

Position Title: Non-Executive Board Director

Organisation: Sydney Festival

Location: Sydney, Australia

About Sydney Festival: Sydney Festival is one of Australia's premier cultural events, showcasing a diverse and vibrant array of performances, exhibitions, and experiences that celebrate artistic innovation and creativity. With a rich history spanning 48 years, the festival has become synonymous with fostering a dynamic and inclusive cultural landscape in Sydney.

Organisational Context: The festival operates as a non-profit organisation governed by a dedicated Board of Directors committed to ensuring the festival's continued growth and impact. As a key influencer in the Australian arts scene, Sydney Festival engages with artists and audiences alike, creating memorable experiences that contribute to the city's cultural identity.

Strategic Imperatives: The Board Director will play a critical role in guiding the organisation through a transformative phase, focusing on the following strategic imperatives:

- Guiding the festival's evolution alongside the CEO, ushering it into the next phase of successful operations with a newly appointed Festival Director leading the way from 2026 to 2029.
- Expanding the festival's reach and accessibility to diverse audiences.
- Ensuring the organisation's financial sustainability through the successful management of its many and varied stakeholders.

Collaborative Leadership: As a member of the Board, the successful candidate will work closely with the CEO, Festival Director, executive team, to foster a collaborative and inclusive leadership culture. This collaborative approach will be essential in ensuring that the festival remains at the forefront of cultural innovation and continues to contribute to the vibrancy of Sydney's cultural scene.

Role Overview: Board Directors of the Sydney Festival play a pivotal role in providing strategic leadership, governance oversight, and financial stewardship to ensure the festival's continued success. The position involves active participation in shaping the festival's strategic direction, fostering financial sustainability through effective fundraising, and managing key stakeholder relationships.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

GOVERNANCE:

- Provide strategic guidance and oversight to ensure the organisation operates ethically, transparently, and in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of strong governance frameworks, policies, and procedures.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

- Collaborate with fellow board members and executive leadership to formulate and execute the festival's long-term strategic plan.
- Contribute to the continuous review and refinement of organisational strategies to adapt to changing cultural, social, and economic landscapes.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

- Actively participate in financial planning and decision-making processes to ensure the festival's fiscal health.
- Contribute to the development and execution of strategies for revenue diversification and sustainable financial growth.
- Engage in financial and operational risk identification and mitigation strategies.

FUNDRAISING:

- Collaborate with the executive team to identify and pursue grant opportunities, philanthropic support, and sponsorship agreements to meet financial targets.
- Cultivate relationships with potential donors, sponsors, and partners to develop and further agreed initiatives.

STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT:

- Build and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government bodies, sponsors, donors, artists, and the local community.
- Represent the Sydney Festival at public events, fostering positive relationships and promoting the organisation's mission.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Proven experience in a leadership role, preferably at the board level, with a focus on governance and strategic planning.
- Demonstrated success in financial management and sustainability, including engagement in fundraising efforts.
- Strong understanding of the cultural and arts sector.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage and influence a diverse range of stakeholders.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:

- Passion for the arts and cultural diversity.
- Strategic thinker with a forward-looking perspective.
- Collaborative and team-oriented approach.
- High ethical standards and integrity.
- Willingness to serve on a Board sub-committee if required.

APPLICATION DEADLINE AND SELECTION PROCESS:

The application deadline is 17 May by 5pm AEST. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews, which are expected to take place in late May. The successful candidate will assume the position in the second half of the year.

Sydney Festival reserves the right to make an appointment via invitation.

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants from the greater Sydney area will be viewed positively, as meetings are held in person at our office in The Rocks, Sydney.

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