

Board Member Application Information 2026



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Position(s): 2 Run of the Mill Board Members

Engagement: 4 quarterly meetings, 1 annual away day, plus ad hoc engagements with company members

Responsible to: The Board of Directors

Run of the Mill is an award-winning inclusive arts organisation.

As we enter a new phase of growth, we are seeking to appoint **two new board members** who will play a key role in shaping the organisation's next chapter.

We are currently recruiting for two distinct roles:

1. **Fundraising & Strategic Growth** – We are seeking an individual with strong experience in fundraising, philanthropy, partnerships, or organisational growth. This individual will support Run of the Mill in diversifying income streams, building strategic relationships, and strengthening long-term sustainability.
2. **Artistic & Sector Leadership** – We are seeking an experienced arts leader, producer, or senior practitioner who can bring high-level artistic insight, sector knowledge, and advocacy to the organisation.

We strongly welcome and encourage applications from individuals with lived experience of disability.

Who are we looking for?

Board Member Responsibilities

*As a Board member, you will contribute to the **strategic direction** and **long-term sustainability** of Run of the Mill. Responsibilities include:*

1. Strategic Leadership

Contribute to the development and delivery of the organisation's strategic vision.

2. Governance and Oversight

Ensure strong governance practices, compliance, and safeguarding standards.

3. Organisational Development

Support the organisation's continued growth, sustainability, and visibility.

4. Advocacy and Ambassadorship

Act as an advocate for Run of the Mill, building relationships and raising the organisation's profile.

5. Artistic and Programme Insight

Support the ongoing development of high-quality, inclusive artistic work.

6. Drive positive change

Contribute to advancing a more inclusive arts landscape through active engagement and leadership at board level.

Skills & Experience

We are particularly interested in individuals with experience in one or more of the following areas:

Social Care and Disability

Experience working in/with social services, disability service provision, or

related fields, with a strong understanding of care policies, disability advocacy, and safeguarding practices.

Fundraising & Strategic Growth

- Experience in fundraising, philanthropy, or income generation
- Experience supporting organisational growth or scaling
- Strong networks across relevant sectors and the ability to support the development of strategic partnerships

Artistic & Sector Leadership

- Senior experience within the arts sector
- Experience in producing, programming, or organisational leadership
- A strong understanding of the contemporary arts landscape

For both roles:

- A clear commitment to inclusion and accessibility in the arts
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively at board level

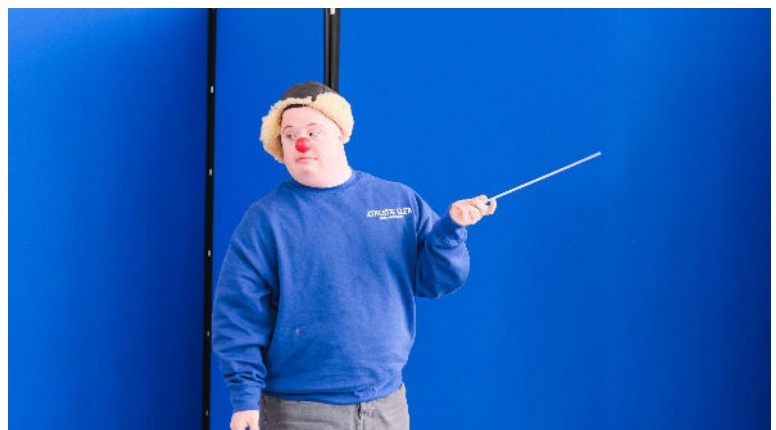
Inclusion

We are committed to building a board that reflects the diversity of the communities we work with.

We particularly welcome applications from disabled people and from those currently underrepresented in arts leadership and governance.

[Run of the Mill](#)

Run of the Mill is an inclusive arts organisation committed to supporting people with intellectual disabilities to access high quality experiences in the arts as artists, makers and participants.



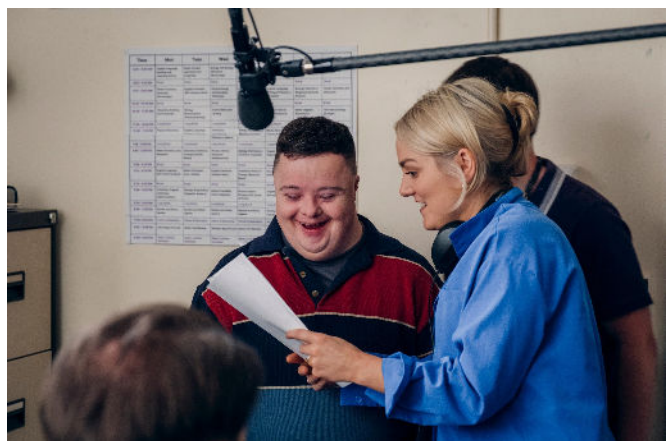
At Run of the Mill we collaborate to make work that gives voice to the lived experiences of our participants. Intellectually disabled artists are underrepresented, on our screens, and on our stages — we aim to redress that imbalance by making work that puts the stories and ideas of our artists and participants front and centre. We champion the rights of our participants to be involved in the arts and we lobby for increased access for disabled artists to the arts in all capacities — as audience members, participants, artists and paid professionals. We work towards making the landscape of arts practice in Ireland a more inclusive one.



In recent years, the work of Run of the Mill has grown in scope, ambition and visibility. Led by Artistic Director Aisling Byrne alongside Executive Producer Killian Coyle and the bold creative vision of our artists, the work has evolved from grassroots beginnings in our local community to the presentation of award-winning

productions on mainstream stages and screens, numerous high profile national media appearances and significant investment and support from the Arts Council of Ireland and Kildare County Council across numerous projects. Recent work includes the Oscar-Qualifying *Mary is Missing* (Winner of Grand Prix Best Irish Short, 70th Cork International Film Festival), the critically acclaimed *REAL LIFE* (Project Arts Centre, 2024) and the multi-award winning *Making a Mark* (National Tour, 2022). Media appearances include The Tommy Tiernan Show (Season 4), Ireland AM, The Oliver Callan Show and more.

In 2026, Run of the Mill will continue to leverage our practice across multiple high profile projects whilst developing meaningful and sustainable artist development programmes for our participants and supporting them



to forge a pathway to future professional practice. Run of the Mill receives support from creative production support agency field:arts, The Arts Council of Ireland and Kildare County Council.

To find out more visit www.runofthemill.ie

As a board member, you will play a key role in shaping an ambitious, inclusive arts organisation at a pivotal stage of its development.

How to Apply

If you are passionate about making the arts accessible to all, want to make a significant impact in the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities and contribute to the growth of Run of the Mill, we encourage you to submit your application.

Whether you have previous board experience or are eager to embark on this journey for the first time, we value your unique perspective and dedication.

To apply please submit your resume or biography (a statement outlining your roles, responsibilities and achievements in the organisations in which you currently and previously worked), and a brief statement outlining your relevant experience, and how you can contribute to Run of the Mill's mission – please include details of any service as a Board Director, Trustee or any other voluntary/community work, but please note that no previous experience as a Board Director or Trustee is required.

Should you wish, we would also be happy to accept video applications of no longer than 3 minutes stating the relevant information outlined above.

Please use wetransfer.com and email us a link to your video application. [Here is how to do so.](#)

Run of the Mill welcomes applications from everyone but we would like to encourage applications by people from a diversity of national, ethnic or cultural groups – we strongly encourage applications from individuals from the

disabled community who can bring much needed insight and guidance to our board.

You should email your application or video to [killian@runofthemill.ie & aisling@runofthemill.ie] –

Please use “ROTM Board Member Application” in the subject line.

If your application file is too large for email, you can also use WeTransfer (www.wetransfer.com).

- Applications must be submitted by **Friday 15th of May 2026.**
- Shortlisting will take place and candidates called for interview will be contacted on/by **4th of June 2026.**
- **Interviews will be held on Thursday 11th & Friday 12th of June 2026.**
- Final decisions will be communicated to all applicants **by 19th of June 2026.**

Together, let's transform the arts landscape into a truly inclusive space for all individuals.

ROTM Board of Directors

David O'Connor (Chair)

Business & Financial Advisor

David is an ACCA qualified accountant, qualifying in 2012. He studied business and marketing at ITT, while working in sales roles for both multinational and family run businesses. He then moved into a large multinational company to complete his accountancy exams and progressed on into the role of Chief Financial Officer.

David has spent over 10 years working in the wholesale and



tech industries for companies from start-ups to global brands. He worked in various departments during this time, from Finance (Management Accounting) to Sales and Client Development.

From there he was involved in setting up a successful retail and wholesale business in the drinks and beverages industry and has recently completed a professional diploma in digital marketing. David is a co-founder of DB Performance, who offer business and financial strategy advice to small and medium sized businesses and this is where he now works full time.

Carolann Courtney

Arts & Health Consultant

Carolann is the coordinator for the Creative Places Tuam Pilot and Creative Places Network Service with Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts. She is responsible for programme delivery and network support within these strands of work. Carolann works on the ground in Tuam



and engages directly with communities, artists and project stakeholders to successfully realise the programme's aims to deliver ambitious, creative and meaningful opportunities for the people of Tuam to collaborate on socially engaged art projects that reflects what

matters to them via a series of residencies, mentorships, professional development workshops and network development opportunities.

Carolann has worked as the arts, health and wellbeing specialist for Kildare County Council from 2013 – 2021. There, she progressed Kildare County Council's specialist work in arts and health to support artists and both acute and community health care settings to create high quality arts practice in response to these contexts. She delivered this through funding opportunities, collaborative engagement with artists, ongoing professional development support, organisational mentorship and the development of local and national partnerships and collaborations.

Carolann holds a BA Fine Art from DIT and a Postgraduate HDip in Community, Arts, Education from NCAD.

Bee Sparks

Festival Director

Bee Sparks (she/her) is the newly appointed Festival Director of Dublin Fringe Festival as of October 2024. Bee first worked with Dublin Fringe Festival as Programming Assistant in 2016, returning as Artistic Projects Manager in 2019, and is thrilled to now lead the festival into its next chapter.



As a programmer and producer, Bee is passionate about supporting emerging artists to create bold, interdisciplinary, and future-focused work. Her practice is rooted in radical kindness, fostering accessible and non-hierarchical environments that amplify unheard voices and value both collective and individual expression.

Before returning to Dublin Fringe, Bee was Programme and Participation Manager at Brighton Dome & Festival, having previously held roles as Programming Coordinator there and at Gilded Balloon, where she worked closely with artists at Edinburgh Fringe. With an MA and BA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia, Bee has worked across cultural organizations in Ireland, the UK, and the US, always striving to expand accessibility and elevate new voices.

James Ring

Automotive Industry Entrepreneur & Chartered Director

James Ring is an automotive industry professional with 15 years of experience. He is the owner of an automotive dealer franchise, specializing in vehicle sales, aftersales, importation and distribution.

James holds degrees in Automotive Technology and Transport Operations & Technology, which support his expertise in the field. Additionally, he has obtained an APA qualification for financial products.

He also holds a Diploma in Business Finance and both a Certificate and Diploma in Company Direction. As a Chartered Director, James adheres to established corporate governance practices, employing strategic planning and effective leadership to drive organizational success. His commitment to developing robust governance frameworks ensures sustainable growth and compliance while fostering a culture of collaboration and accountability within his business.

