



New Trustees sought for South East arts charity, Applause Rural Touring.

About Applause

Applause Rural Touring is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation based in Tunbridge Wells, a rural touring scheme that supports communities throughout Kent, East Sussex and West Sussex to access professional theatre, music and other performing arts. Applause is committed to commissioning and supporting artists and companies to make, produce and tour exciting new work across our region.

Many rural communities are isolated and have difficulties getting access to high quality arts, with poor transport links and the cost in money and time of travelling to the nearest town. Working with a network of volunteers, Applause events provide direct access to inspiring arts performances, galvanising communities to come together, and last year over 30,000 people saw an Applause event in 92 different locations.

We have 3 main strands of work – Applause Indoors which tours professional arts to village halls and community centres, Applause Outdoors which commissions performing companies to create and tour work specially for outdoor events, fetes and festivals, and Inn Crowd which helps to reinforce pubs as a central community hub with specially created spoken word performances that are perfect for pubs.

Our work means that familiar local venues and outdoor events are filled with exciting theatre, poetry, music, dance and storytelling for everyone to enjoy.

"Applause shows play a vital part in bringing together the village in social community events and enabled people to see professional theatre of a very high standard. Through rural touring children as young as five have been introduced to live theatre - something many of them would not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy - and those aged up to about 85 have still been able to enjoy an interest that might otherwise be impossible." Applause Promoter

Background Applause Rural Touring has programmed nationally acclaimed small-scale performances for communities working with local volunteer promoting groups for over 18 years. The scheme began as a West Kent Local Authority project in 1998. In 2002 it became an independent organisation and in 2016 became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is currently supported by a non-executive board of six trustees and operates from an office base in the borough of Tunbridge Wells. It is managed by its Executive Director, Dawn Badland, and a small team of full and part-time employees. Applause is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation. Its other principal funders are Kent County Council, East Sussex Arts Partnership and Trust & Foundations.

New Trustees sought

The role of Trustee is crucial to the governance and strategic development of the organisation. As such Trustees bring vital commercial and organisational experience to the Board which will help to lead Applause through its next exciting phase of growth and development.

We wish to recruit up to three new voluntary trustees to join our board of trustees. Areas of experience we are particularly interested in are; digital, business, health and wellbeing, rural issues, libraries, heritage and education. We are also interested to recruit a Trustee under the age of 25 years.

Trustees will be involved in:

- Regular attendance and contributions to board meetings and our annual away day
- Monitoring effective management and strategic direction of our organisation
- Advocating on our behalf
- Supporting our policy development to ensure Applause is operating best practice
- Supporting specific areas of development and interest including, Digital, Individual Giving, Children and Young People and Rural
- Supporting us to find new sources of income and contributing to the development of our fundraising strategy
- Bringing a range of connections from the wider artistic and business communities.
- Have knowledge and enthusiasm for the arts, cultural and heritage sectors

The time commitment for trustees is attendance at 6-8 meetings per year, plus an annual away day. We will also encourage trustees to provide additional time to support specific tasks or initiatives and to provide a sounding board to the staff and other board members. Meetings are normally located in the Tunbridge Wells area and via Zoom.

The role of a trustee is a volunteer position and is not remunerated but reasonable expenses can be paid.

We believe it is vital trustees see our artistic work and would also encourage trustees to represent the company at networking and other events. You can find more information on the company and its current work at : www.applause.org.uk

For an initial conversation about Applause please contact Applause Director, Dawn Badland, to arrange to speak to one of our current trustees. dawn@applause.org.uk

Send a CV, Cover letter detailing your interest and suitability for the role and Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form to dawn@applause.org.uk using 'Trustee application' as the subject of your email. We are happy to accept word documents or pdfs, video or alternative online formats.

We actively encourage people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. We are particularly keen to hear from people of colour and candidates who self-identify as disabled. If you would like any information in a different format please contact office@applause.org.uk

dawn@applause.org.uk

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