

Invitation for applications to join the Board of Trustees at Big Brum TIE

Big Brum Theatre in Education Co Ltd is looking for enthusiastic people to join our Board of Trustees, who are interested in supporting the company through a period of organisational development over the next 5-10 years.

Who is Big Brum?

Big Brum is a registered charity that has delivered Theatre in Education (TIE) programmes for over 40 years, working with thousands of children and young people across all age ranges and abilities. The Company's approach involves using theatre and drama to explore deep questions and relevant concepts with young people, to help them make meaning of their lives and the world around them. We work with schools in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands, including primary, secondary, and Pupil Referral Unit/alternative provision settings. We also work across the UK and internationally with schools, universities, libraries, heritage settings and other arts organisations that are committed to working with children and young people. We also work with Birmingham City University to deliver the Masters in Drama Teaching and Learning.

Big Brum is first and foremost child centred. Our programmes always explore the big question, "what it means to be human", and we do so through story. The company produces theatre of high quality and aims to engage young minds in stories that allow them to think and test their values rather than telling children what to think and feel. The company seeks to provide young people with safe spaces in which to think and feel for themselves.

We tour 2-3 productions each year, with each tour usually lasting 8-12 weeks and visiting 40-50 schools, working with 3500-5000 children and young people.

Big Brum TIE is currently going through a significant period of change and development. There is a small permanent staff team consisting of; Artistic Director, Educationalist, Finance and Administration Manager and Two Actor/Teachers, with additional freelance Artists employed for each project. The company is currently project funded by Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and several small trusts and foundations.

We are committed to building an inclusive and diverse organisation that reflects our region and the communities with whom we work. We recognise that diversity brings a wealth of benefits and strongly encourage applications from all interested people with related experience, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, trans and non-binary candidates, LGBTQ+ candidates and those who have a disability. If you have any access needs relevant to the process, please get in touch with us directly to discuss them.

Trustee responsibilities

As a trustee you are responsible for:

- Safeguarding and promoting the mission, vision and values of Big Brum.
- Ensuring the charity operates in an effective, responsible and accountable manner, complying with charity law.
- Holding the staff team to account for delivery against objectives.
- Ensuring the charity's activities are sustainable and assessing key risks and mitigating strategies.
- Contributing to the effective functioning of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee competencies

Trustees should be able to demonstrate the following qualities and competencies.

- Committed to the vision, mission and values of Big Brum.
- Think and plan strategically.
- Assimilate and analyse information and challenge constructively where appropriate.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Be constructive of other trustees' opinions and staff members' contributions at meetings.
- Take a balanced and objective view.
- Willing/able to make collective decisions and stand by them.
- Able to respect the boundaries between executive and governance functions.
- Understand the importance and purpose of meetings and be committed to preparing for them adequately and attending them regularly.

Each Trustee will then additionally bring specific experience and knowledge in their area of expertise to give us a broad base of artistic, management and professional skills. **It is not essential to have been in a formal governance role before, we will offer full induction and ongoing training for those selected.**

If you would like to know more, please visit <https://bigbrum.org.uk/> where you will find information about the company and can see the list of our current Trustees.

If you wish to apply, please send the following to judy@bigbrum.org.uk with 'Trustee application' in the email title.

- A letter expressing why you are interested in becoming a board member and any relevant skills you have to offer.
- Your current CV

We will respond to all applicants within 4 weeks.