

Mimbre

Trustee Information Pack



January 2025

Thank you so much for your interest in joining the Mimbre Board of Trustees!

This pack should contain most of the information you need to make an application. If you have any further questions, or would just like a chat about whether Mimbre is right for you, please feel free to contact Lissy Lovett on lissy@mimbre.co.uk, 020 7613 1068 or 07931353531.

About the role of Trustee

Mimbre's Board of Trustees provide oversight and strategic direction to the organisation. The number of Trustees at any one time varies between five and nine people, and we always seek to have a mix of different kinds of people to get different views. Additionally:

- Mimbre's Board of Trustees are also its Directors under company law and have ultimate responsibility for the direction and governance of the organisation, although day-to-day management is delegated to the Artistic and Executive Directors.
- Trustees are appointed for a term of three years, and can be reappointed just once to a maximum of six years.
- Mimbre's Trustees are volunteers and typically do not receive payment for their time, although travel and accommodation expenses for Board meetings will be reimbursed. However, if not receiving payment for your time is a barrier to you becoming a Trustee, let Lissy know as it is possible to make exceptions¹.
- All Trustees must make a commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of the young people that Mimbre work with.
- We ask each board member to contribute financially during the year to the charity – this can be as little as £1, but means that we can say in our annual report that everyone contributes.
- We offer training and a buddy system to make sure that new Trustees feel supported.

The Board meets four times a year in east or central London and over Zoom, and in addition the Trustees are asked to offer some specific advice, networking or help in their areas of expertise outside of these meetings. Once a year, to coincide with a board meeting, the board also attend a half day 'away day' to discuss Mimbre's strategy in more depth. Mimbre also encourages Board members to attend local performances and events.

A subset of board members including the Chair and Treasurer belong to a finance subcommittee. This group meets a week before each meeting to discuss the quarterly Management Accounts and any other financial matters. There is also a fundraising/income generation subcommittee that provides additional advice and meets from time to time. Joining either subcommittee is completely optional.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trustee-expenses-and-payments-cc11/trustee-expenses-and-payments#paying-for-trusteeship>

There's a lot more information about the general role of Trustees here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

Again, if you'd like to speak to Lissy further about the responsibilities, her contact details are at the top of this page and in the 'how to apply' section.

What we're looking for

We'd love to speak to anyone with an interest in the arts and/or supporting young people, who's willing to give up some of their time to support our organisation. We're looking for trustworthy, positive, helpful people who are able to be critical when necessary but who will also help us improve. You don't need to have any experience of being on a Board.

At the moment, to make sure our Board covers a range of skills, we're interested in new Trustees with experience in **Outdoor Arts, circus, and producing & touring**. But also, as our board members rotate regularly, we are continually looking for new people, so if you have **other skills and experience** that you'd like to contribute to our company we'd love to hear from you now as well.

Mimbre strongly believes in diversity and to make our board more representative we would really like to encourage applications from people who identify as **disabled**, people from the **global majority** (black, Asian or other minority ethnic backgrounds) and people who are **working class**.

About Mimbre

Founded in 1999, Mimbre are a female-led producing company, creating delicate, breathtaking and highly-skilled acrobatic theatre for audiences in outdoor and unusual settings, touring nationally and internationally, with a strong digital presence. We collaborate across the Creative Industries, as consultants and creators. We run a vibrant local youth programme and an Artist Development Programme for physical performers.

We use circus and movement innovatively as a physical language to illuminate human connections. We pull down barriers to reach beyond social, financial, and cultural boundaries and facilitate everyone's place within the arts. In all our work we aim to challenge gender stereotypes and promote a positive, diverse, and inclusive image of cis and trans women as well as non-binary people.

We make at least two productions each year, including at least one tour, typically reaching around 20,000 live audiences from a wide range of backgrounds. In the last five years, our digital reach has been 3.5m. Partners include Dior, the RSC, The Lowry, National Centre for Circus Arts, Garsington Opera, Greenwich + Docklands International Festival and Stockton International Riverside Festival.

Our youth programme, Mimbre Youth, is rooted in the communities of our local borough of Hackney. It includes classes, community days, performance projects and progress routes. It is a place where young people can express themselves creatively, gain confidence and work as a team. Mimbre Youth focuses on access, inclusion and excellence, and pulls down barriers to enable every child to thrive, regardless of means or abilities.

Our Artist Development Programme advances circus and leadership through professional development initiatives, artistic research and knowledge sharing. We focus on mid-career performers, women, non-binary artists and those from under-represented backgrounds.

A collaborative approach permeates all aspects of our work, from our company structure to our relationship with our performers, audiences and participants. Working with a wide variety of artists, technical innovators and educators, across art forms and borders, allows us to continuously enhance our artistic vocabulary and create bold, challenging and highly skilled work.

If you'd like to see a bit of our work, there are some lovely videos on [Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#). We recommend watching:

- The Weight(less) trailer: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1018234848>
- Eye Ear You, our collaboration with designer Shona Heath: <https://vimeo.com/781495865>
- Highlights of our Dior show: <https://vimeo.com/313780586>
- Our recent 'Acrolab': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQ-mrebrDkM>
- Our most recent showreel: <https://vimeo.com/757151597>
- The Look Mum, No Hands! trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTA924OJo_c

Governance, staffing and finance

Organisational setup

Mimbre is a company limited by guarantee (number 06550042) and a registered charity (1153310).

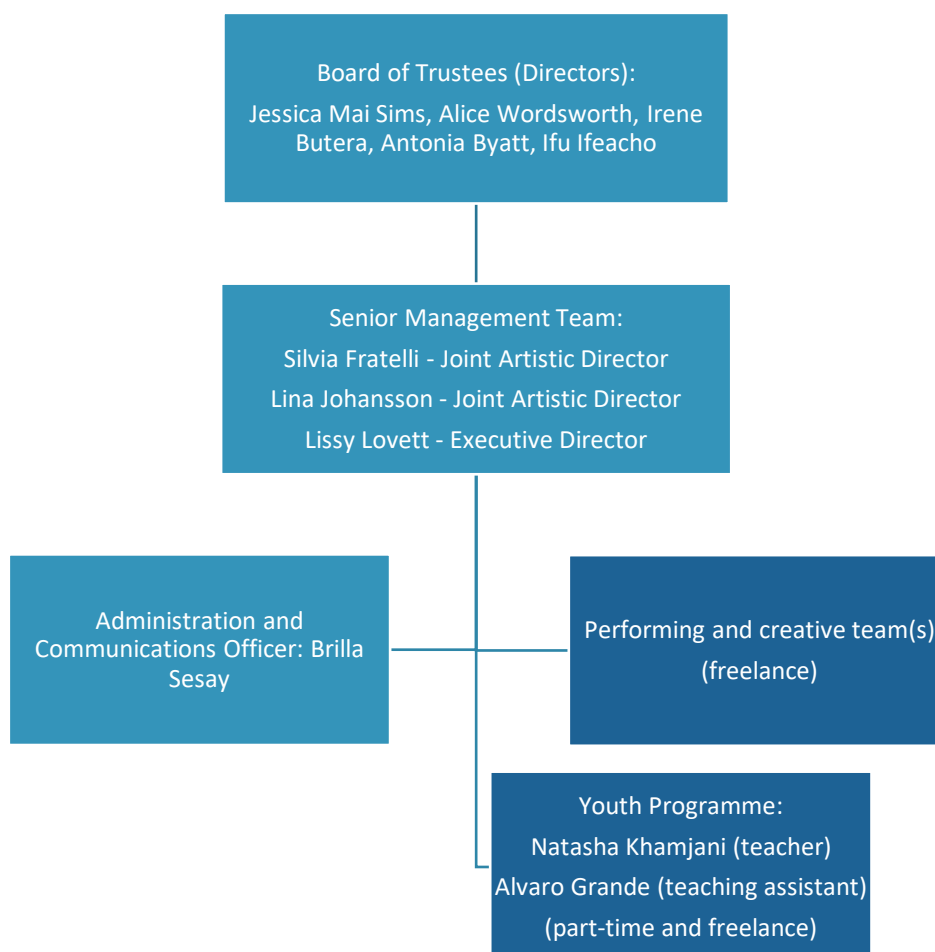
Our charitable aims are: “to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of drama.”

Our main funder is Arts Council England, and we also receive income from Hackney Council, Trusts and Foundations, fees for our services and donations.

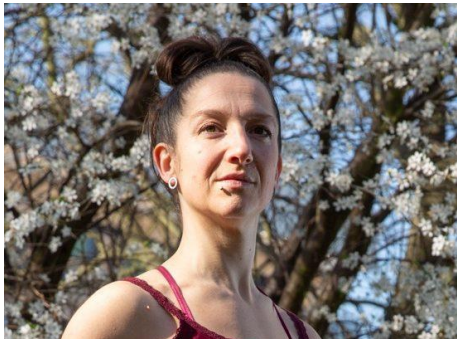
Our turnover is about £250,000 each year.

If you’d like to see our 2023 – 2026 Business Plan, get in touch with Lissy (contact details above)

Organisational chart



Staff team



Silvia Fratelli

Silvia is both an artistic director and performer within Mimbre. She leads on Mimbre's acrobatic training and well-being programme and investigations, developing Mimbre's team of core acrobatic performers and manages the company's international bookings and tour logistics.

Silvia has been standing on her hands for over 25 years and has performed shows all over the world. She speaks Italian, English, Spanish and French.



Lina Johansson

As Joint Artistic Director of Mimbre, Lina leads on the company's vision and artistic programme, including Mimbre's programme for local young people. Lina also works on collaborations and external projects with other theatre companies, venues and creatives, as director, specialist choreographer and movement director.

Lina is Swedish and lives in Stoke Newington with one partner, two daughters and a cat.



Lissy Lovett

As Executive Director, Lissy leads on the financial, strategic and operational areas of the company.

Lissy lives alone in Shoreditch and spends a lot of quality time in pubs, theatres and football grounds.



Brilla Sesay

Meet Brilla, our dedicated Communications and Administration Officer. With a talent for crafting engaging content across web, social media, and email marketing, Brilla is a seasoned wordsmith and a team player. Armed with an MSc in Media & Communications and a BA in Creative Writing, she is our go-to expert for all things communication and administration

Current board

If successful, you will join our enthusiastic Board of experts within the fields of theatre, dance, literature, research, fundraising and business.

Jessica Mai Sims

Co-chair

Jessica has over fifteen years' experience of working in research in the public, academic and voluntary sectors. Currently she is employed by University College London where she manages a national biomedical infrastructure project on biobanking. There she is also involved in initiatives to improve gender and race equality within the university's policies and practices.

Alice Wordsworth

Co-chair

Alice is a freelance theatre director. She is currently the Associate Director on Rob Ickes *Oedipus* in the West End and Thomas Ostermeier's *The Seagull* that will be coming to the Barbican. Most recently she has been Assistant Director to Ivo Van Hove on *Opening Night* and *A Little Life* and Simon Godwin's Associate on *Macbeth*, that toured internationally to warehouses. She is Resident Director for Amsterdam on Stage, working in translation on immersive productions and Associate Director of Bric a Brac, international Lecoq trained devising company.

Irene

Irene is a theatre fundraising professional, currently holding the position of Head of Fundraising at Fuel. She is Italian and British, originally from Palermo in Sicily.

Before joining Fuel in 2020, she worked at Theatre Peckham as their Development Officer, and completed a fundraising work placement at the London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT). Irene also has a background in PR, holding various positions in organisations such as The Cornershop PR, the Sony World Photography awards, and the European University Institute (Florence, Italy).

Ifu

Ifunanya is a business transformation consultant, working in technology for public service clients. She is also a champion of inclusion and social mobility initiatives to increase representation and accessibility for others like herself. Outside of work she loves travelling, is an amateur chandler and an enthusiastic gin connoisseur.

Antonia

Antonia is CEO of First Story. She has over 30 years' experience in the cultural sector, from leading policy for the literature sector at Arts Council England, to heading arts organisations such as English PEN and the Cheltenham Literature Festival. Creating new ways people enjoy reading and writing is at the heart of all her work, with a focus on young people. She's also an experienced trustee, currently of the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education.

How to apply

To apply please send a CV and a short covering letter, or a video recording, explaining how you could support Mimbre to Executive Director, Lissy Lovett, on info@mimbre.co.uk. If you'd like to discuss the role first, then feel free to contact Lissy either by email or on 020 7613 1068 or 07931 353531. The deadline is **10am, Monday 24th March 2025**, but we'd be happy to hear from you before then too.

As part of the application process we'll invite you to have coffee with one of our senior management team, and also to our next Board meeting as an observer.

We'd be grateful if you could also fill in a completely anonymous equal opportunities form at this link: [Mimbre Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form \(google.com\)](#).

If there are any changes we need to make to the application or our working practices to make them accessible to you we'd be glad to do so, please just let us know what you need.

We're really looking forward to receiving your application!