

# **Milton Keynes Arts Consortium**

**Better Arts Boards**  
**7 May 2014**

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What do we mean by better boards?

# **As an individual board member, better might be:**

- Fulfilling all of the designated roles of board members well
- Understanding legal liabilities and responsibilities
- Keeping up to date with all those roles, and how they change and grow

# As a whole board, better might be:

- Keeping the business healthy, legal and ambitious
- A positive culture of support and open questioning board meetings
- A balanced Board composition and open recruitment process
- A degree of common purpose and understanding of mission

# Do you recognise any of these?

- Unfocused meetings
- No current business plan
- Misunderstanding of board role
- Conflicts of interest
- An unproductive Chair and Manager relationship
- Dominant, outspoken board members
- Silent board members
- A lack of skills and expertise
- An unbalanced power relationship for observers
- Any more? Probably.....

The roles and  
responsibilities  
you know already

# **The role summarised is:**

- Approve all policies and procedures
- Create strategic business plans
- Monitor the implementation of policy and meeting of targets
- Ensure compliance with the law
- Be responsible employers
- Be accountable to stakeholders
- Ensure financial solvency
- Act as ambassadors
- Provide leadership
- Ensure the itself Board is effective
- Fulfil the objectives of the charity

**What makes the board  
even better?**



# Significant for a successful, modern, cultural board is:

- Its role in fundraising and income generation
- Building genuine partnerships that help an organisation deliver high quality work
- Active advocacy
- Leadership, not monitoring
- Exploring new business models for the long term

# So what else can you do to make the board better?

- Ask staff (if you have them) to say honestly what the board could improve in its day to day governance
- Ask staff (and stakeholders) if there are other roles that they would like your help in fulfilling
- Be honest about the whole board's strengths and weaknesses and tackle any problems one by one

# What else might motivate you as a board member?

- Clear role and function for each member
- Thorough induction procedure
- Efficient meetings
- Annual review of the board
- Opportunities to see the arts work
- Social events
- Board retreats
- Skills used and appreciated
- Thanks and acknowledgement

# What support exists to help you do this?

- Training – NCVO, DSC, Catalyst, ACE, etc
- Up to date information – internet resources
- Recruitment – advice on finding the right people through the right process - websites and voluntary sector advice
- Whole board support – awaydays, facilitated debate, longer change programme

**What Next?**

**Any Questions?**

# Contact:

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