

JOINING THE BOARD OF ILLAWARRA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE LTD. (IPAC)

Background

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Ltd, trading under the name Merrigong Theatre Company, is a not-for-profit company that manages one of Australia's busiest, most dynamic regional venues – the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre in Wollongong, as well as the city's key civic and community venue, the Wollongong Town Hall. Since 2005, under Artistic Director Simon Hinton, Merrigong has developed into a vibrant theatre company in its own right – producing, presenting and touring exciting contemporary theatre, and supporting the development of a wide range of theatre makers. Merrigong presents a diverse annual season of theatre, dance and children's programming in its venues, in the wider Wollongong Arts Precinct, and offsite in the region. It sources work from Australia's finest performing arts companies, self-produced work, acclaimed international productions, and innovative contemporary work from new companies. Merrigong also programs and partners on a range of commercial events including festivals, pop/rock concerts, cabaret and stand-up comedy. The company has a sole member, Wollongong City Council, who is also the owner of the IPAC and Town Hall buildings. The Company has a high level of earned revenue (generally in excess of 80% of total revenue) from its venue hire, box office and producing activities, with Council the major Government funding partner, along with State and Federal arts agencies.

Board Membership

Under its constitution, the Company has a nine-member board, three of whom are appointed by Council at its discretion, and six who are appointed by the board (with the approval of Council) from suitably qualified individuals. The board meets a minimum of six times a year, as does its key committee, the Risk and Audit Committee. As part of a process of planned board renewal, the Company is now seeking applications from suitably experienced persons to serve on its board in an honorary capacity. The board will make its appointments, for Council approval, to fill vacancies for a 3-year term from June 2021.

The Company's strategic plan sets a goal that the board should reflect the diversity of our local community. With this in mind, the Company is seeking applications from individuals who demonstrate relevant skills, knowledge and sector expertise, and who also bring a range of lived experience to the Board. The following diverse areas of experience and expertise are sought: Marketing/PR/Fundraising, Legal, Financial, Strategic Expertise, Managing People / Change, Risk Management, AICD Director qualifications. In addition, the Company seeks to ensure that within its Board membership there is a suitable level of arts industry experience – specifically that of practicing artists/creatives, as well as managers/administrators/educators in the performing arts sector.

The Board strongly values the lived experience of different groups within the community, and is keen to receive applications from people with a range of ages and genders, and from First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people living with disability, and people from the LGBTQI+ community.

Applications should include a cover letter and CV that demonstrate suitability, referring to the abovementioned areas of expertise and experience. Applicants should also complete a Board Competencies and Attributes Questionnaire, which is available by email on enquiry prior to application.

Applications close on Wednesday 12th May. Applications and enquiries should be directed to:

CEO, Simon Hinton at: shinton@merrigong.com.au or: Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, PO Box 786, Wollongong NSW 2520.