

JACKSONS LANE

INFORMATION PACK CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



A photograph showing a person in a grey coat walking a small white dog in a courtyard. In the background, there is a yellow van and a blue water cooler. The scene is set in front of a brick building with a staircase leading up to it.

JACKSONS LANE'S PAST

Highgate Wesleyan Methodist church originally opened in 1905, and served it's local area for many years, but by the early 1970s had closed and remained unoccupied. At the same time, a group of local residents shared a vision for the building to become a new central hub for the local area, and after several years of campaigning were granted a lease by the council.

Jacksons Lane opened to the public in 1975 with a varied programme of performances, classes and social activities for the local community, all led by a committed group of volunteers.

Not long after the opening, plans emerged to widen Archway Road resulting in the potential demolition of Jacksons Lane itself. Activists once again came together and campaigned to save the building. Thankfully they succeeded and the building was given a Grade II listed status and Archway road was developed into a preservation area.

The venue continued to expand and grow, and in the 1980s work was carried out to create the new theatre auditorium. New rehearsal studios were also created and the venue hosted a wide range of activities including circus, comedy, drama, dance, music and even hosted the UK's first ever disability arts festival; Xposure.

Jump ahead to 2020, and another major refurbishment brought renewed life to the building. The project reimagined the layout of the entire venue to create a more accessible and futureproofed space with the facilities to see Jacksons Lane serving it's community long into the future.



JACKSONS LANE'S PRESENT

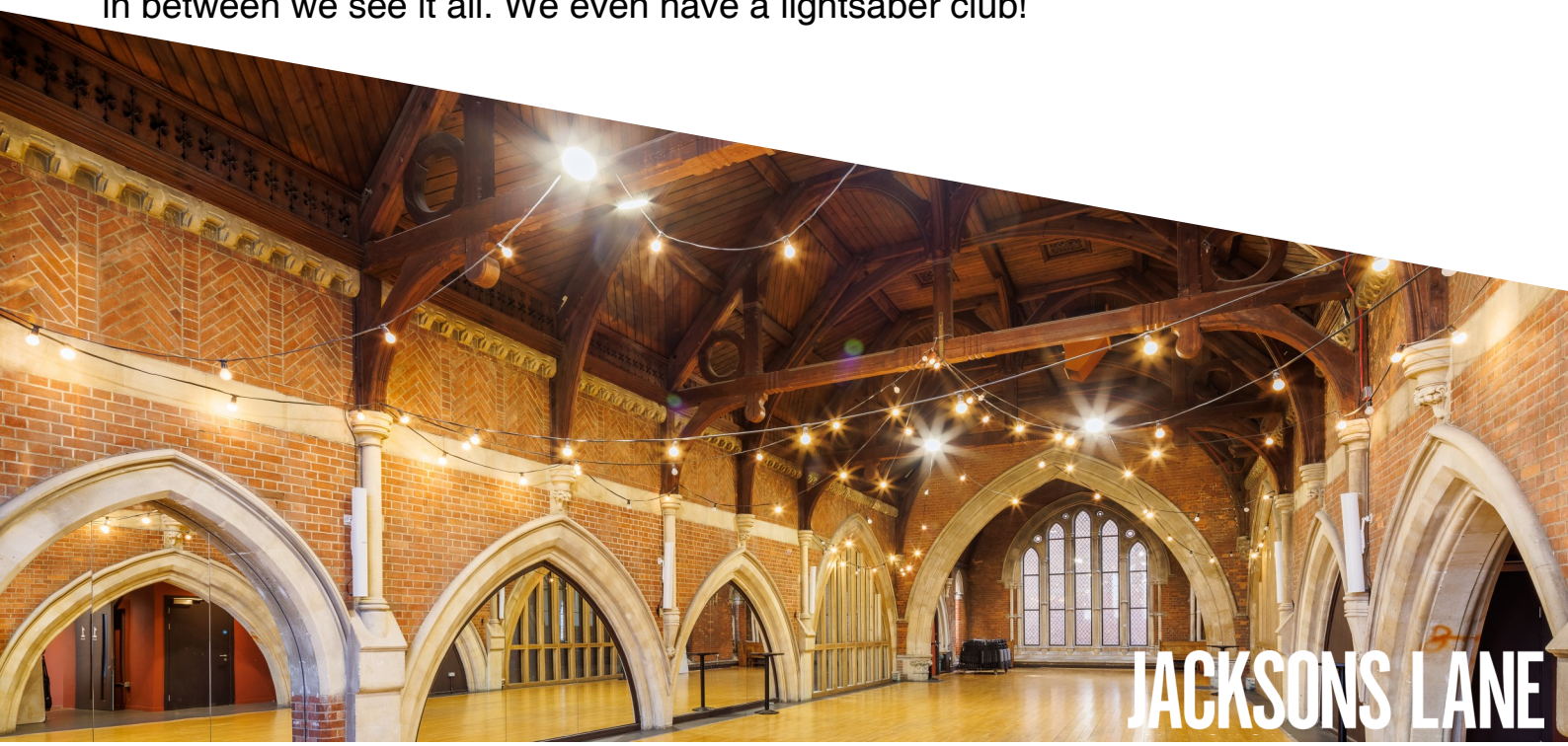


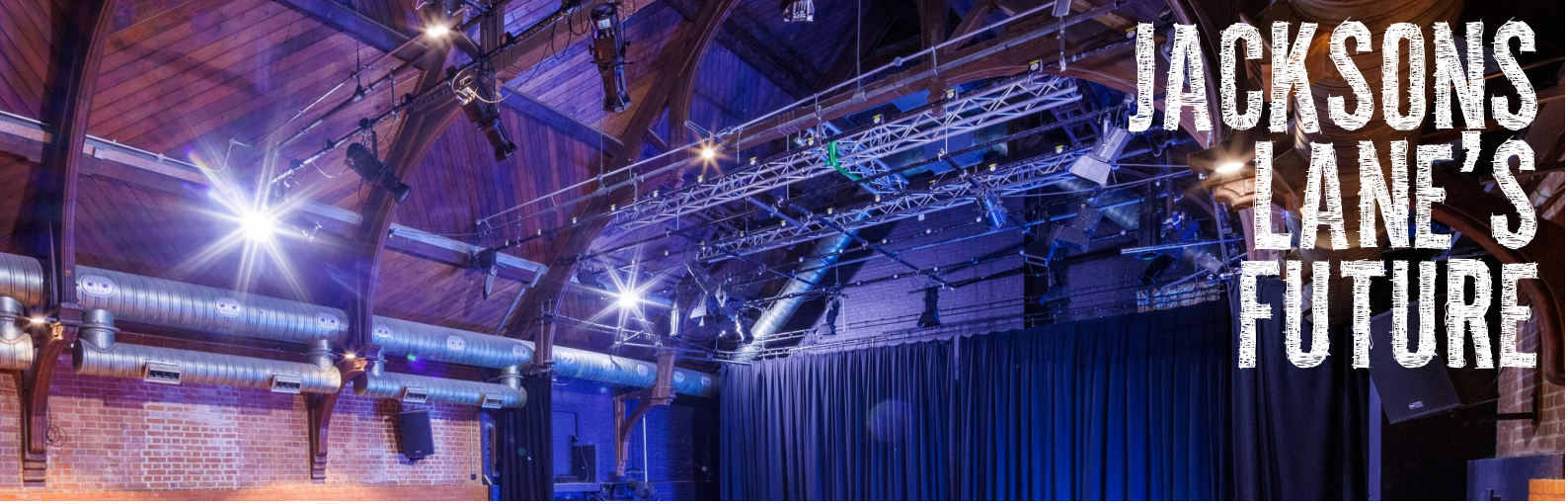
Nowadays, Jacksons Lane is a vital hub within Haringey and north London. We are open seven days a week for all those who need us and our foyer and café space has become a real meeting place for our local community. In the winter months we act as a warm welcome space, and have initiatives such as our wall of kindness to support those struggling with the cost of living crisis.

We present a programme of contemporary circus performance, and family theatre with audiences coming from across the UK. We work hard to also bring international work to our audiences, showcasing the talents of people from across the globe. By supporting developing artists with our residency and transmission programs we are nurturing the next generation of great artists.

Community work has always been a key part of Jacksons Lane, ever since the beginning. We now lead a range of different activities including Jacksons Lane Youth Circus which we take to those from lower economic backgrounds across Haringey and Barnet, as well as a range of activities for older adults to increase confidence and reduce social isolation. The pinnacle of which is our Christmas Day project which began 50 years ago thanks to our founders.

The most recent redevelopment of the building has also given us fantastic facilities which we have available to hire for people to lead their own activities, workshops and celebrations. From photo and film shoots, to weddings, bar mitzvahs and everything in between we see it all. We even have a lightsaber club!





As we head into 2025, we are entering our fiftieth year and have a whole host of exciting things planned to celebrate our anniversary.

In August we were successful in receiving a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to allow us to complete a comprehensive heritage project. The work will include a full archive of our long history, as well as key oral histories and memories gathered from the many people that have been through our doors over the past 50 years. We will continue to run all of our creative engagement activities throughout the 50th year as well as many new engagement projects celebrating this huge milestone.

In June 2025 we will celebrate 50years (and a day) from the first ever performance at Jacksons Lane with a weekend full of parties, activities and events.

Environmental sustainability has also been a key drive for our work, and was a key focus for our founder Nicky Gavron. We are working towards becoming a more sustainable and environmentally friendly organisation in all aspects of our work.

With support from multiple embassies across the globe we are able to continue to showcase to best in contemporary circus from around the world and want to continue to grow our international relationships and reputation.

Our venue is fast becoming a go to destination for Londoners to hire for celebrations, activities and rehearsals year round and we are investing in this area to ensure we can continue to grow and develop to our full potential.





A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIR

I am writing this sitting in the Jacksons Lane café which is buzzing with activity... There is an older adults group just finishing a class, auditionees for a music video whizzing through one of the studios, young and emerging artists developing new work, a rehearsal for a large musical theatre piece upstairs in the epic Studio 1, Technical rehearsals for tonight's contemporary circus show are underway and a baby sensory class is just beginning. Soon the after-school crowd will grab snacks before their drama and dance workshops and circus teachers will return from teaching workshops across Haringey. Later the bar will open and shows begin...

It's an exciting time for Jackson's Lane, an arts charity that reaches far beyond its home in North London. 2025 will mark the 50th year of an organisation steeped in a history of community care, arts participation across all ages, physical theatre and circus and an inclusive practice. Our internationally renowned Circus programme has resulted in our status as an industry leader and key developer of new talent.

We currently have an array of thrilling international Circus partnerships and daring emerging artists ready to dangle from the rafters. Our Participation Programme reaches all ages across the Borough, and we are particularly proud of our work with older adults, which includes our Christmas Day feast for those who may be alone or in need. We are a key community hub in Haringey and home to hundreds of community groups, celebrations and local artists. The recent building renovation has created a beautiful space for all this to happen in!

We are lucky to have a really strong team at Jacksons Lane led by excellent, energised and very experienced Co-CEOs. The Board is a strong mix of arts professionals, finance, civil service, education and community leaders. We offer specific guidance through sub-Finance and Artistic Committees and a reporting structure and sounding board at quarterly full Board meetings. We help support fundraising plans, funding reporting and steering a ship of good governance. The Board is a warm, skilled and supportive team.

In 2025 we will celebrate a history of serving the community, radical performance and sharing artistic practice. We really hope you can join our journey.

Nathan Curry, Vice Chair

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The role of the Chair is to provide leadership and direction to the Board, enabling Trustees to fulfil their responsibilities and to work in close partnership with the Chief Executive to ensure that Board decisions can be delivered effectively. The Chair will have the casting vote if required. The Chair must have a sound understanding of governance and the legal responsibilities accompanying being a charity trustee. They must have a broad understanding of the business model and strategy of the organisation alongside its charitable objectives.

DUTIES

The Chair has all the responsibilities of an individual Trustee, plus the following:

BOARD RELATIONS

- Chair meetings effectively in order to ensure that all voices are included and a clear record of decisions is recorded.
- Provide leadership of the Board and set its agenda.
- Ensure the provision of accurate, timely and clear information to Trustees and ensure the effectiveness of individual Trustees and the Board as a whole.
- Ensure that Trustees are given sufficient time to consider critical issues and realistic deadlines for decision-making.
- Ensure that the Board concentrates on strategy and the monitoring of decisions delegated to management.
- Review the performance of the Board, Trustees and Chief Executive.
- Represent the organisation together with the Chief Executive.
- Create a strong and effective working relationship with the Joint CEOs, ensuring strategic objectives can be achieved.
- Alongside Vice Chair, oversee HR/line management responsibility.
- Where applicable, advocate and drive special projects according to need such as change management and or fundraising.

QUALITIES (Applicable to all trustees)

- Commitment of time and energy to Jacksons Lane, its aims and objectives.
- Integrity.
- Organised.
- Excellent communicator and negotiation.
- Open minded and solutions-based thinking.
- Able to empower others.
- Friendly, reflective, open, non-judgmental and calm.
- Able to deal with conflict and contentious issues.
- Willing to use their personal connections to the benefit of Jacksons Lane.

APPOINTMENT

Trustees may appoint and remove a Chair from amongst themselves by simple majority. At a meeting of the Trustees, if the Chair is not able to attend then the Vice Chair or other Trustee must undertake their duties.

JACKSONS LANES VALUES

- Inclusive
- Fair
- Nurturing (talent, staff, community and artists)
- Empowering
- Led with, by and through our communities to bring positive change
- Fun

APPLICATION DETAILS

If you are interested in applying for the role of Chair of the Board please contact Warrick Griggs, Executive Director, warrick@jacksonslane.org.uk and we will arrange an informal chat with a couple of our existing trustees where you will be able to learn more about being a trustee at Jacksons Lane. We can also provide you with a copy of our Articles of Association if required.

If after the initial informal chat you are still keen to join the board as Chair we will ask you to submit a 1 page supporting statement and CV to the board suitable applicants will then be invited to a formal interview in early 2025.

Jacksons Lane has a strong commitment within all our recruitment to increase the diversity of our staff and trustees. We welcome applications from all individuals and will respond to all applicants. This is a rolling recruitment with no fixed deadline.