



## **ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Who We Are**

At a time when conflict and crisis have increased in intensity and scale around the globe, there is a need for innovative solutions to help people heal and rebuild their lives. Investing in the psychosocial wellbeing of those who have experienced conflict is a crucial component of restoring societies, yet it is often overlooked. Colors of Connection is a non-profit organization pioneering the innovative work of arts-based psychosocial programming for youth and communities in areas affected by conflict.

**MISSION: We engage conflict-affected youth and communities worldwide in collaborative art-making to nurture hope, cultivate well-being, and promote self-determination.**

**VISION: We envision a peaceful world in which everyone's capabilities are awakened through creative engagement and put into action to benefit themselves, their communities, and others.**

To date we have successfully completed seven projects located in refugee camps and post-war areas in Sub-Saharan Africa directly benefiting 205 young people, and reaching an estimated 100,000 residents through a public mural-making process.

*Colors of Connection is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization with a Board of Directors who are responsible for the legal and fiduciary status of the organization. For more information on the organization please visit Colors of Connection at [colorsofconnection.org](http://colorsofconnection.org).*

### **Position Description**

The Board supports the work of Colors of Connection and provides mission-based leadership, development assistance and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by Colors of Connection's Project Director and Organizational Development Director, both co-founders of the organization, the Board-Management relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected.

# Specific Board Member Responsibilities Include

## I. Development & Fundraising

So that Colors of Connection can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organizations, and individuals, Colors of Connection expects to have 100 percent of Board Members make an annual contribution that is meaningful to them and commensurate with their capacity. Board members will also actively fundraise to support the program's operations, including:

- Reaching out to their networks to leverage donations, in-kind resources and volunteers
- Acting as an ambassador for the Colors of Connection's programs and sharing Colors of Connection's mission, goals and outcomes with potential individual, corporate and foundation funders
- Carrying out donor stewardship activities
- Hosting a small event and/or supporting other board members in their efforts to do so

## 2. Leadership, governance and oversight

- Actively take part in strategic planning along with the Project Director and Organizational Development Director and serve as a trusted advisor as they implement Colors of Connection's strategic plan
- Regularly measure Colors of Connection's performance and effectiveness using agreed upon outcomes and metrics
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings
- Approve Colors of Connection's annual budget, financial reports and material business decisions; be informed of, and meet all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Contribute to an annual performance evaluation of the Project Director and Organizational Development Director
- Assist the Project Director and Organizational Development Director and Board Chair in identifying and recruiting potential board members
- Serve on committees or task forces and take on special assignments and ensure that board resolutions are carried out
- Ensure Colors of Connection's commitment to a diverse board and staff that reflects the communities Colors of Connection serves

## 3. Operational contribution according to the Board Member's expertise

As a small organization with minimal staff, the Directors may request the assistance of Board Members with specific operational activities depending on the individual's expertise and the needs of the organization at any given time. We rely on volunteers to achieve our organizational functioning and we consider Board Members to be our greatest volunteers.

## **Board Terms & Participation**

Colors of Connection's Board Members will serve an initial term of office of one (1) year. A second term of three (3) years may be served, followed by a third term of two (2) years. A former director may be considered for re-election after a period of two (2) consecutive years out of office. An estimated (minimum) commitment for all duties are 8-10 hours per month. Board meetings are held quarterly via an online video conferencing program and regular attendance is necessary. Committee meetings may be held more frequently and emergency meetings may be held as needed. Note that the Project Director is based in New York and will arrange when possible for New York-based residents to meet in person and video conference in remote attendees.

## **Qualifications**

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about Colors of Connection's mission, has leadership experience, and is dedicated to helping to make an impact in one or more of the following areas: conflict-affected adolescents and community, adolescent girls, refugees, the region of Sub-Saharan Africa, the arts, international development, and/or peacebuilding. Ideal board members will have a background in business, government, philanthropy, education or the nonprofit sector that allows him/her to attract funders, partners, program resources and other qualified and committed board members.

### **We are seeking individuals specifically in the areas of:**

- Diversity: Board members who come from the sub-Saharan African context who can contribute valuable perspectives on our strategy and programs
- Expertise in finance, publicity and marketing, strategic planning, donor cultivation, fundraising and/or event planning

### **Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:**

- Flexibility, availability and interest in taking a leadership role in the development of an early stage nonprofit
- A commitment to and understanding of Colors of Connection's beneficiaries
- Strong diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and facilitating and building consensus among diverse individuals
- Personal qualities of integrity, follow through, and a passion for improving the lives of Colors of Connection's beneficiaries: adolescents and communities affected by conflict

## **Connect with Us**

For more information on our organization and to find out more about joining the board, please contact Co-Founder and Project Director of Colors of Connection, Christina Mallie, at [christina@colorsofconnection.org](mailto:christina@colorsofconnection.org) or by phone at 646-515-8589.