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SHAKESPEARE
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation (CSSF) is a cultural education charity that collaborates with teachers and young people to transform their confidence, skills, ambition and attainment through the unique power of Shakespeare. Our work is aspirational, creative, experiential, inclusive and transformative, exchanging practice between theatremakers and educators in a variety of education settings.

Celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2025, we launched a new strategy, *All The World's Our Stage*, which drives our mission forward over the next 5 years. We will unlock confidence by ensuring young people across the UK have access to expressive arts; we will unlock creativity by sustaining and improving our professional development opportunities for teachers; and we will unlock opportunity by developing new targeted programmes to ensure that young people facing structural disadvantage of all kinds have access to our work.

We are Coram. Better chances for children. Now and forever.

CSSF is a member of Coram, the UK's first and longest continuing children's charity, founded by Thomas Coram in London helping vulnerable children and young people since 1739. Today, we are dynamic group of specialist organisations helping more than one million children, young people, families and professionals every year across children's rights and voice, adoption and family services, education and training.

Together our vision is bold and ambitious - to be the Institute for Children, driving insight into impact, creating better chances for children child by child and changing the odds of the next generation through policy, legal and practice development.

About the Trustee Position

Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation is inviting expressions of interest from prospective Trustees to join our Board. We are particularly keen to hear from candidates with expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Arts venue management and theatre production
- School and Multi Academy Trust leadership
- Education sector research and policy development
- Fundraising and commercial growth
- Legal practice

Trustees serve a four-year term (renewable once) and attend four Board meetings plus the Annual Court each year. Committee membership, if invited, involves up to four additional meetings annually.

This is a voluntary role. Meetings are held either online or in person at Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ.

What We Offer

As a Trustee, you will play a vital role in shaping the direction of the UK's largest youth drama festival and influencing our wider programme of cultural education. You'll join a committed and collaborative Board, contribute your expertise to a charity making a national impact, and have the opportunity to champion young people's creativity, confidence and skills through Shakespeare.

To apply

Please send a letter and your CV to oliver.rose@coram.org.uk

Closing date: Midday on Monday 1 June 2026

Coram is an equal opportunities employer and organisation welcomes applications from all sections of the community. We actively encourage applicants from Asian, African, Caribbean and other global majority backgrounds to join our teams and our boards of trustees.

Whilst we have a diverse team we recognise we are a predominantly white workforce and are genuinely committed to encouraging candidates from diverse communities in order to improve the services to the children and families we help.

We are committed to the safeguarding of children and where appropriate will require the successful applicant to undertake a check from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Registered Charity No. 312278.

We transform lives through the unique power of Shakespeare.

Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation (CSSF) is a national cultural education charity that gives young people the confidence and skills to succeed in life.

Our 2030 Strategy

I. Confidence Unlocked

Our flagship project, Shakespeare Schools Theatre Festival, unites thousands of young people from hundreds of primary, secondary and SEND schools across the country. Months of preparation culminate in exhilarating performance evenings, where young people reimagine Shakespeare for the 21st century and perform in professional theatres. In the past 25 years, we have worked with over 350,000 young people through the Festival, supporting wellbeing and raising the aspirations of students and teachers alike, whilst promoting social inclusion all over the UK.

In 2021 we launched Shakespeare Schools International Film Festival, where schools adapt, produce, direct and edit a creative response to one of Shakespeare's plays which they can showcase, shout about and keep forever.

We run stand-alone workshops: active, experiential sessions for young people and teachers that leave each group illuminated, energised and empowered to further explore Shakespeare's works. Our rehearsal room techniques support teaching in Literacy, English and Drama, as well as teachers' professional development.

II. Opportunity Unlocked

Through this strand of our work we are working closely with colleagues across the Coram Group (and beyond) to develop targeted offers for young people facing structural disadvantage, be that in relationship to care experience, special educational needs or regional disadvantage. Projects in development will harness the power of the arts to address need and deliver the greatest impact.

III. Creativity Unlocked

The third strand of our work targets teachers who want to put playfulness and joy back in the classroom and to weave creativity across the curriculum. From supporting initial teacher training to developing current and future leaders, this work builds a network of teachers who want to enliven their pedagogy with cutting edge rehearsal room practice.

Our Values

Aspirational: with us, confidence flourishes and people exceed expectations. By using challenging texts, professional theatres and a rigorous, supportive process we make learning ambitious.

Creative: our programmes spark imaginations and ignite curiosity. We facilitate playful spaces of learning where participants can explore and express new ideas, push limits and discover fresh approaches to Shakespeare's stories through their own.

Experiential: we offer a dynamic and enriching approach that shows performing Shakespeare is not just fun, it can also be terrifying, hilarious and deeply moving. Everyone involved learns more about what it means to be human.

Inclusive: We embrace the diversity of young people and ensure Shakespeare is accessible and relevant to every audience and place. Through collaboration and performance we bring people together, from uniting a company to connecting a community with their local theatre.

Transformative: we know what we do has the power to change lives.

Role and responsibilities for Trustees

Role summary

1. To take part in formulating and regularly reviewing the strategic aims of the organisation
2. With other trustees, to ensure that the policy and practices of the organisation are in keeping with its aims, values and purpose
3. With other trustees to ensure that the organisation functions within the legal and financial requirements of a charitable organisation and strives to achieve and sustain best practice.

Main Responsibilities

- Act in accordance with the Nolan Principles of public life and the Charity Governance Code, reflecting the organisation's policies and values at all times
- To play an active part in the fulfilment of the board of trustees' duties under Charity Law by appropriate scrutiny (including personal DBS check), consideration of risk, and collective decision making
- To be informed and engaged through regular and prepared attendance at meetings and participation in at least one of its sub-committees, operating boards or other agreed activities

- To take an active approach to understanding and supporting the Coram group, through for example making appropriate and planned visits to its locations, meeting service users where appropriate, serving on adoption panels, attending policy events, staff meetings or special events
- Maintain good relations with senior managerial staff and take part in training sessions provided for the benefit of Trustees
- Contribute specific skills, interests and contacts and support the organisation in fundraising, professional and practice activities to fulfil its mission
- Build positive relations and contribute to a culture of openness and transparency
- To advance knowledge, understanding and support by building appropriate links and networks in professional, public and private sectors
- Fulfil such other duties and assignments as may be required from time to time by the trustee body