

# – Culture – Central –

## Culture Central - Board and Chair/Co-Chair opportunities

### Culture Central is changing and we need you.

We are seeking a number of new board members, including a Chair/Co-Chair to help us realise this change.

### What is Culture Central?

Culture Central is the collective voice of the Cultural Sector in the West Midlands.

We have three main aims: to ensure the viability, visibility and evolution of the cultural sector across the West Midlands, through collaboration, connection, and action.

Our work focusses on advocacy, communication, equity, strategy and support.

### Our Plan For The Future

Culture Central will continue to have a regional focus, acting for the benefit of the entire West Midlands arts sector. We will advocate and lobby for support, funding and investment with partners and stakeholders; identify key collaborators; and share and disseminate information. We will ensure Culture is high on the agenda across regional decision making, and celebrate the breadth, diversity and quality of the sector in the region. We will shout loudly and with a clear narrative, about our value and stories - to audiences, communities and decision makers, locally, nationally and internationally.

We are currently developing a three-year business plan, membership recruitment strategy and funding drive to support the work. The Chair(s) and board will play a crucial role in shaping and supporting this work.

We want our board to share the principles and values of the organisation, which include:

- **Collective Voice:** for the whole West Midlands Cultural Sector: Speaking with and for all scale of organisations, commercial and subsidised and individuals and freelancers who work in the sector, across all forms of culture, most specifically Arts, Culture and Heritage.
- **Inclusivity:** everyone is invited and welcomed, with positive action to ensure representation, equity and access.
- **Transparency:** We will be open with our communication and information, and listen carefully and thoughtfully to all voices.
- **Authenticity:** Genuinely here to support and development of the sector and all activity is for this purpose
- **Collaboration:** We will facilitate, convene and promote genuine partnerships and collaborations across the sector and region, including collaboration with other sectors, for the benefit of the sector.
- **Represent:** West Midlands in the widest sense, from rural, towns, cities and urban centres. (Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Herefordshire, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire).
- **Enabler:** Supporter and enabler, but not a producer of artistic work

You can find more about what we have been up to since March 2020 on

<https://www.culturecentral.co.uk>

(we are aware the vision, website and language need a bit of an update)

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## **What does being a Chair/Co-Chair involve?**

- You will have the best interests of Culture Central at heart when attending meetings, making decisions and representing the organisation.
- You will be the main point of contact for the Director, providing line management and decision making support.
- You will be a public face for Culture Central, potentially attending meetings and events representing Culture Central in a range of different arenas.
- You will act as a sounding board for the Director and offer guidance/advice to the rest of the board.
- You will facilitate and manage board meetings.
- You will be able to notice and facilitate strategic opportunities and partnerships.
- You will also be someone who is willing and able to shout about the work of Culture Central and the wider Cultural Sector in the region.
- You will offer scrutiny and oversight of the organisation's legal and compliance responsibilities.
- Meetings will be on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis, dependent on need.
- There will be work in between meetings, specifically for the chair, equating to approx. 1-2 days per month.
- This is an unpaid role.

We would consider a co-Chair arrangement with two people sharing the role. You can apply together, or alternatively express an interest in this arrangement if applying as an individual. We may propose it to successful candidates if we feel it is in the best interests of the organisation. Please note that the Chair should be independent of any of the membership organisations.

## **What does being a Board member involve?**

- You will have the best interests of Culture Central at heart when attending meetings, making decisions and representing the organisation
- You will engage in decision making and share your, perspective ideas, advice and knowledge with the rest of the board.

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- You will also be someone who is willing and able to shout about the work of Culture Central and the wider Cultural Sector in the region.
- You will offer scrutiny and oversight of the organisation's legal and compliance responsibilities.
- Meetings will be on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis, dependent on need and time to read papers and advise in between where necessary. The time require is 1-2 days every quarter.

This is an unpaid role, however, to ensure we have freelance representation, we will cover time costs for **one** freelance board member, for two days every quarter at a rate of £250 per day. **Please state that you are applying as a freelancer to be considered.**

We will be having a drop in briefing session on 26<sup>th</sup> January between 4 and 6pm, where you will get to chat to existing board members and Director Erica Love. This will be held on Zoom and we can arrange a BSL interpreter or other access requirements, please email [info@culturecentral.co.uk](mailto:info@culturecentral.co.uk) to let us know if you would like to attend and if you have any access requirements, ideally before 24<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Application Process:**

To express your interest in the role, please send us an expression of interest, **of no more than two pages, or by film or audio of no more than 5 minutes, by 5pm on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

## **Make sure you:**

Tell us where you are from and the work you do, if you work in the cultural sector or somewhere else.

Tell us what you think you would bring to the organisation and how your skills could support the board and team in achieving its vision.

Tell us why you would like to have this role and the principles that matter most to you.

We will then have a series of interview sessions, through early February, which will be relatively informal.

## **Commitment to positive action:**

We want our board to be truly representative of the West Midlands, with representatives from across the region.

We want to have 50% of our board from a culturally diverse background (including but not limited to Black, Asian, Afro-Latinx and people of mixed heritage).

We will interview all those who express an interest who identify as (d)Deaf/Disabled.

We also want to ensure our board is as balanced as possible in terms of gender, class, age, sexual orientation.

We will take this balance into account when making the appointment decisions.

**Please send an expression of interest to [info@culturecentral.co.uk](mailto:info@culturecentral.co.uk) by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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If you require any access support in order to apply, please email or call 0121 2856466

For an informal chat please also drop us an email.