

Multistory's Board is seeking new Trustees

Deadline: 12 noon on Thursday 31 March, 2022

About Multistory

Multistory is a community arts organisation. We have been based in West Bromwich in the borough of Sandwell for 16 years and the people and place shape our work. We build meaningful connections between local communities and artists to produce creative projects that tell stories of everyday life. We believe in the power of art to reflect the times we live in and tell stories to bring people together.

Our mission is to produce high quality community art with, and by, the people of Sandwell that encourages their creativity and participation in community life and is relevant to their experiences.

Our values are:

- **Creativity** – to encourage participation and expression.
- **Collaboration** – with communities, creatives and partners.
- **Accessibility** – to make art and creativity accessible to people that might not have access to it; to make our recruitment processes transparent and open.
- **Inclusivity** – of diverse perspectives / stories; at all levels of the organisation and its work.
- **Sustainability** – social, environmental; economic.

We are committed to increasing access to, and participation in, the arts for all of the culturally diverse communities of Sandwell. This includes residents, groups and organisations who are participants in our projects; the creatives we employ and support; and the partners we collaborate with.

We are committed to being an inclusive workplace and to being an anti-racist organisation. We are part of 'More of a Moment Pledge' (the West Midlands Arts sector's response – and its promise – to take radical, bold and immediate action to dismantle the systems that have, for too long, kept Black artists, creatives and employees from achieving their potential in the arts and cultural industries). We have updated our Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Action Plan; undertaken staff and Board unconscious bias and anti-racism training; and reviewed our recruitment and selection processes.

We are an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, revenue funded by Sandwell Council and a limited company and a registered charity. Further information can be found on our website.

www.multistory.org.uk

As a registered charity, Multistory has a Board of Trustees that plays an active role in the development of our organisation; to scrutinise our work; to provide guidance in how we set our values and standards; to ensure the work we deliver serves the local communities; and that funds are appropriately allocated.

Call for expressions of interest

We anticipate making at least two new appointments from this expression of interest period of 12 January to 31 March, 2022. We are looking for people to join our Board who are interested in arts and culture and we would particularly welcome applications from people who:

- are from Black, Asian and racially minoritised backgrounds;
- have a disability;
- are aspiring young trustees;
- live in, or come from, Sandwell.

You might not have thought about being on a Board before; it's a voluntary role and is a brilliant way to use your skills and experience to support the arts. You meet different kinds of people and, as well as sharing what you know with us, we think you'll learn a lot too! It also requires a certain level of commitment and time as outlined below.

You will be joining us at an exciting time as we have recently started a three-year, community engaged, cultural programme in Wednesbury as part of the Historic England High Street Heritage Action Zones scheme; and we are pleased to be working with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme on a major exhibition that will be part of a six-month arts festival for the city and wider West Midlands.

Experience and skills

We are seeking people who are enthusiastic about arts, culture and communities with the following areas of knowledge / expertise / skills:

- community engagement and participation;
- accessibility and inclusion in the arts;
- public sector / business involvement for example: HR, legal, PR, comms & marketing, fundraising, business and strategic planning, financial management;
- digital technology.

Previous experience of Board membership is not required; induction and training is provided.

What does it involve?

Trustees guide and help us make good decisions; offer advice, expertise and support to the staff; and ensure the financial and legal requirements of running a limited company and charity are all met.

We expect Board Members to take an active interest in the organisation and help us outside of the Board meetings, when needed, to develop key pieces of work.

We ask that you commit for an initial period of three years, after which you can seek to be reappointed for a further three years. This is a voluntary position and only travel and expenses incurred to attend Board meetings and anything else you do as a Board member can be reimbursed.

The Board meets four times a year – January, April, July and October – 5.30 to 7.30 pm on a Wednesday, currently online due to Covid but we anticipate introducing ‘in person’ meetings in West Bromwich later in 2022. There will also be a half-day Board ‘away day’ each year.

As a Trustee you will use your experience to support Multistory with its mission, and values. This involves contributing to the following:

- ensuring good governance and management to achieve financial stability, resilience and statutory compliance
- using your specific knowledge and experience to provide advice and guidance on issues relevant to your area of special expertise.
- developing the strategic vision and long-term planning.
- meeting our revenue funding obligations to Sandwell Council and to Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation.

As a Board member you will agree to:

- attend meetings in West Bromwich (or online);
- be fully up to date with the business of the company;
- read the Board papers that will be sent to you a week before each meeting and be well prepared;
- offer timely feedback and responses if we require your input outside of Board meetings;
- advocate for the company where/when appropriate.

How to apply

If you'd like an informal chat about becoming a Board member before you submit an expression of interest, please email our Company Manager, Caron Wright at caronwright@multistory.org.uk to arrange a phone call or video chat.

We encourage expressions of interest regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion and/or belief, particularly from those with lived experience of inequality. We are committed to making application processes as accessible as possible and are happy to provide information in alternative formats and answer any other questions you may have regarding this opportunity; just contact Caron at the email address above.

If you're interested in applying, please:

- send us a expression of interest (max 500 words) telling us why you'd like to join the Board and what useful skills and experience you can bring;
- your CV; and
- complete the **equal opportunities monitoring form** provided.

Please email everything to Caron, at the email address above, with the subject heading 'Multistory Board Recruitment'. If you'd like to apply using a video or audio file, that's absolutely fine (but please can it be no more than four minutes).

Closing date for expressions of interest is 12 noon on Thursday 31 March, 2022.

We will review all trustee applications, and for those that we wish to take forward Emma Chetcuti, (our Director) and Colin Wells (the Chair of Multistory's Board) will arrange a time to meet you informally for a friendly chat. Following this, we'll invite those candidates that feel like the best match for Multistory, and vice versa, to observe our next Board meeting on 27 April, 2022.

Multistory
13 January, 2022