

Board Recruitment Pack

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1. General

Being a trustee at Circus Central is a joyful experience. Our work helps to sustain a community: a home for people of all ages and abilities. Our support also enables participants to develop their physical and personal skills, setting them up for success. Attending a showcase or cabaret event is great fun, and very moving. You may not have thought about what goes on in a modern circus school, but you will be impressed, even amazed, and you will almost certainly want to start your very own circus journey.

2. Application process

General: We are looking to expand and diversify their board of trustees. We encourage applications from all individuals, ages from 16+. We want our Board of Trustees to be as diverse as our participants.

Please read this Board Recruitment Pack and complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form. Please return the Equal Ops form with your application and CV to Elise Hopper at elise.rana@gmail.com

Application: Please send a description of what you can contribute, including areas of specialism you can bring to the Board and examples of how you meet the requirements of the role (No more than 2 pages, or 5 minutes of recording).

Your application can be in written, video or sound recording format. Please include details of any business or other interests which might give rise to conflicts of interest, and how you would address this should your application be successful.

We are recruiting Board Members on an ongoing basis throughout 2021.

3. About Circus Central

Circus Central is a circus school charity based in Newcastle upon Tyne. Circus transforms lives. Our mission is to:

- Connect and strengthen individuals of all ages and abilities
- Develop physical, social and professional skills
- Build confident and resilient communities

To achieve our mission we offer a vibrant programme of circus activities for all ages and abilities. This includes: community workshops and classes, cabarets and performances, and accredited BTEC programmes to support progression routes. In a city that ranks amongst the least likely to engage with the arts we delivered over 1000 activities last financial year. These were attended by more than 900 unique participants (new users).

The majority of our activities focus on young people and improving personal and professional skills. Circus offers interventions that enhance resilience, promote self-esteem, interpersonal trust and social support (Journal of Refugee Studies 2019). Over half of our young participants have lived experience of challenging mental health. 76% of our attendees affirm that circus has improved their self-worth and given them confidence. Circus transforms lives.

'I was homeless and suicidal, Circus was my raft. It helped me connect with people and rebuilt me on a personal level that allowed me to thrive' BTEC graduate

We strive to be inclusive and offer accessible provision to ensure all young people can access the benefits of circus.

"Circus Central has consistently opened its doors to children and young people with complex needs. They always make time to listen to the individual needs of participants and then they offer a creative and positive problem solving approach. Lynn Campbell, Arts Connect

We operate from Shieldfield and Elswick, wards that rank in the top 10% of most deprived areas nationally (indices of deprivation gov.uk 2019), and with some of the highest rates of child poverty in the UK with 56.5% of young people living in poverty (Child Poverty Action Group cpag.org.uk). Poverty proofing is key to ensuring young people can access our provision.

4. Trustee Requirements

We are looking for individuals who are:

- Enthusiastic about our vision



- Proactive: help make sure that our organisation develops in line with our aims and objectives
- Good communicators
- Good team players, work well with others
- Committed: will attend required meetings and events

In particular, we are interested in those with knowledge, skills or experience in the following areas:

- PR and Marketing
- Finance and Accounting
- Law, particularly employment and/or property
- Local government
- Operational management
- Equality, diversity and inclusion

Board members must be over the age of 16, we encourage applications from individuals of all ages.

Roles are voluntary and no financial remuneration is offered beyond reasonable travel expenses.

Time commitments: a minimum of four board meetings per year, plus sub-committee meetings as required. We estimate that you will volunteer between one and two days per quarter. This will include attending at least one Circus Central event a year, and an Annual Board Away Day. Board meetings are currently held by Zoom though may revert to live meetings, usually held at Mill Lane. Times vary, but they are usually in the evening and change to ensure that all trustees have equal opportunity to attend.

5. Why be a trustee for Circus Central?

- Contribute to a great cause: you will play a fundamental role in the good governance of our charity. This ensures it is viable and sustainable, adheres to its mission and works in the interests of its beneficiaries.
- Develop and contribute your expertise: you will be able to adapt and apply your professional and personal experiences to a new context. Your professional strengths will enhance our charity, in return you will get the chance to push the boundaries of your expertise and learn new skills.
- Gain strategic experience: you will be able to develop and hone your: critical thinking, problem-solving and analytical skills as well as vital strategic sensibilities and team working



skills. The experience gained can have an immediate and powerful impact on your career, and open doors to new responsibilities.

- Expand your networks: you will have the opportunity to engage with people from diverse professional backgrounds. This will broaden your professional network and offer the possibility of new experiences and opportunities to progress.

- Work as a team: the success of our charity relies on effective collaboration, with negotiating, empathising, listening, clearly communicating ideas and concerns. Circus Central trustees are supported to advance their professional interpersonal skills.

A trusteeship at Circus Central is a great way to develop professionally and engage with a community. It's a role that will give back as much as you put in, rewarding you with personal and professional skills and connections, and a powerful sense of purpose and prospect.

If you would like further information, or have any access requirements or need support with the application process, please let us know, please contact our Chair of Trustees: Elise Hopper at elise.rana@gmail.com

