

Oxford Inspires is the cultural development agency for Oxfordshire. We create new opportunities for arts and heritage organisations, nurture new festivals and spectacular events and work to engage as many people as possible in exciting and enjoyable cultural experiences, raising Oxfordshire's profile as a cultural destination within the UK and internationally. We collaborate with cultural organisations across Oxfordshire to support their ambitions and to help them to reach a wider audience.

Our role

- Being a voice for culture in Oxfordshire and for Oxfordshire in culture
- Coordinating and building consensus: helping cultural organisations and individuals to work together
- Generating new opportunities and new collaborations
- Providing specialist support and services, including marketing, fundraising and training
- Evidencing the value of the arts and culture
- Developing new models or new activity with partners which position Oxfordshire as a leading city-region in culture.

Since 2005 Oxford Inspires has delivered a number of major promotional campaigns for the arts including *Oxfordshire 2007* to celebrate the county's millennium and, most recently *The Planet Earth Season* in 2008. We shine a spotlight onto the county's cultural gems including the famous attractions of Blenheim Palace and Henley Festival and innovative contemporary arts at Modern Art Oxford or Pegasus Theatre in Oxford. We help artists and cultural organisations to achieve ambitious projects beyond their usual reach. For example in 2007 we helped the Northmoor Trust to launch *The Children's Food Festival* in South Oxfordshire and in 2008 we helped to bring the spectacular *Earth from the Air* outdoor photography exhibition to Oxford Castle. In 2009 we are supporting 9 cultural venues to put on *Christmas Light Night* on November 27th with late night opening and special entertainment across Oxford to accompany the switch on of the Christmas Lights.

In addition to these high profile campaigns and events we work in partnership with cultural organisations year round to assist in marketing what they do to a wider audience, finding new money and new resources for culture, and helping to build networks. We work with partners in local government and regional agencies e.g. SEEDA to increase the contribution that culture makes to the local economy, to children's education and to community life and to make the case for the importance of culture.

Our organisation

Oxford Inspires is led by its Chief Executive, Sarah Maxfield, with three full-time staff covering fundraising and development, programme and event coordination and administration and part-time posts in administrative management, marketing and finance. Based at the Central Library in Oxford the organisation has a turnover of between £300,000 and £550,000 per annum. We have five stakeholders who provide our core funding. They are Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University and Arts Council England, South East. We also raise money from trusts, foundations, government and business for cultural activities across Oxfordshire.

You can find out more about us, and what we do, from our website at www.oxfordinspires.org.

Our Board

Board membership

Oxford Inspires' Board currently has 15 members and is chaired by Tony Stratton. Our Board members contribute a wide range of knowledge, professional experience and contacts but all have a strong interest in the arts and culture and a belief in how culture makes a positive difference to people and to communities. All four local stakeholders have representatives on the Board, but these representatives serve in their individual capacities—not as delegates. Profiles of all the existing Board members are on our website at <http://www.oxfordinspires.org/board.html>.

The Role of the Board

Board members act as advocates for Oxford Inspires, networking and promoting the work we do.

The Board debates and approves the broad policy directions for Oxford Inspires, oversees the appointment of the Chief Executive, from whom it receives regular reports, approves a business plan and strategy, annual budgets and annual accounts. It also has responsibility for ensuring that we carry out our work with due care, diligence and skill. Oxford Inspires is registered as a charity and the legal obligations of Board members of Oxford Inspires are broadly similar to the obligations of those serving as a Board member or Trustee of any small- to medium-sized charitable or voluntary organisation. (Guidance from the Charity Commission on serving as a Charity Trustee can be found at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc3.asp>.)

Board meetings are usually held four times each year (currently on Wednesday afternoons). We also hold an Annual General Meeting and an 'away day'—a half-day meeting between Board and staff members debating broad strategic issues. In addition Board members are expected to attend occasional consultative sessions, conferences and seminars organised by Oxford Inspires, to advocate for us and to serve on time-limited Oxford Inspires working parties as appropriate. Board members are invited to Oxford Inspires' Cultural Platform and to other social occasions, exhibition openings and so on. We estimate that to carry out the duties of a Board member would take a minimum of five days per year.

New Board members

We are looking for several new members to join our board to ensure that it contains the best mix of skills, experience and knowledge to support and guide the organisation. We are particularly interested in new members who would bring knowledge and contacts in business, in primary or secondary education, in national arts networks or in tourism.

If you would be interested in joining our Board please send your CV to:

Lisa Makros

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or lisa.makros@oxfordinspires.org

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 26 November 2009**.