

Role Description for the Friends of Strode Theatre Trustees

Friends of Strode Theatre are looking for enthusiastic and skilled new Trustees with a keen interest in the development and success of the charity in supporting Strode Theatre.

BACKGROUND:

The Friends of Strode Theatre (charity no. 1112942) was set up in 2006 to support Strode Theatre, to improve the building and its facilities, and to enable innovation. Since local authority funding cuts of 2011, the Friends' support has become more important and is now vital for keeping Strode Theatre - and more broadly - arts and culture alive and in Somerset.

The Friends funds have previously financed a range of developments for the Theatre –mainly capital expenditure on technical equipment and infrastructural improvements; but increasingly seeks to provide revenue support for programme and marketing related activities. With over 400 current memberships the Friends of Strode Theatre have a good local support. However, with post Covid, the Theatre is reliant on the support of the charity more than ever in order to continue.

Our small Board of Trustees oversees the strategic direction and the financial management of the Friends of Strode donations. We are looking to further strengthen the sustainability of the charity and the Theatre, creating new revenue streams and developing existing ones, strongly focused on the expansion of our membership. The Board offers strategic guidance, creative ideas and support.

Trustees report to the Chair and other Trustees, who normally meet quarterly, but meet more frequently in times of development and change, as at this time.

GENERAL ROLE OF A TRUSTEE:

- To ensure that the charity and its representatives function within the legal and regulatory framework of the sector and in line with the organisations' governing document, continually striving for best practice in governance
- To determine the overall direction and development of the charity through clear strategic planning
- to volunteer for assignments and complete them thoroughly and on time
- Stays informed about committee matters, prepares themselves well for meetings, and reviews and comments on minutes and reports
- Participates in fundraising and networking on behalf of the organisation

DESIRABLE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:

- A strong commitment and passion for Strode Theatre and arts, culture and community in Somerset
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Positive and creative approach to problem-solving
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- Willingness and ability to devote the necessary time and effort to their duties as a trustee
- Strategic vision and good, independent judgment

We will consider applications from all applicants. However, at this time, we are especially interested in applications from younger people and those with experience and knowledge in fundraising, marketing; Charity and Governance legislation; and show &/or film production.

Friends of Strode Theatre is actively seeking participation from suitable candidates who come from under-represented communities, including BAME, people with disabilities, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds and people from the LGBTQ+ communities.

To express an interest please send a letter and CV to Lorna Clark: lclark@strode-college.ac.uk