

IYSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECRUITMENT PACK

WHO WE ARE... AND WHAT WE DO



In Your Space Circus (IYSC), founded in 1999 is a circus school and performance company based in Derry-Londonderry.

We are one of the most innovative and dynamic arts organisations in the North-West region of Northern Ireland/Ireland, utilising circus and street theatre as a vehicle for personal, social and community development.

IYSC is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee with a board of directors.

Regular core funding is provided by the Arts Council for Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC). Other core and project funding comes from ACNI, DCSDC, trusts and foundations, government departments, sponsorship, donations and earned income.

Our diverse range of activities include:

- ★ Circus School for adults and children of all ages
- ★ Social Circus outreach and engagement programmes
- ★ Performance and street theatre production
- ★ Carnival of Colours - our annual Circus, Arts and Music Festival
- ★ The Cathedral School heritage project - creating a new home for IYSC



**We are striving to create
connection, empower expression
and support social change.**

Cath McBride Company Director

OUR VISION

Our vision is of a vibrant, connected and thriving community where artists, participants and audiences can explore and develop their creative talents.

OUR MISSION

To unleash the power of circus and street theatre, igniting the imagination and transforming lives and communities.

OUR VALUES

- ★ *Circus as a vehicle for social change*
- ★ *Creativity and play*
- ★ *Lifelong learning*
- ★ *Inclusion*
- ★ *Collaboration*
- ★ *Excellence and Innovation*

OUR GOALS 2023 - 2027

GOAL 1: Our Home

To ensure we successfully move into the Cathedral School and develop a home which meets the needs of our artists, participants and audiences.

GOAL 2: Performance and Events

To increase the ambition and quality of our performance and producing work.

GOAL 3: Education and Training

To increase progression routes for everyone to have the opportunity to develop circus and street theatre skills at their own level.

GOAL 4: Social Circus Outreach

To harness the power of circus to support the health and wellbeing of people and communities, and encourage them to reach their potential.

GOAL 5: People and Culture

To ensure that we have the right people to support us in achieving our goals, and that they are supported, nurtured, and given opportunities to grow.

OUR COMMITMENTS 2023 - 2027

COMMITMENT 1: Communications

To continue to raise our profile locally, nationally and internationally, communicating with a consistent voice and confidence in our brand.

COMMITMENT 2: Finance

To ensure we raise the income we need to achieve our goals and that these resources are managed effectively and transparently.

COMMITMENT 3: Governance

To ensure the governance of IYSC reflects the visionary, ambitious and creative ethos of the company and effectively balances creative aspiration with compliance and best practise.

COMMITMENT 4: Change Making

To support the development of advocacy, lobbying and practice in relation to circus and the arts.

COMMITMENT 5: Artistic Excellence

To support the highest quality delivery in circus education and performance while encouraging skills and talent development at all levels of circus.

IYSC IN NUMBERS



5000
social circus
participants per
year across
Northern Ireland



500
live event
performances
reaching
300,000
people per year

150
participants in
circus classes
per week

900
workshops in
schools, care
homes, charities
and youth groups
per year



125
freelance artists
benefiting from
paid work and
exciting creative
opportunities.



A high-angle photograph of a group of approximately 15-20 people, including children and adults of various ages and ethnicities, gathered in a circus ring. They are all smiling and giving thumbs up towards the camera. The ring has a red and blue mat. The background shows a wooden floor.

IYSC CHANGING LIVES

‘We feel so happy to be part of the IYSC community! It is reassuring seeing our child grow up with good role models while developing an inner confidence that is being very personally nurtured through this wonderful Circus School.’

Seedlings Circus Parent.

‘My granny told me she was so depressed and felt in such a dark place and she said that when she met you guys, it lifted her so much. It helped her transition from being a in really dark place, to being more light-hearted and she said, the laughter that you gave her that day was so healing.’

Audience member, Performance event.

‘Because our daughter has a lengthy list of disabilities it is hard to find activities that she can participate in, yet Circability has helped her with her social skills and confidence massively. She is doing more Occupational Therapy in one session of Circability than she would do with her therapist, whilst having fun. She is having all her needs met, mentally, socially, physically and educationally.’

CircAbility Parent.

‘This was just fantastic, heart-warming and awe inspiring. Thank you to all involved - what an asset In Your Space Circus is to Derry... another triumph.’

Audience member - Compagnie XY performance.

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL CAPITAL REDEVELOPMENT



IYSC have been given the exciting opportunity by St. Columb's Cathedral to lease the Cathedral School and transform it into our new home.

The location, on the city walls, will put us in the heart of the city. The space inside the building has huge potential to meet the needs and aspirations of the company.

The building is currently a shell, though the roof, walls and general structure has been made sound through an initial £1.5m restoration project in 2010.

It is estimated that the development costs to create a new circus centre at the former Cathedral school will be significant but we are excited and ready for the challenge.

This is the opportunity to bring this historic building back to life, and fill it with love and laughter.

A fun filled space at the heart of the community.

Parent of Circus School participant

CHANGE IS COMING... A NEW HOME FOR IYSC



Circus School programmes with space to expand our offerings for children and young people

Artist Training and development space. Producing new and exciting work in circus and street theatre

Delivering Circus accreditation beginning with OCN qualifications

Developing new programmes for people with disabilities, older people and those who face complex challenges in their lives

Hosting multi-arts performance as a prime venue for creative programming

Tourism offerings including a Circus Café, pay-to-play circus sessions for visitors and a 'Very Derry Tour'

Revitalising a heritage asset to provide a space for multi-community integration, stimulating city regeneration

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



In Your Space Circus is such an amazing asset to the community and they deserve a dedicated space to share their magic with everyone. This space will allow them to do this.

Parent of Circus School participant

OUR PEOPLE

IYSC Board of Directors:

Christina Crouch is an Educational Psychologist and parent of 4 Circus School participants. Christina has a firm belief in the power of circus as an educational tool which supports the emotional and physical development of children and young people, particularly at transitional stages in their lives.

Max Beer is a master of fundraising and the strategic development of arts organisations. Having led a major capital project with Derry Playhouse, Max is a huge asset at this time in IYSC's development.

Ross Parkhill runs Stendhal festival and is passionate about music and the collaboration of different art forms to ensure best quality programming.

Stephen Kelly is CEO of Manufacturing NI and is a partner of Events Management Company Events Collective. Previously, he was Head of Strategy and Special Projects for Velocity Worldwide. He is a visiting Professor at Ulster University.

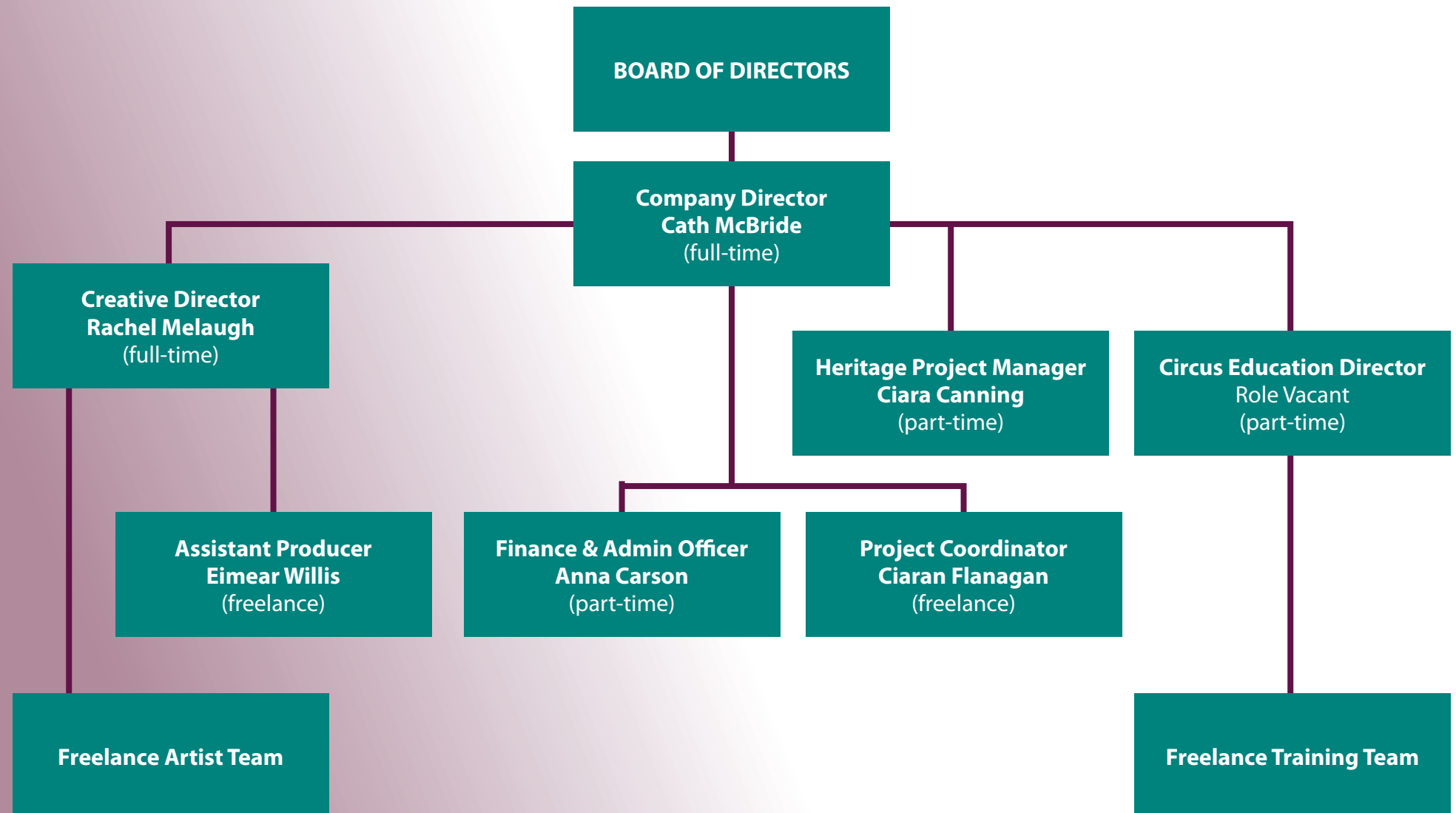
Eavan King leads on Film Education at the Nerve Centre in Derry. Eavan is passionate about arts education and the potential for career development through engaging and immersive arts programmes.

Core Staff :

Cath McBride leads the Company, developing its strategic planning around the identified needs of participants, the wider community, the sector and the aspirations, talents and capacity of the artistic team. Cath has been working in the arts sector since 2008. She joined the IYSC team and became the Company Director in 2012. Under Cath's leadership the organisation has grown its annual income from £125,000 to over £700,000 and evolved IYSC to become one of Northern Ireland's most significant arts organisations.

Rachel Melaugh is IYSC's Creative Director. She has more than 10 years' performing experience both onstage and in street theatre contexts across Ireland and the UK. Rachel is passionate about creating fresh, innovative work on the streets and is responsible for some of IYSC's most ambitious productions. Most recently Rachel produced 'After the Rain' – a new site-specific work in Derry by world-renowned acrobatic collective 'Compagnie XY' working in collaboration with a cast of local multi-disciplinary artists.

OUR PEOPLE IN 2023





THE ROLE

As a registered charity, IYSC is led by a group of dedicated and passionate ambassadors – our Board of Directors. Chaired by Christina Crouch the Board is dedicated to steering IYSC to achieve our mission in a sustainable and responsible way.

As we embark on this next chapter in our story with exciting plans for our capital redevelopment project, we are looking for new Board members to join our dynamic team.

We have provided a specification which outlines some of the skills and experiences we feel would complement our current group and which we think are crucial as we look to the future in creating a new home for IYSC.

Most importantly, we are looking for people who feel deeply about the work and ethos of IYSC as a space for joy, learning and creative expression.

We welcome people who like new ideas, have an entrepreneurial spirit and who want to support us to make a difference.

THE PERSON

This role offers the opportunity to use your expertise and skills to support the charity in its management and ensure a secure future in a new home.

We are looking for people from a range of backgrounds who have a genuine interest in promoting a culture of energy and fun in our communities.

The current directors each take an interest and responsibility for a specific aspect of our work. If you have a background or experience in any of the following areas, we would be particularly interested in hearing from you.

- ★ Building and construction (all aspects)
- ★ Capital fundraising
- ★ Cultural heritage
- ★ Human resources
- ★ Legal
- ★ Financial management.

The board meets every two months, both in person and virtually so you don't need to live locally to apply.

This role is voluntary.



HOW TO APPLY

Application is by CV and a supporting statement outlining the reasons for your interest in joining the board and explaining why you believe yourself to be suitable.

Please include your full contact details including a telephone number.

Please apply by email enclosing your CV and supporting statement to Company Director, Cath McBride at:
cath@inyourspaceni.org

If you would like to arrange an informal, confidential conversation with Cath or Board Chairperson Christina before submitting your application, please get in touch.

The Closing date for applications is Wednesday 31st January 2024, 4pm

What difference will you make?

We are a small, busy organisation with big energy. The next few years will be critical in our development as we embark on the Cathedral School Project.

You will support us on this exciting journey and help IYSC to reach its potential as joy bringers and change makers.

IN YOUR SPACE CIRCUS

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www.inyourspaceni.org



In Your Space Circus is a registered company limited by guarantee: NI 050953.
Registered charity number: NIC103059.