

Sydney Writers' Festival

Role Title: Capital Campaign Specialist
Reports to: Head of Development
Salary: Commensurate with experience > \$100,000 pro rata (0.5 FTE)
Terms: Part Time (3 days per week), 12-month contract with possibility of extension.
Preferred working days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Sydney Writers' Festival encourages applications from all backgrounds, communities, and industries, and are committed to having a team that is made up of diverse skills, experiences, and abilities.

About Sydney Writers' Festival

Sydney Writers' Festival is one of the world's leading and most beloved literary institutions. It is a place for readers, writers and thinkers to share ideas, tell stories and celebrate literature.

Since our first Festival in 1997, we have brought thousands of diverse writers and thinkers from Australia and around the globe together in Sydney. In the company of the world's best novelists, poets, journalists, public intellectuals, economists, politicians, podcasters and scientists, we've discussed some of the most pressing issues of our times. We've celebrated prize-winning authors, long-awaited novels from writers at the height of their careers and introduced debut authors to eager and enthusiastic new audiences.

Readers and writers have exchanged thoughts and opinions, perspectives and philosophies, creating a powerful community based on radical dialogue and respectful debate. The drumbeat of questioning that thrums underneath the Festival is powerful and enlivens Australia's democratic tradition.

About this role

In 2025, Sydney Writers' Festival will launch a major Capital Campaign to raise funds for its [Russ the Story Bus](#) Program. This campaign will require significant funding from all sources including philanthropic funding from individuals, corporate sponsors as well as Trusts & Foundations.

The Capital Campaign Specialist will be a senior member of the core year-round Festival staff, working closely with the Head of Development and the Philanthropy & Partnerships Coordinator.

This is a part-time position working three (3) days per week.

Responsibilities

Working within the Head of Development the key responsibilities for this role include:

- Lead the strategic development, planning and execution of the Russ the Story Bus Capital Campaign, working collaboratively with key stakeholders both internally and externally.
- Identify major gift prospects from current supporters and new sources.
- Develop and implement strategies to secure donations and financial support for the Russ the Story Bus Capital Campaign.
- Overall campaign management and organisation including pipelines, prospect tracking, moves management, task assignment and maintenance of timelines.
- Proactively schedule meetings and handle all related preparations, including creating talking points, compiling presentations, and ensuring thorough meeting readiness for Board members, campaign stakeholders and staff.
- Oversee and ensure the successful management of the campaign budget and reporting, supervise the acknowledgment of all campaign gifts and pledges, and collaborate with relevant staff to prepare pledge payment reminders and agreements.
- Collaborate with relevant internal stakeholders within the Sydney Writers' Festival team to ensure clear and effective communication, while securing support in the development of all campaign correspondence and collateral.
- Manage and deliver the master campaign calendar to ensure effective planning, communication, and cultivation events, keeping relevant campaign staff on track, while maintaining accurate reporting in our CRM system, Tessitura.
- Organise and monitor all adjacent and related activity and follow-up and assist in all aspects of related events and appeals.

Essential Requirements:

- A minimum of five years' experience with proven success in leading capital campaigns or major giving campaigns – raising significant funds across a range of sources.
- Comprehensive experience in managing donor and supporter relationships with strong existing networks.
- Excellent experience in fundraising roles with a deep understanding of philanthropy, appeals and the engagement space.
- Excellent understanding and ability to adapt style and skills across a range of fundraising streams.
- Demonstrated ability to achieve financial targets and a proven track record of securing gifts from individuals, trusts and foundations and corporates.
- A natural connector of people who genuinely enjoys nurturing relationships and is comfortable liaising at all levels.
- Demonstrated ability to be data-driven and analytical in identifying growth and fundraising opportunities.
- Strong database management and administrative skills, with preference for experience using Tessitura.
- A skilled communicator across written, verbal and digital platforms.
- Proactive and positive attitude with exceptional organisational skills.
- Highly developed interpersonal skills with a proven ability to inspire others and build influential relationships.
- Strong understanding of or passion for customer service

Candidate Characteristics

- Demonstrated ability to nurture strong, professional relationships both internally and externally.
 - Collaborates with others to achieve better outcomes on both fundraising specific projects or wider organisational priorities.
 - Can proactively spot opportunities and act upon them where they benefit the team and the organisation.
 - Ability to develop strong relationships, internal and external, and to work as part of a small team.
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How to apply

Applications should be addressed to Lauren Dixon, Head of Development, and sent to jobs@swf.org.au. Applications close **COB Tuesday 6 May**.

Candidates are encouraged to apply early as applications will be assessed as they are received, and the role may be filled before the closing date.

Candidates who do not perfectly meet all the selection criteria but still feel they will be competitive are encouraged to apply.

Applications must include:

- A current resume
- Covering letter (no more than two pages), including an outline of your interest in the role, addressing how your experience prepares you for the responsibilities required and how you align with the selection criteria.