

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR OF THE BOARD

LEEDS 
PLAYHOUSE

APPLICATION INFORMATION PACK

If you require this Recruitment Pack in a different format, please contact the HR & Learning team on 0113 213 7280 or recruitment@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

QUICK FACTS



3 THEATRES

5 MAIN REHEARSAL & STUDIO SPACES

c193,000

AUDIENCE PER YEAR

OVER 19,500 PEOPLE

CONNECTED THROUGH PLAYHOUSE CONNECT

10M

TURNOVER

+

- Restaurant & café
- Two bars
- Conferencing and events
- Public gallery space

**THIS SHORT FILM WILL
HELP YOU UNDERSTAND
WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT.**

WHO WE ARE



Leeds Playhouse has been one of the UK's leading producing theatres for 55 years. We are an award-winning cultural hub, a place where people come together to share stories, spark creativity and experience world-class theatre in the heart of Yorkshire.

At the heart of our purpose is a belief in the transformative power of theatre. We are driven by a social mission – to create work that speaks directly to the people of Leeds, reflects their lives, and opens up new possibilities for everyone who calls this city home. Our productions, projects and partnerships are rooted in the belief that culture should be accessible to all, and that theatre can be a catalyst for change.

The Playhouse has a proud history of inclusive practice, community connection and civic responsibility. We work closely with people across our region to ensure our work is representative, relevant and resonant. Our commitment to inclusivity is embedded in everything we do, from our artistic programme to our participation work and building design.

This warm, open approach has been recognised nationally. In 2022, **Leeds Playhouse** was named **Most Welcoming Theatre** at the **UK Theatre Awards**, a testament to our commitment to creating an accessible, inclusive and creative space at the heart of the Leeds City Region. Our productions continue to receive national acclaim. In 2025, our production of *Animal Farm* won the **UK Theatre Award** for **Best Revival** and a range of our productions were nominated for **Olivier, Black British Theatre, Asian Media** and **What's On Stage Awards**. For three consecutive years, Playhouse performers have won **Best Performer in a Musical**, and in 2024 our production of *Oliver!* was named **Best Musical**.

THE ROLE OF THE CHAIR



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CHAIR?

Through leadership of our Board, the Chair ensures that **Leeds Playhouse** is a well governed and financially sound charity alongside being a vibrant contributor to Leeds and our citizens, regionally and nationally.

They will also provide strategic oversight and guidance for the Executive Team, and on our governance requirements and ensure that the Trust is delivering on its objectives as an **Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (NPO)** recipient and **Leeds City Council** funding.

The Chair will need to have proven leadership skills at a senior level, knowledge of charity governance, an unapologetic and demonstrable commitment to diversity and equity, as well as the ability to understand and influence national, local and cultural agendas.

WHAT DOES THE ROLE LOOK LIKE?

We imagine that they will already have worked with Boards (ideally in the arts or cultural sectors), from the perspective of either a Board member or as an executive, but they don't necessarily need to have previous experience as a Chair.

They will have the ability to be a compelling and credible ambassador for the organisation, and develop key networks to help **Leeds Playhouse** build partnerships that support our overall objectives on a regional, national and international level.

Our Chair will have a passion for the arts and bringing theatre to the community, an enthusiasm for the work of **Leeds Playhouse**, and a strong sense of how arts contribute to the wellbeing and prosperity of our City and our citizens.

The Chair will need to be available to attend Board meetings, together with occasional Board away days, working groups, meetings with the Chief Executive, key appraisals, and representational and events, and it is expected that the role will take up an average of three days per month.

In addition to the responsibilities shared by all Board members, the Chair has a particular leadership role, which may be summarised as follows:

- Inspiring and leading the Board: ensuring that Board members have accurate information, chairing meetings and ensuring that open, respectful and equitable dialogue leads to clear decision making.
- Working with the Finance Sub-Committee and Executive Team to ensure the financial stability and resilience of **Leeds Playhouse**.
- Supporting the Chief Executive and Artistic Director and nurturing an organisational culture of innovation, equity, and wellbeing. Acting as their critical friend and providing guidance and regular appraisals.
- Ensuring strong governance and full compliance with **Leeds Theatre Trust's** governing document, policies and legal requirements.
- Leading on external relations on behalf of the Board; acting as ambassador and spokesperson as appropriate.
- Nurturing existing and developing new donor relationships of **Leeds Playhouse**.

SKILL AND QUALITIES REQUIRED

- A passion for theatre and the arts.
- A commitment to the role of the theatre in the community and its creative engagement and artistic development activities.
- Demonstrable experience of achieving the Playhouse's objectives surrounding equity and inclusion and to the diversification of staff, audiences and artists.
- Considerable experience of management, financial acumen and strategy.
- A strong sense of the needs of the theatre as a business and ability to contribute to and challenge assumptions around business planning.
- A clear strategic view.
- A good communicator, with ability to facilitate conversations with staff, Board members and stakeholders.
- The ability to command the confidence of key stakeholders.
- An understanding of the role of charity trustees.

TIME COMMITMENT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair on average will provide 3 days per month in support of the Executive Team, and in addition contribute to the following:

- Chair a regular cycle of six Board meetings a year which take place either in the afternoon or evening and last up to three hours.
- Chair/attend committee meetings as appropriate.
- Attend events, opening nights, workshops and other engagements to gain an understanding of the range of our work.
- Read Board papers in advance of each meeting, including artistic, financial and strategic reports.
- Contribute to and attend one Board away day per year.
- Be available to the Executive Team and Board members for email and phone communication when required and supporting on relevant matters arising from committee meetings.

The Chair will be an active and visible advocate for the organisation, attending events and meeting with key stakeholders.

We will be happy to discuss this in more detail so that we have shared and agreed expectations of your time commitment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

LOCATION

Meetings will take place at the theatre in Leeds. Apart from exceptional circumstances, we would expect the Chair(s) to attend in person in order to foster a strong team culture.

REMUNERATION

The Chair & Trustees are volunteers and are not financially remunerated, though reasonable expenses to enable attendance at meetings may be claimed. The Chair will discuss and agree expenses with the Chief Executive, which could include travel / accommodation / donor hospitality.

We will ensure access provision is in place.

TERM

To serve a term of 4 years, with the possibility of re-appointment for a second term, until 8 consecutive years' service has been reached.

HOW TO APPLY FOR CHAIR

To submit your interest or if you would like an informal confidential conversation, please contact our advising consultant Baljit Dhadda at Baljit@bdsearchconsultancy.co.uk

You will be asked to submit a CV and Supporting Statement that outlines your motivation and interest in the role as well as your skills, experience and demonstrable values that align with this role.

We will also request that you complete the Inclusion and Diversity monitoring form [here](#). Information submitted here will not be seen by the recruitment panel.

DEADLINE: 5PM ON TUESDAY 14 JULY 2026

To request any adjustments to enable you to apply for this post or to fully participate in an interview, please contact Baljit@bdsearchconsultancy.co.uk

INTERVIEWS FOR DISABLED CANDIDATES

Leeds Playhouse is a member of the Disability Confident scheme. Subject to capacity, we will interview candidates who identify as disabled who demonstrate that they meet all the essential criteria for the job.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Leeds Playhouse is committed to promoting equality and opportunity in its employment practices. In particular, the company aims to ensure that no potential or actual employee receives more or less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, marital or civil partner status, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age, or religious beliefs. Disabled candidates will not be treated less favourably on the grounds of their disability.

SAFEGUARDING

The Playhouse is committed to safeguarding, and operates an environment where all staff are expected to report any concerns about vulnerable people, or about the behaviour or practice of colleagues and other people they come into contact with.

THANK YOU

LEEDS 
PLAYHOUSE

FIND US AT

**PLAYHOUSE SQUARE,
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LEEDSPHAYHOUSE.ORG.UK
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PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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Page 2: *Oliver!*, photography
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Page 3: *Wendy & Peter Pan*, photography by
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