

The Backhouse

The Backhouse Charitable Trustee Applicant Information

This Trustee applicant information provides information for people interested in applying for a position as a Trustee on the inaugural Board of The Backhouse Charitable Trust (The Trust).

Introduction

The Trust has been established by founding partners Whanganui & Partners, the economic development agency for Whanganui and UCOL Whanganui, the regional technology and polytechnic provider. The Trust's vision is to create business friendly spaces that bring together entrepreneurship and education.

The Trust is the governing board for the new centre for innovation, creative industries, entrepreneurship and education - housed in the historic Backhouse building on UCOL Whanganui's campus.

The concept of The Backhouse is modelled on similar successful operations such as The IceHouse in Auckland, The Factory in Palmerston North, and CreativeHQ in Wellington. The specific operating model, services provided and the connections utilised are unique in each location, and the vision is to remain closely connected to the community.

This will be an amazing place for stronger relationships between businesses and UCOL staff and students. There has been a lot of work behind the scenes to bring this new innovation collaboration to fruition.

The Backhouse already has a number of tenants on board, including 100% SWEET, the Port Employment Precinct, Te Manu Atatū, Chamber of Commerce and Confluence.

The role of The Backhouse Trust

The Trust has been set up under the NZ Charitable Trusts Act 1957. The Trust's activities must be predominantly in the Whanganui region, for the benefit of communities within the geographical area.

The purpose of the Trust is to;

- Provide teaching and learning services through UCOL or through other teaching institutions (with UCOL's consent) to
 - owners, operators and managers of small and medium business enterprises
 - students
- Provide a shared working space for Whanganui creatives, innovators, and individuals to develop from an idea/concept to market
- Deliver events, seminars and conferences, and networking for people to explore business opportunities
- Establish a business hub on site for business support organisations who are building Whanganui's labour capability

The Trust structure

The Trust is to be governed by between 6-8 trustees committed to seeing the Whanganui region thrive. The Trustees will be appointed to the Trust for an initial three-year period with the right of reappointment for a further two terms.

The Trust was established in 2021 and currently has two appointed trustees; Gael Deighton and Mark Cleaver. Deighton has been appointed by Whanganui & Partners and Cleaver represents UCOL.

The Trust is currently seeking applications from interested people for 2-3 positions.

Applying for a Trustee position

The Backhouse Charitable Trust invites applications for trustees to serve on the Trust to pursue the opportunity to lead and grow the region's business innovation sector.

Position requirements

The Trustee will be required to;

- Attend up to 12 Trust meetings a year and
- Attend, where possible, the activities of the Trust. For example The Innovate Whanganui awards

Desired attributes

The Backhouse Trust aims to appoint Trustees who have the following attributes;

- Prior experience working at a governance level
- Sound commercial/business acumen
- A clear understanding of business and business start-ups
- A willingness to work strategically and collaboratively to achieve the vision for The Backhouse
- Strong personal, professional and community networks and connections

Diversity

We endeavour to have a diverse Board made up of Directors who have a wide range of backgrounds and expertise.

Term and Remuneration

The trustee would be appointed for an initial term of three years. This is non-paid position.

Process and timeline

The selection Trustees

26 October, 2021	Applications open
18 November, 2021	Applications close
2 December, 2021	Candidate Interviews
10 December, 2021	Candidates/ applicants advised

Submitting an application

To apply, please forward your CV and Cover Letter to info@whanganuiandpartners.nz by 4pm, 18 November 2021. If you have any questions regarding the Trust please contact Tim Easton at tim.easton@whanganuiandpartners.nz.