

JACKSONS LANE

INFORMATION PACK CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES





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

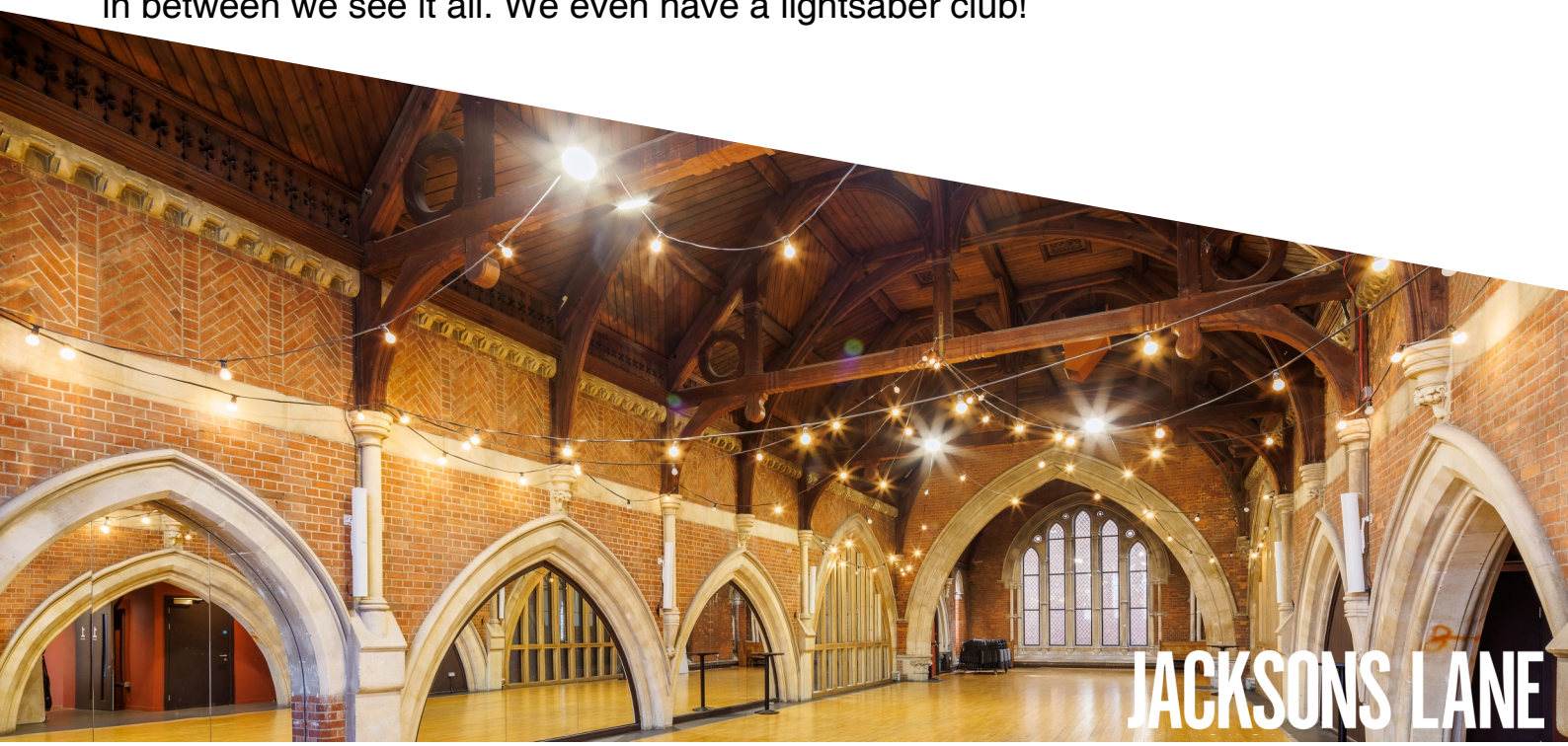


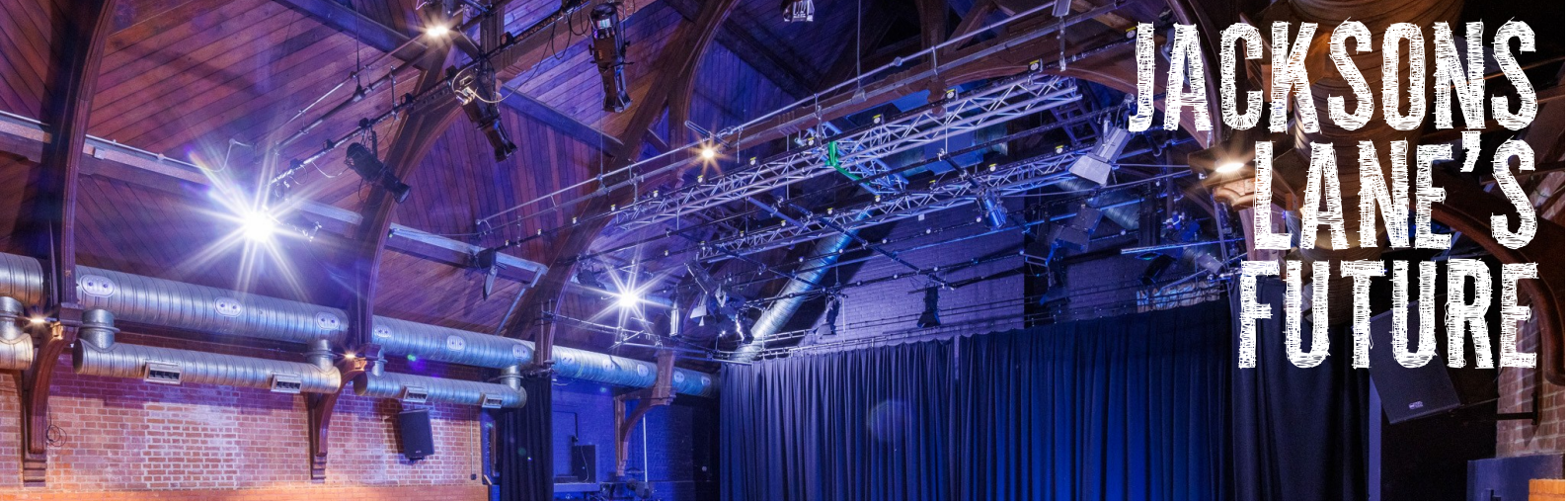
Nowadays, Jacksons Lane is a vital hub within Haringey and north London. We are open seven days a week for all those who need us and our foyer and café space has become a real meeting place for our local community. In the winter months we act as a warm welcome space, and have initiatives such as our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

The next five years are an exciting time for Jacksons Lane and a brilliant opportunity to contribute to its strategic future.

Our next chair will support our 2027 NPO application, lead the board through our 50th anniversary year, and strengthen the board's role at Jacksons Lane. In addition, with the encouragement of our artistic and executive directors, there are many opportunities to support and develop the organisation.

THE ROLE

Leadership of the board direction is a key part of this role. Creating a collaborative and effective board through strategic leadership gained from previous board leadership roles is required. Supporting and leading the implementation of the agreed strategy is also essential.

Leading the Board of Trustees

Provide leadership to, and ensure the effective performance of the Board:

- Chairing Board meetings and involving all Trustees in discussions and decision-taking and ensuring that the Board receives accurate, timely and clear information
- Setting the agenda of Board meetings to ensure timely consideration of relevant issues which will include key strategic, leadership, performance and governance matters
- Regularly review and take a leading role in determining the composition and structure of the board, ensuring that it includes the relevant skills and is representative of the community which it serves. Overseeing the appointment, induction, assessment and development of Trustees

Working with the Executive and Senior Management Team

Work effectively with the joint CEO's supporting their responsibility to run the organisation by:

- Providing support, challenge and direction to the joint Chief Executives, holding them to account on behalf of the Board and acting as a mentor and sounding board

- Acting as the principal link between the Trustees and the Executive and the Senior Management Team and creating an environment of mutual confidence and trust
- Where required, taking an active role in senior staff issues, for example acting as the chair for appeals

Acting as an ambassador for the Organisation

Be a visible figurehead and champion for Jacksons Lane internally and externally:

- As an ambassador for Jacksons Lane, aims and policies to the outside world
- Supporting Jacksons Lane in developing relationships with national and regional corporate organisations to enable Jacksons Lane to fulfil its objectives
- Attending and hosting staff, community and patron events to build goodwill and create engagement and be an active customer and fan of the creative output of Jacksons Lane

Finance and funding

Oversee the financial performance, reporting and accuracy of information:

- Provide constructive challenge and maintain detailed oversight of the financial performance and sustainability of the organisation, ensuring it is financially well-managed and robust
- The Chair is responsible for the audited accounts, their signing and timely submission
- Utilise personal expertise in public sector funding and/or commercial and business acumen to complement the growth, funding and development of Jacksons Lane

Governance

Ensure high standards of governance and safeguarding in all areas of Jacksons Lane:

- Ensure the Board fulfils its overall governance, legal and compliance responsibilities including the timely provision of accurate information to the Charity Commission and other regulatory bodies
- Ensure the Board conducts regular reviews of risks and opportunities and continues to operate on a successful and sustainable basis
- Embody Jacksons Lane commitment to equality, inclusion and diversity. Uphold and appropriately role-model safeguarding policies and procedures and encourage other Trustees to do likewise

THE PERSON

We encourage expressions of interest in this position from individuals with a broad range of experiences and expertise. However, it is likely the successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following:

- Success as a Chair, NED or organisational leader in cultural, commercial or not for profit sectors, with experience of successfully leading Boards with funding.
- An inclusive, collaborative and contemporary leadership style and effective approach to leading and developing an excellent Board of Trustees and to building broad stakeholder relationships
- A strong interest in the performing arts and community building
- Strong strategic and commercial perspective, a keen understanding of financial performance and risk management, ideally within a mixed business, charitable and public funding environment
- A commitment to, and ideally an understanding of, the role of Jacksons Lane in the community and its creative engagement and artistic development activities
- An excellent communicator with absolute integrity and outstanding interpersonal, influencing and ambassadorial skills and the ability to command the confidence of local and national stakeholders
- An open and down to earth approach, with a flexible and supportive style. A good listener and mentor, able to challenge constructively
- An understanding and commitment to the principles of inclusion, diversity and safeguarding, which underpin the work of the organisation
- A commitment to the highest standards of public life and good governance, with a clear understanding of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of the role

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about Jacksons Lane please click the following links:

- Website: <https://www.jacksonslane.org.uk/>
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jacksonslane/?locale=en_GB
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/jacksons_lane/
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/JacksonsLane>

TIME REQUIREMENT

We anticipate that the Chair of the board would need to commit approximately 2 days a month to the organisation, key requirements are:

- 4 in-person board meetings a year
- 1 full in-person away day a year
- 1 hour virtual meeting with the joint CEO's per month

JACKSONS LANES VALUES

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

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please send an expression of interest and a CV to warrick@jacksonslane.org by 31 March 2025

Jackson's 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.

