



## ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Who We Are**

Colors of Connection is a non-profit organization furthering the innovative work of arts-based psychosocial programming for youth and communities in areas affected by conflict.

Our work responds to a need for creative solutions that address the psychosocial needs of youth and communities in regions devastated by war; solutions that recognize the agency of youth and communities to make transformative change for themselves, and that include girls and women as participants in the creation of this future.

**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.**

CC is a US-based organization working with communities in the Global South. We recognize the presence of neocolonialist systems of power and are committed to actively dismantling them through our approach. We value the knowledge and experiences of the communities we work with, and are dedicated to working in solidarity with communities by facilitating local leadership and decision-making in our work.

To date we have successfully completed eight projects located in refugee camps and post-war areas in Sub-Saharan Africa directly benefiting 205 young people, and reaching an estimated 200,000 residents through a public mural-making process. Our current work is focused in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, working with girls and their communities to promote gender equality and freedom from violence.

*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 Program 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.

The board is comprised of a minimum of 3 and maximum of 11 members. We strive to fill one of these positions with an individual who is from and living in a community where CC has active programs.

## **Specific Board Member Responsibilities Include**

### **1. Development & Fundraising**

Colors of Connection expects 100 percent of Board Members to participate in the following ways:

- a. make an annual financial contribution that is meaningful to them and commensurate with their capacity.
- b. Act as an ambassador for the Colors of Connection's programs inside and outside the community, by sharing Colors of Connection's mission, goals and outcomes.
- c. Facilitate new relationships and connections that will benefit CC's work
- d. Reaching out to their networks to leverage donations, in-kind resources and volunteers.
- e. 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.
- f. Carrying out donor stewardship activities.
- g. Hosting a small event and/or supporting other board members in their efforts to do so.

### **2. Leadership, governance and oversight**

- a. Lead the organization based on our values of social justice, collaboration, excellence, accountability, and creativity.
- b. Actively take part in strategic planning along with the Program Director and Organizational Development Director and serve as a trusted advisor as they implement Colors of Connection's strategic plan.
- c. Regularly measure Colors of Connection's performance and effectiveness using agreed upon outcomes and metrics.

- d. Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- e. Approve Colors of Connection's annual budget, financial reports and material business decisions; be informed of, and meet all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
- f. Contribute to an annual performance evaluation of the Program Director and Organizational Development Director.
- g. Assist the Project Director and Organizational Development Director and Board Chair in identifying and recruiting potential board members.
- h. Serve on committees or task forces and take on special assignments and ensure that board resolutions are carried out.
- i. 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.

## **Qualifications**

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is:

1. Passionate about Colors of Connection's mission to spark transformation through art for youth and communities affected by war in Sub-Saharan Africa and other conflict-affected regions.
2. Flexibility, availability and interest in taking a leadership role in the development of an early stage nonprofit.
3. Personal qualities of integrity and reliability.
4. Committed to the well-being and development of the individuals and communities which we serve.

5. A background in business, government, philanthropy, education or the nonprofit sector that allows him/her to attract funders, partners, resources and other qualified and committed board members.
6. Strong diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and facilitating and building consensus among diverse individuals.

**We are currently seeking individuals who:**

- have access to large networks and who have expertise specifically in the areas of international aid and development, finance, communications, strategic planning, donor cultivation, fundraising and/or event planning,
- can contribute valuable perspectives on our strategy and programs based on their identity and experience as a member of the groups our programs serve, that is:
  - (1) refugee and conflict-affected populations, and/or
  - (2) country of origin being in sub-Saharan Africa

## **Connect with Us**

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