



TRUSTEE CALL-OUT AND INFO PACK

Background

Mafwa Theatre is a community theatre organisation working with refugees and asylum seekers in Leeds since February 2018. Mafwa currently deliver a weekly women's drama group at Leeds Refugee Forum in Lincoln Green. One aim is to bring people together using theatre and the arts, therefore whilst focussing on engaging women with experience of the asylum process, all women from wider Leeds communities are welcome to participate in the integrated group. Mafwa are the only group in Leeds who make theatre with refugees and asylum seekers.

Previous work includes *To & Fro* (2019), a performance and art installation presented at Leeds City Museum and touring to refugee arts festivals Migration Matters (Sheffield) and Journeys (Leicester), and the short performance *Women of Power* (2018) at the Howard Assembly Rooms. These projects were funded Arts Council England, Leeds Inspired, Leeds Community Foundation and Leeds for Life.

All of Mafwa Theatre's work aims to strengthen support networks across communities, create platforms for marginalised voices to be heard and to develop individual's opportunities to express themselves creatively. Mafwa Theatre provide safe spaces to develop English language skills in an applied setting, enable opportunities for developing cross-cultural friendships and for improving confidence and self-esteem.

Incorporation

With these projects demonstrating a successful track record, increasing numbers at weekly sessions and positive consultations with community leaders demonstrating a need for our work, it is time to formalise our work as an organisation and formally incorporate. Currently funding has been granted as individual artists to the 2 co-directors, Keziah Berelson and Tamsin Cook. The organisation will be incorporated as a Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee.

Appointment of Trustees

Keziah and Tamsin are seeking to appoint 3-4 Trustees of the CIC to act in an advisory capacity, as we endeavour to build the company sustainably at this exciting time of growth. Keziah and Tamsin will continue to develop the company and work on the day to day activities of Mafwa as Executive Directors. The board of directors will help Keziah and Tamsin to put their plans into action and achieve their ambitions for Mafwa, therefore must be experienced individuals in their field.

In particular we are looking for people with the following skills or experience:

- Experience of founding a community arts organisation
- Experience of running an established charity or social enterprise
- Finance
- Legal (in particular human rights or immigration law)
- Experience of the VCSE sector
- Risk management
- Strategic planning
- Team development
- Charity or social enterprise governance (chairing or membership on a board)

We are actively encouraging people who have experience of the asylum process to apply.



Responsibilities and Time

Commitments

Before applying please ensure you are eligible by reading under the heading 'Who can sit on a board': <https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/management-committees.html>

The statutory duties of directors are set out in section 177 of the Companies Act 2006. The duties of directors are:

- To act within the company's powers
- To promote the success of the company for the benefit of the members as a whole
- To exercise independent judgement
- To exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
- To avoid conflicts of interest
- Not to accept benefits from third parties
- To declare an interest in proposed transactions or arrangements

Upon appointment the board will collectively decide upon frequency and length of board meetings. As a guide, it is proposed that quarterly meetings will take place in these early stages of Mafwa's development. These will be 2 hours maximum in length and will be in Leeds. There is a minimum requirement for 2 board meetings per year.

We will also hold 1 board 'away day' per year to review Mafwa's achievements and to help shape the company's goals for the following year.

In the event that the CIC is wound up, personal liability of all trustees is limited to £1.

Benefits

One main reason for incorporation is to enable us to apply for larger amounts of grant funding. We currently do not receive core funding, therefore are unable to guarantee out of pocket expenses for attending board meetings. We are therefore seeking people based in Leeds or those able to travel without requiring expenses to be paid. We will endeavour to hold an away day only when expenses can be covered. We confirm that when funding is available, directors will be paid for all reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred in acting on Mafwa Theatre's behalf.

Mafwa Theatre have already established themselves in Leeds and have contact with many supportive organisations in the city, both in the arts (eg. Leeds Playhouse, East Street Arts, Opera North) and Refugee Support (eg. Women's Health Matters, Leeds Refugee Forum, Refugee Council). Should directors need support in their role we are confident this could be arranged through our existing networks of larger, more established organisations.

Next steps

Please express your interest by sending an email to mafwatheatre@gmail.com. Please include

- Reasons why you wish to be considered for the role
- A highlight for you from your career to date
- A CV (optional)

We will then be in touch to arrange an informal conversation in the next few weeks.

Further Information

For further information your first point of contact is by email: mafwatheatre@gmail.com