



IMPROVING BOARD LEADERSHIP

Improving Board Leadership (IBL) is a programme of support for boards in the arts. We have been doing some analysis of the evaluations of board development sessions delivered as part of the programme. The evaluation asks attenders to rate the overall quality and effectiveness of the day, with a range of six options from poor to excellent.

Five sessions have been carried out in the North West in recent months. It is a pleasure to report that 62% of attenders rated their day as excellent, 35% as very good and 3% as good. Evaluations for the strategy development sessions, board assessments and Boards & income workshops have been similarly positive.

For more information about the IBL programme go to: www.businessinthearts.co.uk. *Don't forget, the way the Arts Council funding has been applied means these services are especially affordable for smaller organisations. This is a time limited programme - do ring to discuss your needs.*

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR BOARD

This well respected course has its annual outing on Thursday 29 January 2015. Designed for CEOs and those with primary responsibility for serving a board, the course always receives great feedback.

"Excellent, thought-provoking, very useful. Will make a real difference to the way we work!"
"Entertaining, informative and authoritative, but with a light touch, plus a wealth of great materials to take away."

There's more information here: www.businessinthearts.co.uk/making_the_most.html
This will be followed by the Role of the Chair course on 7 March - details to follow.

The Programmes - Here are the latest matches:

BETTER BOARD BANK - New matches bring the total to 491.

Creative Curve - Tracey Johnson, DWF LLP
Quarantine - Rick Medford, The Change Management Group
Venture Arts - Kim Gowland, Freelance Project Manager
Let's Go Global - Stephen Fitzsimons, EEF, the Manufacturers' Organisation
Tmesis Theatre - Laura Orchard, Cheshire West & Chester Council

MENTORING - New matches bring the total to 167.

Francesca Bertolotti, Liverpool Biennial - Philip Smyth, consultant
Vanessa Boni, Liverpool Biennial - Angela Anderson, Angle Solutions Ltd
Kim Gowland, Freelance Project Manager - Emily Dean, MacMaster Dean HR
Adam Lee, LOOK Liverpool International Photography Festival - Paul Mathews, P M Associates
Andy Botterill, Framing Manchester Ltd - Arvid Woods, Inspired Lives
Alok Nayak, Milapfest - Catrina Hewitson, Vibrant
Emma Smith, LOOK Liverpool International Photography Festival - Diane Brown, BFG Associates

SKILLS BANK - The number of projects confirmed to date is 560.

Dominic Kelly Storytelling - Derek Tyrer, consultant - business planning
Ribcaged Productions Ltd - Ashley Taylor, consultant - business planning

QUICK FIXES - 169 completed to date.

This Space Theatre Company - Ed Farrelly, DWF LLP - legal
LadyBrain - Gary Jones, Weightmans LLP - legal, organisational structures
20 Stories High - Vivienne Tyler, BIA:NW - legal, organisational structures
8WS Creative Spaces - Mark Fergusson, Maxwell Hodge Solicitors - legal, organisational structures

The monetary value of support provided through BIA:NW's volunteering programmes now amounts to over £17.6 million.

ARTS FUNDING - LONDON vs THE REGIONS

Devolution is a hot topic currently and the comments about London hoovering up more than its fair share of just about everything are rife in the arts as well. Indeed the temperature of the debate is steadily rising. Whilst far from a new area of complaint, the debate was re-opened in October 2013 by the publication of "Rebalancing our Cultural Capital", a report by three independent consultants (GPS Culture) with wide experience of arts funding who carried out a detailed analysis of both grant money and lottery money distributed by Arts Council England (ACE). The findings were dramatic.

15% of the population of England lives in London. In 2012/13, ACE distributed £320m of taxpayers' money to the arts with £20 per head of population (php) allocated in London against £3.60 php in the rest of England.

In the same year the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) distributed £450m directly to major 'national' cultural institutions resulting in an estimated £49 php spend in London against £1 php in the rest of the country. *In total in 2012/13 taxpayers from the whole of England provided benefit to London of £69 php against £4.60 php in the rest of the country – a ratio of 15:1.*

One might have hoped that funds from the National Lottery – derived disproportionately from the less well off in society might have helped to offset this imbalance. However, the report found that *ACE distribution of its £3.5 billion of new National Lottery funding has provided benefit to London of £165 php against £47php in the rest of England over the 18 years of the Lottery to date.*

Combining all taxpayers' and Lottery players' funds distributed by Arts Council England showed a benefit to London in a ratio of 11:1.

Whilst the report acknowledged that support for London based 'national' institutions, such as the British Museum and the V&A was always going to distort the figures to an extent, the authors recommended that ACE should use Lottery funding to try to redress the balance, so that London received no more Lottery cash per head than the rest of England. ACE's response earlier in 2014 set out a clear position that it would only be able to 'strengthen regional provision' as a consequence of 'our grant in aid cuts being restored in the event of economic recovery'. Not very encouraging.

The impact of this report was so great that the Parliamentary Committee on Culture, Media Sport decided to explore the issue. The committee concluded that the analysis was sound and supported the report's recommendations.

On 10 October, GPS Culture published a further report, "Hard Facts to Swallow", which analysed whether ACE's funding decisions announced in July this year were going to do anything to correct the imbalance. Their analysis revealed that there was only a small change with a drop from 51% to 47% of the ACE regular funding to organisations being allocated in London and ACE's overall predicted spending pattern continued to favour London to a very significant extent.

FREE WEBSITE KITS

BIA:NW still has some free Mr Site kits to give away to artists and arts organisations in the region. There are three different levels: beginners, standard and pro. These would cost between £25.99 and £65.99 if you bought them from your local retailer. Each kit provides you with customisable templates, your own domain name and free webhosting for a year. For more details see: uk.mrsite.com/shop.html. If you'd like one, contact all@businessinthearts.co.uk.

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Supported using public funding by

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Business in the Arts:North West 305 Queens Dock Business Centre Norfolk Street LIVERPOOL L1 0BG
Tel: 0151-709 8780 Fax: 0151-707 0758 Email: all@businessinthearts.co.uk
Company limited by guarantee no 2508104 Registered charity no 1046901

 @BIANorthWest