



THE BETTER BOARD BANK- how are we doing?

Every year Business in the Arts:North West aims to monitor both the candidates we have matched onto boards and the organisations who have appointed them. The purpose is to check that the programme is working - for both sides. We have a return rate of over 50% for both surveys and here are some of the main findings.

Candidates – monitored in Summer 2012

At the outset we ask all candidates about their reasons for volunteering; we give options ranging from 'putting something back' to 'personal development' and 'networking/profile'. 85% felt their reasons had been fulfilled quite a lot or a great deal.

Other benefits received included:

New understanding of director/trustee responsibilities – 79%

Networking opportunities – 79%

New approach to problem solving/creative thinking – 78%

Increased confidence – 77%

Improved teamworking – 77%

Improved communication skills – 75%

Improved influencing skills – 74%

Improved meetings skills – 74%

Of course there are some frustrations, but 100% were gaining some enjoyment from their involvement and 69% felt board membership had helped their personal career to some extent. Many quoted the benefit of working with different people in a new sector. Almost a quarter either chaired the board or a committee of the board whilst 71% had helped with a specific project and 86% had been able to provide specialist advice.

Perhaps this comment by one board member sums it up, "I am learning a lot, meeting new people and feel that my skills are being used to the benefit of the organisation."

Arts organisations and museums - monitored in Winter 2012/13

Fortunately arts organisations echo the ways in which board members identify they provide help, and often both parties are gaining matching benefits. 86% identified that they received specialist advice at meetings and also separately to staff (68%) and 74% of arts organisations valued the information and knowledge shared by their board member.

Other particular contributions from their BIA:NW board members included:

Approaches to problem solving / creative thinking – 86%

Improved strategic planning – 82%

Improved meetings – 76%

Resource management – 76%

Leadership – 75%

Many specific projects were identified where the board member had provided assistance. These ranged from helping to draft business plans and marketing strategies through to recruitment and legal issues, frequently related to employment law.

We are delighted that 100% of arts respondents said that they would use the Better Board Bank again.

There were some wonderful comments, such as,

" (he) is an exceptionally good communicator who will listen and provide easy solutions to any issues or problems within the organisation".

"A great leader, committed to the long term success of the organisation".

There are clearly some great board members out there making excellent contributions and being real leaders – thank you and keep up the good work!

TalkTalk Group plc

We are delighted that TalkTalk has renewed their membership of Business in the Arts:North West and we look forward to working with them to recruit more enthusiastic and expert management volunteers.

The Programmes - Here are the latest matches:

BETTER BOARD BANK - New matches bring the total to 454.

Norton Priory Museum and Gardens - Marian Sample, Aston University
FACT - Raj Kalia, TalkTalk Group
Manchester Literature Festival - Ed Farrelly, DWF LLP
Lancashire Sinfonietta - Rebecca White, DWF LLP
Curious Minds - Peter Stevens, Netherton Consultancy Services Ltd
Pagoda Arts - Mike Edwards, Kaleidoscope ADM Ltd
Fittings Multimedia – Alan Humphreys, Red Leaf Media
Fittings Multimedia – Gregory Morris, DWF LLP

MENTORING - New matches bring the total to 155.

Abigail Christenson, Tate Liverpool - Catrina Hewitson, Vibrant
Razanne Carmey, Liverpool Arabic Arts Centre – Viv Lacey, Intergral HRC Ltd
James Hanks, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic – Bernadette Lyons, Platinum Leaf Limited

SKILLS BANK - The number of projects confirmed to date is 554.

They Eat Culture/John Wareing, consultant - HR and legal

QUICK FIXES – 136 completed to date

Tate Liverpool - Ed Farrelly, DWF LLP - legal
Wired Aerial Theatre - Jon Keeble, DWF LLP - legal
They Eat Culture - Catherine Harrison, DWF LLP - contracts
Storey Gallery - Roy Crozier, Clarke Willmott - intellectual property
Chinese Arts Centre - Diane Brown, BFG Associates - HR and legal
Creative Curve - Roy Crozier, Clarke Willmott - legal
Sustained Theatre Up North - Graeme Dixon, DWF LLP - landlord & tenant
Wired Aerial Theatre - Gary Jones, Weightmans LLP - legal

The monetary value of support provided through BIA:NW's volunteering programmes now amounts to over £15.7 million.

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