Job Description

**Role:** Board Member

**Cheshire Dance** is seeking passionate individuals to join its Board and contribute to its mission of offering everyone access to dance, regardless of age, background, ability, or disability. As a Board member, you will play a crucial role in ensuring the effective governance and strategic direction of the organisation.

# ABOUT CHESHIRE DANCE

Cheshire Dance, founded in 1976, is a registered charity and a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England. The organisation specialises in participatory community practice, with 97% of its engagement programme focused on addressing inequalities of opportunity and health within under-represented communities. Cheshire Dance also leads Dance Consortia North West, a regional partnership of dance organisations, venues, higher education institutions, and artists.

# ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Board member of Cheshire Dance, you will be expected to:

* **Provide strategic direction** and contribute to resolving and crystallising the strategic direction of Cheshire Dance, setting overall policy, defining and monitoring objectives, and evaluating performance.
* **Ensure effective governance**, complying with the legal requirements of running a charity, collectively reviewing and managing the accounts, and ensuring due process is carried out.
* **Safeguard the organisation's values** and ensure Cheshire Dance applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects.
* **Maintain financial stability** of Cheshire Dance.
* **Appoint and monitor** the performance of future Directors.
* **Act as a trustee**, holding Cheshire Dance ‘in trust’ for current and future beneficiaries.
* **Prepare for and attend** four two-hour hybrid Board meetings annually, as well as periodic Board Committee meetings (current ‘People and Policy’, ‘Artistic Programme’ and ‘Finance and Development’).
* **Review Board materials** including reports, minutes and creative schematics prior to Board meetings.
* **Champion Cheshire Dance**, externally advocating for its reputation, value, and relevance, and internally challenging management and fellow Board members constructively.

# CAPABILITIES

We are especially seeking individuals with expertise in the areas where current board capabilities are less developed.

* **Strategic & Business Leadership:**
  + **Sustainable Funding Strategies:** Providing guidance on developing robust and sustainable funding models for arts organisations.
  + **Audience Development:** Contributing ideas on identifying and developing new audiences for arts programmes.
* **Digital & Technology Competency:**
  + **Technology for Efficiency:** Sharing insights on how technology, such as AI, can drive better efficiencies.
  + **Basic IT Needs:** Contributing to assessing basic IT needs and solutions.
* **Financial & Risk Governance:**
  + **Fundraising Viability:** Offering insights on assessing the viability of different fundraising approaches.

While expertise in all areas of the Board Capability Framework is welcome, Cheshire Dance is prioritising candidates who can strengthen the board's capabilities in some or all the areas listed above. These capabilities align with the five key areas of our Board Capability Framework, which is designed to assess board member capabilities across areas essential for effective governance of arts charities.

# EXPERIENCE DESIRED

* Senior-level experience working for arts charities.
* Fundraising.
* Communications.
* Experience of developing a cultural arts strategy.

Links to organisations that could partner with Cheshire dance would also be an advantage.

# WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

This is a **voluntary role** that offers the chance to give back to your community. You will have opportunities to:

* **Share your leadership skills** through collaboration, developing strategies to take the charity forward and enabling more people to benefit from dance.
* **Enrich and expand** the organisation's knowledge base with your views and experience.
* **Gain transferable skills** and extend your network in the creative, cultural, public, voluntary, education, and health sectors.

# WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Cheshire Dance is looking for people with **broad experience from all walks of life**, not necessarily with prior Board experience. The organisation is particularly interested in candidates with:

* Diverse backgrounds and lived experiences
* Experience or knowledge of under-represented communities

Ideal Board members will be passionate about Cheshire Dance's work in underrepresented communities and its mission to ensure everyone has access to dance. They will also be supportive, collaborative, open to new ideas, and value generosity, honesty, and a sense of humour.