

Success Profile

Chief Financial Officer

RISING

MARCH 2023

RISING :

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Online Advertisement

- Leadership of a Corporate Services team
- Develop financial strategies to optimize commerciality and income diversification
- Shape the future direction of this iconic cultural festival

In 2019, the Victorian Government took the initiative to create RISING, an arts and culture festival with a clear purpose—to build a new major event that tells Melbourne's story to the world. RISING is a festival that you do, in a city that does it best: music, food, art and culture under moonlight in the heart of Naarm (Melbourne, Australia). A major cultural event for the Asia Pacific Region, the festival is created by a diverse team of local, national and international artists and curators. 2023 brings a moment to reflect and reckon with Australian identity, here and now. A break from business as usual and a chance to rave and revel in the grand and the granular.

Working in partnership with the Co-Artistic Directors | Co-Chief Executive Officers and RISING Leadership team, you will play a key role in the realisation of this ambitious program of site-specific performance, music, theatre, food, wine and public art. As Chief Financial Officer you will lead a broader Corporate Services team across Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal, Governance and Office Facilities, to encourage maximum performance and foster a continuous improvement and customer service mindset and orientation.

You will establish the organisational financial strategy, budget and core financial responsibilities, providing strategic advice for the Co-Artistic Directors | Chief Executives and Leadership Team on financial parameters and budgeting approaches. This will include developing strategies to increase commerciality, entrepreneurship and income diversification within the business. You will develop budgets in order to optimise the realization of programming and artistic objectives within parameters set by the Board. Additionally, you will advise the Board on matters of organisational performance and risk management practice as required to assist their deliberations, ensuring compliance with all necessary requirements of statutory and regulatory frameworks relevant to the entity's role and operations.

To be considered for this role, you will be an experienced senior financial leader, either as a CFO or relevant role. You will have either experience leading or a strong understanding and ability to direct business functions such as HR, Finance, IT, Legal, Governance and Office Facilities. You will have extensive experience in developing financial strategies and budgets in complex operating environments, ideally across arts and culture, food and music. This will include constructing complex models, analysing results to influence future direction, setting strategic financial plans and adapting them as the environment evolves.

You will have sound decision making skills honed from accurate and timely analyses. You possess the ability to think strategically and commercially, influence your colleagues and build an effective team. You can communicate your strategy clearly in a compelling fashion, and your confidence is built from the freedom that comes from structure. You are considered as big thinker who is curious and constantly learning, has strong experience in leading high-performance teams, is results oriented, relishes change and has a desire to constantly evolve practices and adapts to achieve success.

Your experience may not be in the arts or cultural sector, but it will be a passion of yours and you most likely spend some of your free-time experiencing culture. Most of all you need to be passionate about working to build Melbourne's first major cultural event and a global leader in festivals. Experience in a start-up environment will be highly regarded. Formal qualifications as a CA or CPA are required.

This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to shape the future direction of this iconic cultural institution and be part of a highly engaged and diverse team.

RISING supports flexible working arrangements for staff and a hybrid office/WFH model is currently in place. The RISING office is situated at Level 2, 377 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

About RISING

RISING is a festival that you do, in a city that does it best: music, food, art and culture under moonlight in the heart of Naarm (Melbourne, Australia). A major cultural event for the Asia Pacific Region, the festival is created by a diverse team of local, national and international artists and curators. 2023 brings a moment to reflect and reckon with Australian identity, here and now. A break from business as usual and a chance to rave and revel in the grand and the granular.

The festival will also be engaged to run additional projects and will provide the required organisational resourcing and support to successfully deliver these projects.

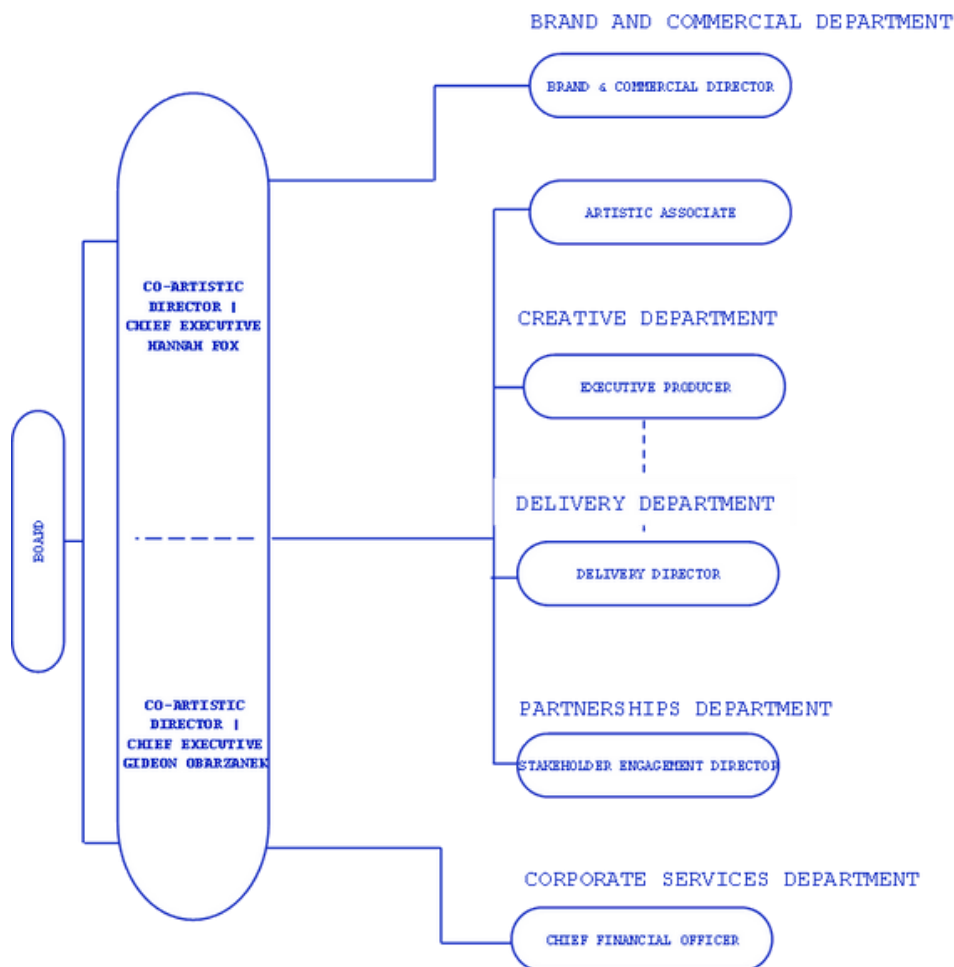
The next RISING is 07–18 June 2023. Explore the [2023 program](#).

Read about the highlights of the 2022 RISING program in our [2022 Annual Review](#).

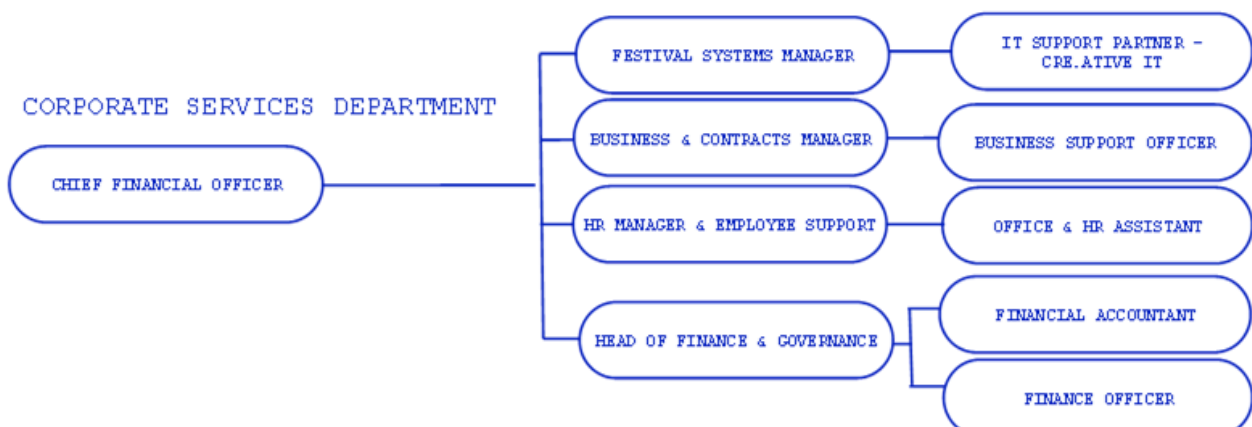


Organisational Structure

High Level Department Structure



Corporate Services Team Structure



Co-Chief Executive Officers



Hannah Fox
Chief Executive
Co-Artistic Director

Hannah is an artist, curator and festival director with a focus on sound art, large-scale public art, contemporary music and live art. Prior to her role as RISING Co-Artistic Director, Hannah worked as Artistic Associate at Melbourne Festival; and as the Associate Creative Director of Dark Mofo.

Her broad spectrum of work has included performance interventions for the Tate Modern, a Janes Addiction stage show, and choreographing cranes and forklifts for a large-scale car stunt show. She's a founding member of the creative partnership Supple Fox, which currently collaborates with artist Byron J Scullin on work including the large-scale, outdoor sonic artwork Siren Song, which continues to be remounted in cities around the world.



Gideon Obarzanek
Chief Executive
Co-Artistic Director

Gideon is a director, choreographer, performing arts curator and founder of dance company Chunky Move, where he was CEO and Artistic Director until 2012. His diverse works for the company included stage productions, installations, site-specific works, participatory events and film; and have been performed in festivals and theatres around the world including Edinburgh International, Southbank London and all major Australian performing arts festivals.

More recently Gideon was Artistic Associate with the Melbourne Festival, co-curator for XO State at Asia TOPA, Strategic Cultural Engagement Manager at the University of Melbourne and Chair of the Melbourne Fringe Festival.



Board of Directors



Tim Orton
Chair

Tim is the Managing Director and founder of Nous Group. Previously Tim was Chair of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre board, an executive board member of the Committee for Melbourne and a board member of the Australia Council for the Arts. He's currently the Chair of Rhodes Scholarships in Australia.



Dr Lou Bennett AM
Board Director

Yorta Yorta Dja Dja Wurrung, Lou is a prolific artist, musician, designer and educator; and was the co-founder, Artistic Director and Co-CEO of the Black Arm Band. Lou researches ethical issues related to retrieving and transmitting Aboriginal languages at University of Melbourne, where she is a Westpac Research Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences. She is a member of the Victorian Women's Honour Roll and the General Division of the Order of Australia.



Sally Bruce
Board Director

Sally is the COO and CFO of Culture Amp—an experience platform, with over 3000 active business customers in 47 countries. Sally is the former CEO of AMP Bank and CFO Business and Personal Banking at National Australia Bank. She has held senior leadership roles at Macquarie Group and is Director of Chief Executive Women.



Nicole Durling
Board Director

Nicole is Executive Director of Craft Victoria. She was part of the foundation team of the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), playing a prominent role in the institution's programming and development as Director of Collections and Exhibitions. Nicole was the first Australia-based Contemporary Art Specialist at Sotheby's International. Her training is as an artist and she has exhibited across Australia.



Amrita Hepi
Board Director

Amrita, of Bundjulong / Ngapuhi territories, is an artist working with dance, choreography, video, performance, installation and objects. Her work considers the body's relationship to personal histories and the archive. From 2019 to 2020 she was a RISING artistic advisor, is a Gertrude Contemporary artist in residence and is currently working with Kaldor projects/Serpentine UK as a participating do it artist. In 2018 she was named in Forbes Asia's 30 under 30 list.



Craig Tiley
Board Director

Craig is Tournament Director of the Australian Open and CEO of Tennis Australia. Under his leadership the Australian Open now boasts annual attendances of over 790,000 people, a global audience of 1 billion and an annual economic impact of \$300 million. As a Male Champion of Change, Craig works to shift mindsets around gender equality and diversity on the tennis court and in the workplace.



David Vodicka
Board Director

David is the founder of Media Arts Lawyers where he represents high-profile musicians, celebrities and entertainment companies. He chairs the board of Australian Independent Record Labels Association, is a board member of Australian Recording Industry Association and the Phonographic Performance Company of Australia. He was previously a board member of the Melbourne International Film Festival.

Role Overview

Role	Chief Financial Officer
Team	Corporate Services
Reporting To	Chief Executive Co-Artistic Director – Gideon Obarzanek
Location	RISING supports flexible working arrangements for staff and a hybrid office/WFH model is currently in place. The RISING office is situated at Level 2, 377 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

The Role

We are looking for a CFO to help support the team that will realise this ambitious program of site-specific performance, music, theatre, food, wine and public art. This is a role suited to a big thinker who is curious and constantly learning, has strong experience in leading a high-performance team, is results oriented, relishes change and has a desire to constantly evolve practices and adapts to achieve success.

We are looking for someone with 10+ years of experience in a senior finance leadership position with a CA or CPA qualification. We need a people leader with the capability to inspire a broad Corporate Services team, and an understanding that the approach we need now is akin to building a start-up.

You are visionary, but your foresight is backed up by knowledge, extreme accuracy and built on experience. You can communicate your strategy clearly in a compelling fashion, and your confidence is built from the freedom that comes from structure. You will need to build the structures and controls to deliver this major event for Victoria and will invest time to develop new ways of working for you and your team finding ways to support and coach them to achieve results.

Skills – Clear and friendly communication and extreme organisation should go without saying. You will have sound decision making skills honed from accurate and timely analyses. Experience of constructing complex models, analysing results to influence future direction, setting strategic financial plans and adapting them as the environment evolves. You possess the ability to think strategically, influence your colleagues and build an effective team.

Your experience may not be in the arts or cultural sector, but it will be a passion of yours and you most likely spend some of your free-time experiencing culture. Most of all you need to be passionate about working to build Melbourne's first major cultural event and a global leader in Festivals.



Key Responsibilities

Organisational Planning & Financial Strategy

- Work with the Co-Artistic Directors | Chief Executives and Leadership Team to develop strategies to increase commerciality, entrepreneurship and income diversification within the business.
- Oversee the development, approval and implementation of business strategies, plans, KPIs and procedures.
- Establish the organisational financial strategy, budget, and core financial principles, structures and responsibilities.
- Oversee the development of budgets in order to optimise the realisation of programming and artistic objectives within parameters set by the Board.
- Provide strategic advice for the Co-Artistic Directors | Chief Executives and Leadership Team on financial parameters and budgeting approaches.

Organisational Governance & Risk

- Service the requirements of the Board and its Sub-Committees to ensure their optimum effectiveness.
- Advise the Board on any matters of organisational performance or operating context as may be required to assist their deliberations.
- Ensure compliance with all necessary requirements of statutory and regulatory frameworks as are relevant to the entity's role and operations.
- Maintain accurate, timely and rigorous financial and performance reporting to meet organisational, stakeholder, Board, funding authority and audit requirements, and to enable a climate of open cooperation and continuous performance improvement.
- Manage the organisational risk management practice and approach within the parameters set by the Board.
- Establish policies that promote company culture and vision.

Corporate Services Leadership & Stakeholder Engagement

- Build a business operational model that meets the needs of the organisation's strategic plan across all facets of the Corporate Services department remit - HR, Finance, IT, Legal, Governance, Office Facilities.
- Lead the Corporate Services team to encourage maximum performance and dedication, and foster a continuous improvement and customer service mindset and orientation.
- Lead the HR function within the organisation to support a clear, constructive and effective industrial relations climate and practice.
- Lead the delivery of key components of the Sustainability and Equity Action Plan.
- Provide strategic advice to Co-Artistic Directors | Chief Executives, Leadership Team and staff regarding sensitive HR and complex business, legal, operational and governance matters.
- Develop key government and related stakeholder relationships, particularly where funding is provided to the organisation.
- Oversee the management and development of long-term strategic relationships with Corporate Services external partners/vendors.
- Perform related duties as assigned, within your scope of practice.

Skills and Experience

- Proven experience as CFO or relevant role
- Understanding of and ability to direct business functions such as HR, Finance, IT, Legal, Governance, Office Facilities, etc.
- Demonstrable competency in strategic planning and business development in a large organisation
- Working knowledge of data analysis and performance/operation metrics
- Outstanding organisational and leadership abilities
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills
- Aptitude in independent decision-making and problem-solving
- Advanced project management skills

Access

RISING is a festival aspiring to be a cultural leader in inclusion and accessibility. We want our organisation and program to be a true reflection of our city representing people with a variety of skillsets and life experiences, cultures and backgrounds. We encourage applications from First Nations people, those who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people who are LGBTQIA+, Neurodivergent people, people who have a disability and/or who are d/Deaf.



For More Information

To apply for this role, upload a Resume and Cover Letter via davidsonwp.com or for a confidential discussion please contact:



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