

• Candidate Pack

Appointment of Chair



BOY BLUE

July 2026

Reference VCANA

Saxton Bampfylde



CONTENTS

3	Welcome
4	About
5	Boy Blue Today
6	The Team
8	The Role
10	How to Apply

WELCOME

In 2026, Boy Blue has reached the grand old age of 25. As the organisation looks to its future, we are looking for an inspiring, energetic new Chair to join the Boy Blue team.

We are searching for someone who can support the Board and the Directors to realise our ambitious plans, growing with and leading us into the next exciting chapter of Boy Blue's journey.

The new Chair will help us to navigate an ever-changing world, and be able to support the Company in fostering high level relationships across sponsorship, philanthropy and other sectors. Therefore, we are looking for someone who can bring a new set of skills and experience that enables Boy Blue to expand its work, reach and creative partnerships beyond the subsidised arts sector.

We are looking for someone who will embody the Company's value system:

- There is excellence in all that we do
- We stay curious – there's no complacency
- We maintain authenticity in our choices and our voice
- We take seriously our responsibility to the scene/culture, to uphold and develop it
- We believe in the next generation and the importance of inclusivity and legacy

We hope you will be inspired to join us as we continue on our extraordinary journey. It won't be boring.



ABOUT

Early Years

Founded in east London, 2001 by composer Michael 'Mikey J' Asante MBE and choreographer Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy MBE, Boy Blue is the radical force that has defined the potential and power of hip-hop dance theatre across the UK. Shaped by a multi-generational, multicultural community with seven regular companies ranging in age from five years old to over forty, Boy Blue's achievements and accolades are as far-reaching as the community it has fostered and the hip-hop culture it has elevated. Some call Boy Blue a family, others, a nation, with most hip-hop dancers having called it home at some point of their careers.

Boy Blue recognised its superpower early on, young people hungry to make space for themselves and tell their own stories. Its access, opportunities and commitment provided a trajectory that spanned far beyond a passing fad, for hundreds of young people it has been transformative, nurturing their ambition and raw talent into craft that has propelled their careers.

A lot of their work explores social tensions and cultural identity, whilst creating space to celebrate the joy, hopes and dreams of the community it represents, building a legacy and telling rich stories rooted in history and experience.

Growing The Company

In 2006, *Pied Piper: A Hip-Hop Dance Revolution* propelled Boy Blue to uncharted heights in the world of UK theatre. First performed at Theatre Royal Stratford East, *Pied Piper* found a further home at the Barbican, London, and won a Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement

in an Affiliate Theatre, setting the bar for hip-hop dance in theatre. By 2009, Boy Blue had joined the Barbican as an Associate Artist, where the company is still based.

The full company biennial showcase *A Night With Boy Blue* has graced its stage six times since 2013. Dancers from Boy Blue's weekly East London Dance Academy form the cast, and the show has become a firm favourite of audiences and critics alike.

Their first global spotlight came with the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics, where in collaboration with Danny Boyle, Sandy choreographed hundreds of young dancers for the award-winning segment Frankie and June say thanks Tim, before staging the handover of the Olympic torch and the lighting of the Cauldron. *The Five and the Prophecy of Prana* was the next big hit. Co-commissioned by Barbican, London and Derry-Londonderry City of Culture 2013, *The Five* saw the team collaborate with Shaolin Monks to create the movement material.



BOY BLUE TODAY

Going Global

A few years later, they went truly global with the Olivier-nominated *Blak Whyte Gray* (2017) and ever hungry to push their creative boundaries, in 2018, Asante and Sandy co-directed their first film, *R.E.B.E.L*, a Sky Arts / Art 50 commission. *REDD*, 2019, invited audiences to investigate those irreversible moments in life, led by nine dancers on an introspective journey exploring how, after trauma, we may find inner peace.

Amidst the pandemic in 2021, they worked with Good Chance Theatre Company to create a mass dance piece as part of *The Walk With Amal* project, performed in Trafalgar Square, London with over fifty volunteer performers.

2023 saw Boy Blue collaborate with Danny Boyle, designer Es Devlin and writer Sabrina Mahfouz to create *Free Your Mind*, a reimagining of the classic sci-fi film *The Matrix*, that opened the new cultural space in Manchester – Aviva Studios, home of Factory International.

In 2024 / 2025 Boy Blue were the Guest Artistic Directors of the National Youth Dance Company working with over 30 young people from throughout the country to create *Gravity*. *Gravity* toured in the summer of 2025 and was the first NYDC piece to travel internationally.

In 2024 the company premiered *Cycles* at the Barbican Theatre and subsequently toured to Manchester, Birmingham, New York, and The Hague. A live music version at London's Roundhouse was the launch for Boy Blue's 25th birthday celebrations in April 2026. *Cycles* continues to tour internationally throughout 2026 and 2027.

Boy Blue won the inaugural Sky Arts Award for Dance for body of work in 2024.

Today

With a company ethos befitting of the founders' roots, education has been key to its journey and remains a long-term commitment. *Emancipation of Expressionism* is a set work of the AQA GCSE Dance syllabus – the first hip-hop dance theatre piece to be included – and was filmed in 2017 by Director Danny Boyle.

Boy Blue's East London Training Academy is a highly respected programme and the organisation's talent pipeline. It runs for 40 Sundays of the year, with hundreds of dancers a week travelling from all over London and the likes of Manchester, Nottingham, Portsmouth and more to hone their craft.

Boy Blue celebrates its 25th birthday throughout 2026 and 2027 with a programme of events across London with upcoming events at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, Sadler's Wells East, Theatre Royal Stratford East and a return to the Barbican in February 2027 with the next iteration of *A Night With Boy Blue*.

THE TEAM



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Current Trustees

Remi Connolly-Taylor, Nadine Deschamps, Jon Foster, Anthony Gray, Kieran Jay, Gurd Lidder (Chair), Andrea Sasu, Sarah Wall and Anja Zoll-Khan

Co-Artistic Directors: Michael 'Mikey J' Asante MBE and Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy MBE

Executive Director: Jo Stendall

Head of Creative Programmes: Kathleen Murphy

Creative Programmes Manager: Bruno Perrier

Rehearsal Director & Commercial Manager: Nathaniel Impraim-Jones

Project Coordinator: Ella Ross

Associate Tour Booker: Angie Smith

Marketing Associate: Natasha Stone for Halation Studio

Press Representation: Binita Walia and HBL at The Space inBetween

Production Manager: Andy Downie

Funding

Funded by Arts Council, England as part of the National Portfolio. Annual grant – £430,688.





“More than a showcase, this was a statement. Boy Blue isn’t just performing hip-hop. They’re preserving it, pushing it forward and building a community around it that keeps it real.”



THE ROLE

Job Role

The Chair will lead the Board of Directors in realising Boy Blue's future ambitions. They will work closely with the Executive to challenge and push their thinking. They will be an ambassador and spokesperson for Boy Blue, inspired by the work and excited for the Company's future.

Role and Responsibilities of the Chair

- Champion diversity and inclusion in all its forms.
- Play an active role in driving Boy Blue's future direction, leading the process to shape the organisation's next five-year plan.
- Establish effective working relationships with the Board, Artistic Directors and Executive Director.
- Work with Trustees to consider and refresh the right balance of skills, knowledge, and experience present on the Board.
- Engage in regular meetings with the Executive team, as appropriate, to include annual appraisals.
- Attend Boy Blue performances and events.
- Help to elevate the Boy Blue Brand.
- Help Boy Blue to foster new strategic partnerships to enable future sustainability and growth.
- Be supportive of Boy Blue's continuing efforts to develop its policies, ensuring the organisation is fit for purpose.

Person Specification

- A commitment to the Boy Blue values.
- Strong leadership skills – able to listen to, inspire and support the Leadership team and effectively engage Trustees.
- The ability to lead the Board and galvanize its members to achieve Boy Blue's goals.
- A good understanding of Boards and their function.
- The ability to network and make the case for Boy Blue's work across sectors.
- A deep understanding of the principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Demonstrated history of creative and entrepreneurial thinking.
- Experience of growing relationships and profile of a Company.

Terms of Employment

- The Chair will serve a three-year term in the first instance and be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term.
- Appointments to the Boy Blue Board are voluntary and unremunerated, but reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed where appropriate.
- A minimum of four Board meetings are held per year. Meetings are usually held in person, in London.
- The Board of Trustees delegates certain responsibilities to sub-committees. Trustees may be expected to serve on one of these committees during their period of service.



HOW TO APPLY



Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Boy Blue on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at **roles.saxbam.com** using code **VCANA**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Friday 21 August**.

Please provide a cover letter of no more than two pages, detailing the below:

- Why this opportunity excites you and what you hope to gain from the role.
- Details of the qualities and experiences you would bring and how this aligns with the person specification.
- Please detail your earliest available start date and two referees; only to be contacted after seeking permission.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

- **[Read our guide to writing cover letters](#)**

