

**Brighton Open Air Theatre
(BOAT) CIO**

Trustee

Job Description



This is a voluntary position

Introduction

BOAT is a unique grassed amphitheatre in Dyke Road Park Hove, built through friendship and for the benefit of the community.

It is now in its third year of operation and has gone from strength to strength each year – increasing the number and quality of its performances and reaching more and more audiences. In order to take BOAT to the next level and increase its capacity, the charity is seeking to expand its board and is inviting applications from enthusiastic potential board members.

You can read more about us in this document, on our website and our Facebook pages.

Why join our Board?

We have ambitious plans to grow the reach, reputation and impact of the theatre as a unique venue for open-air performances of all kinds. At this exciting time - 3 years in with a brilliant theatre manager and a loyal and growing audience - we are looking to refresh the governance of the organisation.

Two of our founding trustees are stepping away to focus on their creative professional careers and new adventures, which leaves space for up to **four** new Board members.

As a new Trustee you will have an exciting opportunity to support and shape the development of the next phase of our work and ensure the continued success of the charity as it seeks to build on its success to reach new artists, communities and audiences.

Who are we looking for?

We are seeking candidates with a keen interest in and passion for BOAT's mission who share our values and are passionate about our vision, who with fellow trustees can support the Chair and General Manager to take BOAT to the next level.

Of particular interest are individuals who have:

- Strategic expertise and experience within a senior role in the commercial and/ or subsidized cultural sector
- Social media and PR
- Expertise and experience within a senior role in the charity sector including governance

What do we expect of Trustees?

BOAT expects that all new trustees will:

- Contribute constructively and effectively as a Board/committee member;
- Provide strategic direction, set overall policy, define goals, set targets and evaluate performance;
- Be willing and able to provide hands-on support to the running of BOAT whilst we build up our team.

- Ensure financial stability by carefully protecting and managing the charity's finances;
- Understand and adhere to the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship;
- Attend at least four Board meetings and one away day per year, and provide time outside of Board meetings to providing expert advice to the executive, as appropriate;
- Be passionate about performing arts, but not necessarily have experience working in the sector; and
- Have the potential to introduce new financial and strategic partners

Equal opportunities

BOAT celebrates how diversity enriches all aspects of our lives and is committed to building an inclusive and diverse community. We expect the board, staff, volunteers, artists, audiences and visitors to be treated, and treat each other, with dignity and respect regardless of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio- economic background or circumstances, political beliefs and affiliations, family circumstances or other irrelevant distinction. BOAT strives to be a theatre of friends for everyone.

In line with this, we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their individual circumstances.

Application process

Please email us the following:

- A covering letter stating your interest and suitability for the role of Trustee
- An up to date CV or connection to a Linked-in profile
- An email and mobile phone number

Please email BOATTrustee@gmail.com

Clearly marking '[YOUR NAME] --- Application for Board'

If you are able to come along to one of the BOAT performances in this time then it may be possible to arrange a discussion with one of the trustees and/or General Manager.

The deadline for expressions of interest is **Monday 24 July at 5pm**

We will get back to you by the following Monday the **31 July**.

About Brighton Open Air Theatre

Brighton Open Air Theatre (BOAT) is a registered charity incorporated on 16 March 2014 (CIO Reg No: 1156051)

Our charitable aim is *'The advancement of arts and culture through the establishment and maintenance of an open air theatre in Brighton & Hove for the use of residents and visitors.'*

BOAT is located in Dyke Road Park on the site of the old bowling green ([link here](#))

BOAT is open from May to September each year and presents a season of outdoor performance, spoken word, music and occasional screenings. BOAT is permitted to run shows up until 10pm Monday to Saturday and until 6pm on Sundays to a maximum of 22 events per month.

Our objectives are:

1. To create a unique new cultural venue for the city that ensures the highest possible production values for outdoor performance and exhibition and which diversifies the type of work that can be enjoyed in the open air.
2. To work with the city's festivals, programmers and curators to attract high quality touring productions and events.
3. To create a community of local artists and practitioners that make new work for the open air.
4. To engage with the local community to provide a platform for cultural activity and for creative learning.
5. To bring an under used open space back to life as a vibrant green cultural facility.

Governance & Management

BOAT relies on the enthusiasm and dedication of its volunteers: the Board, other creative professionals and the volunteer stewards who give up their time to ensure the safe and successful running of shows.

We have a very part-time General Manager who has worked in the arts for more than 20 years, Anne Marie Williams. She co-ordinates and manages a team of paid event staff and volunteers and manages relationships with freelance staff and sub-contractors as necessary. BOAT has a dedicated group of between 15 and 20 regular volunteers that provide stewarding and maintenance support. Most of these are local to the area.

The founding BOAT trustees are:

- Steve Turner – (Chair) Construction manager with Keir
- James Payne – Award winning screenwriter
- Claire Raftery – Artist, Director, Educator and co---Artistic director of Periplum
- Donna Close – Creative Producer and Arts Consultant

Since then we have been joined by:

- Lisa Wolfe , arts producer and Marketing Manager at Carousel

James and Claire are stepping down this year.

And our patron, Radio 4 comedian and writer Simon Evans, who has supported BOAT since its earliest days and continues to host fund-raising events for the charity.

Background

BOAT was the inspiration of the late playwright and showman Adrian Bunting. When he was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer in February 2014, he asked his friends to realize his dream of a dedicated open air theatre in Brighton & Hove, leaving his design and his life savings to the project. Adrian died on 11 May 2014.

From May 2014 to May 2015, the trustees formed the charity, secured the lease for the site, developed a business plan and secured planning permission with the pro bono support of architects Miller Bourne. The theatre was built by Acre Landscaping.

BOAT raised more than £100,000 for the site build through personal donations, fund-raising events and bucket collections. This money was all raised through public donations: Uniquely BOAT has not received any public funding.

BOAT opened on the 9 May 2015 with an opening gala featuring Simon Evans, Stewart Lee and many other stars of stage and screen. The first theatrical run was the Globe's Romeo & Juliet, presented with Brighton Festival. Since then the theatre has welcomed Laurie Anderson, Jo Neary, John Hegley, Tim Vine, Shane Ritchie amongst hundreds of professional and amateur performers, singers and musicians.

In 2015, BOAT presented 24 companies in 50 events and was experienced by an audience of 8000+. It featured in BBC and ITV News and substantially in the local and regional press and radio.

In 2016, BOAT presented 40 companies in 100 events, which was experienced by an audience of 15,000+.

In 2017, 120 shows are planned and we are hoping to reach an audience of 20,000

We have just over 9000 followers on our [Facebook](#) page and just over 3000 followers on [Twitter](#)

Our website is <http://www.brightonopenairtheatre.co.uk>