

# Board Vacancy - Director

Accessible Arts is seeking expressions of interest from individuals who are interested in serving as a Director on the Board for the organisation.

Accessible Arts is the NSW peak arts and disability service organisation whose mission is to advance the rights of, and opportunities for, people with disability or who are Deaf, to develop and sustain professional careers in the arts and have equitable access to arts and culture across NSW. The company receives multi-year funding from Create NSW and a range of other government and philanthropic support. Further detail can be found on the company’s website at [www.aarts.net.au](http://www.aarts.net.au)

Accessible Arts is seeking Directors with appropriate skills to join our team. The current board includes directors with a wide range of skills, including practising artists, artsworkers and people with disability. It has a small, dedicated staff based at The Arts Exchange in The Rocks (currently working at least part of the time from home). The board leads the company’s strategic and operational planning.

The Board of Directors, led by Chairperson Jaci Armstrong, is responsible for the governance of Accessible Arts in line with the parameters set out in the Constitution, compliance with common law and other legislative requirements. The Board sets strategic direction, ensures financial responsibility and accountability, and is an advocate for the work of the organisation, promoting Accessible Arts’ mission in the community.

Our current Directors bring strong experience in the arts, finance, strategy and governance. We are looking to augment this with expertise from individuals who may represent Western Sydney, bring a regional perspective, have a lived experience of disability, and/or are knowledgeable of the arts and not-for-profit sector.

Directors are expected to contribute to the development of arts and disability practice in NSW through determining the strategic objectives and policies of Accessible Arts; regularly reviewing progress towards achieving the Company’s objectives and policies; and overseeing the organisation’s management. Additionally, Directors are expected to bring skills, knowledge, expertise and contacts that will be of benefit to Accessible Arts.

The membership of Accessible Arts comprises its Board of nine Directors, who fulfil their role on a voluntary basis for a maximum of three, three-year terms.

Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis via Zoom, or at the offices of Accessible Arts at The Arts Exchange, 10 Hickson Road, The Rocks.

## Characteristics of Directors

* A willingness to develop an understanding of the work of Accessible Arts, and a commitment to its mission and values (as outlined at the end of this document)
* Demonstrated interest in and understanding of the arts
* Willingness to commit time, energy and resources to fulfil Board duties
* Skills, knowledge, expertise and networks/contacts that are of benefit to Accessible Arts
* Ability to analyse information, contribute to debates and make evidence-based decisions
* Willingness to accept and support Board decisions.

## Regular duties of the role:

* Attend bi-monthly Board meetings
* Participate in planning days, committee meetings, training sessions and special events as appropriate (approx. 1- 2 days per year)
* Actively participate in meetings, sharing experience, ideas and suggestions
* Keep informed and up to date on developments within Accessible Arts and the impact on its work of developments in the disability sector.
* Be a financial member of Accessible Arts (fee of $1)
* Undertake all duties in line with the Corporations Act 2001.

## Selection criteria:

### Required

1. Specific skills and/or qualifications in areas that will enhance the overall make-up of the Board
2. A willingness to participate actively in the development of Accessible Arts, including attending scheduled meetings and events .
3. An understanding of, and willingness to fulfil, the duties outlined in the Role Description.

### Desirable

1. AICD qualifications (or equivalent)
2. Knowledge and experience in the arts and/or not-for-profit sector
3. Well-developed arts and/or disability connections in Western Sydney and/or regional NSW
4. Lived experience of disability.

### For further information please contact:

Liz Martin (CEO), lmartin@aarts.net.au

Applications close: 31 May 2024 (5pm)

Please send your written application and CV, along with a response to the selection criteria, to:

Liz Martin, CEO

lmartin@aarts.net.au

Applications that do not address the selection criteria will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

## Background

For over 30 years, Accessible Arts has been a leading force in shaping and advancing the intersection of arts, culture and disability in NSW. Through our various approaches to career advancement, audience development and community engagement, we play a key role in accelerating and amplifying the diverse, dynamic and distinctive impact of disability on NSW’s creative industries and cultural activities.

For arts practitioners, our work is about leveling up the professional playing field for artists and arts workers with disability as they don’t always get to develop their careers in the same way as arts practitioners without disability due to discrimination, negative attitudes, and physical, social and technological barriers. Through our programs, services and partnerships, we empower thousands of artists and arts workers across all creative disciplines to produce or facilitate unique, powerful and important work that advances their careers, enhances our understanding of living with disability, and transforms how our society experiences the arts. Through championing the work of artists with disability in NSW, we also help to grow audiences for their work within NSW as well as nationally and internationally.

For audiences, our work focuses on influencing industry and government to make cultural programming, services, infrastructure and policies more accessible for and inclusive of people with disability. Over three decades, our efforts have contributed to a range of important outcomes in relation to social equity, audience development and the evolution of creative practice.

For NSW’s arts and disability community, we are proud to have provided a vital focal point for over 30 years for community members to collaborate, communicate, and agitate around issues related to advancing arts and disability in NSW.

We provide a range of programs and services which focus on career advancement, audience development and community engagement for arts practitioners and audiences with disability. These include:

* Creative initiatives
* Internships, mentorships and artist residencies
* Professional development workshops
* Leadership development programs
* Industry education and advocacy
* Community and industry forums
* Networking events
* Advisory services

## Our Vision

Equity and excellence in arts, culture and disability.

## Our Values

Equity | Excellence | Diversity | Creativity | Partnership

## Our Purpose

To enable artists, arts workers and audiences with disability to have equitable access to arts and culture across NSW.

## Our Aims

### Community Engagement

Build a sustainable, engaged and influential arts and disability sector in NSW.

### Career Advancement

Increase representation, appreciation and career sustainability of arts practitioners with disability across all levels of the diverse spectrum of arts and cultural activities in NSW.

### Audience Development

Improve engagement with and understanding of people with disability in NSW as culturally and geographically diverse creators of, participants in, and audiences for, arts and cultural activities.

### Organisational Growth & Development

Provide sector leadership through innovation, sound governance, effective management and operational efficiency.