



curious directive

Board of Trustees – Introduction, Role and Responsibilities

Introduction to curious directive

'curious directive are a terrific ensemble' – *Lyn Gardner, Theatre critic*

Since 2008, curious directive has explored life through the lens of science. curious directive is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation with a stable annual turnover of £260,000.

Based at St Simon and St Jude Church, a Grade I listed building in the heart of Norwich, we create layered, emotionally charged science-led theatre.

From St Simon and St Jude, we forge sustained relationships between science communities, theatre-goers and technology partners. All our work is created here, touring the UK and the World. We also run The Nave, an affordable creative co-working space for Norwich-based artists. We hire our The Loft, a multi-functional rehearsal space.

Our business plan nurtures two national touring models. Firstly, a bi-annual mid-scale show like Fringe First Winner, Pioneer (2014), and Norfolk Arts Award Winner, Spindrift (2016). Secondly, our small-scale digital work which connects cutting-edge technology with theatre, like virtual reality theatre hybrid Frogman (2017) and Gastronomic (2018). Both models grow our reputation, capacity and skill as a devised theatre company.

As stewards of digital innovation in theatre, we were the first theatre company to use the 'Periscope' app for live streaming (2014), the first 'Resident Theatre Company' at a UK Science Festival (Cambridge, 2015) and have created Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality synchronising software for live theatre (2017). We have also created ground-breaking captioning in VR (2018).

Critically acclaimed, with 15 prestigious arts-science nominations and awards, we've been published six times with Bloomsbury/Methuen. We regularly partner across the UK, with Warwick Arts Centre, Theatre Royal Plymouth and Shoreditch Town Hall. We've been commissioned by LIFT, NNF and regularly work with world-leading science institutes such as Wellcome Trust and CRUK.

We have delivered multiple workshops at the National Theatre and in 2018 collaborated with a Royal Society fellow on the role of theatre in science policy. Internationally, we have toured to South Korea (2016) South Africa (2017), China, Australia and Indonesia (2018), Hong Kong, Singapore and South Africa (2019). We've co-produced internationally with Brisbane Power House and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Australia (2017).

'curious directive are theatre pioneers' – *The Telegraph*

Please browse our website, curiousdirective.com to get to know our work in a little more detail.



Board of Trustees Statement of Responsibility

The primary and overriding responsibility of all Trustees of curious directive is to act as an individual in the best interests of curious directive, the Charity.

The Role of The Board of Trustees

- To take an active interest in the concepts, themes and ideas which form our theatre productions made in Norwich, touring around the UK and the world;
- To formulate and monitor the Charity's strategy and establish key milestones;
- To promote curious directive, its activities and its work to the widest audience;
- To maintain financial sustainability;
- To monitor organisational risk;
- To monitor the organisation's performance against agreed objectives;
- To ensure the legality, financial probity, efficiency and cost effectiveness of curious directive's operations.

Trustee Job Description

- To contribute actively to the Board of Trustees, providing creativity, strategic ideas and direction to curious directive;
- Contribute to defining goals, setting targets, and evaluating organisational performance against targets;
- To ensure that curious directive complies with its Articles of Association, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations;
- To ensure accountability to funders and stakeholders for the organisation's performance including assessment of Board papers;
- To exemplify the values of the organisation by:
 - attending Board meetings regularly and being actively involved in decision making;
 - acting as an advocate for curious directive by forging and maintaining links outside the organisation;
 - engaging willingly and actively with curious directive's programme of theatre work, supporting employees and helping identify and foster audiences in the short, medium and long-term.

Person Specification

- Demonstrable commitment to the Charitable objectives of curious directive;
- Knowledge or expertise in one or more of the following areas:
 - A professional in the arts or science sectors;
 - Marketing, Communications and Branding;
 - Law;



- Development and Fundraising;
- Organisational Management of social enterprise buildings.
- Strong communication skills and an ability to work effectively as a member of a team;
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship;
- The ability to contribute to future policy and strategy developments with a creative approach and independence of thought.

Commitment

- To attend up to 4 two-hour long full board meetings per annum (each quarter);
- Attending and helping to host curious directive events and other engagements;
- Some additional time to study papers and give ad hoc advice to support the Executive Team as necessary.

Typically, our Board meetings are attended by our Chair and Trustees, as well as our Artistic Director and General Manager who report to our Board via an Agenda. Once a year, an Relationship Manager from Arts Council England, one of our funders, will also attend.

Our papers are sent out around 2 weeks prior to our Board meetings to allow our Board to assess and gather guidance.

Likely total time commitment of around half a day per month and Trustees will be expected to attend at least 75% of meetings across a financial year (save for in exceptional circumstances).

What we offer

The position is voluntary, and Trustees are not salaried. However, as an arts organisation always looking forwards, we offer an environment where we can discuss what we want the future to look like. Our work is expansive both emotionally and intellectually. Previous Board members stay strongly connected to the company and the work and continue as advocates within many different sectors.

Term of Office

Trustees are appointed for an unfixed period of time, however generally our Board members stay with us for 3 years or more.

Current Trustees

The current serving Trustees are as follows:

Stephen Crocker, CEO Norwich Theatre Royal – appointed 5 June 2018 - **Chair**
Leanne Cosby, Producer, Barbican Centre – appointed 26 March 2016 – (Previously) Chair
Laura Elliott, Programme Manager, Oxford Playhouse – appointed 2 April 2018
Sholeh Johnston, Director of The Field & Associate of Julie's Bicycle – appointed 2 April 2018
Chris Singleton, NHS – appointed 7 March 2017

How to Apply



To apply please to us (on around 2 sides of A4*):

- 1 – Tell us about yourself and your motivations for joining our Board of Trustees.
- 2 – Tell us about your work or experience and how you see that supporting our vision.
- 3 – Tell us the change you'd like to see within your field, and how this could benefit curious directive.

If you would like to arrange an informal discussion, please contact jack@curiousdirective.com to arrange the best way to communicate together.

Jack is the founding Artistic Director and Chief Executive of curious directive.

He led the company to our current status as NPO and also directs all of our work.

He therefore enjoys equally discussing financial strategy alongside theatre and science(!)

Please send us your thoughts with BOARD OF TRUSTEES in the subject box by **August 19th 2019, 6pm** and we will respond to you by **September 6th 2019** at the latest (after your application has been discussed at our next Board meeting).

Please also complete our **Equal Opportunities form** with your submission.

curious directive welcomes applications from everyone.

*If you would prefer to send a video or audio application due to your access needs, please also send to jack@curiousdirective.com

We look forward to hearing from you.