

SBDC TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT ROLE BRIEF



Sujata
Banerjee
Dance
Company



Welcome letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

We are delighted that you are interested in becoming a Trustee for the Sujata Banerjee Dance Company (SBDC). SBDC is an organisation with a hugely exciting future. For us to be able to fully realise this future, we are looking for exceptional individuals who are curious, interested, and passionate about culture to help our company become even more dynamic.

It is a truly exciting time to join SBDC as we enter our 20th year as a registered organisation and the 10th year of our flagship annual Hemantika Festival, which is a mainstay of the South Asian dance calendar in the UK. We also have exciting plans to tour the US in 2025.

Founded over 35 years ago, SBDC is at the forefront of promoting and develop South Asian Dance both here in the UK and internationally. We create, produce and tour new choreographic works, develop artistic partnerships across a breadth of genres and through our training and mentoring programme, education and outreach projects and the SBDC dance academy, nurture the next generation of artists and promote access to and awareness of, South Asian music and dance in all its forms.

We are truly dedicated to not only exposing the wonder of South Asian art forms, but nurturing the next generations to continue this tradition. The SBDC Academy has students of all ages, races and standards of dancing ability who love learning more about dance. Our approach is one which is holistic and does not teach just one style, but looks to dance forms around the world to create a depth of knowledge about the art form. The students have an annual showcase where many of them perform.

Whilst we are doing some amazing work, we always strive to do better. And in order for us to do better, we need inspirational stewardship through the form of incredible trustees. We would love you to read more about what we are looking for in particular, but also would love to hear from you if you feel that you have other skills and experiences which we would strongly benefit from. Regardless of your sector, your background, your passions, we would love to hear from you if you want to be part of our future.

Chico



A group of dancers in traditional Kathak attire performing on stage. The dancers are wearing vibrant pink and yellow saris with gold jewelry. They are in various poses, some with arms raised, suggesting a dynamic performance. The background is dark, making the dancers stand out.

ABOUT SBDC

Background and Context

SBDC is not your typical South Asian dance company. We are pioneers. We are innovators. We are constantly seeking to bring new audiences through reimagining how dance is seen and how we can take the art form further. Whether it be through retelling iconic works in the repertoire of productions such as Swan Lake, choreographing works like Together We Can to raise awareness of Climate Change to new audiences, or bringing Kathak to audiences at world famous venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, SBDC is always reinventing how Kathak dance is seen by the world. Whilst it is not an easy task to continuously innovate in this day and age, we are always striving to push boundaries, increase exposure and develop phenomenal talent all across the world where possible.

This phenomenal talent can begin their journey in dance from as young as 5 and we have dancers who study with SBDC well into their 70s. We believe that dance is not just something that is artistic, but marries the emotional and physical elements of a person's development as well. SBDC's is committed to upholding the highest standards of excellence in Kathak and this forms a key part of our pedagogy. Numerous students have represented SBDC at prestigious global competitions such as BBC Young Dancer (with at least one category finalist in every year since it began in 2015) and the international Kalashram Kathak Competition.

But SBDC does not stop its activities there. We have various dedicated outreach programmes going into schools all across the country to help younger children experience the joy of dance, working with educators, spreading the core skills and engaging youth in positivity. This is all thanks to being led by the visionary and highly experienced founder and leader, Sujata Banerjee MBE a world renowned Kathak artist who has performed as a solo artist all across the world, creating innovative projects whilst remaining deeply rooted in the traditional Kathak style.

If this sounds like an opportunity that you would relish to help us advance our mission on, please read on.

A group of women in a dance studio practicing a routine. They are wearing colorful traditional Indian attire. The text 'ABOUT THE ROLE' is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

ABOUT THE ROLE

It is a very exciting time to join SBDC as we look to build on our recent growth and success and shape the future of our organisation for future generations. We are currently looking for dedicated Trustees who are passionate about the arts and young people, and want to help make a difference.

The Trustee Board is made up of individual Trustees contributing their knowledge and experience during quarterly board meetings in London. The Trustees oversee the governance and the activities of the charity by ensuring that it carries out the purposes for which it has been set-up and that it operates in accordance with law and regulation. The Trustees also help with the strategic guidance of the organisation.

The duties of a SBDC Trustee include:

- Setting and maintaining vision, mission and values
- Developing strategy
- Establishing and monitoring operational and governance policies
- Ensuring pursuance of charitable objectives as defined in the governing document
- Ensuring compliance with charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation
- Maintaining proper fiscal oversight
- Promoting, advocating and identifying fundraising or income generation opportunities for the charity
- Extending the reach of the company with a more diverse audience base
- Helping SBDC prepare fundraising opportunities
- Maintaining effective board performance through productive meetings
- Occasionally representing SBDC at events and speaking to the media on behalf of the organisation
- Facilitating introductions to organisations for SBDC to partner with, where feasible.



ABOUT YOU

We would love to hear from you if you feel that you can really help propel the organisation. We are particularly looking for:

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Analytical and probing approach.
- Constructive approach coupled with an ability to challenge if necessary as a “critical friend”.
- Maturity and ability to be balanced in adversity.
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to SBDC.
- Strategic vision.
- Good, independent judgement.
- An ability to think creatively.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.
- A willingness to be available to staff and volunteers for advice and enquiries on an ad hoc basis.

DESIRABLE SKILLS

- Experience of working with charity and/or company Boards.
- Experience of working with arts-based charities or in education..
- An interest in South Asian culture and / or South Asian arts based organisations.
- Experience in at least one of the following areas:
 - o Dance and music in local communities
 - o Organisational transformation
 - o Fundraising and grant writing
 - o Primary and secondary education
 - o PR, marketing and branding
 - o Safeguarding
 - o Charity law and compliance.

However, if you feel that you can help us build and even stronger company and you do not feel the above, feel free to contact us anyway.

The role of a Trustee is voluntary, however, reasonable out of pocket expenses can be reimbursed.

DETAILS AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS

If this opportunity interests you, please apply by emailing your CV and covering letter to admin@sfdc-kathak.com

For an informal and confidential discussion regarding the role please contact Company Secretary Rajib Banerjee on 07745 462680.

Interview Dates

We will be interviewing candidates remotely through video conferencing. The application process will remain open until we manage to fill the vacancies on the board and interviews will be scheduled at mutually convenient times.

We look forward to hearing from you.

You can find us at:

