



BETTER BOARD BANK HITS 500th MATCH

Since our last bulletin, Business in the Arts:North West (BIA:NW) has matched the 500th candidate on to a board. We were delighted not only at achieving this impressive number, but also because the individual involved is a volunteer from DWF LLP, one of BIA:NW's most loyal supporters who use BIA:NW to provide stimulating external development opportunities and support the arts sector at the same time.

Emma Bedford, a solicitor in DWF's insurance department in Manchester, was attracted to an unusual organisation - Skylight Circus Arts based in Rochdale. Skylight have been operating for almost 30 years and provide quality circus training right up to professional levels. Skylight runs regular circus classes for all ages and abilities from juggling to trapeze, plate spinning to unicycling including specialist circus and aerial swing sessions for people with disabilities. Emma's colleagues will doubtless be expecting her to juggle and spin plates even more expertly than she probably already does metaphorically at work.



David Pickering, Executive Partner, DWF Manchester presenting Emma Bedford with a bottle of bubbly on behalf of BIA:NW

MONITORING THE BETTER BOARD BANK'S SUCCESS

Once more, 100% of arts organisations who have appointed a Better Board Bank (BBB) candidate say they would use the programme again. Many value highly the contribution they receive from their BBB board member: 87% of respondents rated this at 4 or above on a scale of 1-6. Almost 30% have taken up a titled position such as chair or chair of a committee. The list of practical support provided by these board members is also impressive and too long to include here. It ranges from help negotiating a lease on better terms to HR assistance and mentoring support and even help sourcing new stage curtains.

88% of matched candidates thought that their reasons for volunteering with the BBB had been fulfilled either quite a lot or a great deal and all respondents still felt committed to their arts organisation. Significant benefits received by BBB board members included new approaches to problem solving, improved team working, a better understanding of director/trustee responsibilities, influencing skills and enjoyment. Meeting new people and gaining new experiences were also highlighted by a number of candidates.

It's great to hear of so many positive experiences, from both sides.

HURRY HURRY - THE LAST 6 MONTHS OF IMPROVING BOARD LEADERSHIP IN THE NORTH for arts organisations in the North of England

The Improving Board Leadership programme, supported by ACE's Grants for the Arts funding, has to finish in February 2016.

Evaluations of the services delivered continue to be positive: 97% of those attending a bespoke board development day have rated the overall quality and effectiveness of the day as good, very good or excellent.

For more information about the programme go to the website: www.businessinthearts.co.uk
Don't forget the way the ACE subsidy has been applied means these services are especially affordable for small and medium sized organisations. It'll never be this cheap again!

KIDS COMPANY

Ahead of reports by the Charity Commission and National Audit Office, it seems clear that poor governance is going to be high on the list of reasons for the charity's collapse. The failures to match the charity's activities to its resources, to manage risk and to build up any reserves are probably just the start of a long list. Of course, the question as to whether the Board asked for and was given adequate information is also likely to come up. We should all be learning lessons from this.

The Programmes - Here are the latest matches:

BETTER BOARD BANK - New matches bring the total to 508.

Cartwheel Arts - Georgena Clarke, DWF LLP
In-Situ - Andrew Sharp, Business Stream
Skylight Circus Arts - Emma Bedford, DWF LLP
Venture Arts - Emma Shubrook, DWF LLP
Pagoda Arts - Lucy Renwick, consultant
Keswick Museum and Art Gallery - Ashley Taylor, consultant
Psappha - Nick Spearing, DWF LLP
Action Transport Theatre - Jeremy Grice, LIPA
Action Transport Theatre - Jordi Morell, Obsidian Group
Northern Chamber Orchestra - Malcolm Brown, Osiris Training
Business in the Arts:North West - Chris Horrocks, Handsfree

MENTORING - New matches bring the total to 170.

Rachel Rogers, MDI - Angela Anderson, Angle Solutions Ltd

SKILLS BANK - The number of projects confirmed to date is 562.

Glorybox Photography - Angela Anderson, Angle Solutions Ltd - marketing and PR

QUICK FIXES – 180 completed to date.

Co3 Dance - Jonathan Gillow, Hill Dickinson LLP - legal, organisational structures
Full Circle Arts - Ed Farrelly, DWF LLP - legal, employment law
Manchester Jewish Museum - Catherine Rustomji, DWF LLP – legal, charity law

The monetary value of support provided through BIA:NW's volunteering programmes now amounts to over £18.3 million.

ABOUT BIA:NW

Business in the Arts:North West (BIA:NW) brings business skills to the arts in ways that are beneficial to both business and the arts.

The **Better Board Bank** matches people interested in joining boards with arts organisations seeking their particular skills.

The **Skills Bank** matches the expertise of managers with cultural organisations in need of specific skills. General management experience and specialist skills such as marketing, business planning and HR are often in demand.

Mentoring provides support for arts managers who want to develop their own management potential.

Quick Fixes provide rapid responses to queries in areas such as the law and HR and also help with organisational structures.

Thanks to our Funders and Supporters

Members

DWF LLP
TalkTalk Group plc

Supporters

Yorkshire Bank
Bruntwood

Funders

Cheshire East Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Lancashire County Council
Liverpool City Council



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

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