



Information for Applying to Join the OAUK Board

If you are considering standing for election to join the Board of OutdoorArtsUK, please read the following for more information on the role of a Board Member and the commitment required (October 2024). We are particularly interested in receiving applications from D/deaf and disabled applicants, independent artists, and individuals that work in carnival.

OutdoorArtsUK (OAUK) is a national membership and strategic organisation that aims to bring together the many diverse parts of the Outdoor Arts sector. We are a not-for-profit organisation funded by Arts Council England as an Investment Principle Support Organisation. OAUK celebrates the wonderful work, amazing talent and tremendous achievements of the brilliant individuals, companies and organisations working in this most accessible of art forms.

We believe that Outdoor Arts are a vital and unique part of our cultural ecology and offer the broadest possible access to public engagement with the arts. The work challenges and entertains; it is our most inclusive and empowering art form; it captivates communities and inspires innovation and cohesion. The Outdoor Arts sector, joyously liberated from buildings, is key to effecting social change and opening up culture with challenging, engaging and sometimes confrontational work.

What we do

- OAUK advocates for Outdoor Arts across cultural, governmental, public funding and private funding arenas.
- We develop the sector by providing practical information on good working practices and offer advice and guidance for new and experienced practitioners.
- We commission valuable reports and share important statistics to help our members make ever stronger cases for supporting the work.
- We encourage creative and beneficial connections between members and keep them informed of opportunities and funding possibilities.
- We visit festivals and events to hold a comprehensive knowledge of the latest national and international Outdoor Arts work and keep an eye out for emerging artists.
- We provide up-to-date information about professional training and development events and offer comprehensive listings of what's on where and when.

Board Role and Responsibilities

The Board is ultimately responsible for the vision, strategic direction and policy of OAUK, but they delegate the realisation of these, through day-to-day operations, to the Director and staff. The Board acts in the interests of the members, to ensure that the organisation observes best practice in governance and is accountable for the company's actions and resources.

The Board should act with integrity both individually and collectively in the best interests of OAUk and observe best practice in governance, to ensure the effective running of the Company.

Board Members' main roles are to contribute to ideas and offer advice and experience on decisions which affect the ongoing work and growth of the organisation. Board Members may also sometimes take active roles in the delivery of certain projects and events. The Board should...

- Support our vision, aims, activities and objectives; support the team and the rest of the Board.
- Ensure effective governance of the company.
- Advocate for OAUk and the Outdoor Arts sector, actively encouraging membership.
- Review major risks and associated opportunities; ensure that systems are in place to take advantage of opportunities and to manage and mitigate risks.
- Ensure that the organisation complies with its governance articles of association, company law and any other relevant legislation and regulations.
- Ensure the financial stability of the organisation and fulfil financial scrutiny duties.
- Review our performance against the Business Plan and approve any changes or adaptations.
- When the time comes, select and appoint the Director, including approval of Director remuneration.

The Board ensure that the views and interests of our members are given a voice and contribute to the strategic direction of OAUk.

About you...

- You'll have a passion and commitment to arts and culture.
- You understand the work, structure and people of the Outdoor Arts sector.
- You will exhibit strong relationship-building abilities and be comfortable in an ambassadorial role.
- You'll enjoy a collaborative team environment.
- You will be sure you can commit the time and energy required to conduct the role.
- You will have experience of or an interest in operating at a strategic leadership level within an organisation.
- Ability to actively use your networks to benefit the development of OAUk.
- Elected Board Members must have active OAUk Membership.

The Board should work in ways that are in line with the Nolan Committee's seven principles of public life:

**Selflessness | Integrity | Objectivity | Accountability
Openness | Honesty | Leadership**

Commitment

We expect a fair amount of input from our Board members. There is a minimum commitment in terms of time (set out below), but the occasional phone call or email to check-in, update or offer advice and support is always very welcome.

- Board Members should, ideally, attend all of the four Board meetings per year, these are usually online, with the aim of one in person meeting each financial year. At a minimum, they should attend three Board meetings per year. **If a Board Member misses three meetings for whatever reason, they do have to stand down with no hard feelings on either side.**
- The term of office for the Board is three years, with a possibility to extend for another three (by election or board appointment) up to a maximum of two terms.
- Board Members will need to prepare for meetings in advance and may be assigned tasks from the Board or a particular committee.
- Board Members should attend the OAUk Conference, AGM and Board Awaydays
- Board Members may be asked to be part of working groups or other committees.
- We expect Board Members to take active roles on some OAUk projects, roughly equating to four working days per year, as well as the commitments above. This may include...
 - Chairing discussions at OAUk events or online drop-ins
 - Reading applications for jobs, bursaries, OAUk events or marketplace
 - Conducting staff recruitment interviews
 - Speaking at events or conferences on behalf of OAUk
 - OAUk team appraisals

Board Selection and Composition

- A portion of the OAUk Board is elected from the membership by the membership. In order to broaden the composition, skillset and diversity of the Board, we recruit a number of Board members from outside the membership. The elected Board works on this selection.
- The elections are largely conducted online with final votes and announcements taking place shortly after the AGM.

Recompense

OAUk Board membership is a voluntary position, however, there are certain situations where we can recompense you:

- OAUk will cover reasonable travel expenses for attending Board Meetings.
- OAUk provides catering at in person Board Meetings.
- In exceptional circumstances, OAUk will cover accommodation to attend Board Meetings.
- OAUk will cover travel and accommodation for awayday events.
- OAUk will cover travel, tickets, per diems and accommodation to attend the OAUk Conference.

Conflicts of Interest or Loyalty

Whilst the knowledge of and experience in the sector that our Board Members bring is a major strength and resource for OAUk, there may also be times where these can create conflicts of interest or loyalty.

To avoid any confusion, we ask that Board members:

- Sign up to our Conflict of Interest Register when they join the Board and declare any changes annually.
- Declare any conflicts of interest and loyalty at the start of every Board meeting where there are Agenda items that will cause them a conflict. This may mean that it may not be suitable for that member to vote, or they may be asked to step out of the meeting, etc.
- Board Members legal duty is to act in the best interest of the organisation.
- We also ask that Board Members declare to the Board any gifts or hospitality received from potential suppliers or partners of OAUk where there could be a conflict of interest.

Board Member Benefits and what to expect from OAUk

- When a Board Member joins you will have an induction meeting to help you get up to speed, this will include our vision and strategy, governance, accounts, reports, policies etc. -
- We send all board documents at least five days before the board meeting, so Board Members have time to prepare.
- The opportunity to develop your leadership skills and learn more about governance.
- The chance to contribute to the activity and growth of OAUk and the wider sector.
- Experience working with a group of colleagues with wide and differing experiences of Outdoor Arts.
- Networking opportunities and the chance to attend festivals and events on behalf of OAUk.