



LEAN / CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Job Pack

ADVERT

Are you committed to arts and cultural education for all?

Do you want to make a difference to children and young people in Lewisham?

You could be the next voluntary Chair of Lewisham Education Arts Network.

Lewisham Education Arts Network (LEAN), formed in 2000, is Lewisham's dynamic and well-established Cultural Education Partnership. We have much to be proud of in achieving our primary ambition and purpose as an arts and cultural education support organisation, championing creativity for children and young people across Lewisham.

We are seeking an experienced, dynamic individual with the vision and purpose to be the next LEAN Chair of Trustees.

You will

- Have a strong record in a management and leadership role in the arts, culture or education sector, including managing people, projects and substantial budgets.
- Be experienced in establishing and maintaining relationships and partnerships across sectors including arts organisations, schools, artists, the voluntary and community sector, and statutory bodies.
- Have up to date knowledge of current developments, policies and practices in arts and cultural education, and within both formal and informal learning sectors.
- Possess ability to deliver against strategic priorities and when needed adapt in response to changing circumstances.
- Be committed to the principles of equity, inclusion and diversity and to removing the barriers to access and progression for children and young people and for the artistic community that supports them.

Above all you should have enthusiasm and commitment to arts and cultural participation for children and young people, understanding the value and impact of creative engagement for their personal and social development and life chances.

Never chaired a board before? This could be a fantastic learning role particularly for those who have previous experience in a voluntary trustee role. We will support you by:

- Providing a period of shadowing the current chair from whom you will receive support and mentoring.
- Considering applications from those who are interested in sharing the role as a Co-chair whilst developing the own experience.
- Offering pre-application support – please do get in touch with us if you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss your application.

HOW TO APPLY

See our website for more information about the organisation

www.leanarts.org.uk

For further information about the role, please email Veronica Jobbins (Chair, LEAN)
v.c.jobbins@gmail.com

To apply, please send a CV with a short covering letter by **Friday 17 November 2023** to the same address.

In the covering letter please respond to these questions:

- Why do you want to be chair and what do you hope to gain from joining our board?
- What can you bring to the role (skills, experience, contacts, other etc.)?

LEAN CHAIR / ROLE

The LEAN Chair will provide leadership and direction to the Board of Trustees ensuring the Board fulfil their responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation and complies with its governing policies, documents and any other relevant legislation or regulations. They will line manage the LEAN Director and work in partnership with the staff team, helping them achieve the vision and mission of the organisation.

- Provide effective leadership to the Board of Trustees, ensuring the fulfilment of its responsibilities in line with the organisations vision, mission, and values. Chair board meetings, facilitate discussions, listen to, and encourage open communication among trustees.
- Collaborate with the Board and LEAN staff to develop and contribute to the strategic planning of the organisation.
- Work closely with the Treasurer and LEAN director to oversee the financial management of the organisation.
- Represent the organisation externally, building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, including funders, partners, educators, artists and arts organisations. Advocate for the organisation's mission and raise its profile within the arts and education sectors.
- Provide guidance and support to the LEAN director ensuring their effective performance and accountability.
- Work with the Board, Director, and other LEAN staff to identify and pursue funding opportunities and contribute to the development and implementation of fundraising strategies.

Nature of appointment

This is an unpaid voluntary role. Reasonable expenses to attend meetings can be claimed.

Length of appointment

Currently the term of office for LEAN Trustees is one year. However, we would hope that the new Chair would be interested to stay in post for a minimum of 3 years.

Indicative Time Commitment

Flexible with the equivalent of 3 days per month, to include Board and Working Group meetings, line management of LEAN Director, event attendance and networking. Most Board meetings and committees take place in the early evening; some live and others by ZOOM or TEAMS.

PERSON PROFILE

Skills Evidence of

- Strong management skills and strategic decision-making.
- Proven ability to steer an organisation through opportunities, transition, and development.
- Solid understanding of effective governance; able to promote good governance among fellow charity trustees including financial oversight and risk management.
- Excellent communication abilities with robust interpersonal and relationship-building skills and able to be a spokesperson and advocate for LEAN.

Experience Evidence of

- Working in the arts/culture education sector.
- Experience as a Board Trustee or equivalent.
- Leadership on organisational management and development.
- Advocacy for arts and cultural education for children and young people.
- Credibility – relevant track record/reputation.
- Connection to and knowledge of the arts, cultural and education sectors, particularly in Lewisham.
- Commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Personal qualities Evidence of

- Inspiring with confidence, dynamism and ambition
- Inclusive, supportive and collaborative working
- Integrity and professionalism
- Calm and level-headed.

LEAN BACKGROUND

Lewisham Education Arts Network (“LEAN”) was established in 2000 and is a registered Charity (No. 1119396) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (No. 5462708). It has much to be proud of in achieving its primary ambition and purpose as an arts and cultural education support organisation, championing arts learning for children and young people across Lewisham through promoting the growth of creative partnership working.

LEAN is distinctive, in that it grew out of a grass roots belief that an independent and neutral organisation was best placed to support and advocate for arts and cultural education in the borough.

Since inception LEAN has worked with all those involved in the provision of creative opportunities for children and young people, artists and arts organisations, the youth sector, non-arts voluntary and community sector, health sector, early years practitioners, primary and secondary teachers and further and higher education.

Leading the local cultural education partnership, LEAN initiates, frequently in partnership, an extensive range of projects, services and activities empowering and inspiring our members to collaborate through the development of active networks, brokered support and facilitating collaborative working.

Vision

All Children and Young People in Lewisham have the opportunities, and support they need, to engage with arts and culture and lead a creative life.

Mission

We champion arts, culture and creativity in Lewisham by supporting organisations and individuals to provide children and young people with equitable and relevant creative opportunities that develop their interests and fulfil their creative potential.

www.leanarts.org.uk