

## Call for expressions of interest

### Join Imagine's Board of Directors

*"Children need to go to the theatre as much as they need to run about in the fresh air. They need to hear real music played by real musicians on real instruments as much as they need food and drink. They need to read and listen to proper stories as much as they need to be loved and cared for.*

*The difficulty with persuading grown-up people about this is that if you deprive children of shelter and kindness and food and drink and exercise, they die visibly; whereas if you deprive them of art and music and story and theatre, they perish on the inside, and it doesn't show."*

Philip Pullman, *The Guardian*

Imagine is celebrating an exciting and successful 30<sup>th</sup> year, and to ensure our ongoing success, we are looking to expand the membership of our board of directors.

Imagine plays a unique and vital role as Scotland's national organisation which takes the lead on the promotion and development of theatre and dance for children and young people as well as producing the world-renowned Edinburgh International Children's Festival.

Our board is made up of people who are passionate about the arts and value the immense contribution they make to life in Scotland. Members of the board are both champions and advocates for Imagine, for children's rights, and for theatre and dance for children and young people in Scotland.

We have big ambitions and we want people who share our passion and our commitment to this sector to help us achieve our vision.

### We want to work with people who can:

- Communicate and embody an enthusiasm for and commitment to the arts
- Demonstrate an enthusiasm and ability to act as a champion for Imagine, its work, its people, its values
- Make a commitment to carry out the duties of a board director

We are looking to expand the board by up to three people and we need people who are able to help us deliver our strategic ambitions – specifically around diversity in the arts and access for children who are considered to be living in areas of deprivation. We also want board members to challenge us to constantly improve what we do and how we do it. With this in mind, there are some key experiences that we think will help us.

### Do you have experience in at least one of the following?

- Developing ethnically diverse organisations?
- Disability rights – specifically around access and inclusion?
- Primary education settings – particularly in curriculum development?
- The environment and climate change – and would be willing to be the Climate Change Champion for the board?
- Charities dealing with children's rights?
- Art form specialists – particularly artists who have an interest in governance?

No other experience is necessary. Although the posts are not remunerated, this is a fantastic opportunity to develop your leadership skills in an arts setting, make a significant contribution to Scotland's cultural life and enjoy developing a deeper appreciation for theatre and dance made for children and young people.

A full induction to being a board member will be given and additional training and development opportunities are available depending on your needs and interests. Board members are volunteers but can claim travel expenses to attend board meetings and up to four complimentary tickets to Children's festival shows so they can develop an awareness of theatre and dance for young audiences.

### **The time commitment**

The board meets four times per year at the Imagine office in the city centre of Edinburgh, just opposite the Lyceum Theatre. Meetings take place on Monday evenings from 6pm – 8pm. In addition there is a day-long board development workshop annually. There are also a range of events throughout the year and during the Festival which the Board are encouraged to attend.

### **Submit your expression of interest**

If you would like to join the board, please write a short expression of interest outlining the professional experience that you could bring to the board and a short statement on what you hope to gain from being a board member. Your statement should be quite succinct, around one or two pages of A4. Please address to Laura Turney, interim Chair and email to:

[applications@imagine.org.uk](mailto:applications@imagine.org.uk)

Deadline: August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

### **Selection process**

Your expression of interest is the first part of what we hope is a conversation between prospective board members and the current board. Your expression of interest will be reviewed by the nominations committee, a subcommittee of the board, and recommendations for further discussion will be taken to the full board on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Following that meeting, the Chair and Chief Executive will arrange informal meetings with the potential board members who have been recommended by the subcommittee.

### **About the board**

Imagine is a company limited by guarantee and recognised as a Scottish charity. As a charity, the organisation is governed by a voluntary board of directors which meets quarterly. It is the directors' responsibility to approve the strategic plan of the organisation and monitor the performance of the organisation against the plan. The overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of the organisation is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer. This includes financial management, fundraising, staff management, marketing and programme and project development. The Chief Executive is also a board member and attends all board meetings to report to the board on all issues pertaining to the running of the organisation. The board's key responsibility is to interrogate and agree the strategy of the organisation and to ensure sound financial management. The CEO is responsible for formulating the strategy in collaboration with the core team and for setting a budget to achieve this strategy. The budget is scrutinised and approved by the board.

## About Imagineate

We want the best for children in Scotland and we believe passionately that all children have the right to develop their creativity, emotional intelligence and to reach their true potential.

We want more high quality work for children to be made in Scotland, and so support artists with a year-round programme of creative development. This programme nurtures, supports and encourages artistic excellence by offering a range of opportunities to Scottish based artists and producers, including events, training, residencies, mentoring and special projects.

We celebrate the best of children's theatre and dance from around the world by producing the Edinburgh International Children's Festival which showcases high quality, distinctive Scottish and international performances to an audience of over 20,000 children, their teachers, and their families each year.

### *Mission:*

To promote, develop and be an advocate for theatre and dance for children and young people, so more children access and enjoy more high quality theatre and dance more often.

### *Vision:*

Scotland is a nation that is internationally recognised as a world leader in the production, presentation and promotion of theatre and dance for children and young people. Theatre and dance are valued as an essential part of children and young people's education, development and wellbeing. There is a vibrant and resilient network of artists and companies creating artistically challenging, emotionally engaging and socially diverse theatre and dance for young audiences.

### Aims

The Mission and Vision are advanced through the delivery mechanisms of Performance Programme, Creative Development Programme and Advocacy, guided by four strategic aims:

#### AUDIENCE:

Increase and diversify Imagineate's audience

#### ARTISTS:

Support more ideas from artists to be developed into new high quality productions

#### SCHOOLS:

Deepen Imagineate's engagement with schools

#### INTERNATIONAL:

Develop international reach and collaboration

## Further information

To find out more about Imagineate and its work, please follow the links below:

- Imagineate's website: [www.imagineate.org.uk](http://www.imagineate.org.uk)
- Imagineate's strategic plan 2018 - 2021: <http://www.imagineate.org.uk/f/59d6543274368>
- A short video about the Festival: <https://youtu.be/ZMHavKGmeww>
- Timeline of Imagineate's 30 year history: <http://www.imagineate.org.uk/timeline>
- Sign up for our newsletter: <http://www.imagineate.org.uk/about/mailling-list/>