

>> StageTEXT

Join us as a Trustee

**Captions speak louder
than words**



Our Mission

**To advocate for and deliver equal access to arts and
culture for deaf, deafened and
hard of hearing people**

Introduction

Message from Melanie Sharpe, CE

Welcome to Stagertext. It is an exciting time for us as we are seeking to appoint additional Non-Executive board members to help us continue our work to bring deaf access to arts and culture.

Formed in 2000, Stagertext is a deaf-led charity that supports arts and entertainment venues to provide great quality accessible captioning and subtitles for live and online events. Our vision is of a society where arts, culture and entertainment venues present no barriers for deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people.


Stagetext is regularly funded by Arts Council England (ACE).

In 2022/23 Stagertext made a total of 1,101 performances, talks, tours and films accessible.

Of these events:

- 366 theatre performances were captioned by Stagertext across 107 venues, of which 41% took place outside of London
- 503 talks and conferences were live subtitled by Stagertext
- 232 digital works were made accessible by Stagertext, comprising 7,455 minutes

In total we worked directly with 238 cultural organisations across the UK.



All our trustees help shape the charity's future strategy, enabling it to evolve and thrive. As part of our ongoing development, we are strengthening our board and welcome both new and experienced trustees.

Full training and ongoing support will be given, helping you to develop your governance skills and contribute to the mission and vision of Stagertext.

We are a strong committed board and several of our members are due to step down having contributed to the maximum term. In particular we are looking for people with skills in HR, AI and/or technology, ICT strategy, fundraising, advocacy and engagement, marketing and PR and training.

As a deaf-led charity we are particularly seeking applications from people with lived experience of being deaf, deafened or hard of hearing.

We also welcome applications from people who are currently underrepresented in the arts sector, including Black, Asian and minority ethnic people, disabled people, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and LGBTQ+ people.

We do hope you'll join us in the next phase of our ambitious plans to bring more captioning and access to more places more often.

Melanie Sharpe, CE

How to apply

To make an application, please contact Melanie, our CE for an informal chat to discuss the role at melanie@stagetext.org (please let us know of any speech-to-text, BSL and other access requirements). When you are ready, send us an expression of interest in a word document of no more than two pages. Video applications are also accepted.

Please make sure you tell us:

- Why you would like to join the board
- What you think you would bring to the organisation and how your skills could support the Board and team in achieving its vision
- A bit about yourself; the work you do and your previous experience.

Send your expression of interest to melanie@stagetext.org and complete the Equal Opportunities Form.

Interviews will be arranged at a mutually convenient time and all access requirements will be addressed.

Deadline for Applications: 9am Tuesday 30th April, 2024.



**Captions for Macbeth,
The Globe**

About Us

Stagetext is a deaf-led national charity based at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester. The organisation is governed by a non-executive Board of Trustees and led by the Chief Executive, supported by a senior management team. We have a team of 8 employees.

Around 12 million of the UK population are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing. That's 1 in 5 people.

The proportion of the population with a hearing loss is rising as the number of people over 60 increases and is estimated to reach 15.6 million by 2035. (RNID prevalence estimates using Office for National Statistics population data (2018)).



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1 in 5

Our Aims

- We advocate for and promote accessible captions and subtitles to arts and culture providers and to other key stakeholders
- We deliver theatre captioning, live subtitling and digital subtitling services to arts and culture providers
- We advise arts and culture providers on how they can make their events and content accessible
- We research, develop and promote new technologies to better meet the needs of arts and culture providers and deaf audiences
- We help to grow deaf, deafened and hard of hearing audiences for arts and cultural events.

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Our Services



- Delivery of captioning at events, like theatre performances, where the script can be pre-prepared and cued live
- Supplying a speech-to-text reporter or Palantypist for events, like talks, where the script cannot be pre-prepared
- Subtitling pre-recorded digital content or delivering training for in-house subtitling
- Training for cultural professionals on deaf awareness.

on the BBC home page, my series
it comes up first. And there is
BBC. There is not that much

**Live subtitles for Lost Kingdoms of South Africa
Talk, British Museum**

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Trustee Role

Being a Trustee is about ensuring that the charity has strong governance and that Stagertext meets its charitable objectives. Trusteeship is a voluntary unpaid role, although travel expenses will be paid where necessary.

The board works closely with Stagertext's Chief Executive and Chair, taking a strategic overview of the organisation.

This means attending Board meetings on a quarterly basis, supporting particular strands of work or staff members, and from time to time going to key events, such as launches, fundraising or training events, and an annual strategy away day.

It's a time commitment of around one day a month, on average.



Trustees can be based anywhere within the UK. The majority of our Board meetings are held remotely though occasionally we meet in person at our base, the Mercury Theatre.

Trustees are elected for an initial period of three years which can be renewed for two further three-year periods. This means you will have time to really get to know the organisation and share in its development.

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Our Trustees

“Stagetext’s user-led warm and friendly approach to understanding and highlighting the importance of captions and subtitles is excellent, and therefore makes for a truly wonderful and engaging board to be a part of.”

Trustee, Jessica Ryan-Ndegwa



Our Trustees



“Stagetext first introduced me to the world of theatre by providing captions for shows that I wouldn’t have seen otherwise. This opportunity has led to my own full-time career in the industry which I am grateful for.

I am thrilled to be a part of the board and contribute towards their success which is helped by a very friendly and welcoming team, all of which who share the same passion for captioning and access.”

Trustee, Ben Glover

Who We Work With

We work with small, medium and large scale theatres, museums and arts venues and video makers, including but not limited to:

Almeida Theatre
British Museum
Chichester Festival Theatre
Curve Theatre, Leicester
Donmar Warehouse
Edinburgh Book Festival
Gúna Nua Theatre
Leo Powell
Mercury Theatre
National Gallery
National Museums Scotland
National Theatre

Palace Theatre & Opera House,
Manchester
Sage Gateshead
Shakespeare's Globe
Stratford East
Talawa Theatre
Tamasha Theatre Company
Theatre 503
The Old Vic
Tate
Towner Eastbourne
Victoria & Albert Museum
West Midlands Museum
Development programme



Our Ambitions

In 2023 Stagertext was one of the first arts organisations to relocate out of London to the South East as part of our ambitious plan to bring more deaf access to the region. The move is part of Arts Council England's Transfer Programme and our plan is to work closely with a range of arts, culture and heritage organisations in the region.

Whilst continuing our work in London and nationally, Stagertext will develop a new regional model to engage with new deaf, deafened and hard of hearing audiences across the region, as well as other audiences that can benefit from captions, including those with English as an additional language and neurodivergent people.

This new way of working will also enable us to work more closely with producing theatre companies ensuring that deaf access is considered and embedded at the heart of the artistic process. This has led to a revised vision and we invite you to join us on this exciting new journey.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking to appoint new Trustees with the following expertise and experience:

- HR
- AI and Technology
- Fundraising
- Advocacy and Engagement
- Delivering training or developing training programmes

You must have:

- A commitment to the values and principles of the charity, including the promotion of equity and diversity within Stagertext
- Sufficient time and commitment to fulfil the role

Ideally you will have:

- Lived experience of deafness
- An appreciation, interest and understanding of arts and culture and deaf access

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Thank you

If you have any questions about being a Trustee of Stagertext, contact our CE, Melanie Sharpe, via email melanie@stagertext.org for a chat (please let us know of any speech-to-text, BSL and other access requirements).

[Click here](#) for details on how to apply.

Deadline for Applications: 9am Tuesday 30th April, 2024.