



Chair of Trustees – Candidate Pack

About Us

Creative Future is based in Brighton and is one of the UK's leading organisations in championing underrepresented creative people and increasing diversity in mainstream culture.

We nurture underrepresented artists and writers in their creative development, through skills training, mentoring, exhibiting, promoting, and publishing opportunities.

Founded in 2007, we are a bridge from the margins to the mainstream and a catalyst for individual change. We empower artists to use their creative talent to change their lives. We've supported well over 5,000 people, delivered hundreds of workshops, held over 60 exhibitions and events for audiences of over 100,000.

We give a platform for artists who face significant barriers to accessing the arts. We bring new art to new audiences. We're unique in the breadth of people we work with and the depth in how we work with them.

Our current primary strands of work are developing writers through our annual [Writers' Award](#) national competition and development programme, and our [Arts, Health & Wellbeing](#) strand in partnership with leading and wide-ranging organisations across Brighton & Hove.

Who We Work With

Creative Future supports those who face barriers to access and support and are underrepresented in mainstream culture—people from the following backgrounds:

- Black, Asian & ethnic minority backgrounds
- LGBTQIA+
- Mental health issues
- Disabled, sensory impaired, d/Deaf and those with long-term limiting health conditions
- Neurodivergent
- Learning disabled
- Substance misuse issues
- Survivors
- Working class backgrounds

About the Role

We are seeking a Chair to join our board, to take over from our existing Chair who is looking to step down soon. We are interested in hearing from dynamic individuals who are dedicated to promoting talented underrepresented creative people.

By becoming Chair you will help to ensure that we continue to deliver our invaluable service to our beneficiaries.

Role summary

- The Chair provides leadership and direction to the Board of Trustees and enables the Board to fulfill their responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation.
- Ensures that the organisation pursues its objectives as defined in the governing document, charity law, company law and other relevant legislation/regulations.
- Works in partnership with the Director and helps to optimise the relationship between the board of Trustees and the staff.
- Facilitates the Board of Trustees in excellent, well-rounded and carefully considered strategic decision-making.

We are also committed to increasing representation on our Board of people whose backgrounds we support, which encompasses:

- Black, Asian & ethnic minority backgrounds
- LGTBQIA+
- Mental health issues
- Disabled, sensory impaired, d/Deaf and those with long-term limiting health conditions
- Neurodivergent
- Learning disabled
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Person Specification

Essential

- Experience of service on a charity board - ideally as a Chair and able to demonstrate an understanding of the role & legal/financial responsibilities that Trustees and the Board as a whole play within a charity and of Charity Commission/Company House requirements
- Senior leadership experience in the not-for-profit sector leading to an understanding of the relevant challenges and opportunities.
- Experience of operating at a strategic level within a similar sized organisation.
- Demonstrable strong leadership skills.

- Be passionate about arts and literature and increasing diversity in the sector
- Commitment to making Creative Future one of the UK's leading organisations for underrepresented artists & writers.
- Prepared to be a champion for Creative Future to personal and professional networks.

Desirable

- Strong commercial & financial acumen
- Potential to bring in new strategic partners/sponsors & opportunities.
- Have experience of fundraising and an accessible set of contacts to support this
- Cultural sector recognition and high-profile contacts

Additional Information

This is a voluntary role though reasonable travel expenses are offered. It is expected that board members will serve for at least 1 year and stay for a maximum of 3 years (with an option to renew for another 3 years if mutually agreed). A full induction will be provided.

Time commitment and Location

Board meetings are held 4 times a year, in the evenings for approximately two hours. Meetings are held at the organisation's office in Central Brighton (BN1 3XG). During lockdown the Board successfully held meetings via Zoom and this may be necessary in the future so comfort with this technology is required.

How to apply

Please submit your CV and a covering letter stating your relevant experiences/interests, why you'd like to be considered for this role and what you would contribute to the Creative Future board. Please also include two referees and a completed Equal Opportunities monitoring form.

Please email applications to jane@creativefuture.org.uk no later than **Tuesday 7 December 2021**.

Please contact our current Chair Carole Rue on carolarue@gmail.com for more information and/or an informal chat about the role.

Selection process

Selection will be by interview and a presentation on outline strategic imperatives for the organisation and how you would work with the management team to agree and implement these. There will be a panel of current Director, Chair and representative(s) from the current Board.