

**TRUSTEE (CHAIR SUCCESSOR)**   
**ROLE DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**ABOUT RAMBERT SCHOOL**

Rambert School's mission is to provide world-leading training and education in ballet and contemporary dance, embracing individuality and new ideas whilst being deeply rooted in tradition and technical rigour. Its student body is purposefully small but diverse, with just 45 undergraduates from all over the world accepted each year to benefit from intimate and intensive training. The opportunity for students to create and showcase their own work is a vital part of their offer, with 80 new student choreographic works produced every year. The School's dancers perform at a variety of world class venues each year, including Sadler’s Wells Theatre and the Royal Opera House.

The origins of Rambert School date back to 1920, when iconic Polish dance pioneer of the Ballets Russes, Marie Rambert, founded a dance school in Kensington. The Ballet Rambert flowered from Rambert School and, having remained intrinsically linked through the decades, produced and nurtured some of history's most innovative and celebrated dancers and choreographers. From Frederick Ashton to Antony Tudor and Christopher Bruce, the Rambert name has been synonymous with technical excellence and thrilling creativity. Now approaching its centenary, Rambert School continues to turn out innovative dancers and choreographers who are making waves, such as Arielle Smith and Boston Gallacher.

Rambert School is a member school of the Conservatoire for Dance & Drama (CDD), a higher education programme (HEP) that disseminates higher education (HE) funding to its member Schools, which also include Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Central School of Ballet, London Contemporary Dance School, the National Centre for Circus Arts and Northern Contemporary Dance School. Through its membership of the CDD, the School is able to deliver undergraduate and postgraduate degree level courses which are validated by the University of Kent.

Rambert School delivers a unique dual-focused training model through their Foundation / BA (Hons) degree course with a 50/50 emphasis on ballet and contemporary dance, unlike any other dance school in the UK. It is delighted to be pioneering a brand new MA course in Professional Dance Performance in partnership with Rambert (dance company), creating a new ensemble of outstanding dancers under the name Rambert2. This is the first programme in the world to integrate professional experience at the highest level with postgraduate study.

The School is an outward looking institution and is passionate about engaging audiences far and wide. Every week 140+ participants aged 2.5 years and up attend a programme of classes for Children, Young People and Adults, and an average of 200 international participants attend the Summer Courses and Autumn Intensive each year. The School connects with members of the community and pupils from local schools and colleges through visits, workshops and open rehearsals.

**ROLE SPECIFIATION**

The successful candidate will become a Trustee and will begin the transition into the role of Chair so that they are ready to step up to succeed Richard Cooper as Chair of the Board before he retires in July 2020.

After Amanda Britton’s first four years leading the School, it is now financially sound, outward looking and growing in stature. The new Chair has the opportunity to build on this work to steer the School in a step change to increase its profile nationally and worldwide and to ensure the stature of the School for the next 100 years, through a successful Centenary Campaign.

They will work with the School’s leadership and Board of Trustees to shape strategic development, develop new income streams and build on the successes of the School’s past 100 years. They will go on to lead the Board through a period of development, including a capital project and redevelopment of areas of the Grade II listed site.

They will play a pivotal role in cementing the School’s status in UK Higher Education, as the sector faces major regulatory changes, and will oversee matters relating to the CDD (the Conservatoire for Dance & Drama, an HEP which disseminates HE funding), such as the School’s contribution towards the forthcoming group application for taught-degree awarding powers.

The School endeavours to conduct its business in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. The successful candidate will be expected to reflect these principles in their work and will have the commitment, professional experience, networks and drive to help lead the School forward into its second century.

The School’s Board is collectively responsible for:

* Approving the School's mission, strategic vision, long-term academic and business plans
* Appointing the Principal and delegating to them the authority to make all management decisions
* Ensuring that suitable systems - particularly in relation to finances, risk, HR - and processes are in place to monitor and report on the performance of the School
* Evaluating the effectiveness of the Board itself
* Conducting its business in accordance with best practice and with the School’s obligations to the CDD and the other member Schools, having due regard for the OfS
* Safeguarding the good name and values of the School
* Appointing a secretary to the Board
* Being the employing authority for all staff, the financial and business authority of the School, and the School's legal authority
* Making provision for the welfare of students
* Acting as trustee for gifts etc. in support of the School
* Ensuring that the School's constitution is followed
* Taking such steps as may be necessary or considered by the Board as desirable to ensure the effective management of the School
* Reviewing the health and safety policy and the annual health and safety report

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

The Rambert School has a rich and proud history and is regarded as one of the foremost international dance schools. The next Chair has a unique opportunity to lead the Board as the School enters an exciting period of growth and development extending its national and international reputation further. The successful candidate will be a proven leader with the vision, gravitas and interpersonal skills to lead a varied and impressive Board of Trustees as well as enhancing and developing the School's positive relationships with a range of key stakeholders both internally and externally.

As with most educational institutions the Rambert School is aware of a number of challenges and uncertainties as it looks to the future. With this in mind, it has taken steps towards diversifying its income streams which includes an exciting new venture to develop a graded exam syllabus called the Rambert Grades Project. The next Chair will need to bring the creativity and commercial nous to be a key driver behind ensuring the School continues to adapt to a landscape which is constantly shifting and evolving.

The next Chair will have a deep resonance with the mission and values of the Rambert School as an outward-looking institution as well as a commitment to the benefits of dance, performing arts and the transformative impact of education on young people more broadly. They will need to have an interest in dance and an understanding (ideally but not essentially gained through some experience) of charity governance and education.

**Required for this role**

* **Chair ready** - Chairing a board involves responsibilities beyond the advisory aspects of being a non-executive director. If you have not previously chaired a board, please demonstrate your chair-readiness by listing the different boards, panels or committees that you have sat on, including details of whether you have either directly chaired or else deputised for the existing chair. If you already have significant chair experience, please detail this.

**Desired for this role**

* **Charity governance** - Demonstrate experience of issues relating to Charity governance, preferably having sat on the board of a charitable organisation.
* **Higher education experience** - Previous experience within the higher education sector.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please email us indicating your interest, supplying a cover letter, CV and a completed Trustee Checklist and Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form. Please address your email to [HR@rambertschool.org.uk](mailto:HR@rambertschool.org.uk) and put ‘Chair application’ in the subject line.

Selected applicants will be invited to visit the School in order to meet the current Chair and other Board colleagues, the Principal & Artistic Director and the Finance Director.