



Akādemi

**ARTS AND HEALTH TRUSTEE
RECRUITMENT PACK**

Arts & Health Trustee Recruitment Pack

About Akademi

Akademi is a dynamic and future facing organisation, dedicated to redefining the parameters of South Asian dance as an art form. Founded in 1979 by Tara Rajkumar OAM, led by Mira Kaushik OBE from 1988-2019 and since 2020 by Artistic Director Subathra Subramaniam and Executive Director Kirsten Burrows (as joint CEOs), we connect South Asian dance with the wider contemporary arts sector. Akademi is a registered Charity and company limited by guarantee and part of the Arts Council England National Portfolio.

Our mission is to inspire audiences and change lives by creating and nurturing excellence in classical, contemporary, popular and participatory South Asian dance. Our vision is that South Asian dance is thriving at the centre of UK cultural life.

We engage with social, political and cultural agendas to achieve real impact. Rooted in our local community but active across the UK, we have a global perspective with worldwide connections.

Our areas of work include performances, learning and participation work, artist development programmes and bespoke curation for events. Our pioneering work contributes significantly to the UK's international reputation for innovation in South Asian dance. We want everyone, no matter their age or background, to have the opportunity to experience, learn about or participate in South Asian dance, and in doing so gain an understanding of different communities and cultures.

2021 will see a year of organisational development as Akademi reflects on past successes and maps the way forward. We will continue to build a vital, modern and relevant cultural organisation that is transparent in how we collaborate and work with our sector, freelance arts professionals and our communities.



Photo © Pete Schiazza

This is a pivotal and exciting time to join Akademi's Board as we define and design our new business plan and develop our Arts & Health strategy. We will build from our long legacy of successful delivery to develop and expand - mindful of the health and well-being on our communities post Covid - and work to create increased positive impact, underpinned by research and evaluation.

We have recently undertaken a comprehensive and positive review of the Board of Trustees and have identified the requirement for a Trustee with experience in the area of Arts & Health. Joining the Board in summer 2021 for an initial term of 3 years, you would bring your expertise to our diverse board, with another new Trustee specializing in Development set to join at the same time.

Akademi is governed by a non-executive Board of Directors which has ultimate responsibility for governance, development and strategic direction. Trustees are required to be dedicated and committed to being passionate advocates of Akademi and ensuring best practice is followed in all aspects of Akademi's work. You will be joining a committed and vibrant board – list of current members can be found here; <https://akademi.co.uk/about/board-and-patrons>.

Our work in Arts & Health

Akademi has a 40-year history of advocacy, support and development for artists working in South Asian dance forms, and an exemplary reputation for taking South Asian participatory dance projects to diverse community and Arts & Health settings.

Our current work in this area includes:

Dance Well - delivering workshops and intimate performances in a range of settings from community organisations and care homes to hospital atriums and wards in partnership with Holborn Community Association, Third Age Project, CW+ (Chelsea & Westminster Hospital Trust); funded by the Linbury Trust and City Bridge Foundation.

Reach Out and Reveal - a pioneering initiative placing South Asian dance artists 'in residence' at schools for young people with Special Educational Needs – Papillon House, Manor and Cambridge Schools. Funded by John Lyon's Charity and BBC Children in Need.

Please refer to the following for more information:

<https://akademi.co.uk/learning-and-participation/dance-well>

<https://akademi.co.uk/learning-and-participation/schools/reach-out-and-reveal>



Photo © Vipul Sangoi

Future work includes:

Dancing Brain: funded by UCL, this R&D project will combine hand gestures and rhythm with mind-controlled virtual robots to enable improved social interaction and coordination amongst older people and also introduce robotics to primary school pupils. By transposing a message from the mind of one participant to others through movement, The Dancing Brain will hope to encourage young students that STEM is fun and empower older people to interact through dialogue and movement with their peers. This is a cross-disciplinary collaboration between Akademi and the Intelligent Mobility's group/lab at UCL.



Photo © Simon Richardson

Feet First: a new project in conjunction with Clinicians from South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust in which South Asian dance forms and psychiatry work together for the wellbeing of young people. Feet First aims to test the notion that South Asian dance forms combined with the Open Dialogue approach to mental health care can achieve better outcomes for young people as they transition from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) to AMHS (Adult Mental Health Services), with a view to reducing the burden to AMHS.

The role of Trustee, Arts & Health

To support its work in this area Akademi is seeking an experienced Arts & Health professional to join the Board. You will support the Akademi team and fellow trustees by providing guidance in developing our Arts & Health work, advising on the development of partnerships in the field and ensuring good practice in programme planning, delivery and evaluation.

You will have experience in the area of Arts & Health and will have led, hosted or produced projects and programmes. You will have an extensive network of individuals and organisations in the Arts & Health sector with experience of advice giving and policymaking. An interest in dance/performing arts is desirable. Knowledge of South Asian cultures - or a wish to enhance your understanding of diverse arts practice from this region - will be an asset.

Role profile: Trustee Arts & Health

Nature of role	Voluntary
Duration	3 years renewable for a further 2 by negotiation
Reports to	Chair of the Board of Trustees
Time commitment	Minimum of 4 board meetings per year Up to 4 sub-committee/working group meetings per year At least 1 board away day and/or training event each year Attendance at Akademi events Background reading and preparation as required
Location	Meetings are currently held online but expect to be able to return to Akademi's offices pending government guidelines

Main responsibilities of role

Governance	Ensure that Akademi complies with its governing documents
	Ensure compliance with charity law requirements and other laws that apply to Akademi
	Act in Akademi's best interests at all times.
	Manage Akademi's resources responsibly
	Act with reasonable care and skill
	Ensure Akademi is accountable to statutory bodies and stakeholders
Specific to Arts & Health	Provide thought leadership on the role of Arts & Health in Akademi's programme and help to enhance and raise the profile of work in this area
	Share models of good practice in the field and highlight opportunities and potential partnerships with the Akademi team
	Steer and guide the Akademi Executive team to enhance their professional development in leading on this strand of Akademi's work
	Anticipate and advise on risks arising from work in this area
	Provide guidance for new Arts & Health proposals / strategies
	Draw on your networks to support and engage with our work
	Provide strategic oversight of project and programme implementation and evaluation

General	Contribute to the overall work of the Board and its sub committees and working groups
	Support fellow Trustees and the leadership in ensuring that the company's business management is legally compliant and executed with rigour to a high standard
	Ensure confidentiality around company business and safeguard its data and intellectual property
	Be an active champion of the company's work and an advocate for its inclusion and success
Person Specification	
Skills and experience	
Specific to Arts & Health	Experience in the area of Arts & Health as a practitioner, commissioner or manager
	Experience of current practice and applied methodologies
	Extensive networks in the sector and a willingness to draw on contacts as appropriate
General	Ability to work at a strategic and visionary level whilst understanding the detail and complexities of delivery
	Influencing skills to bring staff, stakeholders and fellow trustees along with ideas and plans
	A strong communicator, a team player, a collaborator
	Ability to analyse risks and opportunities and take a balanced approach to both
Qualities	
	Active listening, empathy, agile decision-making
	A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
	A commitment to Akademi's work both as a cultural producer and advocate for social change

How to apply

- Please send us your CV and a cover letter - on no more than 2 sides of A4 - outlining your interest in Akademi, why you would like to take on a charitable trusteeship at this time and how you meet the person specification.
- Please also complete and send the confidential equal opportunities monitoring form (downloadable from <http://akademi.co.uk/vacancies/>). Please note the equal opportunities form will be separated from your application before it is reviewed.

Akademi is committed to being an Equal Opportunities organisation and recognises the importance and advantages of diverse workplaces and communities. Any candidate who self-identifies as D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent, as a person of colour, and/or as genderqueer, and who meets the essential elements of the person specification, is guaranteed an interview. If you feel that this applies to you, please indicate in your application email.

Should you need this information in another format or require reasonable adjustments for any part of the recruitment process, please let us know.

- Please send your application and equal opportunities form to chair@akademi.co.uk with the subject heading **Arts & Health Trustee**. Everyone expressing interest will be informed of the outcome of their application.
- **Closing date for applications:** 10am on Tuesday 1 June 2021.
- **Interviews will be held:** In the period 8-18 June 2021 by mutual arrangement.

For further information, or if you have any questions, please email chair@akademi.co.uk to arrange a call.

We look forward to receiving your application and thank you for your interest in Akademi.

Managing your data

Information in the form of personal data will be used to process the application for recruitment purposes. Unsuccessful applications will be destroyed after one year. The personal data on successful applicants will be needed to administer the board recruitment and further information on how this will be used will be available during the induction period.