



BOARD RECRUITMENT PACK 2019

Chisenhale Dance Space is looking for 3-4 new Trustees to join its board and support the organisation as it continues on a journey of sustainable, increased public-facing activity, championing under-represented artists making dance and performance.



Children's Creative Movement Classes. Photo by Zbigniew Kotkiewicz

East London's champion of experimentation in dance and performance.

Based in Bow, Chisenhale Dance Space (CDS) is an artist Member-led organisation which has been a radical, internationally-influential creative hotbed for more than 35 years. CDS grew out of the X6 Collective, a group of five dance artists who ran a previous space at Butler's Wharf on the South Bank. Our ex-warehouse on a back-street by Victoria Park was home of the influential 'New Dance' movement in the 80s and 90s, with our artists expanding both the form and active politics of movement, changing the face of UK dance. These experimental, urgent approaches have continued throughout our history and continue to be reflected in the Membership and our programmes.

As a Membership organisation we support a community of more than 100 independent dance artists each year, based in London and around the UK. Our programme is created by, with and in response to our artist Membership and their work.

CDS is one of the three independent charities that occupy Chisenhale Art Place in a former veneer factory on Chisenhale Road, alongside the separate Chisenhale Gallery and Chisenhale Studios.

Our Space and location in the community of Bow has always formed a key element of CDS' identity and programme. Our Children's Creative Movement classes are one of our longest running and most successful programmes, currently catering to more than 150 children each week. Following staff change at the beginning of 2018 we have refreshed our focus and increased our public-facing community activities further, reinstating open access classes for adults, as well as schools and community projects and partnerships.

In 2018, we celebrated our 35th Birthday since incorporating as a charity, with two new commissions funded by the Choreographers' Gallery Trust, encouraging 'Collaborations between Generations' of CDS Members.



Member Angela Andrew in Radical Integration – a Collaboration between Generations Commission, December 2018. Photo by Zbigniew Kotkiewicz

In 2019, the Victoria & Albert Museum's Theatre and Performance Department agreed to acquire our archives with sorting and further research plans in partnership with Coventry University beginning.

The programme and working model of the organisation has fluctuated over our long history, in response to the challenges of sustainability and the models of leadership. The current model of the organisation operates:

- Affordable space hire and workspace for artists

- Open-access classes for children and adults
- Artist development and support programmes for professional dance artists
- A boundary-pushing performance programme in our venue and beyond
- Dance outreach projects with schools and community groups



*International guest performances - Ivo Dimchev performs Som Faves in November 2018
Photo by Daniel Pitt*

Recent and upcoming programmes and activity includes:

- Our second regular performance season is currently underway. The brochure can be seen here: <https://www.chisenhaledancespace.co.uk/summer2019/>
- Free dance classes for children and adults at All Points East' In The Neighbourhood festival, Victoria Park
- Our first Summer Dance Camp for local children aged 4-7
- An Artist Exchange with members of The Work Room, a related organisation in Glasgow
- Paid summer research residencies for artists of colour
- *Encounter Bow* - a day long festival of dance and performance in the streets of Bow
- Bursaries awarded for Members' projects
- Three international guest shows in Autumn 2019
- A Member's offsite London premiere show, co-presented with Stratford Circus Arts Centre

Alongside all of this activity, we are beginning a Board, Staff and Member-level process to better support and be more welcoming to Artists of Colour within our Membership, and to better reflect the local community.

Current Team and Trustees

CDS is registered charity, currently operating with a small but efficient and experienced core team of Director Daniel Pitt, General Manager Mary Helen Young, Marketing and Programme Co-ordinator Es Morgan, and Studios Assistant Ruby Embley, supported by

freelance staff project staff and volunteers. The 4 core salaried staff total 2.7 full time equivalents.

Steven Brett (Co-Chair) – Programme Manager: Theatre and Dance, British Council

Julie Bouin - Culture and Conduct Manager

Simon Ellis – Artist and Academic

Clara Giraud (Co-Chair) – Project Manager, Unlimited

Alexandrina Hemsley – Artist

Naomi Jones – Property and Probate Solicitor Partner

Francesca Turner - Business Analyst



Adult contemporary classes. Photo by Zbigniew Kotkiewicz

The role of Trustees

The role of the Board of Trustees is to support the strategic vision and leadership of the company and ensure we remain radical, relevant to our artistic and local communities, well managed and financially sustainable.

Board Members are expected to:

- Attend 4 x weekday evening Board Meetings per year
- Attend 1 x Members' AGM and some Members' meetings
- Attend 1 x half-day Board Away Day
- Contribute to a subcommittee, which currently include finance, Membership, fundraising and building.
- Attend some Chisenhale Dance events and performances

We estimate these total a minimum of one evening per month plus interim correspondence.

We are open to hearing from anyone who is passionate about what Chisenhale Dance Space does, but are keen to hear from people with expertise in the following areas:

- Bow and Tower Hamlets community

- Diversity and inclusivity
- Health, sport and wellbeing
- Education
- Fundraising and philanthropy
- Marketing and communications
- Property and development

Chisenhale Dance Space welcomes applications from everyone and actively encourages individuals with a variety of backgrounds, experience and perspectives.

We are particularly keen to hear from BAME applicants / people of colour as we are beginning a process to better support artists of colour within our Membership.

We encourage applications from people that identify as disabled, though unfortunately the Space itself does not have step-free access.

Travel expenses or access support expenses can be provided.

Why become a Trustee?

There are many reasons that people may want to be a Trustee. Here are some that we think are useful:

- To 'give back' and use your skills in new contexts
- For professional development, to develop your personal leadership or management skills
- To help contribute to the change that you want to see in the world, the local community or the sector
- Get involved with a dynamic, eclectic and heritage-filled artistic community in London
- To collaborate and work with a motivated and diverse board and staff and build new networks

How to apply

We would encourage anyone interested in to have an informal conversation with Director Daniel Pitt. Following that, please send us a CV and short statement explaining why you are interested and what you can offer the organization by Monday 8th July.

We are open to alternative application formats (such as video) if this is not accessible to you – please contact Daniel to discuss.

Daniel Pitt: daniel@chisenhaledancespace.co.uk / 0208 981 6617

Prospective Trustees will be invited to observe the Board Meeting on Monday 29th July 6.30pm-8.30pm.