Thank you for your interest in joining the board of Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

We are looking for people with either previous board experience or operational experience at a senior level who are passionate about theatre. This is a great opportunity to work with us to achieve our future objectives.

If you are excited about the prospect of supporting the Coliseum then we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email your C.V. and a covering letter explaining why the role appeals to you and what particular skills you could bring to the board.

The Coliseum welcomes applications from all sections of the community in order to represent our diverse audiences.

If you would like more information on applying or an informal chat to discuss any aspect of your application or the role please don’t hesitate to email recruitment@coliseum.org.uk

Gail Richards

Chair

Trustee Recruitment

The History

The ‘accidental’ beginnings of the Oldham Coliseum Theatre date back to 1885 when a Mr. Myers contracted local carpenter Thomas Whittaker to build a Grand American Theatre in the heart of Oldham. Unfortunately Mr. Myers found himself without the funds to pay for the completion of the theatre and, following a court case, Thomas Whittaker found himself adding theatre owner to his list of titles.

The Colosseum, as it was originally titled opened on Fairbottom Street, Oldham on the site of old mine workings. Originally a circus, the building has undergone a number of changes of use in the intervening years including a music hall, cinema and theatre. In 1932, the Colosseum was closed. In 1939, The Oldham Repertory Theatre Club leased the building, renaming it the Coliseum, they operated it as a private theatre club in order to overcome licensing restrictions. The building was purchased by the club in 1946 and continued to operate as a private club until 1977 when it was taken over by Oldham Council. The Oldham Coliseum Theatre Ltd was set up and a charitable trust established to manage the Company.

Vision and Mission

Oldham Coliseum Theatre will be recognised as a country wide benchmark for inspiring social and cultural regeneration through artistic activity. Its audience base will be representative of the entire Oldham community and beyond. Oldham Coliseum will be a vital factor in a new found community cohesion and enhanced education and lifelong learning provision in Oldham.

Oldham Coliseum’s mission is to provide a wide variety of distinctive and high quality theatre performance and participatory activities for people from all communities in Oldham, Greater Manchester and nationally.

Productions

Our goal is to produce high class theatre that is made in Oldham for and with the people of Oldham, ensuring that the Coliseum is a focus for the cultural life of the town and that the organisation is embedded in its community.

We produce a rich mix of dramas, comedies, musicals, adaptations and modern classics, as well as a hugely popular traditional pantomime. We have a commitment to developing new plays and supporting emerging and established playwrights. The Company has developed its contribution to the national touring circuit as well as making theatre from around the country available to the North West.

Alongside the main auditorium the Coliseum also has a small studio theatre which can seat up to 60 people. It’s used to develop a programme of work from visiting companies of interest including work for families and children.

Learning and Engagement

Our programme of activity reaches far and wide across all communities. We facilitate cultural production and encourage young and old people alike to embark on artistic journeys, developing and sharing creative skills.

Participatory work at the Coliseum is central to the strategy of the Company. All members of staff contribute to its delivery and it is an essential tool to promote involvement in the arts within an area of traditionally low engagement. It contributes to the position and reputation of the Coliseum as a key vehicle of cultural production within the borough and is a valuable tool to promote audience development.

New Coliseum Theatre Project

“*We are proud to have one of the last few remaining producing theatres in the country here in Oldham. Our theatre has a rich tradition, and through the Coliseum on Union Street, we will build on our strengths, taking our famous warm welcome with us. Theatre in Oldham will continue to thrive, grow and develop for generations to come with this new development*.”

Kevin Shaw, Chief Executive & Artistic Director

The new £25m Oldham Coliseum Theatre will open in 2020, on Union Street within the town’s Cultural Quarter. It will be a dynamic cultural hub for the whole community and home to a rich and varied artistic programme. It will support our community in many ways, providing exceptional professional theatre production and a forum for people to create and learn together. It will be a major driver in the economic and social regeneration of Oldham, providing a public space accessible to all.

Context

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is seeking new trustees to share this exciting and challenging time, as we begin the next phase of the Coliseum’s 132 year history.

We are looking for applicants interested in working with other trustees to be active members of a dynamic and ambitious team taking forward the strategic development of the theatre.

The current board has a diverse range of experience and skills including senior private and public sector executives, and specialists in marketing, business, finance and education, alongside councillors nominated by Oldham Council and AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Arts).

The Coliseum is managed by the Chief Executive & Artistic Director, with support from the Senior Management Team. The SMT is responsible to the board and provides financial and management reports to enable strategic decisions to be made.

We are in the midst of a programme of major change as we prepare for a move to a new building. The board will be key to achieving our ambitious artistic vision and business plan for the next five years and beyond.

To enable the Coliseum to deliver ambitious targets we have established:

* a reputation for high quality productions
* outstanding participation opportunities through our Learning & Engagement programme
* a focus on work that is always community-centred
* Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation status
* Investors in People Silver Status
* a strong Senior Management team and a dedicated staff
* an extensive list of sponsors, funders and supporters

All our trustees are ambassadors for our work and our community. They give their time, energy and expertise and contribute to an innovative approach during a time of increasing pressure on funding for the arts.

The Commitment

Trustees meet quarterly and at an annual away day. Board meetings are scheduled in advance to ensure maximum attendance. There are also additional duties such as reading policy documents and briefings and being involved in supporting events or fundraising. Trustees also contribute time and knowledge to our board sub-committees or working groups depending on their availability and areas of expertise.

The role is voluntary and unpaid but travel and other appropriate expenses can be reimbursed. Trustees also receive complimentary tickets for all Coliseum productions and events to enable them to keep abreast of our work. A trustee’s usual term is three years, with the possibility of extending by a further three years by mutual agreement.

The Role

The prime role of the trustees is to act as custodian, ensuring that Oldham Coliseum Theatre fulfils its charitable purpose for the public benefit.

Trustees have ultimate accountability for strategic direction, developed with the Chief Executive & Artistic Director. They ensure the Company remains cohesive, well-run and delivers the aims of the business plan. Trustees are advocates and ambassadors for the Company and act with integrity at all times.

Key Duties of all Board Members

A trustee will:

* oversee best practice and compliance with all statutory and legal responsibilities including charity law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
* work collaboratively with other trustees, management and staff to develop the Coliseum’s vision, mission statement and values; and approve strategic, artistic and business plans to achieve these
* actively participate in board-level discussions, and be accountable for the decisions of the board
* safeguard the good name and values of the Coliseum and promote it’s successes
* appoint the Chief Executive & Artistic Director
* approve staff remuneration
* monitor and manage the effective delivery of strategic plans and engage in an annual evaluation of the Company’s performance
* monitor the financial performance of the Company, approve audited accounts and take responsibility for maintaining the Company’s financial solvency and stability
* monitor the internal and external risks facing the Company and ensure measures are in place to mitigate risk wherever possible
* avoid conflicts of interest and declare where there may be conflict of interest so that they can be managed in line with Company policy
* attend and participate in agreed meetings of trustees
* keep up to date with the theatre’s activity by attending productions and other events

We are looking for individuals who can bring:

* An understanding of current issues facing the arts
* Knowledge of and interest in theatre and an appreciation of arts and culture generally
* An ability to think strategically and an understanding of the difference between the board’s role and that of the management team
* An ability to convey ideas and make decisions in a group environment
* Good networking and communication skills
* Impartiality, fairness and a commitment to equality and diversity
* Basic I.T. skills
* Previous board level experience or equivalent (desirable but not essential)
* Eligibility to act as a charity trustee is essential

How to apply

Please see our website for further supporting documentation including our current season brochure: [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)

If you have any questions or would like to arrange an informal telephone conversation please contact recruitment@coliseum.org.uk

If you are interested in joining us as a trustee please email your C.V. and a covering letter explaining why the role appeals to you and what particular skills you could bring to the board to: recruitment@coliseum.org.uk

The closing date is 10th February 2017 and informal interviews will take place before the end of February.