



Could you help shape the future of The Bike Shed Theatre?

We're looking for new trustees who share our approach and values to join our fantastic board, and who can help grow the organisation at a pivotal moment in its development.

Our Approach

The Bike Shed Theatre offers an open invitation to the curious.

We provide a meeting place between performers and their audiences. Whether this is through the lens of performance in the intimate auditorium, or in the relaxed comfort of the bar, or even beyond the physical reality of the theatre, out on tour or in other spaces throughout the city, the Bike Shed is interested in work that seeks a dialogue with an audience and an audience keen to respond. Theatre exists in the present. Consequently, the productions our theatre creates and presents tend to be new, responding to the immediate, both in time and location.

With increasing volatility in the world, we feel art has a responsibility to engage more deeply with society. For us, the best way to address the challenges caused by globalisation is to focus on the local, encouraging artists and communities to look to the future and, slowly but definitely, find ways to change society for the better.

Our Values

We work with people who are:

- kind
- sensitive
- supportive
- collaborative
- ambitious
- able to teach us
- willing to learn

Our History

Founded seven years ago in a cellar in the wrong part of the city centre, The Bike Shed Theatre began its life as a three-week pop-up. Initially a partnership between two friends, the organisation grew and in 2013 established a board and became a charity.

The theatre has gained a reputation as a home for new work from some of the most exciting small-scale theatre makers in the country. It has won awards for its productions and has supported companies whose work has been seen across the country and around the world.

Alongside the theatre, its cocktail bar provides a welcoming environment for audiences as well as being a destination in its own right.

Our Structure and Finances

The theatre is a charity, currently with six trustees, and is chaired by Emma Stenning. David Lockwood, the co-founder and Director is the Chief Executive, reporting to the Board. There are five Board meetings a year.

There are two sub-committees of the Board:

- Finance (meets monthly)
- Capital Project (meets fortnightly)

The theatre has an annual turnover of around £340,000, of which a third is ticket sales. The bar supports the running costs of the theatre through a rental agreement. The charity receives core funding from Arts Council England (£75,000 a year) and Exeter City Council (£10,000). It also receives project funding from a number of Trusts and Foundations, businesses and individuals.

Our Spaces

The Bike Shed Theatre is a capacity of 75, but usually holds 54 people. It is a brick-lined cellar with flagstone floors beneath a bike shop off Fore Street in Exeter.

The bar next door has a reputation for inventive cocktails and is open seven days a week. Every Friday and Saturday, the bar stays open until 2am with live music or DJs.

The Boat Shed is our potential new space. With the river on one side and the canal on the other, it will be a development of the semi-derelict Maclaines Warehouses. Feasibility on this project was conducted in 2015 and last summer we occupied two of the four ground floor units for a pop-up festival. The full plans include a 230-seat theatre, market, co-working space, rehearsal rooms, restaurant and bar. The earliest opening date for the Boat Shed is 2020, though more pop-up activity is planned.

We also often programme events in other spaces in the city, most recently in Exeter Phoenix, Exeter Library and Montgomery Primary School.

What We're Looking For

We're looking to increase our Board from six trustees to around ten as the organisation grows.

We would like to hear from people who can constructively challenge, provoke, inspire and support. We're keen that our Board has a diversity of voices and we're especially interested in hearing from people who represent the diversity of contemporary Britain.

Whilst we are keen to hear from anyone willing to support our work, priority will be given to those with skills in the following areas:

- Business growth
- Fundraising
- Buildings and Construction
- Catering
- Heritage

The annual commitment is at least four meetings a year, along with membership of a sub-committee. We also expect Trustees to attend key events and performances throughout the year.

To apply, please send a one-page covering letter to berengere@bikeshedtheatre.co.uk by 9am, 13th November.

For an informal discussion about the role, contact our Director, David Lockwood on david@bikeshedtheatre.co.uk

If you are interested in knowing more about governance in the arts, the Clore Leadership Programme have created [this document](#) which we think is rather good.