



Trustee and Development Board Chair

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in Park Theatre and the Trustee and Development Board Chair position. As the organisation looks to the future, this role is an opportunity for an individual to make a tangible mark on the sustainability and financial resilience of this extraordinary venue by supporting as a member of the Board and enabling the dynamic and sector-leading team to generate new philanthropic funds.

As Trustee the individual appointed will ensure Park Theatre fulfils its mission, continues to meet its legal and financial responsibilities, and support the growth and development of Park Theatre. As Development Board Chair the appointed individual will be responsible for rebuilding the Development Board and will work closely with the Artistic Director and Executive Director to lead the organisation's fundraising into the future.

To mark the next chapter in the organisation's story, the team at Park Theatre are seeking to build a new and refreshed Development Board to galvanise new fundraising support and introduce new philanthropic audiences which share a passion for Park Theatre's artistic and community work as well as the commitment to being an equal, diverse, inclusive, and sustainable organisation.

The Chair of the Development Board will be someone with strong influencing abilities and who can bring a wide-reaching network of potential new support for Park Theatre. They will share the organisation's mission to be a neighbourhood theatre with a global ambition. They will be an outstanding advocate for the organisation and will have a high degree of autonomy to recruit and shape a reinvigorated Development Board and other key ambassadors for the theatre.

About Park Theatre

Founded in 2013, Park Theatre is a neighbourhood theatre with a global ambition. The brainchild of Artistic Director, Jez Bond, and Creative Director Emeritus Melli Marie, who – following a six-year London-wide search for a building – discovered a vacant office block next to Finsbury Park station in 2010. Garnering support from the theatre community at large – including luminaries such as Ian McKellen and Alan Rickman, the press, and importantly local residents – they set out to raise the necessary funds to convert the tired concrete building into a thriving new theatre and beacon for the community.

PARK THEATRE
Clifton Terrace
Finsbury Park
London N4 3JP

Box office: 020 7870 6876*
Office: 020 3697 4190
info@ParkTheatre.co.uk
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**Exceptional theatre
in the heart of
Finsbury Park**



At a cost of just £2.6m, the building, designed by David Hughes Architects, opened in May 2013 to rave reviews from the critics.

With a mixture of new writing and modern revivals, Park Theatre delivers world class theatre, collaborating with the finest existing and emerging talent on stage and behind the scenes. Park Theatre tells accessible, real-to-life stories, whose content resonates and reflects world around us and the neighbourhoods close by. Shows are produced both in-house and in partnership with the most excellent existing and emerging producer, for whom the organisation endeavours to provide an unparalleled level of support.

With a welcoming and nurturing environment Park Theatre is exemplary in its accessibility to its diverse community and beyond. Through affordable ticket pricing and outreach programmes Park Theatre aims to engage those with little or no experience of theatre. The organisation is committed to creating a working environment that reflects the broad diversity of its local community and aims to foster a productive and supportive workplace that provides equal opportunities for all stakeholders.

The organisation is governed by a non-executive Board of Trustees, currently chaired by Anthony Clare. It has an annual turnover of approximately £1.9m with income derived from rental fees from visiting productions, box office income from in-house productions, earned income including commercial hires, Park Pizza and front of house sales, and fundraising income from trusts, businesses, and individuals.

Fundraising at Park Theatre

As noted above, Park Theatre operates on a mixed income model. The organisation receives no regular government subsidy and raises c.25% of its income from fundraising each year. Fundraised income is secured through income from memberships, major donors, trusts and foundations and some corporate support. Given the development plans for the organisation and the current economic climate in which the organisation is operating, the goal is to increase income from fundraising in the coming years to at least £500,000 with a particular focus on increasing gifts at the major donor level (gifts from any source over £10,000 per annum). Rebuilding the Development Board and partnering with a new Chair of that Board is a key part of the strategy to reach these fundraising goals.

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Main Purpose of the Role

As Chair of the Development Board, the core purpose of the role is to play a key role in the future development of Park Theatre by supporting the organisation to raise vital funds from philanthropic sources. This will be achieved by establishing a new Development Board, building new networks for support for Park Theatre by facilitating introductions and supporting with fundraising approaches, advocating for fundraising at Park Theatre as a senior volunteer at key events such as press nights, gala performances, and donor events, and promoting a culture of fundraising at Board level.

As Trustee the role will ensure Park Theatre fulfils its purpose and charitable objectives and adheres to all statutory requirements that come with being a registered charity. The postholder will also advise on the delivery of the business plan and act as a critical friend and advisor to the Chief Executive to enable the successful delivery of Park Theatre's mission and business plan.

As outlined in our introduction, this role will have a dual purpose – to act as a member of the Board of Directors as Trustee and to Chair the Development Board. Crucially, as this role represents a refreshed structure for the Development Board, the postholder will have the opportunity to shape the role around their strengths and interests. The main duties of the role provide a framework for the position.

Main Duties of the Role

Chair of Development Board

- To re-establish the Park Theatre Development Board, working collaboratively with the Board of Trustees and Executive to identify and curate a diverse, well-connected, and effective group of individuals to support fundraising at Park Theatre;
- To lead the Development Board in securing upwards of £200,000 of philanthropic income per annum to contribute to the overall fundraising target of £500,000;
- To support fundraising at Park Theatre by introducing new contacts to support the theatre philanthropically and advocate for fundraising at Park Theatre at organisation and sector-wide events;
- To champion fundraising at Board level and foster a culture of fundraising amongst the Board;
- To represent the Board by attending Park Theatre productions and projects, including press nights, and acting as an ambassador for the theatre externally;

Trustee

- Ensure that Park Theatre fulfils its purpose and charitable objectives, as well as any legal requirements as a registered charity and trading company;
- To advise on the delivery of the business plan which reflects ambitious artistic objectives and robust financial plans alongside the wider Board;
- To provide support, challenge, and advice to the Chief Executive, and where appropriate, the wider staff team, to enable delivery of the Park Theatre's mission and business plan;
- To encourage and uphold high standards in the theatre's approach to equality, diversity, inclusivity and sustainability;

Who We Are Looking For

We are looking for someone with a passion for the work of Park Theatre and its role within the wider ecology who would enjoy the opportunity to contribute to its future sustainability through fundraising and governance. You will be someone with a track record of effective influence and leadership which leads to funding and/or investment, and a strategic understanding of business and finance. You will be someone who can build trust, lead and inspires others to give with the ability to connect Park Theatre at senior levels with potential supporters (either within funding bodies, trusts, corporates or through high level individual philanthropy).

Person Specification

Essential

- A track record of effective influencing and leadership leading to funding/investment;
- Strategic business understanding and excellent financial comprehension;
- An affinity for the vision, mission, and work of Park Theatre;
- The ability and willingness to connect Park Theatre at senior levels with potential supports across areas such as funding/statutory bodies, corporates, trusts or as high-level individual philanthropists;
- Strong desire to contribute to public life particularly within the arts sector and/or the local Finsbury Park community;
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to quickly gain Board and staff confidence, and skill in chairing meetings;
- A collaborative and inclusive approach;
- First rate skills in communication and presentation;
- Resilience, with the ability to act with confidence, tact, and authority.

Desirable

- Prior experience of being a charity trustee;
- Experience in fundraising within the cultural and/or not for profit sector either as a donor or fundraiser;
- An understanding of non-commercial arts organisations and an understanding of the challenges faced by the sector;
- Knowledge and practical experience of company compliance, control, regulatory and legal requirements of being a charity and a trading company.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Park Theatre is committed to embodying diversity and inclusion at every level of our organisation. We will take positive action around this by guaranteeing an interview to any applicant to self-identifies as having disability and/or being from a Global Majority background and who have demonstrable experience of fundraising within the not for profit and/or arts sector (either as a donor or a fundraiser). If you self-identify as having this background and experience, please state so in your supporting statement as outlined below.

Terms and Conditions

Reporting to	Chair of the Board
Contract	Voluntary, Three-Year term
Time Commitment	10-12 days per annum to include meetings, attendance at events and personal networking.

How to Apply

To apply for Trustee and Development Board Chair at Park Theatre, please send a supporting statement outlining why you want the role and how you meet the person specification, and your CV to vicki@achates.org.uk.

We guarantee first round interviews to candidates who self-identify as having a disability and/or being from a Global Majority background and have demonstrable senior creative programming or producing experience. If you see yourself as someone who meets these criteria, please say so in your supporting statement.



If you would like an informal conversation about this role, please contact Vicki Grace at Achates Recruits, who are supporting us with this process, You can reach Vicki by email on vicki@achates.org.uk. These conversations will not influence our selection process.

Closing date for applications 9am Monday 15 January 2024

Interviews

Interviews will take place with the Executive team at Park Theatre during w/c 22 and 29 January.

If you require any of this information in an alternative format, then please email vicki@achates.org.uk.

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