

**Trustees standing for Election at the 2025 AGM**

**Laura Bern**

The arts have always been a passion of Laura’s. After studying Performing Arts, she spent ten years touring nationally and internationally - from village halls to festivals and theatres. Alongside this, she gained experience supporting social enterprises, small businesses and community arts projects, which deepened her commitment to the role the arts play in building stronger, more inclusive communities.

Since then, her career has taken me from producing small-scale local arts festivals to leading marketing campaigns for West End productions, and now to her role as Head of Audiences at Chichester Festival Theatre. In this role she oversees audience development, marketing the work on CFT stages, development (memberships and fundraising), catering and the work in CFT’s new third space.

She is passionate about breaking down barriers and broadening who the arts are for whilst also ensuring they remain creatively ambitious, representative and relevant to audiences. She’d love to bring this experience and energy to support the work of The Spring in the work they create.

**Hannah Cox**

Hannah is the Executive Director and Joint CEO of Jacksons Lane, an Arts Centres based in Haringey, North London. She is an experienced arts leader with a long career within the participatory arts sector and she is passionate about using arts and culture as a tool to inspire and build inclusive and creative communities.  Previously working for National Theatre and Southbank Centre she has innovated and led a wide range of participation and training programmes for young people, schools and community groups across London and nationally. Hannah grew up in Havant and spent much of her childhood and teenage years at the Spring attending shows and being part of Dynamo Youth Theatre.

**Brendan McCarthy**

Brendan has been a regular visitor to The Spring for over a decade, being a particular fan of live theatre. He brings expertise from his former trustee experience for a local Citizens Advice Bureau, where he specialised in research & campaigns, media liaison and PR and worked closely with local politicians to promote and gain continued funding for the organisation. He also brings experience from his day job, where he is a senior manager in a local University Students Union, holding strategic responsibility for student activities, welfare support, data and insights and volunteer training and development. He also has responsibility for risk management (both health & safety and strategic risk) and holds oversight over GDPR, EDI policies and data protection. He provides governance expertise and support to the Students Union Board of Trustees, all of which gives him a broad church of understanding and perspectives that will be helpful to the board and the future of The Spring. He is looking forward to working with fellow trustees and supporting the staff and volunteers to build on the Springs strategy and help the venue to continue to thrive in the coming years.

**Tracey Stakes**

Having qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse,  Tracey worked in the voluntary sector for over 30 years, initially volunteering as a lecturer and consultant with Voluntary Service Overseas in Tanzania. On her return she worked for a charitable housing association before joining Belong, a large charitable care provider in the North West, as Finance Director and Company Secretary then Chief Executive, including a period as Chair of the National Care Forum’s Finance Forum.  Since retiring,  Tracey now act as Trustee and Treasurer for two other local charities and as an independent examiner for an arts organisation.   Over this time, she has gained experience in governance, risk and charity financial management with experience of diverse funding streams, including hospitality and other trading income, grant funding (including a £2m Heritage Lottery Fund grant) and donations.  In her spare time she is a keen theatre goer.