



Board of Directors

A.B.L.E. - Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations is an ambitious organization at an exciting phase of expansion seeking committed, diverse, and experienced volunteer Board members to guide the organization and support its growth. Board members will work collaboratively to shape policies and strategy for A.B.L.E.'s future, and provide direction and counsel for A.B.L.E. leadership.

A.B.L.E. was founded on the belief that everyone is A.B.L.E. to connect, to contribute, and to create. Our work centers on fostering communication, teamwork, and inclusivity, not just among our program participants, but for all who work with us. We encourage applicants from all races, religions, gender identities or expressions, sexual orientations, ages, and disability statuses. A.B.L.E. is committed to including diverse voices and perspectives across our organization.

What does the Board of Directors do?

A.B.L.E.'s Board are volunteers who share their expertise, influence, knowledge, and resources to secure a strong future for the organization. Board members come from a wide range of personal and professional backgrounds. The Board is responsible for managing the operational budget and setting long term priorities, as well as overseeing and advising the Executive Artistic Director, who is responsible for A.B.L.E.'s day-to-day management.

The relationship between each Board member and A.B.L.E. - Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations is of critical importance and supports the administrative, fundraising, financial, and strategic functions of the organization. Board members are stewards of A.B.L.E.'s mission, promoters of the work, and champions of the cause. Board members make A.B.L.E. one of their philanthropic priorities, and leveraging connections and networks to bring additional resources to the organization.

What is the time commitment?

- Board members volunteer for a 2 year term, and may serve up to 3 consecutive terms.
- The full Board meets quarterly, and its committees meet monthly to work on various projects.
- Each Board member is required to serve on at least one committee (Governance, Finance, Development, or DEI)
- Board members spend an average of 5-10 hours a month doing board work: attending regular meetings, participating in committee work, and being an ambassador for A.B.L.E. in your community

How do I know if I am the right fit?

We hope prospective Board Members can say "yes" to most or all of the following:

- **You are passionate about the cause** - you have a passion for the arts and/or disability advocacy (or, better yet, lived experience of a disability) and excited to for the opportunity advance A.B.L.E.'s mission and nurture the community.
- **You are experienced** - you have skills or lived experience that can support A.B.L.E.'s work at this moment in the organization's growth. At this time, A.B.L.E. is particularly seeking Board Members who have experience in the fields of Law, Marketing, Disability Advocacy, or Nonprofit Management.
- **You are collaborative** - you value learning and working alongside a team, empowering others to express their point of view, and fostering an environment of healthy communication.
- **You are reliable** - you arrive on time, meet deadlines, and follow through on your commitments. You demonstrate responsibility and accountability in decision-making, especially in team settings, celebrating when things have gone well and acknowledging when they've gone wrong.
- **You are forward-thinking** - you scan the environment to anticipate the future needs of the organization, and provide solutions to challenges.
- **You are courageous:** you take a well-reasoned stand on important issues when needed, and work to resolve challenges when necessary. You encourage peers to try new things or take appropriate risks and deal constructively with failures and mistakes. You value doing what is right over what is easy.
- **You like making connections:** You are committed to being an ambassador for A.B.L.E. in your community, and helping us meet new audiences, professional partners, participants, and supporters.
- **You are open** - you bring your authentic self to your work, and contribute to a positive, honest, and safe environment where people can connect and create

Ready to apply?

- Fill out an application online at: bit.ly/ABLEboardapp
- Applications are reviewed quarterly by the Board Governance Committee.
- Successful applicants will meet with the Executive Director and Governance Committee for an interview prior to nomination by the full board.
- Successful applicants must undergo a criminal background check prior to beginning board service.

More about A.B.L.E.

A.B.L.E. – Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations is a Chicago based non-profit that creates theatre and film projects for, with, and by individuals with intellectual and developmental

disabilities. Through our core ensemble program, specialized workshops, and outreach efforts, A.B.L.E. creates platforms for individuals with disabilities to share who they are and all that they are A.B.L.E. to do. Whether in person or online, all programs strive to foster independence, deepen social skills, and celebrate creativity. By promoting practices that place participants with disabilities in the spotlight, A.B.L.E. strives to shift societal preconceptions about disability, and build more inclusive, empathetic communities.

You can see some of our past shows, read about our rehearsal process, meet our current team, and learn more about all of our programs online at **[ableensemble.com](https://www.ableensemble.com)**

Questions

For more information, questions, or access needs, please contact Executive Director, Katie Yohe (katie@ableensemble.com)