

Letter from the Chair of thrive

Thank you for showing an interest in becoming part of the board of Thrive Audience Development.

I thought it might be useful to hear from me, as the current Chair, about why I got involved and what I and my fellow Board members have got from this opportunity.

Thrive is in many ways a unique organisation in NI, in that it is focused on audiences for the arts, heritage and cultural sectors. We are a charity but also have an increasing and ambitious focus on increasing our sustainability through a range of income generation and business development opportunities.

To do this we've spent the last three years re-defining our purpose and embarking on an exciting and challenging change process. The management of change is a key aspect of the Board's work and will continue to be so given the ever-changing nature of life and work in NI.

Although at times the Board has been challenged to deliver effective change it has been through those challenges that we've all learned a lot. From interpersonal skills to expanding my governance knowledge, from knowing more about the value of our vibrant cultural sector to being part of wider and enriching networks, I may have put a lot into my role as Chair but that has been more than equalled by what I've got out of it. I would encourage anyone either with board experience or who is looking to develop more governance experience to get involved as you will have excellent support from fellow board members and the staff team.

The board has a diverse range of skills and personalities but we are all working towards a shared purpose. We work very well with the CEO and staff team and offer support but also act as a critical friend to ensure the strategic direction keeps progressing and the legal and financial responsibilities are maintained.

I am leaving the board after three productive years as my tenure is up but I leave behind a progressive board and staff team who will, possibly with your help, take thrive to the next level of impact.

I look forward to reading your application and if you are applying for the role of Chair I will be available to answer questions and support the induction process for the new Chair.

Best wishes,

John Colgan

Chair

