



DaDaFest is seeking a new Chair!

About Us

DaDaFest is a pioneering disability and D/deaf arts organisation based in Liverpool but with an international reach and impact. Set up in 1984 (incorporated in 1991) we were one of the first disability-led arts organisations in the UK and an integral part of the campaign for greater equality and access for disabled people. Since 1984 we've been programming a multi-art form artistic programme that includes high quality festivals, interventions and events and a year-round programme of engagement work with young disabled people, their families and wider community.

DaDaFest is a disabled-led charity and focused to reflect the lived experience of disability. We believe that disability is a social issue – it is systemic barriers, negative attitudes and exclusion by society (purposely or inadvertently) that are the main contributory factors in “disabling” people.

Our mission is to inspire, develop and celebrate talent and excellence in disability and D/deaf arts. We use the avenues of employment and achievement in the arts to educate, challenge attitudes and remove the barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people to live independently and equally in society.

We are an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and also receive funding from Liverpool City Council and a wide range of charitable Trusts and Foundations.

Our work covers varied and combined arts forms and explores the global language of disability culture with the aim of building a more accessible, inclusive and diverse arts and cultural ecosystem. At the heart of our artistic programme is an approach that includes programming,

commissioning and collaborating at international, national and local levels with wide range of arts and non-arts partners.

Supporting children and young people – both disabled and non-disabled - to develop as artists, participants and audiences is a key area of DaDaFest activity. We have recently received significant new grant resources to expand and develop this area of our work and are currently integrating our young people's programme much more closely with our core festival programme, supporting young people to work with national and international artists to expand their artistic scope and impact.

The Role

We are looking for an inspirational Chair to lead the future development of this ambitious charity. This is both an exciting and challenging time for the organisation as we seek to expand our influence, reach and impact and re-engineer our activity to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

As Chair of the Board of Trustees you will be responsible for:

- Acting as an ambassador for the organisation: promoting the charity's work and reputation amongst contacts, funders, donors and corporate partners;
- Providing leadership for the Board of Trustees;
- Working with the Executive to plan and manage quarterly board meetings and chairing the meetings;
- Providing advice and guidance on the development and delivery of corporate and strategic business plans;
- Line management of the Artistic and Executive Directors.

The expected level of commitment is:

- Four weekday evening Board meetings per year, each with an approximate duration of 2.5 hours. All Board meetings will be held in accessible venues and normally in Liverpool City Centre;
- Attendance at a full or half day strategy review meeting, once per year;

- Attendance at the Annual General Meeting in January;
- Attendance at key DaDaFest events;
- Availability to engage fully and promptly in communications and discussions between meetings.

The role is unpaid, but the organisation will reimburse all reasonable expenses associated with performing the role.

About You

We need someone with an entrepreneurial spirit, experienced in leadership and change management with good understanding of disability culture and financial management who can demonstrate that they are not afraid to think creatively.

In light of the ethos of the company to promote the Social Model of disability, we would like the Chair to be a self-disclosing disabled or deaf person and have experience of working within or for a disabled-led organisation.

Personal Competencies

All DaDaFest Trustees are expected to be able to demonstrate the following personal competencies and the capacity to apply these to the management of the charity.

Commitment

- Ability to understand and accept the duties and liabilities of being a charity Trustee
- Personal commitment to the vision, ethos, mission and aims of DaDaFest
- A willingness and ability to devote the necessary time and effort to the role

Focus

- Ability to think and apply knowledge strategically and creatively
- Ability to analyse and evaluate management information and other evidence

Communication and Team Working

- Ability to communicate clearly and sensitively and to take an active part in discussions
- Ability to negotiate, influence and engage through networks and partnerships
- Ability to challenge constructively and ask questions appropriately

Accountability

- Ability to exercise sound and independent judgement
- Willingness to make and stand by collective decisions, including those which may be personally unpopular
- Ability to manage difficult and/or challenging situations
- Ability to maintain confidentiality on confidential and/or sensitive information

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

DaDaFest is seeking to recruit a Chair who has the knowledge and understanding necessary to maintain an oversight of our activities at a strategic level and who can contribute well informed views, constructive challenge and a commitment to best practice. Ideally we would like to appoint someone who can demonstrate all or most of the experience, knowledge, skills in the list below.

Experience

- Strategic leadership and management within a medium sized or large organisation
- Experience of working within the charity and/or arts sector
- Change management in either the charity, public or private sector
- International or national connections or working experience at a strategic level, ideally in relation to the planning and delivery of artistic services or events

Skills and Knowledge

- A good understanding of best practice principles in UK corporate and/or charity governance
- Understanding of the social model of disability and/or disability and D/deaf arts and practice
- An area of corporate expertise relevant to DaDaFest such as accountancy/financial management, fundraising, communications or organisational development
- Developing and delivering services to children and young people that promote inclusion, equal opportunities and diversity

If you would like either an informal chat or a bit more information about the role then please contact either our Executive Director, Richard Nutter (richardn@dadafest.co.uk) or our Artistic Director, Ruth Gould (ruthg@dadafest.co.uk).

If you feel you fit the above description and are interested in working with us to achieve our substantial future aspirations then please apply with a CV and a covering letter setting out how and why you feel you are the person we are looking for.

Applying by post

Please mark the envelope "DaDaFest Chair" and post to

DaDaFest
The Bluecoat
School
Liverpool
L1 3BX

Applying by email:

Send your CV and letter to info@dadafest.co.uk Please put "DaDaFest Chair" in the email title.

Applications sent by either post or email should arrive no later than 5pm on Friday 2 November.