



UNITY

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Applicant Information Pack

Uniting through creative experiences to explore an ever-changing world and our part in it.



INTRODUCTION

With the retirement of our current Chair, Chris Bliss, Unity now seeks to appoint a Chair of the Board of Trustees to offer their skills and passion to help us fulfill our role.

Prior exposure to or an understanding of a board structure is required alongside a desire to contribute to quarterly board and committee meetings.

We are particularly keen to hear from a potential Chair of the Board who can provide insight and expertise in the following:

- An understanding of the need for an accessible, representative and supportive society
- An understanding of the cultural sector
- Financial Management



UNITY'S MISSION

Unity has, for over 40 years, been the home of innovative performance, emerging talent and artists with a strong social identity in Liverpool.

Unity is an arts organisation that provides space and opportunity for people to be creative, enjoy high-quality entertainment, and celebrate the communities of Liverpool. We work together to inspire creative risk and achieve a more fair and accessible world. Unity can be experienced in our iconic building, out in the city and online for as many people as possible to enjoy.

“It feels like I am part of a community.” Laurence Clarke, Comedian

“I’ve never felt intimidated. I’ve never felt like I didn’t belong. I think Unity really understand that without artists, it’s just a building.”

Grace Gallagher – Ugly Bucket Theatre (pictured)



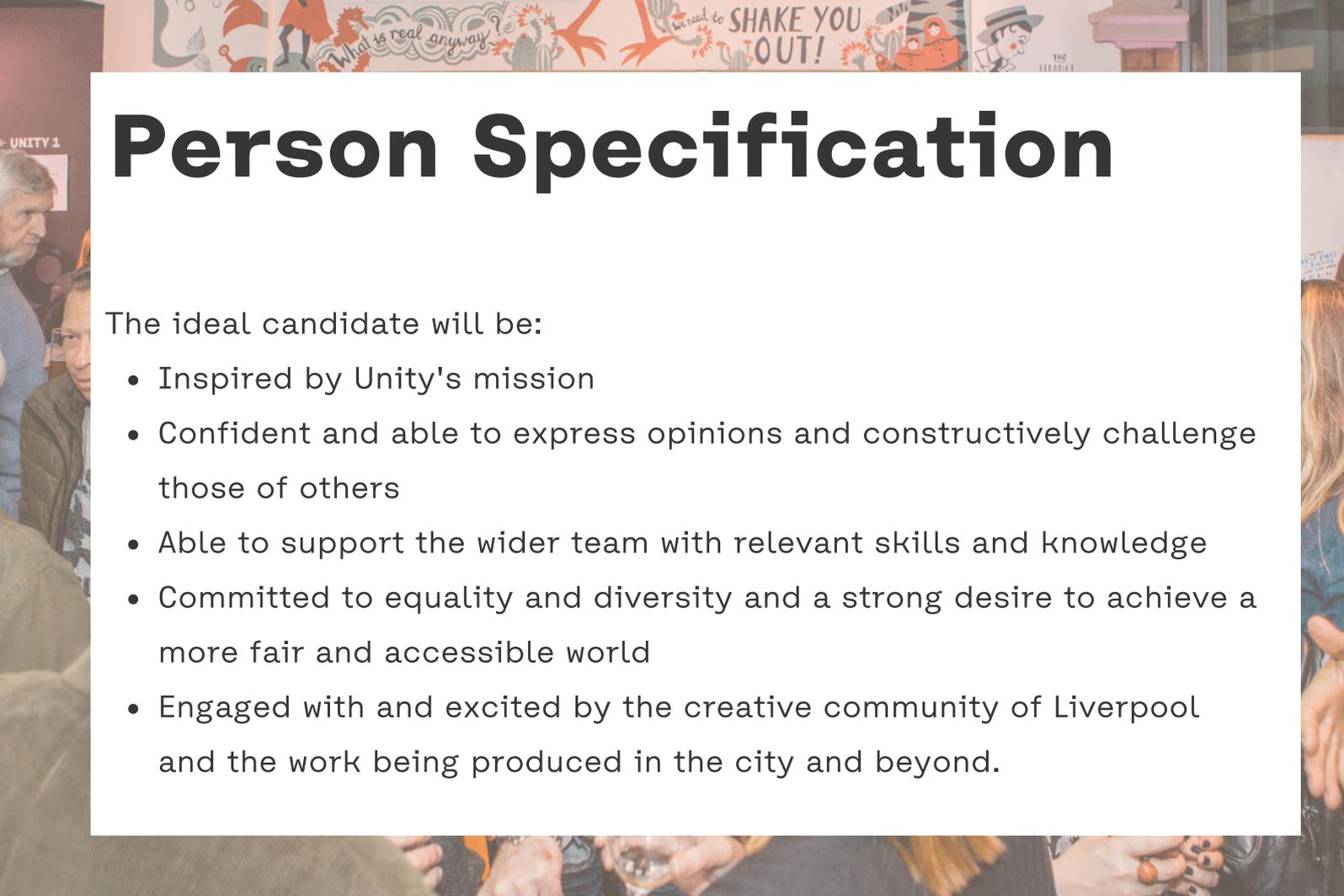
CONTEXT

Unity's board is made up of eight trustees who support a permanent staff body of eight alongside an external financial consultancy and wider team of casual and freelance staff. Unity's patrons include Bill Kenwright, Josette Bushell Mingo OBE, David Morrissey, Andrew Lancel and John Bishop.

Unity is a National Portfolio Organisation funded by Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council, who also funded our £850,000 2017 capital redevelopment along with Garfield Weston Foundation, P.H. Holt, The Granada Foundation, The Ravensdale Trust and The Rex Makin Family. Unity also has a successful history of receiving funds from trusts and foundations including our Talent Development programme Creative'pool, which is generously funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Unity is currently in a stable position both financially and structurally, with a robust strategy in place to ensure the charity absorbs the impacts of coronavirus with minimal damage. Since the pandemic began Unity has supported over 400 artists with creative income, rehearsal space, one-to-one mentoring, training and application support, whilst also offering a free online platform reaching 10,266 audiences since its launch in May.

Unity accommodates two theatre spaces (182 and 100 capacity respectively), rehearsal space, conference facilities, meeting spaces, a bar and lecture rooms.



Person Specification

The ideal candidate will be:

- Inspired by Unity's mission
- Confident and able to express opinions and constructively challenge those of others
- Able to support the wider team with relevant skills and knowledge
- Committed to equality and diversity and a strong desire to achieve a more fair and accessible world
- Engaged with and excited by the creative community of Liverpool and the work being produced in the city and beyond.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR BOARD MEMBERS

- Make sure the Unity stays true to its vision, values and artistic ambition
- Approve strategy, business plans and policies for the Unity
- Bring effective governance and financial oversight to the organisation so that it can sustain its success. Support, check, challenge and debate with the Unity Executive and wider team
- Add value through bringing a diverse range of skills, support and challenge to the life of the Unity and its artistic achievement

BOARD MEMBERS:

1. Read and understand board papers, and come to meetings ready to take part in discussion, debate and decisions
2. Declare all relevant conflicts of interest at each meeting, and to ensure their entry in the boards conflict of interest register is correct and up to date.
3. Make sure the Unity is operating within all relevant legislation or regulations
4. Check and challenge finances so that the theatre is financially robust and well managed now and for the future
5. Work with the staff team to identify risks and to manage, resolve or mitigate them
6. Track performance against the strategy and business plan, help review progress and make a constructive contribution
7. Support the Chair in resolving conflict or performance issues where appropriate
8. Take part in additional activities including staff appointments, fundraising, sub committees or supporting key relationships
9. Support the staff team in and beyond board meetings
10. Contribute special expertise and guidance
11. Support, live and apply the Unity's values and act as an ambassador for the organisation
12. Attend Unity productions
13. Stay informed about the world that the Unity is operating in
14. Be proactive about bringing new ideas

Structure & Commitment:

The full board meets quarterly (usually on the last Tuesday of the month). We have two subcommittees, Future Growth and Business and Sustainability, which also meet on a quarterly basis.





Role of the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Alongside the overall responsibilities of a board member listed on the previous page, the Chair of the Board of Trustees will be expected to perform additional activities including:

- Ensuring Unity fulfils it's responsibilities for the effective and focused governance of the charity
- Line managing the CEO / Artistic Director of Unity
- Participating in wider cultural conversations with key funders, stakeholders, local and national authorities and industry partners - both formally and informally.
- Speaking as the voice of the organisation and attending events, whereby you will be expected to advocate for and enthusiastically share Unity's mission.
- Working alongside Unity's management team to engage and build relations with Unity's Patrons, Core Funders and representatives from current and prospective Trust and Foundations
- Taking an active role in signing off management accounts, approving annual budgets and liaising with auditors to ensure the financial position of the business remains robust and in line with accepted financial governance.
- Overseeing the charitable and corporate governance of the organisation
- Signing off Unity's Business Plan

HOW TO APPLY

Thank you for your interest in the role of Chair of the Board of Trustees at Unity. We hope you have found the above information a useful starting point for understanding our mission and the role a Chair of the Board will help play in achieving this.

For more info about Unity, please visit unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk. The website contains useful information about the history of the organisation, how the pandemic has affected our future thinking and more about the artists we regularly connect and collaborate with.

Our [blog](#) also provides an overview of the journey undertaken by Unity over the past 12 months to reach the point we are at today.

At this stage, we are simply seeking a short expressions of interest via email from you, to be sent to our CEO Gordon Millar, who will arrange an informal chat with either himself or the current Chair.

Deadline for expressions of interest: Monday 8th March 2021

**Please email your expression of interest to:
gordonmillar@unitytheatre.co.uk**

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your application.

The Unity Team

