



Board of Directors Position Description

Mission

ArtsNYS is a private, not-for-profit, tax-exempt entity that leads state-wide efforts to advance the arts through New York State by:

- Serving as a coordinating and convening agency for a broad range of arts service groups and arts-adjacent individuals or organizations who share a passion for advancing artistic enterprise.
- Leading efforts to promote the arts and to educate the public about the impact of the arts to the lives of individuals, communities, education, health and well-being, and economic development.
- Sharpening the skills and knowledge of arts administrators and nurturing the next generation of arts leaders with professional development opportunities, seminars and convenings.
- Working to increase public funding for the arts and to build support for policies that strength the arts throughout New York State.
- Managing a broad advocacy agenda, including arts policy, funding, tax issues, and the integration of the arts among and within other State agencies, like the Department of Education and the Economic Development Corporation.

Representation

ArtsNYS will develop a broad coalition of allies who reflect the demographic diversity of New York State and rich variety of perspectives inherent in the arts, culture, and heritage sector. ArtsNYS is committed to the principles of equity, inclusion, and the power of artistic franchise to affect meaningful, positive social change. In this way, ArtsNYS intends to cultivate a Board of Directors which fully embraces a variety of lived experience among members – a critical step toward most effectively serving the best interests of its constituents.

Initial Goals

ArtsNYS is in the early stages of organizational development. As such, it is seeking candidates for the Board of Directors who are dedicated to the “ground level” mobilization of resources, networks, and community engagement required for effective expansion. The current Board have agreed upon following initial goals for ArtsNYS:

- 1) To have the Governor recognize the arts as an essential industry in terms of ensuring the cultural and economic prosperity of New York State.
- 2) To support the mission of NYSCA as a premiere state arts agency, and to affirm the critically important role of decentralization (DEC) funding and initiatives.
- 3) To increase the effectiveness of communications and professional development throughout the field.
- 4) To vigorously provide material and representative support for New York State individual artists and arts agencies.
- 5) To ensure that regional economic development councils (REDC) are characterized by adequate representation among the arts.
- 6) To advocate for the implementation of a curricular arts standard among New York State public schools.

Qualifications

Serving as a Board member for ArtsNYS represents an extraordinary opportunity for any individual passionate about ensuring a robust and accessible arts, culture, and heritage sector in New York State. In addition to the commitment to ensure ethnic, generational, and geographic diversity among Board members, ArtsNYS is also seeking candidates who may provide specific experience, insight, or expertise in the following disciplines: **law, accounting, fundraising, state government operations, marketing and IT, or executive-level management in arts-adjacent fields (health, education, commerce).**

Furthermore, ArtsNYS seeks new Board members representing different geographies and service regions of New York State. Specifically: **Southern Tier, Mohawk Valley, Finger Lakes, and North Country.**

Qualified individuals will be able to demonstrate a clear track-record of community service, either professionally or in a volunteer-capacity, that may be brought to bear in the context of this state-wide operation.

Expectations

The Board of Directors supports the mission of ArtsNYS by coordinating strategy, initiatives, fundraising, oversight, and day-to-day organizational activity with the General Manager (GM). As of November 2020, the GM position has not been advertised. It is the responsibility of the Board to hire and fill this position. The Board-GM relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected.