



## **Manchester's venue for children and families seek new trustee.**

Opportunity has arisen for a voluntary position to join the Z-arts Board of Trustees. We are particularly looking for someone with experience of issues relating to D/deaf and/or disabled communities and their access needs.

### **What is Z-arts?**

Z-arts is Manchester's venue for children and families. Our mission is to inspire and enable generations of young people from across Manchester and beyond to utilize their creativity to maximise their potential. We operate from a large Edwardian building which includes a 230-seat theatre, gallery, recording studio, music room, dance studio, café and numerous other rehearsal / meeting rooms. Based in Hulme, we are committed to supporting our local communities as well as reaching out across Greater Manchester and the North West.

Z-arts is in a position of strength with a strong staff team, stable financial base and a clear, focused artistic vision.

- We are one of five cultural organisations in receipt of 3-year strategic funding from Manchester City Council, with a remit to lead on best practice for engaging children and young people in arts and culture.
- We are an Arts Council England NPO (National Portfolio Organisation), leading and deliver the Big Imaginations Northern network of venues committed to bringing brilliant children's theatre to the region.
- We are in receipt of three years' funding from Children in Need to support our Bright Sparks programme, which offers children and young people free creative workshops across all artforms, every day of the week.
- Our CEO Liz O'Neill, is a recipient of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Breakthrough Fund, awarded to creative cultural entrepreneurs.
- We are gaining a reputation for breaking new ground in producing outstanding contemporary theatre and interdisciplinary art for children and families.
- Our visitor numbers have increased each year from 8,000 in 2009 to

64,550 last year, with 29,000 participation engagements.

- We have a turnover of over just over £1,000,000. About ¼ comes from Manchester City Council core funding and ¼ from ACE; ¼ project funding and ¼ earned income (hire of spaces, creative commissions and box office).
- We are governed by a dedicated team of trustees, who oversee organisational growth and provide strategic guidance.

## **Job Description**

### **General**

The successful applicant would be expected to donate a minimum of 60 hours per year to trustee duties, including preparing for and attending meetings and events.

1. To ensure the organisation provides good governance at all times.
2. To attend an annual strategic planning day.
3. To attend events regularly at Z-arts, including special VIP events and other regular activities, to promote better understanding of the core offer of the organisation.
4. To act as ambassadors for the organisation, both internally at Z-arts and in everyday life.
5. To support fundraising and development campaigns by introducing friends and colleagues to the organisation; assisting in any social media campaigns and attending seminars or training where necessary.

### **Specific: Disability & access needs**

Over the last year we have introduced a programme to build our audiences, activities and resources to develop our offer for people with access and additional needs. This has included regular Z-access Family Fun Days, making some small-scale capital improvements, training staff and making our regular activities as accessible as possible. We are now looking for somebody who can bring experience in this area to the board of management, to ensure that a voice for access and disability is heard at leadership level.

### **How to apply**

If you are interested in applying, please email [chair@z-arts.org](mailto:chair@z-arts.org) with a CV and an expression of interest stating why you are interested in becoming a Z-arts trustee and what skills you think you would bring to the role.

Alternatively, if you would like to discuss this opportunity first, please call our CEO Liz O'Neill on 0161 232 6076 or email [liz@z-arts.org](mailto:liz@z-arts.org) for an informal chat.

Some sectors of our society are currently under-represented on our board and we would particularly welcome applications from people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups or people with disabilities. Unusually, we currently also have a lack of men on the board.