

Name Nadia Iftkhar

Role Non-Executive Director/Trustee and Co-Vice Chair

Nadia is the Artistic Director and CEO of Company of Others, a predominantly North East based but also nationally recognised dance theatre organisation and charity. She has overall responsibility for the organisation, develops the creative programme and is heavily involved with both the set-up and delivery of the programmes offered.



Why did you become a non-executive director/trustee?

One of the main reasons I became a director in 2017 is because I'm from the local area. Having grown up in Walker and still living locally, I've developed a strong understanding of what it's like to live in the east end of Newcastle and the barriers and challenges you regularly face when you are trying to lead a healthy, active lifestyle or have dreams that are not considered the 'usual' career choices.

What do you enjoy about being a non-executive director/trustee?

The barriers I encountered whilst growing up are still very much the same today, and I enjoy having the opportunity to contribute and support the local community overcome those obstacles and be aspirational.

How does the trust board work together as a team?

I believe that the board of directors has a strong commitment to the young people and the local community, by ensuring that creating a better future for the young people is at the heart of everything we do. We all bring something different to the team. I have a strong sense of ethics and integrity, which I believe plays a vital role within the trust, helping us to make good decisions that are in the interests of our communities.

What do you feel that you contribute to the trust and its schools?

I have a strong passion for the arts and creative industry, and I am very much aware of the impact that government policy is having on the arts in schools. I feel that within my role at NEAT I can bring my knowledge, experience and connections to the trust to help overcome the barriers that children and young people, schools, and the education sector are facing. I personally had a negative experience at school, dance was not available to me during my school life, and have a solid understanding of the impact and importance that not only dance but all creative arts have on children and young people.

What makes NEAT a great place to be a non-executive director/trustee?

Having been a young person growing up in the local community, I find the genuine level of care the trust provides to their families and community overwhelming and very inspiring to witness. NEAT nurtures children and young people throughout their education to ensure they have different opportunities and empowers them to have high aspirations, whilst always thinking about what more can be done to support their families.

Why would you encourage someone to become a director or governor for NEAT?

Working for such an innovative trust is exciting, and I enjoy being able to see the impact of not only my own work, but the work of the trust as a whole. Now is the time, more than ever to join the trust, and start the long journey to help our communities rebuild from the impact of the pandemic.