



12th November 2020

Hello

I am delighted that you are interested in finding out more about our Board of Trustees. Our Board helps to shape, oversee and lead the future for Dance in Devon and shares a collective passion for dance and dancing. Dance in Devon is an organisation for artists and communities. We're all about moving together and making local life better. We care about enabling expression and connection, improving health and wellbeing and supporting artists to make their best work.

Our Trustees, alongside our staff and volunteers, have a passion for dance as an artform: for doing, making and watching dance. They also provide the vision, expertise and creativity to help us develop and grow sustainably. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of the organisation and provides effective challenge and scrutiny of the strategic direction in line with our charitable objectives.

This information pack is designed to provide you with more details about the role and about our mission and core purpose. If you would like to speak informally about any aspect of the role please do get in touch director@danceindevon.org.uk or 07305 151579.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Sue Smith

Director



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dance in Devon is a dance organisation for happier and healthier communities. We design and deliver high quality dance experiences to people in Devon to enhance cultural and artistic experience and improve quality of life, health and wellbeing.

We are a registered charity (1132898) and company limited by guarantee (4777443). Our innovative dance projects are imagined and realised with our partners across the county, often in unusual spaces and places, through strong participatory work including; community celebrations, dance for older people in residential care, young people and mental health, artist development and early years work. We develop dance adventures for the people of Devon and beyond.

Our charitable purpose is;

- To provide participatory dance activities in Devon that make life better by; bringing people together, igniting imaginations, inspiring a proliferation of voices and tackling health and social issues.
- To extend the boundaries of the art and power of dance in Devon and beyond and to challenge ideas about who takes part and how.

Our **Vision** is for an energised and activated county where people's lives are enriched by the possibilities of human movement: where a new democracy is enacted through meaningful, dance-led activity and inspiring art.

Our **Mission** is to explore new ways of thinking through the body that recognise our inter-dependency on each other and the entire ecosystem of which we are an integral part. Through collaborative dance opportunities we will challenge historic barriers to participation. We will support biodiversity on a local and global scale and illuminate the choices we make about how we relate to others and connect with the world around us.

We hold our **Values** dear to ensure our projects and activities are of the highest quality;

- **Partnership:** working with a wide range of allies to co-create meaningful projects that deliver shared objectives.
- **Diversity:** ensuring that our work recognises, supports and reflects the diverse communities of Devon and the UK and challenges barriers to taking part.
- **Care:** offering a wide range of bespoke outcomes through dance that enhance health and wellbeing as well as the social and democratic qualities of life.
- **Environmental sustainability:** ensuring the protection of the environment and actively tackling the climate crisis at every stage of project planning and delivery.

Our direct clients are; the general public, artists, educational institutions, local authorities and social commissioners, arts and non-arts partners and grant providers. We listen to our stakeholders and clients and design our projects to be genuinely collaborative, meaningful and responsive to our partners and contexts.

We are motivated to become more actively vocal and visible about our artistic and social aims and charitable purpose and to invest in our strategic capacity to make excellent dance more available to our communities. We offer a unique strategic overview of dance provision and valued advocacy that spans the breadth of the county including Torbay.

DiD is supported by its network of key venue partners: Exeter Northcott Theatre, Dartington Arts, ROC Creative, The Plough Arts Centre and Exeter Phoenix. These partnerships are the result of over a decade of relationship building and were set up by DiD to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to the highest quality dance and talent development across the county. We also take dance to unusual spaces, where people live, work and play, allowing the widest demographic to share in dance, often without walking through the door of a theatre.

Our Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees comprises representation from independent artists and dance professionals, arts organisations, venues and Higher Education.

You can see our current Board Members here:

<http://danceindevon.org.uk/board/>

The Role of Trustee and Person Specification

This is a part-time, voluntary role but reasonable expenses can be paid.

Location: Devon – usually Exeter and Dartington (currently on Zoom)

Time commitment: approximately 4 days a year

Tenure: We adopt a term of 3 years and a term is renewable.

The Role

Board members of Dance in Devon will be both directors of a company and trustees of a charity. They will therefore, have duties and responsibilities under company law and charity law.

Whilst not onerous these are formal duties to be taken seriously. Details about being a trustee and the duties of a trustee can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do>

Key Role of Trustees:

- To ensure the organisation complies with its governing document and pursues the objectives defined in it.
- To ensure the organisation applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives.
- To contribute actively to giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals/setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation.
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation.
- To protect and manage the property of the organisation and to ensure the proper investment of the organisation's funds.
- To appoint the Executive Director and monitor their performance.

Trustees must hold the charity "in trust" for current and future beneficiaries by:

- Ensuring that the charity has a clear vision, purpose and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these.
- Being responsible for the performance of the charity and for its "corporate" behaviour; ensuring that the charity complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.
- Acting as guardians of the charity's assets, both tangible and intangible.
- Ensuring that the charity's governance is of the highest possible standard.

As well as the various statutory duties, any trustee should make full use of any specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the Board make good decisions.

The above list of duties is indicative only. Trustees will be expected to perform all such additional duties as are reasonably proportionate with the role.

Trustee Values

- A commitment to the mission, vision and values of Dance in Devon.
- A commitment to embedding diversity and inclusion across the organisation.

A commitment to Nolan's 7 principles of standards in public life – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>

Knowledge, skills and understanding

- Commitment to the organisation and willingness to devote time & effort.
- Understanding of the role and value of dance and commitment to raising awareness of dance and Dance in Devon.
- Willing to challenge and be challenged.
- Good, independent judgement and strategic vision.

Other

- Willingness to attend Board meetings and be available for and respond to communication from the staff of the organisation.
- Willingness to attend occasional daytime and evening events.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.
- An understanding of the challenges of leading an organisation through periods of significant change.

Board members may or may not have other Board experience. Our Board members may have experience in one or more areas listed below:

Commercial Sector

- Ability to think strategically, identifying sound commercial opportunities that align to the organisation's charitable objects.
- Advise, guide and challenge the organisation to be ambitious in its growth and reach.

Arts and Culture

- An artistic practice and experience of working as a professional artist
- Experience of leading an organisation which has multiple funding streams and awareness of the goals of Arts Council England and other major cultural organisations.
- Extensive network of contacts across the arts and cultural sector with a diverse range of artists, arts organisations and creative practitioners.
- Digital expertise

Fundraising

- Experience of fundraising within a cultural or social enterprise setting.
- Experience of developing and delivering a mixed fundraising portfolio incorporating individual giving and maximising Trust and Foundation opportunities.

Board member contact details;

- Dr Chris Turner (chair) chair@danceindevon.org.uk
- Kerry Chappell K.A.Chappell@exeter.ac.uk
- Lara Lloyd lara@coombefarmstudios.com
- Richard Wolfenden Brown Richard richard@theploughartscentre.org.uk
- Gillian Taylor gilliantaylorpr@btinternet.com
- Denise Rowe helloearthdances@gmail.com