

CALL OUT FOR

CHAIR

OF THE BOARD

**SWINDON
DANCE**

Voluntary unpaid position

We are a registered charity, looking for a dedicated and passionate individual to join our Board of Trustees as Chair. Could this be you?

The Opportunity

Swindon Dance is an innovative dance venue with a national reputation for excellence in dance. We are one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations (NPO) and the home of one of only nine Centres for Advanced Training (CAT) in the country. We are looking for exceptionally motivated people with a passion for dance to join our Board of Trustees.

Becoming a Chair of Swindon Dance will give you an opportunity to engage in the evolution and development of one of the UK's leading dance development organisations. You will be responsible, along with the other Trustees, for ensuring the strong and effective governance of the organisation and its financial sustainability and compliance with all relevant legislation. You will be involved in strategic planning and help shape the organisation's vision, advocating and championing the organisation to build on its successful track record and realise its goals and aspirations.

The Chair is pivotal to the future sustainability and development of the organisation and the ideal candidate will not only contribute to the artistic and organisational vision of Swindon Dance but will also bring ideas and practical thought to the team.

We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals with one or more of the following areas of professional expertise:

- Senior strategic management;
- Education;
- Digital technologies;
- Fundraising;
- HR;
- Team management;
- Marketing & PR;
- Dance artists;
- Venue management;
- Financing / accountancy.

Commitment

You will be required to commit to four trustee meetings a year plus active participation in working groups (approximately four meetings a year) and to attend some performances and events.

Trustee meetings are held online with one meeting a year in person at Swindon Dance early evenings with other meetings scheduled flexibly. Reasonable travel expenses may be claimed if required.

As a charity and a limited company the chairman is both a non-executive director and trustee.

Board membership is a voluntary position.

Swindon Dance

We believe in 'enriching lives through dance', that everyone regardless of age, creed, gender or background is entitled to access and enjoy the richness of art and culture in their lives.

Swindon Dance began in 1979, it is a registered charity, an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and runs one of only nine Government Centres for Advanced Training (CAT) - a national coaching programme for young talented dancers supported through the Department for Education. Swindon Dance has developed a national reputation as an organisation that specialises in talent development, artist support, show-casing and personal enrichment locally, nationally, and internationally.

Our activities include a regular programme of classes, workshops, events and performances from up-and-coming dance artists and companies, as well as community performances for our children, young people and adult users. We take dance out into schools and into the community, working in areas of high disadvantage and low engagement delivering a range of education and outreach work, from small to large scale projects in partnership with local and regional artists and arts organisations. We give guidance and support to young talented dancers and professional artists, show-casing professional and non-professional works. Our building is also a base for new and emerging artists' offering them professional dance facilities alongside a specialist and individually focused development programme. We are a centre of excellence in talent development and Street Dance running an internationally recognised 5-day Street Dance Festival each year.

Our Talent Development Programme provides talented and passionate young dancers from 7 to 19 years of age with a specialist training pathway into dance. Starting with our Primary Steps programme, which runs in partnership with the Royal Ballet School offers access to a first dance experience to 7–11-year-olds, our Steps2 programme is the next stage for 9-year-olds plus, through to the Swindon Youth Dance Company (SYDCo) our flagship youth dance company for 13–19-year-olds, and our CAT for exceptionally talented young dancers aged 11-19 years. The CAT is 1 of only 9 Centres for Advanced Training in England and is supported by the Department for Education. Our CAT offers four programmes of training – contemporary (Swindon and Exeter), Ballet and Street Dance (Swindon). It is a very successful training programme with 95% of dancers continuing to full-time training at the UK and Europe's leading vocational colleges and dance Conservatoires.

Alumni of Swindon Dance have gone on to work professionally in different areas of the dance industry, here are a few examples; Bavarian State Ballet - Munich, Black Box Dance Company - Denmark, Danish Dance Theatre - Denmark, Motionhouse Company, Punch Drunk, Russell Maliphant, Rambert Dance Company, Wayne McGregor, in music videos such as Beyoncé, TV and the commercial world including Thomson Holidays, Uber, the Lexus car advert and the face of Topman, Warner Brothers film 'Pan', the West End and many more.

For many, dance is a social and fun way to improve their health and well-being whilst for others, Swindon Dance is the first stage into a career in dance and to being part of the changing face of the UK's evolving arts industry.

We celebrated our 40th anniversary in 2019 and are proud to have played an instrumental role in the careers of many of today's leading dancers, choreographers and dance companies.

Our Professional Artist Programme aims to support young to mid-career independent professional artists, choreographers, and producers at various stages in their career development and reflect the different genre in today's diverse dance ecology. There are 4 strands to this programme:

- The Young Professional Programme is a two-year programme that aims to support young professionals by reducing the financial pressures a young dancer faces when trying to start their professional career. This is not a tutor led course and each dancer will be expected to be self-motivated and have the ability to research, plan and implement their own plan towards achieving their goals.

- The Associate Artist Programme aims to support the next generation of professional dance makers and artists. This programme is for new to mid-career artists and practitioners from any genre or location.
- The Professional Performance Programme works with, and supports young to mid-career choreographers over a longer period, integrating with prospective audiences on practical projects alongside creating works for live performance, we hope to engage with, and reignite audiences passion for live professional dance performances.
- Reverse Pitch is a platform where an invited audience of young people from the community get to see the pitches of young professional artists and then vote on their favourite. The winning artists is awarded with Imagine being one of 4 talented young choreographers, each armed with a 20-minute slot to captivate the audience of young people aged 14-20 with their ingenious pitches. The mediums of expression were boundless – from live performances that left the audience spellbound, to thought-provoking talks that challenged conventions, and cinematic marvels that transported people to another realm. It was a celebration of art in its myriad forms.

Apply

We know that sometimes people can be put off applying for a role if they think they can't tick every box, well we welcome the whole person, we understand that each of us brings our experiences, our backgrounds, and our own unique lens to what we do. We believe our work will be stronger with greater diversity and welcome applications from those who will bring something different to this role and who wish to make a difference.

We are interested in both your professional and personal experiences. You could be exactly what we need. You may not have worked in a cultural organisation before, or in an organisation like Swindon Dance. Perhaps you have worked in music, fashion, design, or in technology – these are all very transferable contexts.

If you think you can make a positive difference to our organisation and would like an application form or would like an informal conversation about becoming our Chair, please contact; viv.slayford@swindondance.org.uk

All applicants are invited to Swindon Dance for an informal chat with the Artistic Director before moving onto the formal application process.

Viv Slayford,
Artistic Director, Swindon Dance,
viv.slayford@swindondance.org.uk
01793 601700

Download an [application pack](#) from our website

Swindon Dance is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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