

Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors

Airsa: Professional Development for New Canadians in the Arts seeks nominations to the board of Directors in support of our mission to enhance the professional lives of New Canadian artists, with mentorship from former newcomers with lived experience and success in the arts and creative sectors.

Airsa is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing New Canadians with professional development in the arts and creative sectors. Since 2015, Airsa's programming has provided training to newcomers from all artistic disciplines and traditions through peer mentorship, cross-sector networking, access to studio space and public events. Airsa means 'Rainbow' in the ancient Persian Language, reflecting the belief that cultural pluralism and a diversity of perspectives enriches our quality of life.

Our beliefs:

- Newcomer participation-provides added value to the Canadian arts sector
- Exchange between diverse communities promotes multicultural acceptance and enriches educational opportunities
- Professional development is a creative endeavour and should respect the core values of an artist's identity.

Our objectives:

- To provide training programs and access to facilities which are welcoming to all New Canadians, so that they may continue their practice and enter the workforce as artists, creatives, and arts administrators.
- To develop community ties amongst New Canadian artists
- To foster a sense of belonging and social well-being through exchange between New Canadian artists, patrons of the arts, and the public.

Board of Directors Key Role:

The Board of Directors provides strategic leadership, governance, establishes policy, oversees the operations and financial performance of Airsa and assesses the Board's own effectiveness. Our Board Members will support the programming of Airsa through meetings with the Executive Director and key stakeholders, and foster new partnerships with arts organizations and funders.

New members will be supported and mentored by the existing Board of Directors to help ease the transition into this leadership role. Participation on a non-profit Board is voluntary and there is no remuneration for service. See below for detailed information on the roles and responsibilities for Board members.

Expected Commitment from Board Members:

- Term begins March 2019 and have the ability to serve for a minimum of one (1) year and eligible for re-election in March 2020.
- Attend 4 board meetings that take place each year.
- Commit the time and resources to serve on the Board and one board committee, and represent Airsa as requested at events and stakeholder meetings. Specifically, expect to meet one-on-one with the Executive Director and Chair of the Board of Directors at least 2 times per year regarding the financial and sector development of the organization, make introductions from your professional network where appropriate, and contribute enthusiastically in workshops and symposia with Airsa participants.

The Board is particularly interested in candidates with the following knowledge, expertise, and qualifications who either live or work in the City of Toronto:

- Fundraising, Development & Sponsorship expertise (MBA, CFRE or commensurate experience)
- Legal expertise (JD, LL.M, SJD or commensurate experience)
- Financial expertise (CPA or commensurate experience)

Qualifications:

- Commitment to Airsa's Mission and Vision and has an appreciation for the arts
- Personal commitment to devote the time necessary to perform the responsibilities of a Board member
- Strong communication and collaborative skills
- Previous non-profit board experience is an asset

To apply:

Please submit a cover letter and your résumé / CV by February 15th, 2019 to aitak@airsa.org with the subject heading "Call to the Board of Directors [FIRST and LAST NAME]"

All applicants must complete a cover letter and résumé / CV to be considered for the position.

All cover letters and résumé / CV's will be reviewed by the Committee to be selected for an interview.

Nominations Committee will then make recommendations for each open board position to the Board. The Board will meet and review the recommendations and then motion for selection.

We thank all applicants in advance, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

For more information about the role and nomination process – please contact Aitak Sorahitalab (Executive Director) at aitak@airsa.org and Ely Lyonblum (Chair of the Board of Directors) at ely.lyonblum@gmail.com