



## Trustee Information Pack

Artis' Board of Trustees is seeking to recruit new members to support the strategic direction, growth and financial stability of this vibrant creative learning charity.

### About Artis

#### **We are the creative learning specialists...**

Artis is a creative learning charity that enables children to sing, act and dance their curriculum. This experiential way of learning ensures sparks fly in the right direction.

4.3 million children in the UK are growing up in poverty, impacting their mental health and school attendance. Artis has a profound effect on children's wellbeing by prioritising the arts throughout learning, whilst supporting vital communication skills. Our mission is to nurture creativity in every child, everywhere, and shape a thriving society.

**'Artis holds the power to reflect, to motivate and to bring us to our highest possible selves. Without the arts we are but two dimensions'**

Kwame Kwei-Armah, Artis Ambassador

Artis was established in 2004 as a social business to pioneer creative learning in schools and tackle social deprivation, converting to a registered charity in 2017. We bring the expertise of real performing artists into the classroom working with primary-aged children to enhance their ability to learn, challenge and explore through curriculum-based cross-artform practice. We work with primary schools in the top 20% of the most deprived areas in England and we recruit and develop artists to work closely with them and deliver focused learning based on the needs of individual schools. This ranges from lack of engagement to poor literacy or maths skills. Within this framework we also support teachers to develop new management strategies and embed creative learning in their schools.

Since our inception, our creative learning specialists have sung about punctuation, acted out fractions and danced the solar system with 775 partner schools across England, with a focus on the urban conurbations of Birmingham, Leeds, London and Manchester, tackling areas of highest deprivation.

**'At the start I was a bit scared because I had a really small voice. Now I shout from across the hall so everyone can hear me, and I don't feel afraid'**

Artis Partner Primary School Pupil



Over 277,000 children from across England have participated in Artis programmes that fuse performing arts with curriculum-based learning to enhance educational outcomes, and we have helped sustain the careers of more than 600 creative learning specialists, through employment, training and mentoring.

Our goal is to deliver Artis in partnership with 50 schools in the top 20% of the most deprived areas in England each year, supporting the children and teachers whose lives are most affected by cultural and economic deprivation.

As arts education advocates and change-makers our partnership with Pro Bono Economics, a charity that uses economics to empower the social sector, has unlocked compelling evidence of the socio-economic impact of Artis:

**'We estimate that for every £1 invested in the Artis programme, there is a collective gain of up to £32 for the child, government and society'**  
Pro Bono Economics 2022

Everyone at Artis chooses an onomatopoeic name that best describes them.  
What would your Artis name be?

### **Duties of a Trustee Board Member**

Trustees play an essential role in the governance of Artis and its future development. The Trustees, while retaining total responsibility for the conduct of Artis's affairs, delegate functions to the executive staff.

The following areas are key Trustee responsibilities:

- Appointment of Trustees and the Chair
- Agreement of strategy, and approval of strategic plans
- Approval of the annual budget
- Approval of the annual report and accounts
- Appointment of the auditors
- Ensure there is an environment for staff, specialists and beneficiaries to be able to speak up easily.

### **Strategy**

- To contribute actively to the Board of Trustees role in giving strategic direction to the charity, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- To use any specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions on strategy and operational plans.

### **Compliance and statutory duties**

- To make sure that Artis complies with its governing document, charity law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- To ensure that the charity pursues its objects as defined in its governing document and is administered effectively and efficiently.

- To ensure the charity uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects and that the charity does not spend money on activities that are not included in its own objects.
- To direct and oversee Artis arrangements for internal and external audit.
- To scrutinise board papers, attend quarterly board meetings and contribute to discussions and decision-making processes.
- To provide guidance on new initiatives and issues in which the Trustee has special expertise.
- To ensure risk management and control systems are in place, with clear delegated responsibilities to staff for managing and mitigating risk, and to monitor these on an ongoing basis.
- To ensure the charity has an up-to-date safeguarding policy and practice.

### **Financial management**

- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation, ensuring solvency and safeguarding assets.
- To protect and manage the assets of the charity.
- To approve annual charity budgets including approval of Senior Management pay rises and monitor financial performance against these budgets.

### **Employees**

- To ensure that Artis has policies and practises that mean it is able to recruit, retain and develop high-quality people.
- To be available, individually or as part of a group, to the Artis team as required for advice and guidance; and to provide access to other specialist advice if required.

### **Reputation and profile**

- To safeguard the good name and values of Artis.
- To act as an ambassador for Artis and establish networks in support of the charity's strategy and reputation.

### **Person Specification**

We are looking for two new Trustees to further diversify our board and welcome applications from people with a range of different backgrounds and ages.

Experience/attributes in the following areas would be helpful (but are not essential):

- A passion for the aims of Artis and an ambition to increase the charitable impacts and make the biggest difference possible to the lives of our beneficiaries.
- Professional experience relevant to arts education, governance and/or fundraising and communications activities of not-for-profit/charities.
- Knowledge of the voluntary sector and a commitment to developing this knowledge in support of the charity and its plans.
- Willingness and ability to invite professional and personal networks to support the charity's fundraising strategy.



- Understanding of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, and the issues associated with this.
- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Lived experience of the transformational nature of performing arts education and the complex social and economic challenges facing the communities we serve.
- We welcome applications from all over the country.

#### **Further information**

- Trustees do not receive remuneration, as their role is entirely voluntary.
- Expenses will be reimbursed for travel to board meetings and any essential meetings as agreed with the Chair.
- The time commitment is between 4-8 days each year. Trustees are expected to attend 4 meetings a year (2 hrs in length) and 2-3 events.
- To request an informal pre-application conversation with the Chair of Trustees please email [dingdong@artisfoundation.org.uk](mailto:dingdong@artisfoundation.org.uk)

#### **To apply**

Please send a copy of your CV (maximum 2 pages) and a candidate statement outlining your suitability and motivation for applying for this role to [dingdong@artisfoundation.org.uk](mailto:dingdong@artisfoundation.org.uk)

**Closing date: Friday 13 December 2024**

Interviews: Mid-January 2025