



BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT: Finance & Governance

Introduction

Wasps is looking to make a number of appointments over the next twelve months to join our Group Board. This is as a result of some Board members reaching the end of their term as a Trustee over that period.

We are seeking candidates with broad experience, but we particularly seek those with a strong financial background and experience of governance and risk management, to contribute to our continued development as an organisation.

About Wasps

Wasps is a charity with a 43-year track record of supporting the arts community in Scotland. We have grown to become one of the UK's largest studio providers and we currently house almost 1000 artists, makers and creative industries in 20 buildings across Scotland from Borders to the Shetland Islands. Their work in turn touches the lives of thousands of people across Scotland and beyond.

Operation

Wasps is a charity and has worked hard to become financially self-sufficient for our core operations over the past five years, while still focussing on providing affordable studios to artists and makers across Scotland. Our day to day operation is funded from studio rental income with a turnover of circa £2m in 2018/19. A copy of our Annual Report 2018/19 is available for review. This rental income is used to ensure studio buildings are managed, maintained and compliant with current health, safety and fire regulations, as well as managing utility costs.

As a not for profit organisation, we apply for external capital and revenue funding for any new activity, including our capital development programme and arts enterprise activities. To date we have raised c.£30 million to invest in buildings for creative use across Scotland. We now own approximately two thirds of our property portfolio providing additional stability to our development programmes.

Activities

Our activities support the regeneration of many communities across Scotland, by transforming redundant, historic buildings into beautiful facilities for artists and creative industries, improving the physical appearance and economy of the communities in which they are located.

We also deliver a programme of arts enterprise activity to support our artists to develop sustainable creative careers. Activity includes exhibitions, workshops, residencies and the provision of selling opportunities through artist markets and art fairs, while partnering with others to provide professional business support.

Future Plans

Our plans for the future are exciting! In the past year we completed Phase 1 of Inverness Creative Academy, the largest creative hub in the Scottish Highlands, now fully occupied. We went onsite in January 2020 with Phase 2. Our 20th studio building, Perth Creative Exchange opened in November last year and is fast becoming filled with artists and creative industries. These projects will deliver over 60 new studios for artists in these locations. We also have a programme of property upgrades and energy efficiency initiatives planned over the coming years as part of our Business Plan for 2018-23.

Wasps Group Structure

Wasps Group has 3 entities:

Wasps Trust – charity registered in Scotland (SC022115)

Workshop and Artists' Studio Provision Scotland Limited – company limited by guarantee (SC062117) and a charity (SC001351), registered in Scotland and fully owned by Wasps Trust

Wasps Creative industries CIC – a community interest company (SC383609), registered in Scotland and fully owned by Wasps Ltd

A joint Board of Trustees/Directors sets the strategy for the Group. The Group Board currently consists of 13 Trustees/Non-executive Directors with members drawn from a variety of backgrounds including property, arts, law and finance.

Commitment

The Wasps Board meets at least 4 times a year in March, June, September and December. Board members are also expected to serve on 1 of 3 sub-committees – Projects & Property, Finance & Resources and Arts Enterprise. Travel expenses to Board meetings will be reimbursed.

The majority of meetings are held at the head office at The Briggait, 141 Bridgegate, Glasgow, G1 5HZ and are usually scheduled to run from 5pm to 7pm.

Submissions

To apply please send a copy of your CV along with a covering letter outlining why you consider yourself suitable to join the Board and what relevant experience and skills you can bring to it.

Applications should be submitted by no later than 5pm on Friday 17 April 2020, by email to: Stuart McCue-Dick (Executive Director – Corporate Services) – stuart@waspsstudios.org.uk

Submissions should be titled: ***Private and Confidential – Board Member Application***

Enquiries

For initial discussions regarding the role please call Andrew Burrell, Chair on 07974 131545 or Stuart McCue-Dick, Executive Director on 0141 553 5890.