to approximately 10 – 12 days per year. This includes:

- Preparing for and participating in four Board meetings per year;
- Preparing for and chairing four Finance Committee meetings per year;
- Regularly liaising with key points of contact, such as the Chief Executive; General Manager and Chair of the Board of Trustees;
- Supporting the leadership team in certain initiatives or areas in which you have specialist skills, knowledge or experience;
- Occasional visits to Streetwise sessions and events to keep you informed of the work that we do and the way that we work.

Key dates

Board meeting dates for 2024 are as follows:

- Tuesday 12th March at 6pm (online)
- Tuesday 25th June at 6pm (in person in London)
- Tuesday 17th September at 6pm (online)
- Tuesday 3rd December at 6pm (in person in London)

Dates for Finance Committee meetings are not yet set and will usually take place at some point in the three weeks preceding a Board meeting. Finance Committee meetings are held virtually.

If invited to become a Trustee and Treasurer, you will be asked to observe both a Board meeting and a Finance Committee meeting prior to appointment.

Any questions?

We will be hosting an open webinar event about the role of Treasurer on Thursday 4 April, from 12 noon to 1pm, with our current Treasurer (Colin Jones), Chair of Trustees (Linden Ife) and CEO (Rachael Williams). You will be able to find out more about our work, the role of Treasurer and have the opportunity to ask any questions (anonymously, via a written chat function).

The webinar can be accessed by clicking on the link below, and questions can also be submitted in advance to Jess Reddel (**Jessica.Reddel@streetwiseopera.org**).

Webinar link: **<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82878323607?pwd=boNWTk1xZUFjbFl5VWFMMFZxK28vQT09>**

Webinar ID: 828 7832 3607

Webinar Passcode: 726284



How to apply

To apply to be a Trustee at Streetwise Opera, please **submit an online form**, including your contact details and our equal opportunities monitoring form (the latter will be held anonymously and will not be used as part of your application).

You can send your response in written format, as a video file (no more than 5 minutes) or as an audio file (no more than 5 minutes).

All applications will be considered anonymously using only the answers to the questions that you have provided. We will request your CV if you are invited to interview.

The three questions we would like you to respond to you are:

1. Why are you interested in getting involved with Streetwise Opera? (max 300 words)
2. Tell us how your skills and experience match those listed for the role of Treasurer. (max 300 words)
3. If you were appointed to the role, how would you get to grips with the organisation's finances, and is there any support or training that you might need to aid this? (max 300 words)

We will guarantee first round interviews to candidates who have lived experience of homelessness and who meet the essential criteria for this role. If you regard yourself as someone who has this lived experience, please inform us of this on the application form where indicated. Please state if you require any reasonable adjustments to be made with regards to an interview on the application form where indicated.

Closing date for applications: 10:00am on Monday 22 April 2024

Interviews: Wednesday 8 May (in person, London)

If you would like an informal conversation to discuss this role further and find out more about our future plans, please contact jessica.reddel@streetwiseopera.org. These conversations will not form part of our selection process.



REETWISE
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Equal Opportunities statement

As an equal opportunity employer, we are committed to ensuring within the framework of the law that our workplaces are free from unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender (including gender reassignment), sexuality, religion or beliefs, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy or trade union membership, or the fact that they are a part-time worker or a fixed-term employee. We aim to ensure that our employees achieve their full potential and that all employment decisions are taken without reference to irrelevant or discriminatory criteria. To find out more, read our **Diversity and Equal Opportunities Policy**.



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