



Alliance Française

*Sydney - Australie*

**Position Title & Organisation:**

Non-Executive Board Director at Alliance Française de Sydney and Alliance Française de Sydney Cultural Foundation limited (together, AFS).

**About Alliance Française de Sydney:**

AFS is an independent, not-for-profit language and cultural organisation promoting Franco-Australian exchange. With almost 130 years' experience in teaching French, AFS offers a wide range of French courses, cultural events and services for all levels and ages at its CBD and Chatswood locations.

Since 1989, AFS has organised the annual Alliance Française French Film Festival (AFFFF) in Sydney. This prestigious festival welcomed over 51,000 patrons in Sydney (and close to 200,000 nationally) in 2024 and is the world's largest French film festival outside of France.

**Organisational Context:**

AFS is a not-for-profit organisation led by a dedicated Board of Directors committed to ensuring AFS's continued growth and impact. With the ambitious goal of spreading French language and culture well beyond the borders of France, it is one of 829 Alliances Françaises in 135 countries all around the world and the most highly regarded school for learning French in Sydney.

AFS also works alongside other Australian Alliances Françaises to provide support and foster a cohesive approach to the teaching of French language and culture in Australia.

**Our Mission and Values:**

Our mission, through our language school and extensive range of events and experiences, is to:

- promote the learning and use of the French language in New South Wales;
- promote Francophone cultures throughout Australia;
- contribute to the innovative network of Alliances Françaises around the world; and
- contribute to the cultural and linguistic diversity of Sydney.

We collaborate closely with other organisations that share the traditional French values of “liberty, equality and fraternity”. We are apolitical but steadfast in our desire to bring people together from all walks of life in a safe and respectful learning environment. We respect our environment as protecting our planet is key to all our futures.

**Strategic Objectives:**

The successful candidate will play a critical role in working alongside the General Manager to guide AFS through a transformative phase, focusing on the following strategic objectives:

- expanding AFS's reach and accessibility to diverse audiences; and
- ensuring the organisation's financial sustainability through the successful management of its many and varied stakeholders.

**Collaborative Leadership:**

As a member of the Board of Directors, the successful candidate will work closely with the Chair of the Board, other board members, General Manager, and executive team to foster a collaborative and



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inclusive leadership culture. This approach is essential to ensure that AFS remains at the forefront of school innovation and continues to contribute to the vibrancy of Sydney's education and cultural scene.

**Role Overview:**

Board Directors of AFS play a pivotal role in providing strategic leadership, governance oversight and financial stewardship to ensure AFS's continued success. The position of Non-Executive Board Director involves active participation in shaping AFS's strategic direction, fostering financial sustainability and managing key stakeholder relationships.

Board members are expected to attend board meetings (there are approximately 10 each year), be a member of one or more sub-committees and to attend the principal events hosted by AFS.

**Key Responsibilities:**

***Organisational compliance:***

- Provide strategic direction and oversight to ensure AFS operates ethically, transparently, with accountability and in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of strong governance frameworks, policies, and procedures.
- Ensure AFS's assets and operations are safeguarded by appropriate risk management.

***Strategic planning:***

- Ensure AFS develops and implements strategies and policies to enable it to fulfill the charitable objectives set out in its constitutions and perform ongoing review of these to adapt to changing cultural, social, and economic landscapes.
- Collaborate with fellow board members and executive leadership to formulate and execute AFS's long-term strategic plan.
- Monitor and support the executive team on an ongoing basis.
- Engage in the appointment and monitoring of executive staff, including capability and succession planning and remuneration planning.
- Ensure sound board succession planning.

***Financial sustainability:***

- Monitor the operational and financial position and performance of AFS generally.
- Participate in financial planning and decision-making processes to ensure AFS's fiscal health.
- Engage in capital management, including approval of AFS's budgets and business plans.
- Contribute to the development and execution of strategies for revenue diversification and sustainable financial growth.
- Engage in financial and operational risk identification and mitigation strategies.

***Fundraising:***

- Collaborate with the executive team to identify and pursue grant opportunities, philanthropic support, and sponsorship agreements to meet financial targets.
- Cultivate relationships with potential donors, sponsors, and partners to develop and further agreed initiatives.



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**Stakeholder management:**

- Build and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, including other Alliances, government bodies, sponsors, donors, artists, and the local community.
- Represent AFS at public events, fostering positive relationships and promoting the organisation's key objectives.

**Qualifications and experience:**

- Proven experience in a leadership role, preferably at the board level, with a focus on governance and strategic planning.
- Demonstrated success in financial management and sustainability, including engagement in fundraising efforts.
- Strong understanding of the education and cultural sector.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage and influence a diverse range of stakeholders.

**Personal attributes:**

- Passion for French culture and cultural diversity.
- Strategic thinker and forward-looking.
- Collaborative and team-oriented.
- High ethical standards and integrity.
- Willingness to serve on Board sub-committee as required.

**Selection process:**

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews, which are expected to take place between June to July 2024. It is anticipated that the successful candidate be appointed in the second half of 2024. AFS reserves the right to make an appointment via invitation.

**How to apply:**

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application, including a cover letter and resume/CV, to [president@afsydney.com.au](mailto:president@afsydney.com.au) by 30 June 2024. Please include "Board Director Application - AFS" in the subject line.

*Note: AFS is committed to providing a positive and inclusive workplace and is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives are encouraged to apply.*