

Request for Expressions of Interest

Trustee: Disability Sector



Photo collage caption

Top row L to R: Mojo Mathers and Sarah Houbolt at the 2012 Big "A" Awards; Martine Abel on a touch tour of the musical *Grease*; Olivier Lacoua uses NZSL to congratulate Rachael Coppage and Erwin Van Asbeck

Bottom row L to R: David Cameron and Darcy Nicholas at the 2016 Arts Access Awards; blind and vision impaired patrons on a touch tour at Wellington Museum; David Cameron and Alexia Pickering at the 2016 Arts Access Awards

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Arts Access Aotearoa receives its core funding from



Request for Expressions of Interest

Arts Access Aotearoa invites expressions of interest by people from the disability sector who are interested in joining the board of trustees.

Organisation name: Arts Access Aotearoa Whakahauhau Katoa O Hanga

Organisation website: www.artsaccess.org.nz

Organisation type: Charitable Trust

Industry Sector: Community/Social assistance. Not for profit

Position type: Trustee

Background and purpose of Arts Access Aotearoa

Arts Access Aotearoa provides national leadership, on behalf of many people, to reduce the barriers they face in accessing the arts and in achieving their rights and opportunities for creative expression. Arts Access Aotearoa was established as a charitable trust in 1995, and its Trust Deed includes the following objectives:

- To provide access to the arts, by supporting projects of merit to communities or sections of the population that otherwise would not have access
- To initiate and support projects involving a wide range of participant groups and community settings, including people who might face a wide range of barriers to accessing the arts and developing their creative expression
- To create opportunities for working in the arts, in partnership with people with disabilities and are facing other disadvantages
- To promote the philosophy that all people have the right to creative expression
- To eliminate barriers to participation in the arts

Arts Access Aotearoa currently receives core funding from Creative New Zealand. It has a major contract with the Department of Corrections to support the delivery of arts programmes in prisons. It also attracts smaller grants from other organisations and financial and other resources through fund raising activities. Its total budget is currently around \$500,000. It employs four fulltime staff, two part time contractors and is also assisted by a number of volunteers.

Arts Access Aotearoa works with a number of community-based arts organisations throughout New Zealand in ways that profile their roles, their artists, their practices and their work in communities. Arts Access Aotearoa provides support and advocacy to assist them to enhance their sustainability and quality of programmes.

Arts Access Aotearoa facilitates the development of stronger community arts organisations by supporting the growth of stronger networks and relationships, and by providing online and written resource material, advice, examples of good practice and practical support. The development of community leadership is supported through initiatives such as mentoring.

Arts Access Aotearoa works with arts and cultural organisations and venues to make arts more accessible for those people who otherwise face barriers to participation and attendance.

Arts Access Aotearoa recognises excellence of artists, arts providers and those who make arts more accessible. The most visible way it does this is through its annual national Arts Access Awards, hosted every year at Parliament by the Minister of Arts and Culture.

Given its broad mandate and limited resources and size, Arts Access Aotearoa needs to work very strategically, leveraging off a wide range of relationships throughout New Zealand and to be seen as a centre of knowledge and excellence for many organisations and individuals. To do this increasingly we are utilising online approaches to extend our reach and influence to make information and good practices more accessible and to enable individuals and organisations to become more strongly connected.

Historical context

Arts Access Aotearoa | Whakahauhau Katoa O Hanga was established in 26 July 1995 as a charitable trust with funding from Creative New Zealand (then QE 11 Arts Council).

Its key objective is “to provide access to the arts, by supporting the availability of projects of merit to communities or sections of the population that would not otherwise have access to them”.

The service delivery of Arts Access Aotearoa continues to evolve over time however the focus of the organisation has remained the same – to work in partnership with organisations, communities and individuals to facilitate or provide access to the arts for people with limited access.

Accessible arts practice follows the philosophy that art is universally beneficial, and can be used to promote social and cultural goals. Accessible arts practice has a human rights approach to creativity through which a supportive, inclusive social environment encourages artistic expression for all people, including people whose access to the arts is limited.

Applicant Description:

The Trustees

Under its Trust Deed, Arts Access Aotearoa is required to have between five and eight trustees, appointed for an initial term of up to three years. On the expiry of their term, a trustee may be appointed for a further period not exceeding three years.

The trustees generally meet five times a year in Wellington on a Saturday.

All trustees give their time voluntarily. Trustees bring a broad range of backgrounds and experiences to their roles.

Function of the Board of Trustees

The functions of the Board of Trustees are to:

- provide effective governance of the organisation in:
 - articulating the organisation's values, vision, mission and strategies
 - approving the strategic direction and strategic priorities for the organisation
 - communicating the values, vision, mission and strategies of the organisation by maintaining open lines of communication through the organisation and with external stakeholders
 - monitoring the performance of the Executive Director against agreed performance indicators
 - reviewing and approving the annual business plans and annual budget proposed by the Executive Director
 - monitoring the achievement of the strategic and business plans and annual budget outcomes
 - ensuring all compliance obligations and functions are effectively discharged
 - undertaking an annual trustee self-evaluation programme, with follow-up action to deal with any issues arising
 - ensuring all significant systems and procedures are in place for the organisation to run effectively and efficiently, and to meet all legal and contractual requirements
 - ensuring all significant risks are adequately considered and accounted for by the Executive Director
 - ensuring the organisation has appropriate corporate governance structures in place, including standards of ethical behaviour and promoting a culture of corporate and social responsibility
 - Assisting when possible in fundraising activities and introductions to potential donors.

In addition to contributing general governance, all trustees are also expected to:

- have a commitment to the goals of Arts Access Aotearoa
- act always in the best interests of the organisation and share accountability for decisions
- be well-informed on key issues and able to exercise their reasonable judgment in making decisions
- respect different perspectives and engage constructively and openly in discussion

- be active in seeking the views of others
- make a commitment of time for meetings, and to provide support for Arts Access Aotearoa in developing key relationships and in relation to key events
- ensuring the deliberations of the board are informed by stakeholder perspectives.

Specific Requirements

The Trust Deed identifies one or more of the following areas of expertise as being important to have on the board:

- a. community arts
- b. public affairs at regional, national and international levels
- c. marketing
- d. commerce
- e. sponsorship
- f. health, justice or welfare administration
- g. social science research
- h. arts and disability
- i. Māori

In practice a mix of skills is sought within the Board.

While a Trustee may have particular strengths in an area all Trustees are expected to contribute more widely to the effective governance and interests of the organisation.

When a vacancy arises consideration will be given to where specific skills and experiences will increase the overall strength of the Board.

Current Vacancy

Arts Access Aotearoa is seeking one new Board member.

In terms of this current vacancy, preference will be given to a potential trustee who has specific experience and knowledge of the barriers and challenges faced by different people in accessing and participating in arts.

The desired Board member is likely to:

- Be a disabled person with experience of the barriers to access and participation in the arts
- Have the ability as a Board member to influence how the organisation can develop relationships, strategies and approaches to advocacy that can increase access to, and participation in the arts

Previous governance experience is not seen as essential.

Where should applicants live

Applicants must live in New Zealand and can be based in any region.

Time commitment

The trustees meet five times a year in Wellington, one Friday evening and the rest on Saturdays for approximately 4 hours. Trustees are also expected to attend the AGM and some of the events, where possible. Trustees may also be involved in sub-committees and fundraising initiatives.

Remuneration: Unpaid

All trustees give their time voluntarily. Travel and accommodation is paid for and expenses related to attending meetings are reimbursed.

Application Process

Closing date for expression of interest:

28 October 2016

How to apply:

To apply please submit your CV and Expression of Interest in a letter outlining why you want to be a trustee of Arts Access Aotearoa and what skills you would bring.

Send to: the Executive Director

richard.benge@artsaccess.org.nz attention: the Chair of Arts Access Aotearoa

Thank you for your interest in being part of an organisation dedicated to ensuring that all people in New Zealand are able to participate in the arts.

Howard Fancy

Board Chair

Arts Access Aotearoa Whakahauhau Katoa O Hanga

Wellington / October /2016

Attachments

Arts Access Aotearoa Annual Report 2015

Arts Access Aotearoa's latest annual report is available on the website, here:

[Annual Report 2015](#)



Image caption: Cover of Arts Access Aotearoa's 2015 Annual Report and link to download page on the Arts Access Aotearoa website