

DREAMS OF HOPE

QUEER YOUTH ARTS

We're seeking volunteer board members!

Dreams of Hope is excited to announce a call for new board members for summer/ fall 2024. This opportunity arrives during a milestone year for us, having just celebrated our 20th anniversary.

Do you feel deeply [connected to our values](#)? Are you interested in becoming more involved with Dreams of Hope and bringing your personality and skills to our collaborative work? We'd love to talk to you.

About Dreams of Hope

Through the power of the arts, [Dreams of Hope](#) provides the region's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, and allied (LGBTQA+) youth a welcoming environment to grow in confidence, express themselves, and develop as leaders.

Dreams of Hope has two main programs anchored in youth leadership development and creative expression. [theatriQ](#) is a theater program offered free of charge to queer and Trans young people, where participants collectively create and perform their own multidisciplinary stage production. [sQool](#) is an educational outreach program that centers queer arts, history, culture, and advocacy. sQool offers a wide range of residencies, workshops, and creative learning opportunities to students and young adults in the Pittsburgh area.

The young folks who have participated in our programs over the years have not only connected with the arts in meaningful and lasting ways, but have named Dreams of Hope as a way that they've found friendship, community connection, and a space to safely be who they are.

Dreams of Hope board activities and commitments

Our board has about 8-10 members, depending on the year. We are made up of a volunteer cohort and a staff cohort: all Dreams of Hope staff are also on the board. This is part of our collective approach to running the organization. The staff board members and volunteer board members collaboratively govern ourselves, rather than having a volunteer board that acts as a separate governing group. A staff co-coordinator and a volunteer co-coordinator facilitate our meetings and processes together.

We are also a working board, which means that our volunteer board members take on regular, tangible tasks to help sustain the organization's functioning.

General expectations for board members include:

- Participate in bimonthly meetings that last about 1.5 hours. Half of these meetings are held virtually and half are held in person.
- Join a board committee that you feel you can make a contribution to. Board committees meet virtually for 1 hour each month, and committee members may complete related tasks between meetings.
- Attend at least one youth performance or Dreams of Hope program event each year, to stay connected with the vibrance of our programming.
- Give a thoughtful annual donation to the organization. This should be a monetary amount that you feel moved and comfortably able to offer.

What we're looking for

We want the people on the board to reflect the young people in our programming. Disabled, BIPOC, queer, trans, femme- or masculine-of-center, poor, anti-racist, and all the many intersections of these identities are representative of the young people in our programs.

We're also hoping to build up our group's strengths in specific ways. If you have skills or experience in one or more of these areas, you could be a great candidate for the board:

- Finance and accounting
- Performing arts and teaching arts
- Education and youth programming, especially with youth of color
- HR and organizational development
- Fundraising and strategic planning
- Nonprofit board service or engagement

How to join the board

1. Complete [this form](#)! A board member will be in touch with you within a few weeks to schedule a call or meeting so that we can get to know you better.
2. Join us for a board meeting to observe and meet the other members. Depending on when you reach out to us, we'll invite you to our next bimonthly board meeting.
3. Our current board members will vote to make it official, and we'll hope to bring you formally onto the board in September 2024.