



Brunton Theatre Trust Trustee Recruitment Pack

Deadline Monday 18 November, 11:00am

thebrunton.co.uk

Registered Charity Number SCO22422



The Brunton Theatre Trust are looking for 4 new Trustees to join their Board from January 2025 to help steer the organisation forward with care, creativity and skill.

The organisation is in a period of change having moved their performance programme out of the Brunton Hall and in to spaces across East Lothian. As we look forward to 2025 and beyond, we are now exploring how the Trust can deliver their vibrant and much needed programme of performance and creative learning to the people of East Lothian in a way that is sustainable and exciting, and we need driven and passionate Trustees to support us on this journey.

About the Brunton Theatre Trust:

The Brunton Theatre Trust (The Brunton) is a Scottish Charity that was established in 1994 and based in the region of East Lothian.

The Brunton exists to bring the very best theatre, music, dance, comedy, children's theatre, film and participatory activities to the region for the enjoyment and enrichment of the communities that the Trust serves. As stated in the Charity's Constitution, the organisation is established for charitable purposes only and operates in East Lothian and the surrounding areas with the aim to:

1. Support the promotion of access to, participation in, and enjoyment of the arts and culture for all
2. Support the advancement of creative learning
3. Support the advancement of community development

To deliver this, The Brunton presents a year-round high-quality performance programme, blending commercial programming alongside more niche work to entertain, challenge and delight our audiences. The breadth of the programming is ambitious and seeks to represent the diversity of East Lothian and Scotland, taking account of the interests and aspirations of all communities across East Lothian, Edinburgh and the South East of Scotland.

In addition to offering a high-quality programme of arts events for audiences to attend at the venues, The Brunton also provides inclusive opportunities for involvement and participation in the arts through creative learning and community development activities, namely through The Brunton Performing Arts Network (BPAN). This Network delivers dance and drama classes for all ages across the community, and centres upon fruitful and meaningful collaboration, particularly with partners at East Lothian Council and local community groups.

To support our aims and contribute to the cultural landscape in East Lothian, The Brunton seeks to provide a programme that values diversity and embeds EDI and Fair Work principles across each of our activity strands, aiming to be a vibrant organisation where individuals are respected and valued.

The Brunton Hall, where the Trust have delivered their work, was closed with immediate effect in March 2023 following the discovery of RAAC in the building. Since then the team have pivoted to use alternative spaces across the region including the Haddington Corn Exchange, Loretto Theatre & Northesk Church. As of October 2024 the Trust are still awaiting a decision on the future of the building, as well as confirmation of their Creative Scotland and Council funding.



The Role of a Trustee:

The role of Trustee is a voluntary position and the Brunton Board of Trustees currently consists of:

- Michael Stitt (Chair)
- Richard Butt
- Councillor Andrew Forrest
- Council Colin McGinn
- Peter Brown
- Dan Sharp

The Board of Trustees are responsible for the sound governance of the organisation and for overseeing the strategic and financial direction of the organisation, making sure the entity remains legally compliant at all times.

Time Commitment & Board Meetings:

The Brunton Theatre Trust meet on average 6 times a year for a bi-monthly Board Meeting. These traditionally take place on a Wednesday evening 6-8pm and are held online or in person.

Ahead of the meeting all Trustees are expected to read the Board Papers so that they can discuss these in person and make suggestions.

“The Brunton Theatre is genuinely one of my favourite spaces to perform in and so well loved and well used by the locals. You can tell when a venue means a lot to a community and it’s always a joy to perform in a place like that. The team have done a phenomenal job of keeping the show on the road given all they have had to navigate around. The trust is a real asset to Scotland and East Lothian.”

Craig Hill, Comedian

Main Activities:

The main activities of the Trustees include to:

- Read board papers
- Attend and contribute to board meetings
- Attend performances and events at The Brunton, tickets provided when necessary.
- Advocate for and represent The Brunton during networking events or meetings with stakeholders.
- Perform specific tasks, according to their skills, experience and availability such as organising subcommittees, liaising with auditors, contributing to discussions from their own specialist expertise.



I've been going to the Brunton Youth Theatre for years, and I love it. I really enjoy acting, going to the classes has really helped my confidence, and I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends. I also love going to see the pantomime with my school every year."

9-year-old Youth Theatre Member

Person Specification:

We are looking for four new trustees who meet some of the following criteria:

- Are based in East Lothian or have a strong and demonstratable connection to the region
- Are passionate about arts, culture, performance and creative learning and the powerful impact that this has on a community
- Hold specialist knowledge in the following areas:
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Artistic Development
 - Programming & Curation
 - Community Engagement
 - Finance
- Individuals from the global majority
- Individuals who identify as female or non-binary

We also warmly welcome applications from individuals who are under the age of 30 as we would love to bring this perspective to our conversations

The Brunton is dedicated to fostering a diverse workplace and all qualified candidates will be considered without discrimination based on race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

“As an artist in residence at the Brunton for many years, I have been grateful for the opportunity to have a base and to be given time and support to develop ideas and projects. This has been invaluable to my growth as an artist, both through the support given, but also because it required raising my own game to work with a partner such as The Brunton.”

Tony Mills, Current Artistic Director of Dance Base

How to Apply:

If you would like to apply please submit a CV and cover letter to ksomerville1@eastlothian.gov.uk highlighting why you would like to be a Trustee and what you think you can contribute to The Brunton at this time. You can also provide your answer in a video / audio recorded format if you prefer. Please note that you will not be judged on the quality of the footage.

Deadline Monday 18 November, 11:00am

If selected you will be invited to have a conversation with two of our current Trustees the week of the 25 November.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything about being a Trustee before applying please contact General Manager Kirsty Somerville on ksomerville1@eastlothian.gov.uk

Timeline:

- Monday 18 November | Deadline
- Week of Monday 25 November | Conversations held
- Friday 6 December | All applicants informed
- Wednesday 26 February | First Trustee Meeting

