



USING THE ARTS AS A BRIDGE TO LEARNING

Arts Bridge Charity (ABC) is a Black-led organisation delivering high-quality, arts-based projects for children, young people and elders in school and community settings. Creating community cohesion by using the arts to celebrate our heritage. We have an exciting opportunity for a new Chair to join our board. This leadership role is well suited to an individual that is passionate about making change in 'hard-to-reach' communities and is energised by working in creative and collaborative environments.

Company Background

ABC engages 'hard-to-reach' communities with the arts - with a particular focus on children and young people from B.A.M.E backgrounds and those from areas of high poverty and elder community members as these groups are most at risk of being excluded from participation and appreciation of the arts. Social inclusion is key to our ethos.

Our vision is a society in which all children and young people have the skills, self-esteem and aspiration to achieve their full potential regardless of their social and economic position, as part of a society in which the arts are highly valued and in which communities are strong and connected. We find stories that don't often get told and we look for new ways of exploring and sharing them - inviting a wide range of people to get involved with the arts.

Our work includes devising and delivering a range of community projects, intergenerational projects, partnering with local schools and teacher training opportunities. We do this in collaboration with local artists, young people, community organisations and cultural leaders.

Since our inception in 2011 we work with the needs of the community, to deliver specialised interactive, arts-based projects devised around a carefully chosen series of books, themes or local history. Many of our projects have a literacy, community cohesion and/or intergenerational focus.

The sustainability and legacy of our projects is important to us, so in addition to our work with pupils in schools, we aim to include a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) element for their class teachers. We also incorporate mentoring opportunities for aspiring local artists - a chance for creative young people to come together to make positive change in their area, and prevent them from becoming socially excluded by providing opportunities to meet new people, gain skills, experience and explore potential career pathways within the arts.

Creating friendships, developing creativity, developing career aspirations, building respect for our elders and the area we live in.

Examples of our work

WELLNESS WARRIORS (Pilot. Feb - March 2020). 2020 saw us deliver our first completely remote project. Made possible thanks to funding from The Big Lottery Fund, Wellness

Warriors was a 6 week, remote, online arts project supporting the emotional wellbeing of children from ethnic minorities and/or low-income families.

Wellness Warriors created a safe space for children to come together, share, be listened to, and support each other. Using the arts to empower them to develop self-care practices during lockdown.

In 2019 we successfully bid for £12K from Windrush Day Grant plus £9K from Arts Council England (ACE) to deliver our intergenerational, WINDRUSH STORIES project. We worked with care home residents and over 1000 children from Tottenham and Lambeth to create a community theatre piece celebrating the Windrush Generation.

OUR TOTTENHAM (Pilot. August 2018). Funding: Tesco Bags of Help Foundation (£1K) and ABC funds (£1K). Partners: Protheroe House Care Home. Intergenerational community project. 7 - 11 yr olds from Tottenham creating theatre inspired by local landmarks & stories from elders in local care homes. Performance at SKFEST community arts festival, Bernie Grants Arts Centre (BGAC).

YOUNG THEATRE MAKERS (2017 - 2018). Funded by London Community Fund & Walcot Foundation. 1 yr collaboration with Tavaziva Dance, Metta Theatre & Literacy Tree. KS2 in-school playwriting exploring the theme of 'empowerment' inspired by 'Tar Beach' by Faith Ringgold followed by half term course with masterclasses from BAME artists.

WINDRUSH PROJECT 2015: THE ARRIVAL. Funded by Fishmongers' Company. 8 wks at St Jude's CE Primary School, Lambeth. Adapted WP14 for classrooms with a literacy element using KS2 picture book 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan. Explored the protagonist's journey in relation to Windrush generation. Culminated in school assembly performance.

WINDRUSH PROJECT 2014 (WP14). Arts Council England-funded intergenerational community project in Tottenham, involving all service users of Triangle Community Centre. Storytelling, song & dance used to explore stories of Caribbean's emigrating to the UK on 'The Windrush'. Ended in a performance at Bernie Grants Arts Centre

Feedback (Aug 2011 - Aug 2019):

Overall impact: 'Excellent' = 92%

Teaching standard: 'Excellent' = 94%

To find out more about our work visit www.arts-bridge.co.uk, follow us on instagram (@artsbridgecharity) or email amanda@arts-bridge.co.uk



Role Title: Chair, Arts Bridge Charity board

Salary: Voluntary

Location: Flexible. The Board meets 4 times a year in-person or via video conference.

The role

- The Chair will hold the Board to account for the Arts Bridge mission and vision, providing inclusive leadership to the Board of Trustees, ensuring that each trustee fulfils their duties and responsibilities for the effective governance of the charity.
- The Chair will also support, and, where appropriate, challenge the Founder / Director and ensure that the Board functions as a unit and works closely with the entire management team of the charity to achieve agreed objectives.
- The Chair will act as an ambassador and the public face of the charity in partnership with the Founder / Director.
- Experience of working in one or more of the following: the creative industries; heritage; fundraising; business; governance; education; and strategic management sectors.
- A passion for the arts/and or arts-based projects.
- A champion of diversity.

Strategic leadership

- Provide leadership to the charity and its Board, ensuring that the charity has maximum impact.
- Ensure that Trustees fulfil their duties and responsibilities for the effective governance of Arts Bridge.
- Contribute to Arts Bridge production making in particular relating it's Mission, Objectives and Key Performance Indicators.
- Ensure that the Board operates within its charitable objectives, and provides a clear strategic direction for the Charity.
- Ensure that the Board is able to regularly review major risks and associated opportunities, and satisfy itself that systems are in place to take advantage of opportunities, and manage and mitigate the risks.
- Ensure that the Board fulfils its duties to ensure sound financial health of the charity, with systems in place to ensure financial accountability.
- Help the trustees and the executive to develop, shape or refresh its strategy.

General leadership

- Focus on succession planning, recruiting and developing board members; handling conflict within the board and mediating where necessary.
- Work closely with the Founder / Director to give direction to Board policy-making and to ensure that meetings are well planned, meaningful and reflect the responsibilities of trustees.
- Monitor that decisions taken at meetings are implemented.

External relationships

- Act as an ambassador for the cause and the charity.
- Maintain close relationships with key members of the arts-based projects industry and with key influences.
- Act as a spokesperson for the organisation when appropriate.
- Represent the charity at external functions, meetings and events.
- Facilitate change and address any potential conflict with external stakeholders.
- Provide development of Arts Bridge's role with the industry.
- Share personal contacts obtained from the arts world.

Application Process

To apply please email the following to Founder / Director, Amanda Wright:

- A CV
- A short letter stating why you are interested in the role and detailing the skills and experience you will bring to it.
- Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form – this will be separated from your application. The form is below or a word version can be downloaded from the website.

Email to: info@arts-bridge.co.uk. Please quote 'Chair, ABC Board of Trustees' in Subject Heading

If you have any questions, please email Amanda – amanda@arts-bridge.co.uk