

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR BLOOMSBURY FESTIVAL

Contract and Role Description

Initial Contract: Proposed mid-June to mid- December 2026 with a view to continuing role on an ongoing basis

Initial Fee: £21,000 (part time) – based on £60,000 FTE rate per annum averaging 3 days per week. Some evening and weekend work required.

Until the end of the October Festival the new Director will work alongside the outgoing Director to deliver the 2026 Festival, and then take full control of the organisation.

Base: Senate House, Bloomsbury, London WC1E 7HU

Time commitment:

Part-time (averaging 3 days per week) and full-time in the lead up and during the October 2026 festival.

2026 Festival runs 1–31 October 2026 (Weds-Sun)

To Apply:

Send CV + supporting statement

Email applications to director@bloombsburyfestival.org.uk (with **Festival Director Application and your name** in subject line)

Deadline: Monday 13 April 09:00

Start Date: Mid-June 2026 with some flexibility

Reporting to: Board of Trustees

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR ROLE DETAILS

Bloomsbury Festival is seeking

This is a creative leadership role that combines:

- Artistic Vision and management
- Business and charity management
- Fundraising and partnerships

THE OPPORTUNITY

Bloomsbury Festival is seeking an enterprising Festival Director to work alongside the current Director in 2026, with a clear pathway to taking full leadership of the organisation.

The new Festival Director will overlap with the current Director to deliver the 2026 festival, and plan, develop and deliver future festivals, with a view to an ongoing role leading the festival.

This is a dual-focus leadership role; you will shape the artistic vision of future festivals and run the organisation as a sustainable business and charity.

You will be responsible for:

- Operational delivery of the 2026 festival
- Leading fundraising, creative planning and partnership development for future festivals
- Managing the charity and company operations taking responsibility for the

The programme for 2026 will already be in place when you begin in June. Your role is to work with the current Director to successfully deliver the 2026 festival, and the overlap is to enable you to build future income and partnerships.

You will take an lead on operational lead from September 2026 and through the festival, and plan for future annual or biennial festivals as funding allows.

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

To provide creative flair and inspirational leadership that ensures Bloomsbury Festival is:

- Artistically ambitious
- Financially secure
- Professionally managed
- Valued by partners, audiences, funders and communities

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Creative & Cultural Leadership

- Lead the operational delivery of Bloomsbury Festival 2026
- Curate and develop diverse multi-artform festivals and events for 2027 and beyond
- Support emerging artists and creative talent
- Develop community-facing projects and participation
- Oversee production planning with the support of the Festival Manager
- Work with the Festival Marketing team to reach audiences
- Ensure high quality audience experience and partner relationships

2. Business, Fundraising & Organisational Leadership

This role requires strong business and charity management skills.

You will:

- Lead all fundraising: grants, sponsorship, partnerships and earned income
- Manage budgets, contracts, reporting and cashflow
- Oversee governance, compliance and financial management
- Lead evaluation, reporting and impact measurement
- Develop long-term business and fundraising strategy
- Work closely with the Board of Trustees
- Ensure the organisation operates professionally and sustainably

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Essential Experience

- Senior Multi-Arts Creative Producer or Festival Director
- CEO, Director or senior manager of a charity or cultural organisation
- Proven track record of fundraising and partnership development
- Strong financial, operational and organisational leadership
- Experience managing small teams and freelancers
- Ability to balance creativity with business reality

Key Skills & Attributes

- Creative & entrepreneurial
- Strategic, collaborative and partnership-driven
- Confident fundraiser and relationship builder
- Strong financial and project management
- Community minded and supportive of emerging creatives

Desirable Knowledge

- Leader of multi-venue festivals and partnerships
- Outdoor arts, theatre, performance, visual arts, literature
- Digital platforms, marketing and PR
- Talent development and community programmes

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Office-based at Senate House, Bloomsbury

No London travel expenses

No overtime payments (time expectations built into fee)

For further information about the festival please visit

<https://bloomsburyfestival.org.uk/>

Past newsletters and brochures give further information about the festival

<https://bloomsburyfestival.org.uk/newsletters/>
<https://bloomsburyfestival.org.uk/past-festivals/>

First interviews online: Friday 24 April

Second interviews: 6 & 7 May

Applicants selected for interview will be offered the optional opportunity to discuss the role with the current Director prior to the first interview.

To Apply: send CV + supporting statement addressed to Bloomsbury Festival

Deadline: Monday 13 April 09:00

Email applications to director@bloomsburyfestival.org.uk (with Festival Director application in subject line)

Start Date: Mid-June 2026 with some flexibility