

Chair: South Bank Business Improvement District (BID)

Introduction

South Bank is one of London's great success stories – an internationally recognised neighbourhood that receives over 30 million annual visitors and generates over £4bn of economic value each year. South Bank BID is at the heart of this. Set up in 2014 to improve the management of South Bank in the face of increasing footfall and falling public spending, the BID works to deliver the collective ambition of the area's diverse range of businesses and other stakeholders.

With its iconic and attractive riverside location, the BID area spans part of Lambeth and Southwark and is wholly within London's Central Activities Zone. The BID's work is broad and wide-ranging. We fund, support and deliver several public realm services, including enhanced security, cleaning and refuse collection.

Through the South Bank London brand, we promote South Bank as a leading visitor destination and as the cultural heart of London. We shape and drive innovative programmes which address a range of economic, environmental and social issues, encompassing climate, net zero and homelessness. We act as a collective voice for our 300 BID levy payers, helping to ensure their perspectives are heard and their priorities acted on.

Our business community includes some of the country's most important arts and cultural organisations; an internationally significant cluster of tourist attractions, major corporates, office and workspace providers; education providers and institutes of learning; social enterprises and charities; a growing number of businesses in tech, data, and the creative industries, and a rich ecology of hospitality operators, including hotels, independent and chain restaurants, pubs and bars. We also have Europe's largest cluster of SMEs working in the green and sustainability sector.

We are home to Waterloo – one of the country's busiest railway stations and a major transport interchange, with a growing retail and leisure offer – and St Thomas', a world-leading teaching hospital which serves London and the wider south-east. And we are also home to thousands of residents and students who make South Bank a real community, and a wonderfully rich and diverse neighbourhood.

Having received a 99% Yes vote during the ballot for the BID's third term in February 2024, the BID continues to operate under its vision of a world-class South Bank for everyone – our businesses and all those that work, visit, live and study here.

South Bank BID Ltd

South Bank BID Ltd is the not for profit company that runs the BID. It is led by its Board and to minimise costs and risk, and to make the best use of resources and expertise, the BID does not employ staff. The BID operates through a service level agreement with SBEG who deliver its programmes and projects and provide a range of other services to the BID, including financial management and control marketing and communications, and engagement with levy payers and other stakeholders.

Purpose

The Chair will provide strategic leadership and will work with the Board, the delivery team and key partners to ensure that the BID has a clear vision and strategy that's aligned with its five year business plan and budget, which is supported by appropriate operational plans and policies.

Responsibilities

- To Chair the Board, facilitating discussion, encouraging participation, and guiding clear decision-making.
- Be accountable for the company's performance, including statutory reporting obligations and ensuring adequate financial controls.
- Ensure mechanisms are in place to assess the BID's performance and its impact in relation to its strategy and objectives.
- Work to develop, manage, and maintain key relationships with a range of stakeholders and partners, including all levy paying businesses, SBEG and its members, local authority representatives, and relevant London and national organisations.
- Ensure that the BID acts in accordance with its duties to its levy payers and stakeholders and that it complies with all legal, regulatory, and statutory requirements.
- Manage the Board, ensuring appropriate assessment of the Board's performance and that its membership and actions reflect the BID's priorities and the needs of the area.
- Work closely with the BID's Chief Executive and other members of the BID's delivery team to ensure that all objectives, targets, objectives and relevant performance measures are met.

Person Specification

- A solid understanding of the BID model, and its relevance and importance to the central London business community.
- A commitment to South Bank BID's vision and its business plan, coupled with a sound understanding of the challenges, needs and priorities of levy paying and other businesses and stakeholders in the BID area.
- Significant strategic leadership and executive management experience in successfully leading an organisation, major operating division / group.
- An understanding of governance, legal duties, liabilities, and responsibilities as a non-executive, and/or company director, and with experience of effective chairing of a board, committee or other senior meetings.
- Strong financial acumen, with ability to interpret complex information, comprehend issues and assess risks accordingly.
- A commercial mindset, with the ability to spot opportunities that enable the BID to capitalise on opportunities effectively.
- Excellent networking skills to represent the BID effectively with its levy paying community and wider stakeholders, including politicians and community groups.
- Strong judgement and experience of interacting with senior business representatives from across a range of commercial and non-commercial sectors.
- Excellent leadership with communication and listening skills which encourage collaboration and participation, with the ability to build consensus with tact, diplomacy, and sensitivity.
- Sound judgement and an understanding of the need to maintain objectivity and an ability to set and maintain professional boundaries.

Time Commitment

The Chair will need to give sufficient time to prepare for and attend quarterly Board meetings and the BID's AGM / annual event for levy payers and stakeholders, along with any other relevant meetings and events. The Chair will also meet - physically and virtually - with the BID's Chief Executive and other members of the delivery team as necessary.