

# UNLIMITED...

## Wanted: Board Members for Unlimited

**Role:** Board member/trustee for Unlimited

This is a voluntary appointment aimed at individuals

**Timescale:** The deadline to apply is 14 October 2020. We will then talk to a shortlist of people in October and November and invite people to join Unlimited's new board in December 2020. Those who are successful are likely to be appointed to the board for a period of between 3-4 years.

**Fee:** Board membership has to be voluntary and unpaid. Expenses will be covered, as well as costs of access, personal support and caring expenses where needed. Additional work undertaken by board members, excepting board meetings themselves, is paid.

**Location:** You can be based anywhere within the UK.

**How to apply:** If you'd like to be considered to join the board, please email [info@weareunlimited.org.uk](mailto:info@weareunlimited.org.uk) with one or more of the following – a letter, your cv, a video or audio message, a PowerPoint presentation, or any other way you chose. There is no formal application process. You can include up to 5 A4 pages, 5 mins of audio or video or a 15 slide PowerPoint presentation.

From these applications, a small group of independent people who are part of our Advisory Group will shortlist a range of people. We will make sure these people have a series of conversations with different people connected to Unlimited – perhaps someone from the Advisory Group, an artist or selection panel member and a team member - before the final selection is made by our [Advisory Group](#) in November.

Please email information or Dropbox links to [info@weareunlimited.org.uk](mailto:info@weareunlimited.org.uk) by **5pm Wednesday 14 October 2020**.

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We will let you know we have received your application and then send you an Equal Opportunities form to complete (this is kept separate from your application). If you do not hear from us within 3 days of applying, please contact us to ensure we have your application. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Verrent - [joverrent@weareunlimited.org.uk](mailto:joverrent@weareunlimited.org.uk).

**In brief:**

Unlimited is transitioning into an independent organisation. We are looking for 6 people to join our new governing body. We have not agreed what form the final organisation will take so the exact words to describe this role may change. We are looking for people who are interested in supporting disabled artists thrive within the cultural sector and who are committed to an intersectional understanding of diversity. You do not have to have been a board member or a trustee of an organisation before.

**Background:**

Unlimited works nationally and internationally with disabled artists, raising the bar and transforming the cultural sector worldwide in relation to access and equality. We want to challenge perceptions of disability within the cultural sector and in the vision and expectation of disabled artists.

Unlimited offers talented disabled artists funds to develop, produce and show ambitious work. The aim of Unlimited is to embed work by disabled artists within the UK cultural sector, reach new audiences and shift perceptions of disabled people.

Unlimited is currently a programme delivered jointly by Shape Arts, Artsadmin and Jo Verrent as Senior Producer. In addition to Jo Verrent, three staff are based at Shape Arts and three at Artsadmin. Most staff are part time. Some other functions such as finance and communications are delivered by existing Shape and Artsadmin staff as part of their roles within those organisations.

Between April 2020 and March 2022 Unlimited will be undergoing a period of transition. Unlimited will run its unique commissions programme through 2020-2022, minimising disruption to artists whilst simultaneously exploring and then delivering future models for governance and delivery. By April 2022 there will be a new, independent organisation.

To find out more about what Unlimited does, how and why, please check out the Unlimited website, in particular our blog: <https://weareunlimited.org.uk/blog/>

**Board member/trustee for Unlimited**

Our transition process includes developing a new, nationally recruited, governing body of disabled artists and allies to advise on the development of the new Unlimited organisation.

We are looking for people who are committed to:

- **supporting disabled artists thrive** – working across all artforms including work that crosses artform boundaries
- **improving the cultural sector** – and being part of long-term sustainable change
- **understanding and responding to change** – being agile, flexible and responsive
- **diversity** - we take an intersectional approach to diversity, and value lived experience.

Unlimited wish to be both supported and challenged so that we can do what we do in the best way possible.

You do not have to have been a board member or a trustee before; we will provide a full induction and help you understand the role and responsibilities. We will shape the way in which the governing body works to meet the access requirements of its members.

We expect the time commitment to be about 3 hours each month. This includes 4-6 meetings each year each of which takes approximately 2 hours. In between meetings, there may be smaller groups to be part of or additional material to discuss. You may be asked to attend events that Unlimited is running or to see the work of the artists we support.

Board membership is voluntary and unpaid. Expenses will be covered, as well as costs of access, personal support and caring expenses where needed. Additional work undertaken by board members, excepting board meetings themselves, is paid.

We have not agreed what form the final organisation will take so the exact wording of this governance role may change – it may be a board member, a trustee, a director or something different. In this context, 'governance' describes the work and processes of a group of people who steer the long-term direction and purpose of an organisation. They help set and monitor policies and strategies so that it can achieve its objectives and purpose. They also ensure the organisation works within the law and provides accountability to the public or other stakeholders.

### **Disability and diversity:**

We are committed to being an Equal Opportunities Employer for all roles, including governance roles; we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, gender, disability, culture, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

Unlimited is a disabled led programme, with disability at the heart of everything we do. Our Advisory Group recently agreed that at least 75% of our new governing body must identify as disabled, working towards 100% over time. We have also agreed to have a target of *at least* four members who are people of colour and/or LGBTQ+ out of our initial 9 members.

Although individuals will bring their own lived experiences and backgrounds, they are not appointed to represent specific groups or organisations.

**Terminology:** We refer to the [Social Model of Disability](#), and use the term 'disabled person/people' and focus on barriers rather than impairments. We try to avoid using impairment-specific language. We also accept that some disabled people do not see themselves as included within the term and so need to ensure the term is known to include deaf people, those who experience mental ill health, those with invisible impairments etc. Whilst Shape Arts is a delivery partner, Unlimited will base its terminology on that of Shape, understanding that others may have their own preferred terminology which is different.