



Board Recruitment Letter

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Rising Youth Theatre is a growing organization founded in 2011. As we seek to grow our board of directors through authentic relationship building, we are looking for leadership that reflects our mission and values and is truly representative of our community. We hope you are willing to submit an application and help shape what Rising Youth Theatre and the larger youth-driven arts and justice landscape in Arizona looks like today and into the future.

About Rising Youth Theatre:

Rising Youth Theatre is a youth leadership organization based in Phoenix, AZ with partnerships and connections across the state as well as nationally and internationally. Rising Youth Theatre uses theatre and performing arts to position young people in advocacy spaces. The company works with youth and professional adult artists to create multigenerational, socially relevant, original plays and processes, operating on a power-sharing, horizontal leadership model. The diverse young people in our ensemble are central to our decision-making process and organizational structure. Rising Youth Theatre believes that change happens when we listen to young people. There are very few spaces in our state where young people are positioned as leaders, working alongside adults to make a difference. Through artmaking, storytelling, and embodied research around issues that matter in our community, we are able to create opportunities for young people to advocate for themselves and their peers.

Mission

To imagine and build the world we want to live in through youth-driven, multigenerational collaboration and justice-centered artistic process and performance that generates reflection, connection and action.

Core Values

We Believe...

- In the radical potential of youth to lead. Young people are already capable of being decision makers and agents of change.
- When young people are centered, the impact on our community is transformative.
- That art and the artistic process should be riveting, relevant, and accessible for all people to participate in as creators, audiences, and community members.
- In what is possible when people from different races, genders, ages, sexual orientations, classes, abilities, religions, cultural contexts and other identities come together in an artistic experience.
- Young people telling their own stories is powerful. We all deserve a platform for our stories to be seen, heard and respected.
- Power must be shared between adults and youth. We all have things to learn from each other, and wisdom to offer each other.
- We must leverage our power and resources in humanizing and liberatory practices across all our work. We know that our work must humanize, otherwise it will harm.
- We must reject colonial systems that perpetuate white supremacy, anti-black racism, cis-hetero-patriarchy, ableism, religious persecution, classism, homophobia, and all other



forms of hate and violence towards the identities represented among our diverse community.

- That collaboration begins with the unique and beautiful assets that each person inherently brings into the room.
- That making and sharing art and artistic process holds space for us to envision, imagine, rehearse, and build the worlds we want to live in.

Board Recruitment Priorities:

- Young people
- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
- LGBTQIA people
- People connected to Arizona communities where Rising Youth is collaborating that are not Phoenix (Tempe, Glendale, Douglas, Flagstaff)
- Areas of expertise in:
 - Accounting
 - Education
 - Local Arizona businesses
 - Community organizing
 - Touring and producing performance
 - Legal
 - Communications and messaging
 - Mental health and social work

Board Member Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with other Board members to share knowledge, values, and ideas with respect for all viewpoints.
- Maintain focus on mission and vision.
- Ensure resources, in order to carry out vision.
- Possess a desire to engage in leadership within the Boards by chairing committees.
- Participate in public advocacy activities which support the work of Rising Youth Theatre.
- Make a personally significant donation annually, in any amount you are personally comfortable with.
- Seek out opportunities to represent Rising Youth Theatre within professional, geographic and other communities of which the Board member is a part.
- Prepare for and actively engage in regularly scheduled Board meetings.
- Participate as a member of one or more Board committees.

Rising Youth Theatre does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, physical characteristics, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, gender identity or expression. We welcome you to consider joining our board of directors. Please do not hesitate to share this information with a friend or colleague who you feel might be interested in Board service.