



Chair of DreamArts

DreamArts is an award winning grass-roots charity with a mission to fuse arts and therapy to transform young lives.

Christie's Charity of the Year 2018-19

**Outstanding Organisation of the Year
Westminster Community Awards**

**Mentoring Charity of the Year 2020
Queen's Park Mental Health Awards**

DreamArts is an inspiring space where young people across Westminster can express themselves on their own terms, explore their challenges and build their strengths so they can realise their potential. Children in poverty are 4 times more likely to develop mental health problems, and Westminster where DreamArts has worked for almost two decades suffers the 6th highest level of child poverty in the UK.

Covid-19 has only increased wellbeing challenges. To help meet this need DreamArts has a powerful programme engaging those from social and ethnic backgrounds who traditionally don't engage with the arts or therapy. EXPRESS offers free community-based arts therapy, and projects empowering young people to share their experiences creatively and have their voices heard about issues that affect them (e.g. young carers); EXPERIMENT weekend creative labs empower 7-19 year olds to devise their own original work, from films to musicals; and EXPAND leadership schemes empower young people to become creative entrepreneurs.

We're proud that the quality of our work transforming young lives has been recognised by financial growth of 50% with major 3-year grants from funders including BBC Children in Need, City Bridge and John Lyon's Charity.

We have a passionate team of practitioners supported by a Board of Trustees who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in many areas.

We are looking for a Chair of Trustees who can help guide us in our vision for the Charity and help us meet the needs of young people during the challenges ahead.

To hear from past participants visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mJLQipt4ck>





JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Chair

Responsible to: The Board of Trustees and the beneficiaries of DreamArts

Duration: 3 years

Commitment: 4 x evening Ordinary General Meetings (6pm-8pm)
1 x Trustee Away Day (10am – 4pm)
1 x Annual General Meeting (evening, 6pm-8pm)
Monthly supervisions with the Director
Ad-hoc meetings/emails/telephone conversations with Trustees
Occasional meetings with funders and partners
Attendance at events and visits to project sessions

Deadline: Wednesday 30 September

Interviews: Week beginning 19 October

Application: If you would like an informal chat please contact DreamArts Director Graham Whitlock at graham@dreamarts.org.uk or our Treasurer Asif Raniwala at ARaniwala@azrltd.com. If both sides feel it is a potential 'fit' you will need to provide a supporting statement of no more than 500 words and a CV.

DreamArts values diversity and we would particularly welcome and encourage candidates from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Job Specification

The principal role of Chair is to engage with the Board and the Executive Team and hold them to account for DreamArt's conduct as a charity, working closely with them so that:

- the Board operates within its charitable objectives, follows governance best practice and complies with regulatory requirements
- the charity upholds the safeguarding of beneficiaries
- the strategic objectives and overall vision of the charity are regularly reviewed and met
- the Board of Trustees fulfils its functions as a board and individual trustees fulfil their responsibilities
- the Executive Management are committed and performing effectively to a high standard
- DreamArts achieves maximum impact for its many stakeholders; from beneficiaries to its varied donors and partners
- the risks affecting DreamArts are regularly reviewed and managed
- the Board fulfils its duties to ensure financial accountability and continuing sound financial health.
- the Chief Executive is supported and where appropriate challenged and that the Board and the Executive Management team function as one to meet DreamArts' agreed strategy



Specifically:

Governance

- oversee governance arrangements so they work in the most effective way for DreamArts
- work with fellow Trustees so that the Board incorporates the right balance of skills, knowledge and experience needed to govern and direct
- support systems for the appraisal of Trustees on an annual basis
- work with the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees who will act for the Chair when the Chair is not available and undertakes assignments at the request of the Chair

External Relations

- act as an ambassador for DreamArts and as a spokesperson when appropriate, including representing the charity on occasion at external functions
- address any potential conflict with external stakeholders
- work with fellow Trustees so they utilise their networks for the benefit of the charity

Efficiency and effectiveness

- chair Board meetings effectively and efficiently, bringing impartiality and objectivity to the decision making process and enabling collective ownership
- facilitate the full engagement of Trustees and oversee that decisions are taken in the best, long-term interests of DreamArts
- foster constructive relationships between Trustees and address any conflicts
- work closely with the Director to give direction to Board policy-making and to ensure that meetings are well planned, meaningful and reflect the responsibilities of Trustees
- ensure that decisions and actions taken at meetings are implemented.

Relationship with the Director and the Executive Management Team

- build an effective and constructive working relationship with the Executive Management Team, ensuring they are held to account for achieving agreed strategic objectives and enabling all to speak openly about concerns, worries and challenges
- support the Director, whilst respecting the boundaries which exist between the two roles.
- conduct a formal annual appraisal of the Director and a remuneration review for the Executive Management Team in consultation with other Trustees
- ensure that the Director has the opportunity for professional development and has appropriate external professional support

Business Planning and Financial

- oversee the development and approval of a business plan that is regularly reviewed and adhered to
- work with fellow Trustees so that regular financial reports are produced to the Board including cash flow analysis and maintaining appropriate reserves
- work with fellow Trustees so that the charity's agreed fundraising strategy is reviewed annually, and that the focus on the strategy once approved is maintained

