

# EARSHOTJAZZ

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## About

Earshot Jazz is a Seattle-based nonprofit organization that honors jazz as a vital Black American art form through live performance presentations, artist advocacy, and community engagement. Since its founding in 1984, Earshot Jazz has produced more than **3,000 concerts** and presented world-renowned and emerging artists, often highlighting adventurous, genre-defying programming. The organization launched the annual Earshot Jazz Festival in 1989, which has become its flagship event and a central platform for Seattle artists and international performers alike.

Beyond performance, Earshot publishes a monthly magazine—circulating over 60,000 copies annually and digitally archived through the Seattle Public Library—that documents the region's jazz scene and history. The organization also leads initiatives such as the New Works Commission, Artist in Residence Program, Golden Ear Awards, and Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame, all of which contribute to Seattle's creative ecosystem.

Today, Earshot Jazz continues to champion local talent, amplify underrepresented voices, and uphold jazz's legacy through thoughtful, community-rooted programming. It remains deeply committed to artistic excellence, cultural stewardship, and racial equity, ensuring that jazz thrives as a dynamic, inclusive force in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

## Board of Directors Position Overview

As Earshot Jazz continues to grow and evolve, we seek Board members who bring not only a passion for jazz and the arts, but also professional expertise in the following key areas:

- **Finance** – to support fiscal oversight and sustainability
- **Governance** – to ensure accountability and effective board operations
- **Strategy and Planning** – to guide long-term organizational direction
- **Fundraising** – to expand contributed revenue and build donor relationships
- **Marketing and Communications** – to amplify Earshot's visibility and audience engagement
- **Legal** – to advise on compliance, risk, and organizational structure

## Core Responsibilities

### 1. Governance and Leadership

- Participate in setting strategic direction and approving organizational policies.
- Provide input and oversight on organizational priorities.
- Evaluate the Executive Director and ensure strong executive leadership.
- Ensure the organization operates in alignment with its mission, vision, and values.

### 2. Financial Oversight

- Take responsibility for the financial health of the organization.
- Approve the annual budget and monitor financial performance.
- Serve on the Finance Committee or review financial statements as required.
- Personally contribute and/or actively participate in identifying additional funding (re)sources for the organization in the amount of \$1200 annually.

### 3. Fundraising and Resource Development

- Identify and connect Earshot Jazz with individual donors, corporate sponsors, and foundation funders.
- Actively participate in fundraising efforts, including events, campaigns, and donor cultivation.
- Serve on or support the Fundraising Committee.

### 4. Community and Public Engagement

- Serve as an ambassador of Earshot Jazz, representing the organization to the public and stakeholders.
- Promote Earshot's events and encourage attendance and participation within your networks.
- Support artist advocacy and racial equity initiatives.
- Engage with Earshot's community partners and seek new opportunities for collaboration.

### 5. Board Engagement and Participation

- Attend scheduled, monthly Board meetings and the annual Board retreat.
- Serve on at least one Board committee (e.g., Executive, Finance, Fundraising, Community Engagement, Governance, and Marketing & Communications).
- Participate in Board self-assessment, recruitment, and onboarding of new Board members.
- Be available for consultation and support to staff and fellow Board members as needed.

### Board Structure and Terms

- **Meetings:** 12 regular meetings per year, regular meetings are 90 minutes in length and currently take place the 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- **Term Length:** Two-year renewable terms.
- **Committee Service:** Minimum of one committee appointment is required.
- **Retreat:** One full-day Board retreat held annually in the summer.

### Expectations of Individual Board Members

Each Board Member is expected to:

- Commit time, financial resources, and expertise.
- Actively contribute to strategic planning, board decision-making, and Executive Director evaluation.
- Maintain knowledge of Earshot's history, purpose, and programming.
- Uphold ethical standards and confidentiality.

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