

**TRUSTEE BRIEF**

**BEEE Creative – BECOME A TRUSTEE**

Would you like to help us improve access to dance provision for more people of all ages across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Luton, through projects that make dance and interdisciplinary artwork with communities at the heart of the creative process?

You’ll join a small and committed board who are passionate about presenting dance in new and exciting ways – live or digital performances, installations and exhibitions - that is:

* inclusive
* advocates the benefits that participation in dance brings about
* promotes and celebrates a voice and visibility in dance for those with less opportunities to access dance

BEEE Creative offer you the chance to be part of a young and growing arts charity connecting communities, artists and partners to forge a more collaborative and linked up approach to engagement.

The time commitment is approximately two hours per month. The Trustees meet every 4-6 weeks, with short remote meetings and one longer face-to-face meeting in Luton each year, plus occasional individual support to the Director on particular issues.

**Background**

Established in 2016, BEEE Creative is a small arts charity based in Central Bedfordshire that improves access to high quality, ambitious and insightful dance interactions across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Luton. We have a track record of co-creating with communities who experience barriers to participation (disabled adults, older adults experiencing loneliness/isolation, young people’s mental health); each year reaching approx. 14,500 people of all ages through dance and interdisciplinary activity (workshops, residencies, online events, performances/installations). We value the impact of dance to enhance physical, social, intellectual and emotional wellbeing, whilst recognising assumptions, stereotypes and inequalities to access.

We want people in Herts, Beds and Luton to have access to inclusive life-long learning and a sense of belonging and enjoyment through dance. We recognise our role as a facilitator, taking a place-based approach to forge creative collaborations; bringing together professional artists in dance and technology, local communities and partnerships with local councils, community/cultural organisations and practitioners, that share the same vision. Together we create supportive environments for creativity and culture that promotes artistic exchange, whilst agreeing outcomes/outputs that have the most impact on local needs. We measure our success through robust data collection demonstrating the impact of our work on individual/community wellbeing.

Registered Address: BEEE Creative CIO, 63a George Street, Maulden Bedfordshire MK45 2DD

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*Registered Charity Number: 1192065.*

Our work is broadly divided into 2 categories:

* Delivery of creative, community centred dance/arts projects
* Strategic development of dance locally (consultation/advocacy), focussing on access to dance

Our artistic development focuses on an interdisciplinary approach e.g., combining dance with music, outdoor spaces, animation, augmented reality, photography, filmmaking and remote creation with participants in their own homes or via online platforms. We challenge our ways of co-creating dance with our local communities and continue to build on giving participants agency over what is created and how. Our findings have demonstrated the strength of our community when they are given the opportunity to take the lead and the subsequent positive impact on sense of wellbeing.

Examples of our work:

Archive: <http://beee-creative-cio.uk/archives/>

BEEE Gallery: <https://beee-gallery.vercel.app>

Films: <https://vimeo.com/user51304255>

**The support and expertise we need**

It is an exciting time to be joining the organisation as we start to deliver our new project plans for 2023 – 2025 that focuses on:

* Research and innovation – being a catalyst for experimentation and learning
* Co-Creation – balanced sense of agency and exchange
* Collaboration – creating safe spaces to inspire and be inspired
* Digital – pioneering digital ways to create, present, manage, evaluate with communities

BEEE Creative projects fall into three areas:

* **Dance and Heritage**: focus on the mental health wellbeing of Children, Young People, Adults - programmes of dance, arts, heritage and technology residencies and installations in schools and museums, e.g. *Perform Transform* our new 2-year project in partnership with 5 museums funded by the The National Lottery Heritage Fund
* **Dance and Health**: focus on Intergenerational Commissioning – dance and interdisciplinary approaches to wellbeing – outdoor space, online space, community space, e.g., *Improvising Generations* our intergenerational cross-arts project funded by The National Lottery Community Fund
* **Dance and Education**: focus on resource development, network facilitation, internships and placements, e.g., *LEAP* our new 3-year primary school project funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation

To help BEEE Creative develop and sustain the organisation we are looking for Trustee expertise in:

* Finance
* Health/Community/Voluntary Sector
* Artist/Technology/Heritage co-production
* Participant experience

**Finance**

BEEE Creative is currently a project-funded organisation with track record for securing grant investment from a range of different funders. As an organisation that has recently converted to Charity status, we would welcome the expertise of a Trustee with experience in Charity finance to support with financial planning and control and identifying future revenue possibilities. This will help us maintain our responsibilities and good practice as a charity.

**Health/Community/Voluntary Sector**

BEEE Creative recognises the role it can have in the ethos/scope of social prescribing models, through joined-up approaches to partnerships across social, health and education sectors. So, whilst we will remain artistically ambitious in developing our programme of activity, it will always be in response to different locality needs.

We have reputation for delivering project with a positive impact on health and wellbeing but want to do more to provide pathways from our interventions through to the wider the dance sector provision, supporting people with less access and confidence, to go on to continue to engage in dance independently. For this we recognise the need for a robust infrastructure and network both within the existing dance sector and with health and community sectors.

We would welcome a Trustee who can help us understand the challenges, infrastructure and languages of different sectors and help us build connections with them.

**Artist/Technology/Heritage**

Our programming is informed by learning and exchange with a range of artists and technologists who are active experts in their field but also share a mutual commitment to co-creation with communities. Equally, we are interdependent on a freelance workforce and through our work we embed support that promotes personal/artistic development. We are keen to recruit one Trustee that can offer direct experience of delivering co-production models and understand the issues/challenges of artists at different stages in their professional life.

**Participant Experience**

Community is at the heart of BEEE Creative’s work and participants’ experience is of upmost importance. We also recognise that our primary source of marketing is word of mouth – the role our existing participants play as advocates to reach out to wider audiences and how we then stay connected. We would welcome a Trustee who has direct experience of being part of BEEE Creative’s projects to help us understand where access to dance is an issue, identify ways of reaching out to people and adapting the conditions of projects to support participation.

You may have a combination of several of the skills we are looking for. Or perhaps you bring other skills that could help a small charity grow. We would love to hear from you.

Through our recruitment process we aim to create a representative and diverse board. We pay travel expenses to board meetings and can offer support and access to training for those that would find this helpful in taking on a Trustee role.

If you have any questions, please email either:

BEEE Creative Director – Carrie Washington, carrie@beee-creative.co.uk or call 07971 171061

Chair of Trustees - Fiona Ross at fionarossconsultancy@outlook.com

If you would like to apply, please complete our short register of interest form to get things started.

Our recruitment process is:

1. Submit an expression of interest. We will contact you and invite you to a conversation with our Director and Chair.
2. We invite prospective trustees to observe a meeting and meet other trustees before confirming appointment.

The current recruitment timeframe is open until 28 July 2023 but we will initiate conversations as soon as we receive applications. We look forward to hearing from you!