

Youth Advisory Committee Guidelines

Being on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is a fantastic and valuable opportunity to learn about arts organisation governance and decision-making. The role is separate from and in addition to your participation in WAYTCo's creative activities.

The Youth Advisory Committee is an opportunity for members of WA Youth Theatre Company (WAYTCo) to provide input to the company from a youth perspective. Members play an advisory role at the governance and strategic planning table of the Company. The YAC helps the Company remain directly in touch with its members and YAC participation offers members a window into the behind-the-scenes operation of an arts organisation. For active Committee members, the experience enhances young creatives understanding of arts leadership, management and accountability which can positively inform their independent theatre practice, and also provides an opportunity to explore additional professional pathways in the arts.

Expectations

- Act as ambassadors for WAYTCo;
- Help promote WAYTCo shows, events and opportunities;
- Represent youth members by offering suggestions and feedback to the Company at Board Meetings and participating in strategic planning activities;
- Work with others to plan and execute YAC-led initiatives for the benefit of the Company, including involvement in one campaign per year;
- Build and maintain a safe and positive community of emerging arts leaders.

Opportunities

- Gain insight into the governance of an arts organisation;
- Receive training in financial report reading;
- Develop planning and advocacy skills;
- Become practiced in committee and working group process;
- Where elected to do so, serve as a member of the YAC executive;
- Opportunity to write reviews for shows, receiving free tickets.

How it works

The Youth Advisory Committee is:

- A diverse group of up to **ten** members, aged 13-26;
- Endorsed at the first Board Meeting following the AGM or by 31 May by e-circular decision (whichever comes first).

The YAC meets regularly in addition to board meetings, and committee members can therefore input into company matters in different ways. YAC members are:

- Invited to attend Board meetings throughout the year, to observe and input directly into board discussions (these occur every 6 weeks);

- Required to meet a minimum of quarterly (i.e. every twelve weeks), at a time determined by the YAC Chairperson, either online or in person (these meetings may be scheduled immediately prior to a board meeting or in the time in-between board meetings);
- Provide input to be presented at Board Meetings by YAC Chairperson – this will address any company matters and questions that have been put to the YAC by the Board & Senior Staff, as well as convey any feedback, concerns, or ideas from the Committee and other WAYTCo youth members;
- Connect with current WAYTCo members and seek to represent the breadth of membership;
- Have a presence at each of WAYTCo's core offerings - Main Production, Outreach (Hub Sessions/Schools Outreach/Loungeroom Project), 24hr Play Generator, and Ensembles - wherever possible.

Chairperson of the Youth Advisory Committee

- The Youth Advisory Committee will have a Chairperson, being a member of the Youth Advisory Committee who is also a member of the Board of Management elected at the AGM.
- If more than one member of the Youth Advisory Committee is a member of the Board of Management, the Board of Management will elect one person as chairperson of the Youth Advisory Committee.
- The Chairperson must be over the age of 18.
- This is a leadership role, and will require additional hours in addition to normal YAC business.

The chairperson will:

- Coordinate the YAC and chair meetings;
- Present on behalf of the YAC at Board Meetings – including answers to questions from the Board and staff of the Company, as well as conveying any concerns or ideas from the YAC and other WAYTCo youth members;
- Act as the point of contact between the Board and staff, the Youth Advisory Committee, and youth members of the Company;
- Receive support and mentoring from the Chair of the Board, and work closely with the staff of the Company.

Deputy Chairperson of the Youth Advisory Committee

- The Youth Advisory Committee will also have a Deputy Chairperson, being a member of the Youth Advisory Committee who will share some responsibilities with the Chairperson.
- The Deputy Chairperson must be over the age of 18.
- This is a leadership role, and will require additional hours in addition to normal YAC business.

The Deputy Chairperson will:

- Help the chairperson with the coordination of the YAC and occasionally chair meetings.
- Help coordinate YAC communications and projects along with the chairperson.
- Act as the point of contact between staff and the Youth Advisory Committee, and youth members of the Company.
- Receive support and mentoring from the Chair of the Board, and work closely with the staff of the Company.

Minimal Requirements

As a committee member, during the year of your term, you are required to:

- Attend at least one Wednesday evening Board Meeting
- Attend at least 4 YAC meetings
- Actively contribute the voice of youth to the Company
- Participate actively in YAC projects
- Adhere to WAYTCo's Codes of Conduct
- Volunteer up to 3 hours of your time each month to YAC-related work, 6 hours each month if you are a YAC Executive Committee member.

If a committee member is inactive for three months without approval from the Board they will forfeit their position; which may then be filled by another member of the Company.

Applications

Any member of WA Youth Theatre Company under the age of 27 (and who will remain under 27 until 1 April 2023) is invited to apply for the YAC. Applications are now open and will close on 11 April 2022. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by 7 July 2022.

To apply, please send an expression of interest to generalmanager@waytco.com. Make sure you answer the questions in the Nomination Form, below, in the body of your email.

Alternatively complete and return the form below or lodge your nomination using the online form found here: <https://waytco.com/about/our-youth-advisors/>



YAC NOMINATION FORM

Full Name of nominee: _____

Nominee Contact number: _____

Nominee Email address: _____

Parent's Email address (for nominees under 18):

Age: _____

How long have you been involved with WAYTCo? _____ (# years)

Are you a current member of WAYTCo? Yes No Maybe (please circle)

To nominate you must be a member. If you are not a WAYTCo member, or if you are unsure, please sign-up: waytco.com/get-involved/become-a-member

What would you like to contribute to the Committee?

What would you like to gain by being part of the Committee?

I have read and agree to the WAYTCo Youth Advisory Committee guidelines.

Nominee signature: _____ Date: _____