



# ARTS & BUSINESS NI

BOARD MATCHING  
PROGRAMME

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ON ARTS BOARDS

PRINCIPAL  
FUNDER



arts  
council  
of Northern Ireland

# What is the Young Professionals programme?

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**The Young Professionals on Arts Boards programme places the best up-and-coming talent that the Northern Ireland business sector has to offer onto the boards of leading local arts charities.**

You will work closely with the A&BNI team, discussing your personal passions and career goals, which will allow us to ensure that you are placed in the right organisation, where you can work with maximum personal impact and get the most satisfaction.

The programme provides training and support to ensure Young Professionals in the early stages of their careers (aged 21-35) will truly benefit from this practical, hands-on strategic leadership experience.

What  
People  
Say



## Rosie Timoney

Associate Solicitor (Corporate),  
Carson McDowell LLP,  
Chair, Bruiser Theatre Company and  
Facilitator of Young Professionals  
on Arts Boards training

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In terms of why you should apply to the Young Professionals on Arts Board programme, I can say that it has been an incredible experience in my development; it's an opportunity to do something different to the day to day, to develop your interpersonal skills, to add a string to your bow, and also have fun whilst doing it.

# Why should you consider joining?

**Put your passion, talent and creativity to work.**

**You should join because:**

- You have a passion for the arts, and a desire to work with personal impact to help the cultural sector thrive locally, especially post pandemic.
- Facilitating the local arts and culture sector is a crucial part of ensuring that Northern Ireland is an attractive and enjoyable place for to live, work and play, both now and in the future.
- You want to develop your leadership skills in a totally different, creative environment
- You want to gain non-executive board experience
- Peers in your industry who have participated all agree the experience has been profoundly enjoyable and rewarding
- You want to extend your network and form relationships with likeminded individuals

**What  
People  
Say**



**Andrew  
Drylie**

Venture Capital Fund Manager,  
Sapphire Capital Partners LLP

I cannot speak highly enough of the training provided. The sessions covered corporate governance and ethics, financials and accounting, and the role of the board in the overall structure of an arts organisation. I would safely say that whatever your professional background, the training will prepare you adequately so that you can make the best possible impact when you join the board of a local Arts organisation.

**[Click here](#) to listen to Andrew's  
testimonial in full**

# What's included?

## Participation in the Young Professionals on Arts Boards programme unlocks the following valuable benefits

- A one-to-one diagnostic session with the A&BNI team. This consultation will discuss your personal passions and career objectives, capturing SMART data to enable successful board placement.
- Four Good Governance training sessions to provide an introduction to the arts sector and insight into strategies for successful governance, clearly outlining the legal and moral requirements placed upon a non-executive board member. Specifically developed for this initiative, this training allows for peer-to-peer learning and develops confidence to ensure participants engage fully in board business.
- Facilitated opportunities to join the board of an arts or cultural organisation across Northern Ireland.
- A Board Buddy to help with induction and orientation within the arts organisation. This individual may be a successful Young Professionals alumni who can help advise on the process from personal experience.
- Ongoing support, advice and guidance on governance, board development and changes in charity law for the duration of your board term from the team at Arts & Business NI.
- Access to a full year's calendar of A&BNI's cultural and networking events, designed to allow you to form connections and build your business and art sector knowledge. You will be invited to the annual A&BNI Governance Conference, scheduled for Autumn 22, which will include a dedicated break out session for Young Professionals.

What  
People  
Say



**Bethany  
O'Neill**

Partner, HR Consultant,  
Think People Consulting Ltd

The most valuable thing that the YP programme gave me, is being able to take off my 'HR hat' and sit in a different non-executive leadership role, working with fellow trustees. Hearing those distinct specialisms and perspectives is an unparalleled opportunity to look at leadership and how organisation and charity decisions are made. It has been amazing for my development and has been so rewarding.

**[Click here to watch Bethany's testimonial in full](#)**

# What does it cost to join?

Business members of Arts & Business NI can access a preferential rate to participate in our Young Professionals on Arts Boards programme - please speak to us about business membership. Costs are payable only upon acceptance into the programme.

**£450 + VAT per participant**  
(Arts & Business NI Member rate)

**£500 + VAT per participant**  
(non-Member rate)

**Are you more established in your career?**

Ask us about Board Bank, our placement programme for more experienced business professionals, or [click here](#) to find out more.

What People Say



**John McElrone**

Associate Corporate & Banking Law,  
EDG Legal

The Young Professionals on Arts Boards programme provided a perfect opportunity to apply and develop my professional skills at an arts organisation. The programme provides an excellent insight into challenges faced by the arts sector and how you can add your voice and input into an organisation from appointment to a board.

# Am I eligible?

Applicants will be aged between 21 and 35.

Applicants will have leadership experience which may include project management.

Applicants will be located in Northern Ireland.

## Diversity is important

Arts & Business NI believes board diversity means having a mix of people on a cultural board who have the relevant skills, knowledge, lived and learned experience and background to do the job well and that the mix is representative of the community served and society as a whole.

We would like to encourage applications from candidates from diverse backgrounds and experiences including candidates who identify as LGBTQIA+, have a disability or are neurodiverse, or are from a visible minority ethnic background.

## How to apply

To be considered for inclusion in the Young Professionals 2022 programme, please complete the application form [here](#), and return via email to [info@artsandbusinessni.org.uk](mailto:info@artsandbusinessni.org.uk) along with your CV, by 12pm on Friday 1st July 2022.

What  
People  
Say



### Stephanie Fitzsimons

Corporate Finance Manager,  
PwC

Anyone who is thinking about applying to the programme, I would say absolutely go for it. You will meet great people, both as part of A&BNI, the other applicants, and also when you begin to get introduced to the arts companies. I had lunch this week with three great women who told me all about their company and the differences they make, and I can't wait to be part of that soon.

**Click [here](#) to watch Stephanie's testimonial in full**

# Let's talk

For further details and any questions,  
please contact Maeve McKervey at  
[m.mckervey@artsandbusinessni.org.uk](mailto:m.mckervey@artsandbusinessni.org.uk)  
or call 028 90735151



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