



## Chairperson of the Board

### MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to nurture and support independent Australian choreographers to push the boundaries of existing contemporary practice. Critical Path supports choreographers to explore new ways of working, develop new collaborations and engage in debate and critical appreciation of dance.

- We value artistic integrity, courage and innovation in arts practice and the profound creative potential of risk-taking.
- We believe encouraging and respecting a diversity of people and practice is vital to the future of dance and choreography.
- We emphasise our role as a 'centre': a place where the independent dance sector can congregate, share, discover, cross-fertilise, debate and critique.
- We strive to have an impact on the local, national and international contemporary art scene.

Critical Path was established in 2005 to fill a recognised gap in the independent dance sector in NSW – providing a 'critical' pathway through which professional dance-makers could innovate their choreographic practice. Critical Path stands proud as a unique and significant contributor to the development of contemporary choreography in Australia.

A not-for-profit with DGR status, we work across NSW and with national and international partners from our home at the Drill; a large workspace with a semi-sprung floor, situated on the shores of Rushcutters Bay in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs.

We are an incubator for the creation of future work. Our programs are diverse in form and content to inspire the broadest creative curiosity – the process of choreographic enquiry and the choreographer is at the forefront of all we do.

The calibre and creative output of our alumni is a testament to our ongoing influence and success.

Critical Path recognises that contemporary dance practice is not a Western modern or neo-classical form, it encompasses the work of all artists who use dance and choreographic practices to engage with contemporary ideas and concerns.

Every inch of the country has a story. Story is not a narrative, it is the exchange of understanding and knowledge, connected to and of the land, it is the 'telling' of peoples and making of place together. Story is embodied (in diverse bodies) and finds a voice in different languages, outside of language, in silence and in breath.

Critical Path respectfully acknowledges the Gadigal; the traditional custodians of the land where the organisation is based. We acknowledge Australia's First Peoples and their elders past and present.

### Position

As a partner to the chief executive officer (CEO) and other board members, the Board Chair will provide leadership to Critical Path as it moves towards its twentieth anniversary as organization and transitions into a sustainable national entity.

2023 and 2024 are opportunities to extend multi-year State and attain new federal funding and to secure an appropriate 'home' base for the organisation in NSW.

The Board Chair will support and sustain the work of Critical Path and provide governance leadership and strategic fundraising support.

## Responsibilities

### Leadership, governance, and oversight

- Being a trusted advisor to the CEO as they develop and implement Critical Path's strategic plan
- Developing and managing relationships and communicating with funders, partners, and other stakeholders
- As a board member, approving Critical Path's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Reviewing outcomes and metrics created by Critical Path for evaluating its impact, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics
- Coordinating an annual performance evaluation of the CEO
- Assisting the CEO and other Committee members in recruiting to the board
- Team recruitment as required
- Periodically consulting with board members on their roles and helping them assess their performance
- Planning, presiding over, and facilitating board and committee meetings; partnering with the CEO to ensure that board resolutions are carried out
- Acting as an ambassador for the organization
- Ensuring Critical Path's commitment to a diverse board and staff that reflects the communities Critical Path serves

### Fundraising

- Assisting the CEO to generate annual revenue and fostering Critical Path's overall financial health
- Ensuring that 100 percent of Critical Path's board members make an annual contribution that is commensurate with their capacity
- Identifying, qualifying, cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding major individual donors, corporate, and/or foundation gifts

### Board terms

Service on Critical Path's board of directors is without remuneration, except for administrative support, travel, and accommodation costs in relation to board members' duties.

Critical Path's Board Chair (and board members) will serve a three-year term to be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term. Board meetings will be held quarterly, and committee meetings will be held in coordination with full board meetings.

## Qualifications

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about the success of Critical Path's beneficiaries.

The selected Board Chair will have achieved leadership stature in business, government, philanthropy, or the not-for-profit sector. Their accomplishments will allow them to attract other well-qualified, high-performing board members. Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

- Extensive professional experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, or the not-for-profit sector
- Demonstrated success as a not-for-profit board member or board chair
- A commitment to and understanding of Critical Path's beneficiaries and mission preferably based on experience\*
- Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals
- Excellent written and oral communication skills coupled with natural affinity for public speaking
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for improving the lives of Critical Path's beneficiaries

## Desirable

- Track record of building credibility in the funding community that has resulted in securing grants and/or major gifts to a not-for-profit
- \*Experience of working with the dance, choreographic or contemporary arts sector in some capacity

To apply; send your **expression of interest and your CV** to Claire Hicks, Critical Path's Director (artistic director & CEO) at [director@criticalpath.org.au](mailto:director@criticalpath.org.au)

Or email [director@criticalpath.org.au](mailto:director@criticalpath.org.au) for further queries and questions or to talk about the role.