

Vacancy: Board members Rederij Lampedusa

Treasurer & Secretary (unpaid)

Who we are

Rederij Lampedusa is a progressive social enterprise in Amsterdam that uses its boat tours to tell the historical and cultural stories of the city from a new perspective: that of migration. Our mission is to make the human side of migration visible and audible, told by the crew who themselves have a history of flight.

Our fleet consists of two remarkable boats with a fraught past. In 2015, artist Teun Castelein brought two former refugee boats from the Italian island of Lampedusa to Amsterdam. The first, Alhadj Djumaa (“Mr. Friday”), once transported 282 passengers from Eritrea and Somalia safely to Lampedusa. The second, Hedir (“thunder, roar, powerful woman”), is smaller and shrouded in mystery—only a pair of diving goggles were found on board.

Our crew

Our team consists of people with roots in Syria, Somalia, Hungary, Colombia, Turkey, Ethiopia, Palestine, Eritrea, and the Netherlands, among other countries. This diversity makes us a living reflection of the stories we tell. Our skippers and guides are trained in both sailing and storytelling, making each tour a unique and personal experience.

Our tours and mission

At Rederij Lampedusa, we don't offer ordinary boat tours, but educational trips that shed light on Amsterdam's migration history. Through personal stories, we show how migration has shaped the city and create encounters that contribute to greater understanding, connection, and empathy.

Cultural stage

In addition to boat tours, we regularly transform our boats into a Floating Stage, where performances take place in the form of storytelling, theater, music, and drag. Themes such as the European dream, migration experiences from the Middle East, colonial legacies, and the search for home and connection are central to these performances.

Our values and collaborations

As a non-profit organization, we deal with the challenges of permits, financing, and a political context in which migration is often under pressure on a daily basis. That is precisely why we believe it is important to raise a countervoice: positive, inclusive, and based on the power of stories.

We collaborate with partners such as I-Amsterdam, Tui, Contiki, Uniworld, Airbnb, and National Geographic, which allows our mission to have both local and international impact.

The role of the board

The board of Rederij Lampedusa is responsible for supervision, strategy, and continuity. Board members support the management, monitor the mission, and actively contribute with their expertise and network.

To replace two of our wonderful board members, we are looking for a new Treasurer and a Secretary. These positions are unpaid.

I. Treasurer

Role and responsibilities:

The Treasurer is the financial conscience of the board and monitors the financial health of the organization. Tasks include:

- Supervising the financial administration, budget, and annual accounts.
- Advising the management on drawing up the annual budget.
- Ensuring compliance with legal obligations (e.g., Chamber of Commerce registrations, ANBI status, tax returns).
- Contributing ideas on fundraising, grant applications, and sustainable financing strategies.
- Identifying financial risks and advising on them.

What we expect:

- Experience with finance, accounting, or business management, preferably in the non-profit/cultural sector.
- Someone who knows and respects the rules, but considers the human dimension to be just as important.
- Someone with a heart for refugees and/or a refugee background themselves.
- Strategic insight and ability to translate figures into clear advice.
- Meticulous and strong communicator.
- Willingness to attend meetings on average six times a year (usually on Friday mornings) and to contribute ideas and answer questions in between meetings.
- Commitment to the mission of Rederij Lampedusa and enthusiasm to contribute actively.

II. Secretary

Role and responsibilities:

The Secretary is the organizational linchpin of the board and monitors governance and documentation.

- Preparing and planning board meetings (drawing up the agenda and preparing the documents together with the management).

- Ensuring the timely distribution of documents and minutes.
- Drawing up and archiving lists of decisions and official documents.
- Monitoring compliance with articles of association, regulations, and other legal obligations.
- Maintaining the register of board members, terms of office, and reappointments.
- Ensuring good communication and information provision within the board.
- Managing and keeping important policy documents, contracts, and articles of association up to date.
- Supporting the recruitment and training of new board members.

What we expect:

- Experience with secretarial tasks, board support, or legal/governance knowledge.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.
- Proactive and reliable, someone who brings structure and continuity.
- Willingness to attend meetings on average 6 times a year (usually on Friday mornings) and prepare documents in a timely manner.
- Commitment to the mission and culture of Rederij Lampedusa.
- Someone who knows and respects the rules, but considers the human dimension to be at least as important.
- Someone with a heart for people who are refugees and/or who have a refugee background themselves.

What we offer

- An inspiring and meaningful board position in a unique organization that brings together art, education, and social impact.
- The opportunity to contribute to a more inclusive cultural landscape in Amsterdam.
- A diverse and motivated team with a large network at home and abroad.
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- At least one boat trip per year.

The position of board member is unpaid.

Expenses directly related to the position may be reimbursed in consultation.

Interested?

Send your motivation letter and a brief description of your background to info@rederijlampedusa.nl.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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