



THE PLAY HOUSE

**Trustee/
Non-Executive
Directors
& Chair of the Board**

**RECRUITMENT
PACK**

0121 265 4425
www.theplayhouse.org.uk



Overview

The Play House (TPH) is seeking a **Chair of the Board** and **3 new trustees/non-executive directors (NEDs)** to provide leadership in the company's next phase of development.

We are a passionate charity, based in Birmingham, bringing creativity into learning; empowering children and bringing their world to life through stories and participatory theatre.

Our current trustees are:

Keshena Partridge-Bowie (Co-Chair - Interim)

Alexandra Henwood (Co-Chair – Interim)

Tessa Taylor

Shane Shambhu

Adaya Henry

Paul Edwards

“The Play House has been delivering engaging, thought-provoking and playful theatre in education settings for over 30 years.

We're now looking ahead to the next 30 years for the company: seeking to ensure fresh perspectives inform the work we deliver and that our company represents the children of Birmingham and their stories.

It's an exciting time to come on board – you'll get stuck in to the nuts and bolts of how our company works and be able to shape the future of our work, as well as help us navigate any challenges that come our way.”

Keshena Partridge-Bowie, Co-Chair



About The Play House

The Play House (Birmingham) is a registered charity (no. 1034809) and Company Limited by Guarantee (no. 02828276).

We are a Theatre in Education company, delivering high quality creative work for and with children in education settings with a track record of 30+ years.

The Play House (TPH) engages with over fifty schools across Birmingham per year, with an extensive touring programme of workshops and shows which bring the curriculum to life for children.

We are proud to also co-create and deliver bespoke projects for schools and offer high level CPD for teachers. Working collaboratively is important to us and we work with a range of partnerships including The University of Birmingham, Birmingham Arts School and our primary school partners to place drama and imagination at the heart of the learning experience for children.

TPH is led by Jo Sadler-Lovett (Director), with a small team of project specific employees and a wider pool of freelancers.

The annual income for the 2021-2022 financial year was £196,750.00 and TPH has separate ring-fenced reserves for thorough winding up purposes and healthy free reserves to delegate as trustees feel necessary.

Please see more about our work here: www.theplayhouse.org.uk



The Opportunity

TPH is looking for dynamic and committed individuals to fulfil the role of Chair and to recruit 3 trustees/non-executive directors to join the board.

We are looking for individuals who are:

- willing to embrace the challenging context TPH is operating in whilst bringing fresh energy and exciting vision.
- passionate change-makers; people who embrace challenge and are committed to developing opportunities for children to engage in creative learning.
- able to bring their own connections and relationships to support the strategic development of the company.

This is an exciting time, where individuals will have the opportunity to be a significant influence as TPH refreshes its business plan and strategic position.

You will also get the chance to serve a company making a meaningful contribution the lives of children across the city of Birmingham.

Our usual tenure for board positions is 3 years.



Outline of Role

You will take responsibility for the governance of TPH and ensure the company complies with all statutory and legal requirements, in line with its memorandum and articles of association.

The Chair will have an active role, providing leadership to the board and regularly supporting the Director.

As a Company Limited by Guarantee and as a registered charity, you will have duties under both **company** and **charitable law**.

Specific duties include, but are not limited to:

- Play a key role in developing the overall direction and development of TPH through good governance and clear strategic planning
- Offer sound, objective advice on a regular basis to ensure TPH achieves its objectives effectively and maintains its relevance
- Monitor the risks to the organisation and ensure TPH are putting in steps to manage them



- Publicly advocate for TPH, promoting its work and ethos within your own networks
- Work with the Director and other trustees/NEDs to develop the wider board, including recruiting and on-boarding trustees where required
- Ensure TPH complies with its governing documents, charity law requirements and other relevant legislation and regulations

Chair specific duties:

- Develop a strong and effective working relationship with the Director, including undertaking annual appraisals and offering support as appropriate
- Act as senior safeguarding lead alongside the Director who is Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Ensure sound financial management of TPH and support the preparation of necessary annual accounts
- Effectively setting board agendas in advance and leading TPH board meetings, ensuring they are productive, objective, and compliant

You might think that you can't join us – maybe because of your age or experience or anything else.

But if you feel passionate about what we do and want to get stuck in, we would love to hear from you.



Who You Might Be - Chair

We are looking for an individual who has a minimum of 3 years Chair experience, ideally in a charitable or education field.

It's important to TPH we find someone with a good understanding of governance, accountability and compliance.

We're looking for an inspiring and committed individual with an ability to maximise the strengths and potential of others, to create a dynamic team.

Who You Might Be – Trustee

We are looking for people who:

- Are willing to play an active role in developing and sustaining TPH's important work
- Have a genuine passion for the role of creative arts in children's learning
- Understand the charitable and/or education sector, including the nuanced challenges and opportunities
- Can effectively build relationships with a wide range of people
- Are excited by change

You do not need to have had prior board experience, TPH is happy to support your development process through a board buddy scheme.



Commitment

The board meet every 8 weeks for around 2 hours. Meetings are a mix of online and in person at TPH offices in Birmingham City Centre.

As the Chair you will be required from time to time to work with the Director outside of board meetings, this is to be negotiated between the Chair and Director.

The role is voluntary, but reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed in line with Company Policy.

Expression of Interest

To apply for this opportunity, please send a **CV and cover note (no more than 1 side of A4) or video/audio submission (no more than 3 minutes)** outlining:

- What you can bring to TPH in terms of your skills, experience and values
- Why you're interested in TPH
- What you would hope to achieve during your tenure

Please send your submission to jo.sadler-lovett@theplayhouse.org.uk by no later than **15th April 2024**.

For an informal conversation about the opportunity or to request this information in an alternative format, please contact Jo who will make availability to speak with you.

Next Steps

All applications will be acknowledged via email.

Interviews will take place online w/c 22nd April and shortlisted applicants will then meet with Jo (Director), Keshena (Co-Chair).

ABOUT OUR WORK

“After a workshop, children were independently playing a game outside where they were sharing feelings and pretending to put these into the well. It has genuinely struck a chord with our children.”

Headteacher, Raddlebarn Primary School

“We have noticed a profound impact on the children’s ability to express themselves by using drama as a vehicle for communication. The sessions are interactive and inclusive of all abilities, needs and dispositions. As a school, we find the range of contexts for the sessions a key benefit, as they expose pupils to new learning experiences which has enriched our curriculum.”

Assistant Headteacher, Montgomery Primary Academy

“This is not just a bolt on, this is core to our PSHE, OWLS (our wider learning) curriculum.”

Headteacher, Colmore Junior School

“You had them entranced from the start, they were so enthralled!”

Teacher, St Catherine of Siena School

“...in terms of learning the Playhouse is gold dust.”

**Rachel Gartside,
Education Associate, Royal Shakespeare Company**

Recent Artists: Juliet Fry, Shaiek Ahmed, Lucy Bird, Mustafa Chaudhry, Sojourner Dawson, Adaya Henry, Philip Holyman, Charis McRoberts, Sabrina Naz Nabi, Arzhang Pezhman, Shane Shambhu, Ayeisha Siniara and Ariya Larker.

Recent collaborations: Untied Artists, Birmingham Conservatoire, Friends of Cotteridge Park, New Histories in Lye, The New Walsall Art Gallery, Barnardos, University of Birmingham, University of Warwick, University of Worcester, West Smethwick Enterprise plus early years settings and primary schools across Birmingham.

Recent funders: Arts Council England, Baron Davenport Trust, Birmingham City Council, Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Charitable Trust, John Feeney Charitable Trust, Paul Hamlyn, Roger and Douglas Charitable Trust, Royal Academy of Engineering, Sir Barry Jackson Trust, West Midlands Combined Authority and West Midlands Police.

