



YOUNG IDENTITY

Trustee Pack

TRUSTEE PACK

CREATE • WRITE • PERFORM

MANCHESTER'S PREMIER SPOKEN WORD COLLECTIVE DEVELOPING YOUNG WRITERS AND CREATIVES IS RECRUITING NEW TRUSTEES



YOUNG IDENTITY
Charity no. 1181088
enquiries@youngidentity.org

ABOUT US

Young Identity is a Manchester-based literature and performance arts charity experimenting in combined arts. Affectionately known as 'YI', Young Identity began as a voluntary youth arts project in 2006.

We create opportunities for young, marginalised people at risk of being excellent to participate in writing, performance, and theatre in Greater Manchester, nationally and internationally, through our dynamic Creating Connections, Creating Pathways and Creating Exchange programmes. Our mission is to nurture, develop and champion the voices and creativity of diverse young people through literature, writing and performance. We produce, deliver, and redefine the parameters of poetry by creating the highest quality, most original and exciting new literature, poetic theatre, cross-artform performances and participatory work for a diverse audience demographic.

Young Identity is the successful recipient of multi-year funding from Arts Council Council England and Reaching Communities; Over the years, Young Identity has grown in size and scope and has become a key player in the UK's spoken word scene. We look forward to working with local communities to develop our program of activities that include workshops, performances and training.

CREATING PATHWAYS

Our participant development program creates progression pathways and wider learning opportunities for Young Identity members. We provide opportunities and in-training in youth governance event production, publishing and workshop facilitation for young people via our Steering Group, Young Producers and Young Publishers.



FACILITATORS

At the beginning of their literary career, Young Identity poets are trained through weekly workshops and evaluations, with access to personalised mentor support from our Artistic Director Shirley May.

Experienced, empathetic, and confident in their craft, our artists can progress to facilitators, opening themselves up to other opportunities for connection and engagement with other budding young writers in the community.

YOUNG PUBLISHERS

From concept to production, our publishing team collate peer mentor, produce, design and edit our Young Identity Anthologies published under our press 'No Disclaimers'.

STEERING GROUP

Our Steering Group is made up of facilitators, artists, alumni and volunteers, who provide advice and support to ensure that our projects are correctly targeted and reflect the desires and needs of our youth-led organisation

YOUNG PRODUCERS

Our producers are empowered to produce our flagship event, One Mic Stand and other programmes with support and guidance.



OUR VISION

A world in which every young person is equipped with the creativity, confidence and self-expression gained through the practice of poetry and performance.

VALUES

- **Empathy:** We listen first
- **Equality:** We strive for a more equal society
- **Diversity:** We value difference Inclusivity, we include the excluded
- **Quality:** We develop our participants to aim higher, whilst striving for excellence
- **Collaboration:** We learn from one another, our partners and our participants
- **Sustainability:** We advocate and act

OUR MISSION

We redefine poetry for a contemporary age. Creating the poets and wordsmiths of the present and future.

We do this through youth-led, community-rooted, universally accessible and innovative forms of poetry and performance practice and, in turn, promote this unique work across the UK and internationally, providing young people – particularly those from protected characteristics and underrepresented backgrounds with the tools, confidence, skills and platforms to fulfil their potential.



BEING A YOUNG IDENTITY TRUSTEE

OUR TRUSTEES

Our board is a diverse mix of eight trustees, an economist, lawyer, psychologist, education specialist, counsellor, young people's arts producer, community engagement manager and creative business development expert. The board brings a wealth of knowledge, both specialist and general, as well as invaluable perspectives and lived experience ranging from the local, national and international.

THE ROLE

- Contribute to the governance and strategic direction of Young Identity, ensuring it achieves its mission and objectives.
- Ensure, alongside your fellow Trustees, that the charity's affairs are conducted to the highest standards and with appropriate governance and risk management procedures.
- Act as an ambassador for the charity, spreading the word about Young Identity and its work.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Our new Trustees may come from many walks of life, and we do not require prior board-level experience. Successful candidates will be able to demonstrate some of the following qualities:
- Sound judgement and strategic thinking ability balanced by an openness to listening to others and to new ideas
- Understanding or experience of the arts and/or education and a belief in the transformative power of poetry and performance
- An enthusiasm for Young Identity's work and a willingness to make a case for what we do locally, national and internationally
- Commitment to Young Identity being an equal, diverse and inclusive organisation

At this time, we are particularly keen to hear from candidates who can help to build the charity's infrastructure with **PR & marketing communications, HR, finance, income generation, commercial fundraising, Law and EDI**; and those with experience in the education sector and/or working with young people. All Trustees will be offered an induction and the role offers the opportunity to learn about governance and what it takes to run an arts organisation and achieve its objectives. We also want to recruit a young trustee who would be willing in taking up a governance role for the first time, someone who is willing to be mentored, that we can offer tailored support and training as required.

All Trustees will have the opportunity to attend Young Identity writing workshops and events so can experience Young Identity's unique delivery of poetry and performance.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- This is a voluntary role and is unremunerated, although reasonable expenses can be claimed
- The Board meets 4-6 times a year; this includes an annual strategic planning away day
- Trustees are appointed by the Board on a four-year term with the option to renew for one further term
- There is some flexibility on the length of term for those aged 18-30.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your CV and a cover letter of not more than 500 words, telling us why you want to be an at Young Identity to enquiries@youngidentity.org.

If you prefer, you can send a video of up to 2 minutes instead of the accompanying letter.

If your application is successful you will be contacted for an interview.

CONTACT

There is no obligation, but, if you would like to have an informal conversation with our chair before applying, contact our Chair of our Trustees **Joe Earle**, at joe.earle@youngidentity.org

Please also complete the Equal Opportunities Form, which will be separated from your application, before shortlisting.

Thank you for your interest in Young Identity.

