GATESHEAD VISIBLE ETHNIC MINORITIES SUPPORT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1008100

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1992-02-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Windsor Lodge Earls Dene Gateshead Tyne And Wear NE9 6BJ
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Activities

Objects: (A) TO RELIEVE THE INHABITANTS OF THE GATESHEAD AREA WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED, HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS, PARTICULARLY SUCH OF THEM THAT BELONG TO ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS AND WHO ARE RESIDENT OR LIVING THEREIN BY THE PROVISION FOR SUCH PERSONS OF (1) AN ADVICE AND INFORMATION SUPPORT SERVICE DEALING WITH SUCH MATTERS AS WELFARE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND LEGAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS (INCLUDING THOSE ENCOUNTERED AS A RESULT OF INADEQUATE COMMAND OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE) (2) FACILITIES FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURAL TRAINING (3) FACILITIES TO PROMOTE THEIR HEALTH (B) TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF SUCH INHABITANTS WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE (C) TO PROMOTE GOOD RACE RELATIONS BETWEEN PERSONS OF DIFFERENT ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS GENERALLY AND ALL OTHER INHABITANTS OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT

Activities: Our charity aims to undertake activities which help individuals and groups to understand and learn about different cultures and to support them in their efforts to overcome ignorance, language barriers, disadvantage, prejudice and racism. We undertake a variety of activities and events to fulfull our vision of creating a multi-cultural all-inclusive community.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE GATESHEAD AREA
- Gateshead
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£396,589	£331,836	-	-
2024-03-31	£412,845	£300,768	-	-
2023-03-31	£305,715	£284,017	-	-
2022-03-31	£287,717	£203,561	-	-
2021-03-31	£227,946	£125,255	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Chair	2016-08-17
Ala Miah		2022-01-24
Angela Gill		2021-01-21
Birinder Singh Brar		2017-12-20
Krishan Kant Attri		2025-01-22
MICHAEL HARTE		2012-09-05
Stuart Phillipson Bell		2025-01-22

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GATESHEAD VISIBLE ETHNIC MINORITIES SUPPORT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1008100

Accounts



Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group

(Registered Charity No. 1008100)

Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 March 2025

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Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group
Charity No:	1008100
Principal Address:	89 Salcombe Gardens Low Fell GATESHEAD Tyne & Wear NE9 6UD
Trustees:	Manjit Singh Dhindsa (Chair) Angela Singh (Treasurer) Krishan Kant Attri MBE (Vice Chair) Michael Harte Birinder Singh Brar Ala Miah Stuart Bell
Governing Document:	The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 2 November 1991, and is unincorporated.
Bankers:	HSBC plc 110 Grey Street Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3JG
Independent Examiner:	Keith Blackett FMAAT Beechwood Accounting NE Ltd 80 Beechwood Gdns GATESHEAD NE11 0DA

Trustees Annual Report

Our Work:

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group works with and for vulnerable and marginalised Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, asylum-seeker and refugee communities. Many of the people we support face barriers at multiple levels including personal, family, community, and wider social and institutional and are at risk of isolation, exclusion, and face racism and discrimination.

We are an anti-racist charity. Through our work, we support communities to engage with and make representations to service providers, helping to ensure equal access to the services they offer. We create safe opportunities for communities to raise concerns, take positive action, and influence change, while developing effective partnerships with organisations and associations working locally on shared issues.

Equality, diversity, equity and inclusion are fundamental to everything we do.

Our projects contribute to strengthening the Minority Ethnic voluntary infrastructure through high quality activity, training and development, and capacity building.

Our projects increase community engagement amongst those who are at risk of exclusion and isolation, addressing racism and discrimination, helping to strengthen community cohesion, and go towards achieving a reduction in race inequalities.

Through providing access to engaging, high quality activity, including training, educational and cultural activities, led by professional practitioners, support workers and volunteers, our programmes aim to provide our beneficiaries with the opportunity to:

- Develop new skills & interests
- Raise their confidence & self esteem
- Experience working alongside professional practitioners
- Identify and explore educational, volunteering and career opportunities
- Improve social, physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Become more active and healthy
- Interact with others in a creative, dynamic & enjoyable environment.
- Mutual support and working together
- Opportunities to examine issues affecting their lives
- Giving a voice to culturally diverse groups to raise awareness of and celebrate their own culture/identity

We work in partnership with Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police, Community Safety Team, NHS, Public Health, local schools and community groups, Gateshead Interfaith Forum, housing services, and Leisure/Cultural Services

This year our charity lost two of our long serving trustees, community leaders and best of friends, who both devoted their life to family and community.

Memoriam of Founding Trustee and Chair Ashok Kumar (09/11/1945 – 05/10/2024)

It is with deep respect and gratitude that we remember Ashok Kumar, a true pillar of the Gateshead and Tyne and Wear community.

In 1990, alongside Mr Bahal Singh Dhindsa MBE, Ashok co-founded our charity Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group, serving as Chairperson for over 34 years. His leadership helped break down barriers for minority ethnic, asylum seeker, and refugee communities, championing equality and diversity, and in 2000 he played a pivotal role in establishing GemArts.

Ashok served the Newcastle Hindu Temple committee for over four decades as Vice President and Secretary. A champion of interfaith dialogue, he played key roles in the Gateshead Interfaith Forum, Race Equality Council, Northumbria Police's Community Relations Group, and Positive Images. His influence extended into education and health through his service on the board of governors at Gateshead College and Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Honoured with the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Community Service to the Borough of Gateshead in 2003, his legacy of unity, service, and bridge-building will continue to inspire generations.

Memoriam of Trustee and Vice-Chair Atma Singh Gill MBE (20/03/1937 – 26/01/2025)

We remember with deep respect and gratitude the life and service of Mr Atma Singh Gill MBE.

Mr Gill was a pillar of the Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group, serving with distinction as Vice Chair and Treasurer, where his integrity, wisdom, and calm leadership were deeply valued.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the community, Mr Gill was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2009. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Gateshead Citizens Advice and was a member of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum, specialising in advising on the faith and cultural needs of people using the NHS, ensuring dignity and understanding in healthcare.

Atma Singh Gill leaves a lasting legacy of service, unity, and compassion. His memory will continue to inspire all who knew and worked with him.

2024/25 – Activities & Achievements:

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and deepened existing inequalities, and alongside the ongoing cost-of-living crisis has disproportionately impacted Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, further amplifying racial and health inequalities.

In August 2024, England experienced some of the worst incidents of racism and violence in recent years. The vandalism and arson of hotels housing families seeking asylum in Rotherham and Tamworth, and racist attacks in Middlesbrough and Sunderland targeting Black and Asian residents, created widespread fear and anxiety within Global Majority communities.

As a result, many of our summer holiday sessions were cancelled, as people did not feel safe using public transport, being in public spaces, or allowing their children to attend activities. These sessions would have been a vital opportunity for communities to connect, and their absence increased isolation, loneliness and anxiety—particularly for women, older people, children and young people. Digital exclusion remains a significant barrier, and we have continued to respond to community needs.

The work of our charity is more vital than ever. In the aftermath of the racial violence, we worked closely with communities and partners to provide dialogue facilitation and responsive, empowering activities. Our Community Bridgebuilder continued to support families seeking asylum, while our Chair Manjit Dhindsa and Director Vikas Kumar engaged with Northumbria Police through Joint Engagement Group meetings to address fear, seek accurance and support community safety. We worked in collaboration and resumed all our activities as soon as we could, ensuring that communities felt safe, heard and supported.

From our base at Bensham Grove Community Centre in Gateshead, we deliver a wide range of weekly support, advice and development sessions. In 2024/25, we engaged with and supported over 2,000 people across all ages, communities and ethnicities.

Alongside frontline delivery, GVEMSG has strengthened its organisational capacity, including governance, operations, monitoring, reporting and financial management. We continue to invest in the training and development of our trustees, staff and volunteers.

Mondays, 1–3pm – Feel Good Group- We deliver weekly health and wellbeing sessions for women from minority ethnic and wider communities who experience isolation. The group provides a safe, creative and welcoming space where women can build confidence, improve physical and mental health, and connect with others. Activities help participants overcome barriers to participation, access culturally relevant creative learning, and develop supportive peer networks. Women come from diverse faith and cultural backgrounds but find common ground through shared activities. The group receives GP referrals for women who would benefit from additional support and advice.

Weekly activities include visual arts, movement, dance and exercise sessions, group outings, skills training, and support to progress towards volunteering, education, employment and enterprise.

As part of GemArts *Cultural Threads* creative health programme, the group worked with professional artists throughout 2024. Between April and July, participants created decorative artworks across a range of materials with Emma Sheridan and took part in yoga and macramé workshops led by Palak Rastogi. From September to December, the group engaged in jewellery-making workshops with Brenda Owen, supported by GemArts mentee Zarifeh Peygar, followed by gilding and installation workshops with Zara Worth. Their work was exhibited at a Cultural Threads celebration event at Gateshead Multilingual Library.

From January to March, the group worked with Emma Sheridan on a textiles and multimedia project exploring themes of spring, renewal and new beginnings. The final artwork was exhibited at the GemArts Holi celebration at the Baltic on 15 March. Showing their work in an international gallery created a strong sense of pride, achievement, wellbeing and belonging for participants.

Throughout the year, Tai Chi, yoga, Bollywood dance, Zumba and movement sessions were delivered with the Feel Good Group and during Wednesday drop-ins. These sessions offered a holistic approach to wellbeing, promoting mindfulness, reducing stress and enhancing both physical and emotional health in a structured, enjoyable environment.

Drop-In Centre (Wednesdays, 1–3pm) - Our weekly drop-in provides advice, advocacy and signposting on housing, health, education, employment, social services and community safety. We offer a welcoming, inclusive space with food, refreshments and multilingual support. The drop-in plays a vital role in social inclusion for both established communities and new arrivals.

English Language Support – Zahra Bazarganianpour (Community Bridgebuilder) supported by Harpal Sanghera (Community Development Worker) deliver beginner English classes for people seeking sanctuary on Tuesdays at Bensham Grove (10am–1pm) and Wednesdays and Fridays at St Chad's Community Centre, engaging around 20–25 learners per session. We provide refreshments, cover travel costs and offer holistic support, including wellbeing and signposting, to reduce barriers to learning and access to wider services.

English Homework Club (Mondays, 4–6pm) - In September 2024 Zahra with support from Lily Daniels, GemArts Learning and Participation Manager, began our weekly term-time Homework Club at Gateshead Central Library which supports young people seeking asylum and refugees studying GCSEs. We provide refreshments and cover travel costs to ensure our sessions are accessible and welcoming. Led by GemArts Community Bridgebuilder, and in partnership with EMTAS and the Gateshead Library, the sessions provide academic support, pastoral care and creative opportunities, engaging around 25 young people from diverse backgrounds.

Together, these sessions have been essential in keeping people connected, supporting learning, improving health and wellbeing, and creating a strong sense of belonging.

Vikas Kumar MBE Deputy Lieutenant Commissioning Ceremony - On 12th March 2025 GVEMSG hosted the Commissioning Ceremony of Vikas Kumar MBE as Deputy Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear, appointed by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear, Ms Lucy Winskell OBE. The event was attended by family, friends and community from across the private, public, voluntary and cultural sector. A huge congratulations to Vikas from everyone!

Sector/Strategic Development - Trustees, staff and volunteers also contribute to other boards and forums including - Bensham Grove Community Centre, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Northern Stage, Newcastle University Court, Gateshead Voluntary Sector Leaders Group, plus others. GVEMSG has worked in partnership with local minority ethnic voluntary groups in Gateshead and Tyne and Wear to provide advocacy and support

Volunteer Development - Volunteers support the aims of our charity and play an integral part in meeting our vision and mission. 50 volunteers have supported our charity this year, and we have provided a whole range of support. We are truly grateful for their passion and commitment and value their contributions enormously.

GemArts

GemArts is one of a limited number of Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations and an award-winning leader in South Asian and diversity arts. We create and programme high-quality concerts, events, festivals, workshops and commissions with regional, national and international artists across all art forms. GemArts specialises in culturally diverse, participatory arts projects of the highest quality, working with Global Majority and wider communities that are least engaged. We proactively share learning and best practice through regional and national networks and platforms.

In 2024/25, GemArts delivered an ambitious and inspiring artistic programme across all strands of our work. We collaborated with flagship venues, community spaces and national touring partners, supported artists at every stage of their careers, and ensured that talent and artistic excellence were diverse, thriving and celebrated. Our cultural offer included both free and ticketed events, with concessionary, discounted and complimentary tickets to ensure accessibility. We produced and programmed 40

performances and exhibitions, employed 288 individual artists, welcomed over 36,000 live audience members from diverse communities, and engaged more than half a million online audiences.

GemArts expanded its critically acclaimed Riverside Ragas concert series at The Glasshouse, presenting outstanding classical, folk and contemporary music. The programme was enriched by pre-concert talks, demonstrations, workshops and masterclasses with academics, musicians and journalists, alongside online content including podcasts. This was a particularly remarkable year for international programming. Highlights included performances by double Grammy Award winner Rakesh Chaurasia, accompanied by acclaimed tabla player Shahbaz Hussain; Carnatic vocalist Shantala Subramanyam from Chennai; and celebrated UK talent Jasdeep Singh Degun, the first British Asian sitarist to win the Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Best Instrumentalist, who returned for another stunning performance. In November, his guru Ustad Dharambir Singh MBE was joined by Kaviraj Singh on santoor and Pandit Sanju Sahai on tabla. These extraordinary performances played to capacity audiences and standing ovations.

We continued to reach new and diverse audiences through partnerships with venues of different sizes across the region. Working with long-term collaborators Jazz North East, we programmed an experimental performance by Amirtha Kidambi and Manon McCoy at Cluny 2, and later presented Myriad Streams – The Beautiful Storm at the Lit & Phil, exploring the intersection of contemporary jazz, Indian classical and Celtic music. At Gosforth Civic Theatre, GemArts supported the first Wye Aye Deaf Festival and presented local singer Asmita Dixit's debut solo concert. We also expanded our reach southwards through a new partnership with Middlesbrough Town Hall, contributing to their Classical Café series with performances by emerging Carnatic violinist Aparna Raghuraman and renowned sitarist Baluji Shrivastav.

Strengthening our relationship with Durham University, GemArts co-produced the fourth edition of Indian Spring Colours, featuring a stellar line-up of Indian and UK classical musicians across two days. Highlights included sarod virtuoso Debasmita Bhattacharya, tabla player Gurdain Rayatt, and a special tribute to Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, led by his son-disciple Pandit Shrinivas Joshi, alongside his grandson Viraj Joshi. They were joined by UK-based vocalist Dr Vijay Rajput, with Saleel Tembe on tabla, Siddhiie Kapshikarr on harmonium, and Jay Rajput on tanpura and vocal support.

GemArts' commitment to traditional and contemporary South Asian dance was powerfully demonstrated through an exceptional programme. The year opened at Northern Stage with Mehek, a deeply moving exploration of the human heart by Aakash Odedra and Aditi Mangaldas, two of the most influential South Asian dancers of their generations. Mehek later won the National Theatre Award for Best Dance Production. In partnership with Dance City, we presented two contrasting works: Amina Khayyam's solo ONE, examining migrant narratives shaped by media and political fear-mongering, and Physical Production's Bombay Superstars, a vibrant musical celebration of Bollywood's disco era.

GemArts' award-winning Masala Festival returned from 15th to 21st July 2024, celebrating South Asian cultural goodness! The festival launched with Pagrav Dance Company's Aunusthan at Dance City, with a virtuosic performance and riotous rhythm. Visual arts featured Artful Struggles: Contemporary Art from Sri Lanka at The Gallery, Gateshead Central Library, featuring over 60 art works, marking the second anniversary of the Aragalaya/Porattam movement. Cities of Dreams – Beneath the Surface presented South Asian short films at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art. GemArts commissioned New Ways of Moving in the Counterworlds at Cluny 2, bringing together jazz musicians John Pope and John Garner with poet Nisha Ramayya. Film audiences were treated to critically acclaimed Snow Leopard at Tyneside Cinema, followed by an incredible evening of spoken word and desi soul flow, Freespill at DiverCity Hub, hosted by Tahmina Ali. An outstanding line up of live music included the Rajasthan Heritage Brass Band in Newcastle City Centre, When Chai Met Toast at The Glasshouse, and Balladeste at St Mary's Heritage Centre, Gateshead. The festival partnered with Tyne and Wear Metro and Dabbawal and a packed programme of workshops, pop-ups and food events culminated in the much-loved Mini Mela & Mini Book Fair at Bensham Grove Community Centre — a vibrant celebration of creativity and family fun!

For the fourth consecutive year, GemArts delivered the Holi Festival of Colours in partnership with BALTIC, attracting over 4,000 people. The event featured creative workshops, henna, dance, music,

food and a joyous colour throw in Baltic Square. Now a firm fixture in the North East cultural calendar, tickets sold out in just three minutes, with extensive coverage from BBC and ITV Tyne Tees.

GemArts invested in R&D and encouraged artists to take risks, commissioning ground-breaking, innovative projects, artist talks and productions to raise both the profile and quality of South Asian arts and intercultural collaborations across England.

GemArts invested in and commissioned 3 new works this year. For Masala Festival: New Ways of Moving in the Counterworlds - John Pope and violinist John Garner collaborated with poet Nisha Ramayya in an experimental homage to their shared love of Alice Coltrane; and ROOH: Within Her by Pagrav Dance, a Kathak solo by Urja Desai Thakore exploring women's heroism, agency, and storytelling across generations. For GemArts Holi Festival of Colours Payal Ramchandani, acclaimed Kuchipudi dance artist and choreographer based in the North East, responded to Mani Kambos exhibition Ax.is Mun-di at Baltic with a dynamic and expressive performance.

GemArts remains deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of artists and practitioners from under-represented groups, with a long-term aim of diversifying leadership within the arts.
In 2024/25, GemArts' artist development programme supported 18 artists whose work reflected creative and cultural diversity through training, developmental, participatory, and performance opportunities. Through our Cultural Threads programme, we embedded a cohort of eight mentees from global majority communities at the early stages of their participatory practice. We also continued to support eight regional music leaders through our East by North East programme, broadening further the cohort to achieve diversity and gender balance. Artists were supported to lead complex, multi-partner projects with young people living in challenging circumstances, alongside professional development, peer mentoring, training, and shared best practice. The programme continues to evidence clear progression routes from participants to young leaders, volunteers, and professional practitioners. In addition, we hosted three work experience placements over the year.

Learning and Participation
GemArts demonstrates considerable depth of knowledge and understanding around complex issues related to cultural diversity and arts. In 2024/25 we have continued to build on our excellent track record, further collaborating with the public and voluntary sector to expand our artistic programme to provide more opportunities for professional artists and Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged to work with one another, co-create, sustaining the arts regionally, and addressing community needs and issues.

This year we have employed and supported a culturally diverse workforce of 65 artists in participatory settings, and delivered, in formal education and community settings, 981 sessions with over 18,300 participants from minority ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged and across protected characteristics and age ranges.

Highlights include:

Cultural Threads is GemArts' creative health programme, providing culturally relevant creative opportunities to reduce loneliness, isolation, build connection, and support wellbeing. Additional funding from UKSPF and the Gateshead Community Mental Health Fund enabled the programme to expand across Gateshead.

Over the year participatory workshops engaged minority ethnic, refugees, asylum seeker, and wider communities, co-produced with professional artists and supported by mentees Keira Ryan, Zarifeh Peygar, Afrooz Bayat, Karanjot Kaur, and James Wilkinson, with volunteer facilitator Hesam Mosfegh. Professional artists included Pui Lee, Donna Cheshire, Madhura Godbole, Will Steel, Jayamini de Silva, Emma Sheridan, Sabina Sallis, Sofia Barton, Beck Owen, Zara Worth and Palak Rastogi.

Workshops spanned mosaic, puppetry, painting, textiles, illustration, mixed media, jewellery, design, Bollywood dance and yoga at Hope House, Hillside Hub, Millin Centre, Action Foundation and our Feel Good Group at Bensham Grove, engaging over 1000 older people, adults, families, and young people across 87 sessions.

The programme culminated in celebrations and exhibitions, including the Multilingual Library showcase, Holi at BALTIC, Masala Festival Mini Mela, Newcastle Sanctuary Forum Refugee Week, and Millin Centre's Together We Create: A Display of Women's Feelings, Thoughts & Experiences, highlighting creativity, community, and cultural expression engaging with a further 7000 people.

Cultural Threads @ Spring Bank Pavilion, Leazes Park, Newcastle
In partnership with Urban Green and Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, GemArts delivered between April and August 18 Cultural Threads sessions, engaging 106 participants in creative, participatory activities. Workshops included natural dyeing with Katie Pollard, illustration with Benji Smith supported by mentees Sajil Kaleem and Sean Rodriguez, and family forestry school sessions led by Pui Lee with mentee Isabel Forbes. Sabina Sallis ran charm-making sessions, Lily Daniels led bird scarer workshops, and additional illustration workshops were delivered by Benji Smith with volunteer Hesam Mosfegh. The programme combined mentorship, creative skills, and community engagement, fostering connection, artistic exploration, and wellbeing across Newcastle.

Cultural Threads @ Culture Exchange Group, Byker
Visual artist Emma Sheridan worked with Barnardo's Newcastle Family Hub East, a group for refugees and those seeking asylum. Over 7 weeks Emma delivered textiles, sewing and mixed media sessions. The women are from Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran. They all created their own individual pieces to take home. The sessions also enable the group to develop English language skills, networks and access to further services.

GemArts Cultural Threads programme continues to reiterate our knowledge that the need for culturally relevant practitioners to deliver creative projects is significant. When working with historically marginalised communities, it is imperative to consider inclusivity, accessibility, lived experience and a sense of belonging within every aspect of the project to ensure that we are meeting the cultural and personal needs of participants in relation to improving mental health and wellbeing.

Alongside numerous community sessions, GemArts partnered with Gateshead Arts Team on *Riverside Routes*, delivering community workshops including Jayamini de Silva's wildlife textile sessions with the Feel Good Group at Bensham Grove and paper puppetry with young people at Side by Side.

At Sunderland Unity Festival, responding to summer race riots, diverse community groups came together to celebrate diversity and unity, with Madhura Godbole leading interactive Bollywood performances and Lily Daniels delivering Rangoli workshops for families.

During Refugee Week, Rapasa Nyatrapasa Otieno, singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist performed and led drumming sessions at St Mary's Heritage Centre, engaging audiences in participatory music. We also delivered a range of African drumming workshops with musician Fanuel engaging adults and carers across South Shields and Sunderland.

Through these initiatives, GemArts fostered creativity, connection, and cultural exchange, combining artistic practice with social engagement across the region.

Children and Young People
GemArts expanded the reach and depth of our rich cultural offer for Children and Young People across the North East within schools and community settings offering unparalleled access to high quality culturally diverse arts opportunities. Working in some of the most deprived areas/wards in the region GemArts schools programme supported curriculum topics, diversity weeks, arts weeks, anti-racism, respect agenda, summer transition and contributed towards SMSC development. We worked with 36 schools (primary and secondary) and supported 8 schools across the North East to achieve and maintain Arts Mark as well as delivering creative CPD sessions with teachers in 2 primary schools.

GemArts supported 10 young people to achieve Arts Award (Discover and Bronze). From experience, we know accessible, accredited learning like Arts Award makes a huge difference to young people from minority ethnic communities and starts to address the balance in attainment gaps.
Highlights include:

GemArts worked in partnership with Durham Council International Office to offer schools in rural communities artists residencies and a diverse cultural offer to support them to work towards gaining accreditation under the British Council's award scheme. Belmont secondary school hosted a transition project for Year 6 and 7's. Madhura Godbole, Breeze George, Fanuel Kaphuma, Jayamini de Silva, Lip Lee, Payal Ramchandani and Mestre Pelicano delivered a carousel of dance, visual arts and music activity. They then worked with small groups (2-4 students) to deliver the same individual workshop in six feeder schools engaging with 1200 pupils.

As in previous years we worked in partnership with South Tyneside Music Hub. This year we worked with more schools across South Shields and Fanuel delivered African drumming workshops and assembly performances with students at 17 schools. Feedback has been outstanding from schools and young people, enging with 1160 participants in workshops and 5638 assembly audience members.

We continued to deliver Music Production and DJ'ing sessions at Woodlands PRU in Durham during term time with music leader Adam Cogdon every Wednesday. These are one to one session with 13 young people who are SEN. April Olatunji continued to deliver vocal, choir and piano sessions on Thursday and Friday's at Excelsior Academy ensnaring with 38 students per week.

Other schools' projects included visual arts workshops with Emma Sheridan and African drumming with Fanuel at Roman Road, and creative workshops with year 5 and 6 at Caedman School (Gateshead) led by Sofia Barton and Jayamini de Silva for Masala Mini Mela. Diwali and Comic Con activities took place at Leadgate Primary in Consett, while Grange View hosted Tai Chi and African drumming sessions. At Dilston College (Northumberland), young people with learning disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and complex needs engaged in tailored arts activities. In Sunderland, Pui Lee delivered seven weeks of Chinese art workshops for reception through year 5 students, both during class time and in after-school sessions, providing accessible, hands-on creative opportunities across the region.

GemArts' flagship *East by North East* youth music programme continued to engage over 200 young people each week, strengthening partnerships across six host organisations—North Benwell Youth Project, Life Transformational Church, Excelsior Academy, Benfield School, Side by Side, and others—across Newcastle and Gateshead. The programme provides young people from Global Majority and wider communities, often living in challenging circumstances, with high-quality, culturally diverse music-making opportunities.

The programme is youth-led, offering regular weekly sessions, accreditation, progression routes, sharing events, and performances. A key element is diversifying the regional music workforce through CPD, training, and development for practitioners.

Young participants formed *The Compass Group* to shape the programme, organise events, and lead marketing, including performances at community festival Benstock, Pride, and creative initiatives such as a silent disco litter pick in Byker.The annual Christmas EBNE Celebration showcased performances from across the programme, attended by around 100 family members and friends.

GemArts continued music provision to Peterlee in County Durham in partnership with Creative Youth Opportunities. Music leaders Adam Cogdon delivered music production, rap and lyric writing workshops with young people to prevent anti-social behaviour. Music leaders April and Holly delivered workshops at Ash Green Way, a permanent traveller site during June and July with 15 participants.

We supported Dhol Drumming session led by music leader Rosh Landa every Friday (term time) at Diversity Hub, Newcastle with 15 young people and 10 adults attending each week.

In partnership with St Chads in Gateshead a successful bid to the Holiday Action Fund enabled GemArts music leaders: Fred Phethean, George Otigbah, Georgia May Turnbull, Holly McGrath and Kema Kaye to deliver lyric writing, music recording and singing workshops at St Chad's for young people during summer holidays.

GemArts have collaborated with Gateshead Music Hub on Youth Voice: Reverberate, a group of young people shaping Gateshead's cultural scene. Members organise events, attend gigs, and help influence

how arts and music are taught in schools. The programme develops skills, gives young people a voice in decision-making, and makes the cultural landscape more accessible and vibrant for their peers. In July the group of young people delivered a 1 day event at Glasshouse involving 10 schools and 16 musicians/workshop leaders.

GemArts creative practice highlights the confidence, skills, and cultural identity young people gain through music and engaging with diverse positive role models. The programme continues to demonstrate the power of music to foster social change, community cohesion, empowerment, improving health and wellbeing, belonging, leadership, talent development and progression.

This year, GemArts developed two new partnerships to expand creative opportunities.
With South Tyneside Libraries, workshops celebrated the Great North Run. Lily led a flags workshop at The Word, Pui Lee ran print and award sessions at Cleadon Park Library, Fanuel delivered African drumming at the Finisher's Pavilion for 500 school children, and Sofia Barton led bookmark-making workshops for families.

With Young Women's Outreach Project, Gateshead, GemArts delivered a diverse programme of arts workshops for young women. African drumming was delivered by Mark Barfoot and Fanuel Kaphuma, watercolours by Pui Lee, illustration by Sofia Barton, Chinese ink by Lip Lee, and rangoli by Jayamini de Silva. Sessions engaged 6–28 participants each, offering immersive experiences in global arts practices and creative skill development.

Our Mini Mela at Masala Festival in July and at Caedmon Hall during February half term were both a great success attracting children and family audience of over 900 to both; we extended the Mini Mela offer and programmed a full day of culturally diverse arts activities at Darlington Hippodrome and Hullabuloo Theatre on 8 April attracting 700 children and families.

GemArts celebrated diverse cultural and faith festivals throughout the year. For India Independence Day at Newcastle Civic, Emma Sheridan led South Asian-inspired collage workshops, and Mani Kambo ran gem rangoli sessions. Our Diwali programme was highly popular: at Middlesbrough Hippodrome Madhura Godbole delivered Bollywood dance workshops, Jayamini led mandala sessios for families, and Emma Sheridan created lanterns for Newcastle Hindu Temple fireworks parade attended by over 3,500 people. In January 2025, Lunar New Year of the Snake was marked in Durham with visual arts workshops led by Lip Lee and Pui Lee, alongside Tai Chi sessions, offering creative and cultural engagement for the community.

GemArts participatory arts programme has continued to engage with diverse communities that are marginalised and least engaged, we have offered culturally relevant arts opportunities and have demonstrated the positive impact of our artistic practice in keeping people connected, creative, reducing isolation and improving their health and wellbeing.

Sector-wide, GemArts has taken a leadership role in advocating for the value of creativity and diversity at a strategic level. Through exemplary practice, the organisation has supported the development of minority ethnic communities, artists, practitioners, and leaders, and continues to be recognised as a leading voice in the diversity arts sector.

Despite ongoing challenges, GemArts has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and innovation, responding effectively to local, regional, and national policy agendas. Strong partnerships with local authorities, educational institutions, children's and adult services, and cultural, voluntary, and public sector organisations have strengthened the reach and long-term impact of our work. These relationships have also enabled us to secure commissioning opportunities and funding from trusts and foundations to deliver shared strategic objectives.

We thank our funders, trusts and foundations, donors, sponsors, and partners for their continued support, and extend our gratitude to our artists, volunteers, staff, trustees, communities, participants, and audiences for their generosity, commitment, and resilience.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Chair
Signature		Date	28th January 2026
Name	Angela Singh	Position	Treasurer
Signature		Date	28th January 2026

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 13-20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination; it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act;and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
-

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Keith Blackett FMAAT

Date 28/01/2026

Signed *K Blackett (Electronically Signed)*

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024-25 £	Total Funds 2023-24 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and Legacies		15,550	0	0	15,550	11,060
Charitable Activities		103,495	0	275,970	379,465	400,772
Other Trading Activities		0		0	0	0
Investments		1,574	0	0	1,574	1,013
Total Income and Endowments		**120,619**	**0**	**275,970**	**396,589**	**412,845**
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds					0	
Charitable Activities		54,712		277,124	331,836	300,768
Other resources expended					0	0
Total Expenditure		**55,366**	**0**	**277,124**	**331,836**	**300,768**
Income less Expenditure before transfers		**65,907**	**0**	**(1,154)**	**64,753**	**112,077**
Transfers		0	0	0	0	0
Total Funds brought forward		132,598	170,500	395,109	698,207	586,130
Total funds carried forward		**198,505**	**170,500**	**393,955**	**762,960**	**698,207**

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2025

	Note	Total Funds 2024-25 £	Total Funds 2023-24 £
Current Assets			
Stocks and Work in Progress		0	0
Debtors		0	0
Investments		0	0
Cash at Bank and In Hand		762,960	698,207
Total Current Assets		762,960	698,207
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		(300)	(300)
Total Current Assets less Current Liabilities		(300)	(300)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Net assets or liabilities including pension asset or liability		762,660	697,907
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		394,609	395,109
Designated Funds		170,500	170,500
Unrestricted income funds		197,851	132,598
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		762,960	698,207

Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Chair
Signature	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Date	28th January 2026
Name	Angela Singh	Position	Treasurer
Signature	Angela Singh	Date	28th January 2026

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period to 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

Basis of Preparation

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

Resources Expended and Liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Funds

The Charity has 3 funds, an unrestricted general fund, a designated fund, comprising 3 months running costs and redundancy liabilities as per the reserves policy, and a restricted fund used for purchasing items of a specific: hence all movements on each fund are disclosed.

Restricted Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
GVEMSG	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
MEMCO and Warm Spaces	4,440	500	(405)	0	4,535
GVEMSG Total	**4,440**	**500**	**(405)**	**0**	**4,535**
GEM ARTS					
			-		
Arts Council England - NPO	102,233.00	202,208.00	(170,924.00)		133,517
Catalyst	95,688.00	0.00	0.00		95,688
National Foundation for Youth Music	19,152.00	15,000.00	(28,632.00)		5,520
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD	27,044.00	0.00	0.00		27,044
Town Hall	7,770.00	0.00	0.00		7,770
ACE - Culture Against Racism	2,517.00	0.00	0.00		2,517
GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme	15,324.00	0.00	0.00		15,324
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead	4,948.00	0.00	0.00		4,948
Cumbria NHS	26,345.00	0.00	0.00		26,345
Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder	66,188.00	0.00	(35,306.00)		30,882
Lankelly Chase - English Language Enquiry	10,184.00	0.00	(3,999.00)		6,185
GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community Health	7,194.00	10,000.00	(4,541.00)		12,653
Lankelly Chase - Deaf Festival	6,082.00	15,840.00	(21,922.00)		0
Lankelly Chase - Homework Club	0.00	13,600.00	(1,992.00)		11,608
UKSPF	0.00	10,000.00	(9,076.00)		924
VCSE Health Alliance Fund	0.00	8,822.00	(327.00)		8495
	0.00	0.00	0.00		0
GEM ARTS Total	**390,669**	**275,470**	**(276,719)**	**0**	**389,420**
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	**395,109**	**275,970**	**(277,124)**	**0**	**393,955**

Designated Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Contingency and Redundancy Liability	170,500			0	170,500
					0
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	**170,500**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**170,500**

Unrestricted Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
GVEMSG - General Fund	6,540	0	(60)		6,480
GEM Arts - General Fund	126,058	120,619	(54,652)	0	192,025
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	**132,598**	**120,619**	**(54,712)**	**0**	**198,505**
TOTAL FUNDS	**698,207**	**396,589**	**(331,836)**	**0**	**762,960**

Purpose of Funds

GVEMSG

a) MEMCO transfer

GemArts

a) Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation -The grant is towards core costs and artistic programme.
b) Catalyst – building fundraising capacity.
c) National Foundation for Youth Music - The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project focusing on music with children living in challenging circumstances, and training/developing a diverse music leader workforce.
d) European Social Fund: Gateshead Goes Global – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts programme with women furthest from the labour market to make progress towards volunteering, employment, enterprise, education or training.
e) Town Hall – for the delivery of a South Asian music and performance programme.
f) Arts Council England/Donations – sector support/partnership to deliver Culture Against Racism.
g) GMBC and Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme.
h) Bluestone Collaborative – Well NewcastleGateshead – The grant is for the delivery of 'Hyem' a high quality arts, health and wellbeing programme.
i) Cumbria NHS – The grant is for the delivery of Cultural Threads an arts health and wellbeing programme with NHS staff in Cumbria, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear.
j) Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder funding to support wages and core costs.
k) Lankelly Chase - to support Englsih Langauage Enquiry with people seeking sanctury.
l) UKSPF - to deliver a creative health programme in Gateshead.
m) VCSE Health Alliance Fund - to deliver a creative health programme with young people

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2024-25

Income and Endowments from: **Donations and Legacies**	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**Total**
GEM ARTS				-
Sponsorship and Donations	15,550			15,550
				0
				0
GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total	**15,550**	**0**	**0**	**15,550**
GVEMSG				0
Box Office - Cash	0			0
Grants	0		500	500
GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total	**0**	**0**	**500**	**500**
GEM ARTS				
Arts Council England - NPO			202,208	202,208
National Foundation for Youth Music			15,000	15,000
UKSPF			10,000	10,000
GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community Health			10,000	10,000
Lankelly Chase - Deaf Festival			15,840	15,840
Lankelly Chase - Homework Club			13,600	13,600
VCSE Health Alliance Fund			8,822	8,822
Other incoming resources				0
GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total	**0**	**0**	**275,470**	**275,470**
	0	0	275,970	275,970

Fundraising Income				
Fundraising Income		0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Investment Income				
Bank Interest Earned	1,574		0	1,574
	1,574	0	0	1,574
Other Incoming Resources				
	103,495	0	0	103,495
	103,495	0	0	103,495
Total Income and Endowments	**120,619**	**0**	**275,970**	**396,589**
Expenditure on:				
Charitable Activities				
GVEMSG				
Refreshments/Catering				0
Bank Charges	60			60
Rent/Telephone/Internet	0			0
Training and Development				0
Venue Hire				0
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport	0			0
Community Worker wages	0			0
GVEMSG Total Charitable Activities	**60**	**0**	**0**	**60**
GEM Arts				
Artist Fees, Materials & Production	54,652		106,366	161,018
Food Deliveries, Refreshments and Volunteer Expenses			5,573	5,573
Venue & Tech			5,065	5,065
Org Dev and Catalyst			4,525	4,525
Marketing/PR/Doc			4,298	4,298
Evaluation			0	0
IT and Equipment			2,444	2,444
Stationery/Printing/Postage			543	543
Insurance			1,133	1,133
Phone/Internet			750	750
Rent			3,492	3,492
Expenses			1,898	1,898
Wages and Pensions			140,298	140,298
Payroll Admin	0		379	379
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
Bank Charges			60	60
GEM ARTS Total Charitable Activities	**54,652**	**0**	**278,167**	**331,776**
Raising Funds				
				0
	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	**54,712**	**0**	**277,124**	**331,836**

Support Costs

Support Cost Type	Fundraising Activity £	Charitable Activity £	Governance Activity £	Total Cost £
GVEMSG				-
Insurance				-
Rent/Telephone/Internet				-
Sessional Staff				-
Stationery/Equipment				-
Training and Development				-
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				-
Community Worker wages		-		-
GVEMSG Total Support Costs		**-**	**-**	**-**
GEM ARTS				-
Venue & Tech		5,065		5,065
Marketing/PR/Doc		4,298		4,298
Evaluation		-		
IT and Equipment		2,444		2,444
Stationery/Printing/Postage		543		543
Insurance		1,133		1,133
Phone/Internet		750		750
Expenses		1,898		1,898
Wages		140,298		140,298
Payroll Admin		379		379
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
GEM ARTS Total Support Costs		**156,808**	**300**	**157,108**
Total Support Costs		**156,808**	**300**	**157,108**

3 Staff Costs

Employees	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024-25 Total £
GVEMSG			0
Salaries and NI	0		0
GVEMSG Total Employee Costs		**0**	**0**
GEM ARTS			
Salaries and NI		134,053	134,053
Pension		6,245	6,245
Child Care Vouchers			0
Payroll Fees		379	379
GEM ARTS Total Employee Costs	**0**	**140,677**	**140,677**
Total Employee Costs	0	140,677	140,677

	2024-25 Number
3 full time and 3 part time employees	6

These costs were for the employment of 3 full time and 3 part time members of staff and include Employer's NI. All other staff are casually employed tutors/facilitators. No member of staff was paid remuneration of £60,000 or more.

4 Trustees remuneration, benefit and expenses

There were none during this period.

5 Debtors

There are no debtors at this time.

6 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024-25 Total £
Independent Examination Fee	300		300
			-
	300	-	300

7 Related Party Disclosures

There were no related parties during this period.

8 Taxation

Due to the nature of its activities, the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

9 Transfer

Due to increased costs there was a requirement to transfer additional funds to the designated fund, to ensure that the reserves policy would be met.

GATESHEAD VISIBLE ETHNIC MINORITIES SUPPORT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1008100

Accounts



Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group

(Registered Charity No. 1008100)

Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 March 2024

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Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group
Charity No:	1008100
Principal Address:	89 Salcombe Gardens Low Fell GATESHEAD Tyne & Wear NE9 6UD
Trustees:	Mr Ashok Kumar (Chair) Mr A Singh Gill MBE (Vice Chair) Angela Singh (Treasurer) Manjit Singh Dhindsa (Secretary) Michael Harte Birinder Singh Brar Ala Miah Stuart Bell
Governing Document:	The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 2 November 1991, and is unincorporated.
Bankers:	HSBC plc 110 Grey Street Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3JG
Independent Examiner:	Keith Blackett FMAAT Beechwood Accounting NE Ltd 80 Beechwood Gdns GATESHEAD NE11 0DA

Trustees Annual Report

Our Work:

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group works with and for vulnerable and marginalised Black Asian and Minority Ethnic, asylum seeker and refugee communities who face barriers on many levels, including personal, family, community and wider social and institutional contexts, and are at risk of isolation and exclusion and face racism and discrimination. We are an anti-racist charity. Through the work we deliver we support all communities in making representation to service providers and ensure they have equal access to the services they provide; we provide an opportunity for communities to raise issues of concern and take positive action; and develop effective links between organisations and other associations operating in the area, on matters of common concern. Equality, diversity, equity and inclusion is fundamental to our work.

Our projects contribute to strengthening the Minority Ethnic voluntary infrastructure through high quality activity, training and development, and capacity building.

Overall our projects increase community engagement amongst those who are at risk of exclusion and isolation, combating racism and discrimination, helping to strengthen community cohesion, and go towards achieving a reduction in race inequalities.

Through providing access to engaging, high quality activity, including training, educational and cultural activities, led by professional practitioners, support workers and volunteers, our programmes aim to provide our beneficiaries with the opportunity to:

- Develop new skills & interests
- Raise their confidence & self esteem
- Experience working alongside professional practitioners
- Identify and explore educational, volunteering and career opportunities
- Improve social, physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Become more active and healthy
- Interact with others in a creative, dynamic & enjoyable environment.
- Mutual support and working together
- Opportunities to examine issues affecting their lives
- Giving a voice to culturally diverse groups to raise awareness of and celebrate their own culture/identity

We work in partnership with Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police, Community Safety Team, NHS, Public Health, local schools and community groups, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Gateshead Interfaith Forum, housing services, and Leisure/Cultural Services

Memoriam of Founding Trustee Bahal Singh Dhindsa MBE (11/01/1923 – 04/09/2023)
With deep respect and heartfelt gratitude, we acknowledge the passing of Bahal Singh Dhindsa MBE on 4th September 2023, a visionary leader and dedicated founding trustee of GVEMSG. He played a pivotal role in shaping the mission and values of our organisation, leaving an indelible mark on our journey and impact.

Bahal ji's unwavering commitment, wisdom, and generosity were instrumental in laying the foundation for creating an all-inclusive multi-cultural society and to address racism and discrimination in all its forms. His legacy continues to inspire us as we carry forward the work he held so dear.

We were honoured and blessed to have celebrated his 100th birthday, his life and incredible contribution to the North East.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, community and all who were fortunate to know and work alongside Bahal Ji. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

In honour of Bahal Singh Dhindsa MBE we remain steadfast in our commitment to the vision he helped create.

2023/24 – Activities & Achievements:

In 2023/24 we have engaged, supported and worked with over 2000 people from across all age ranges, faith communities and ethnicities.

The COVID19 pandemic, cost of living and energy crisis have disproportionately impacted Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and has further amplified racial and health inequalities. We know that many people in our communities are feeling even more isolated, lonely, worried and vulnerable, which is having a negative impact on their health and wellbeing - with women, older people, children and young people at greatest risk. Digital exclusion is a major barrier faced by communities we work with. We have continued to do be responsive to community needs.

GVEMSG has further developed the capacity of the organisation in terms of governance, operational, monitoring, reporting and financial management system. We continue to provide our trustees, staff and volunteers with appropriate training and development.

At our base in Bensham Grove Community Centre in Gateshead we continue to deliver a range of weekly support, advice and development sessions –

Mondays, 1pm-3pm - Feel Good Group: We deliver weekly Health and Wellbeing sessions supporting and working with women from minority ethnic and wider communities who feel isolated. The sessions engage women in activities to overcome barriers and enable them to access culturally relevant creative learning opportunities and to socialise and interact with other women. The women in the group have various physical and mental health issues, and the sessions offer an active, creative and safe environment to build their own confidence, improve health and wellbeing, and support each other. Members come from different faith and cultural backgrounds but find common ground in activities. The group receives GP referrals of women who would benefit from joining the group to access support and advice. The weekly activities include visual arts sessions, movements, dance and exercise sessions, group outings to local areas of intertest, and providing training, as well as facilitating their progress towards volunteering, employment and enterprise.

Between April to July 2023 as part of GemArts Cultural Threads creative health programme the group worked with artist Pui Lee over 6 sessions to develop painting and paper folding skills; and after that worked with artist Shiori over 7 sessions to develop Japanese dying, printing and embroidery techniques called Shibori which produces patterns on fabric. These were displayed at GemArts Masala Festival.

October to December 2023 the group participated in 11 sessions with artist Donna Cheshire to develop textile skills.

January – March 2024 the Feel Good Group worked with artists Emma Sheridan to create a large scale banner exploring themes of spring, new life and new beginnings. They engaged in conversations about learning, traditions, creativity and social chat while making their work.
The final banner was displayed at GemArts Holi celebrations on 30th March at Baltic. Exhibiting the work in an international gallery for family, friends, wider community and thousands of visitors, created a real sense of pride, achievement, wellbeing and belonging for the participants.

Throughout year we delivered Tai Chi and Zumba sessions with the Feel Good Group and during our Wednesday drop in sessions. The sessions have offered more than just physical exercise; they provide a holistic approach to mental health and wellbeing. The Bollywood and Bhangra music, which the participants chose for Zumba sessions, and energetic movements released endorphins, there was lots of smiling and laughing, reducing stress and anxiety. Participants experienced a sense of community and connection, boosting mood and self-esteem. The sessions fostered mindfulness, helping individuals stay present and grounded. Overall, the structured yet fun environment enhanced both physical and emotional wellbeing.

Tuesdays, 10am-1pm - English Classes: Zahra our Community Bridge Builder has been working with people seeking sanctuary. We know a lack of English language skills pose significant barriers for many people across the borough. Asylum seekers and refugees in their first 6-months after arrival are particularly vulnerable in the current system of language skills provision. Zahra, has been delivering English for beginners classes, supported by Harpal, our Community Development Worker. The sessions continue to be very popular with up to 30 learners in each session and we have offered refreshments/hot food and through funding from Lankelly Chase we cover their travel expenses to remove barriers to attending. The sessions offer a whole range of additional help, support and signposting to other services as well as supporting the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and families.

Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm – Drop In Centre: The sessions offer advice and support and signposting to a range of services including housing, health and wellbeing, cultural and creative opportunities, social services, environmental services, education, volunteering, career opportunities, access to Police, we are a safe reporting centre. Our organisation is proud to be part of the #WarmSpacesNetwork across Gateshead. Everyone who comes to our warm space is offered a hot or cold drink, snacks, hot food and is welcomed by one of our staff members and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers speak various community languages and help with interpretation and translation and filling in forms. The drop in provides an opportunity for social inclusion and cohesion. It is both popular and indispensable for existing communities and new arrivals.

These sessions have been invaluable in keeping people connected, active, improving their health and wellbeing, and creating a sense of belonging.

Sector/Strategic Development:
Trustees, staff and volunteers also contribute to other boards and forums including - Bensham Grove Community Centre, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Northern Stage, Newcastle University Court, Gateshead Voluntary Sector Leaders Group, plus others.

GVEMSG has worked in partnership with local minority ethnic voluntary groups in Gateshead and Tyne and Wear to provide advocacy and support

Volunteer Development
Volunteers support the aims of our charity and play an integral part in meeting our vision and mission. 50 volunteers have supported our charity this year, and we have provided a whole range of support. We are truly grateful for their passion and commitment and value their contributions enormously.

GemArts
GemArts is one of a limited number of National Portfolio Organisation funded by the Arts Council England, and is an award winning leader in the South Asian and diversity arts sector. GemArts creates and programmes high quality concerts, events, festivals, workshops and commissions with regional, national and international artists across all art forms. We specialise in high quality culturally diverse participatory arts projects with Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged, and proactively disseminated best practice advances through regional and national networks and platforms.

In 2023/24 GemArts delivered an ambitious and inspiring artistic programme across all strands of work, collaborating with flagship venues, community spaces and national touring partners, supporting artists at every stage of their career, ensuring that talent and artistic excellence is diverse, thriving and celebrated. As covid restrictions lifted we were able to re-establish our international programme of work. We produced and programmed 34 performances/exhibitions spanning traditional and contemporary works, employed 177 individual artists, and attracted in excess of 24,000 live audiences from diverse communities and 45,500 on-line audiences.

GemArts added to its critically acclaimed Riverside Ragas concert series at The Glasshouse, presenting the very best in classical, folk and contemporary music. We delivered pre-concert talks, demonstrations, workshops and masterclasses with academics, musicians and journalists, including online content (podcasts). This was also a remarkable year for international programming. Amongst many highlights, GemArts have brought to the region three of the world's most outstanding Sarod players of our

generation, Debasmita Bhattacharya, Prattyush Banerjee and Abhishek Borkar who collaborated with kathak dancer Saberi Misra; all of who were accompanied by the finest UK talent on tabla including, Gurdain Rayatt and Pt Rajkumar Misra. In addition, tabla virtuoso Shahbaz Hussain accompanied Grammy Award winner Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, international sitar maestro Shakir Khan and UK based sitarist Baluji Shrivastav to capacity audiences and to standing ovations!

We continued to engage new audiences working in partnership with venues of different size and scale across the region. With long term collaborators Jazz North East, we programmed at Jesmond Reform Church, spellbinding pianist and visionary composer, Zoe Rahman, who presented her new album "Colour of Sound" featuring an all-star line-up to a full house. Then in November at Gosforth Civic Theatre, Yorkston Thorne Ghatak explored the crossover worlds of Indian Classical, Jazz and Folk music. At Culture Lab, Newcastle University, GemArts presented legendry Khyal vocalist Pandit Sajan Misra, accompanied by Pandit Sanju Sahai on tabla, vocalist Swaransh Mishra and Kirpal Singh Panesar on harmonium. Also, at Culture Lab with NCLA we supported the launch of Chitra Ramaswamy's new book Homelands: The History of a Friendship in conversation with Sinéad Morrissey. And at Northern Stage comedy theatre Happy Birthday Sunita was received joyfully by audiences.

Strengthening our partnership with Durham University, GemArts collaborated on the third edition of Indian Spring Colours in March with a stellar line up of concerts over two days including brilliant sarangi player Satwinder Pal Singh, vocalist Sanchita Pal and rising star and santoor player Eeshar Sigh.

GemArts commitment to supporting traditional and contemporary dance was absolutely demonstrated this year through an exceptional programme. In stage 1 at Northern Stage world renowned kathak dancer Aditi Mangaldas presented FORBIDDEN, outstanding new work exploring female sexuality. In collaboration with Dance City we programmed Akash Odedra's Little Murmur a dance theatre show for children and families, featuring ground-breaking projection, an extraordinary soundscape and a blizzard of paper and confetti. This stunning visual treat is an honest and heart felt conversation about the trials and tribulations of living with dyslexia, facing challenges and overcoming the odds. GemArts was delighted to co-commission and present Payal Ramchandani's The Forest Dream – a multi-styled dance-theatre work highlighting climate emergency to a capacity audience.

GemArts' award-winning Masala Festival returned from 17th to 23rd July 2023, celebrating South Asian cultural goodness! The festival opened with *Roshni* by Sonia Sabri Company, a stunning fusion of dance and live music at Dance City. Music highlights included *Mitra* at Cluny 2, blending blues and Hindustani sounds; and GemArts collaborated with BBC Proms and Sage Gateshead for a late night special of extraordinary music performed by two leading lights of the British jazz scene - Yazz Ahmed and Arun Ghosh, which was broadcast on Radio 3 reaching thousands of audiences and received fantastic 5-star reviews. We were thrilled to announce a new partnership with Tyne and Wear Metro who will be our headline sponsors. To celebrate we programmed an incredible dance and live music performance event at Monument Metro You&Me by Amina Khyam. Visual arts featured emerging artist Sajil Kaleem's *Fabricated* at The Newbridge Project, while films like *Rehana Maryam Noor* at Tyneside Cinema and *Topographies* at BALTIC showcased diverse South Asian landscapes. Workshops, Dabbawal's delicious street food, and the Masala Festival Mini Mela finale at Bensham Grove capped a vibrant week of arts, creativity, and family fun!

For the third year GemArts delivered Holi Festival of Colours on 30th March 2024 in partnership with Baltic where over 4000 people attended this EPIC event! We celebrated colour and the Holi tradition through creative workshops, Henna stations, dance, music, food and a joyous colour throw on Baltic Square attracting a diverse young and family audience. This has become a firm favourite in the North East cultural calendar and we had fantastic coverage on local BBC and Tyne Tees news and media.

GemArts invested in R&D and encouraged artists to take risks, commissioning ground-breaking, innovative projects, artist talks and productions to raise both the profile and quality of South Asian arts and intercultural collaborations across England.

GemArts commissioned 3 new works: The Forest Dream by kuchipudi dancer Payal Ramchandani - this multi-styled dance-theatre work explores the fine balance between human existence and climate emergency; Masala Festival – Topographies: Places and Faces at Baltic, a programme of short films

takes us on a journey through urban and rural landscapes across South Asia curated by regional film maker Sonali Joshi; and we commissioned Middlesbrough based artist Rumana Yasmin to produce a Mini Book Fair at Masala Festival celebrating creators and characters of South Asian heritage in children's publishing bringing 3 publishers together Bok Bok Books, AdiDev Press and Parakeet Books for readings and workshops.

GemArts continue to nurture a new generation of creative artists/practitioners from under-represented groups, with a long-term aim of diversifying senior management and leadership roles in the arts.

In 2023/24 our Creative Associates Programme supported 16 artists whose work reflects creative and cultural diversity through training, developmental, participatory and performance opportunities. Of those, 13 were music leaders from the region on our Youth Music funded East By North East programme; we broadened the cohort to ensure gender equality across the programme, supporting artists to lead complex projects with several partners working with young peopel living in challenging circumstances, providing professional development, peer mentoring, training and sharing best practice. The programme continues to evidence progression routes from participants, to young leaders, to volunteer and to practitioners.

GemArts demonstrates considerable depth of knowledge and understanding around complex issues related to cultural diversity and arts. In 2023/24 we have continued to build on our excellent track record, further collaborating with the public and voluntary sector to expand our artistic programme to provide more opportunities for professional artists and Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged to work with one another, co-create, sustaining the arts regionally, and addressing community needs and issues.

This year we have delivered a blended programme of face to face and on-line sessions across the North East, employed and supported a culturally diverse workforce of 52 artists in participatory settings, and delivered, in formal education and community settings, 715 sessions with over 18,300 participants (and 45,604 on-line) from minority ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged and across protected characteristics and age ranges. Highlights include:

Cultural Threads - GemArts arts, health and wellbeing programme provides culturally relevant arts opportunities with minority ethnic and wider communities to reduce loneliness and isolation, keep people connected, creative, improving health and wellbeing.

- GemArts was awarded additional funding from Gateshead Community Mental Health fund to expand our Cultural Threads programme in Gateshead.

  Between May and July 2023, the programme included: Shibori textile sessions with artists Shiori and the Feel-Good Women's Group; and willow lantern-making sessions with artist Saya Naruse for people seeking sanctuary at Hillside Church. Final artworks were showcased at Mini Mela on 23rd July.

  From October to December 2023, activities included: textile workshops with the Feel-Good Women's Group delivered with Donna Cheshire; artist Pui Lee delivered DIY magazine sessions with Hillside Church participants, and painting and craft sessions with visual artist Jayamini and women from the Millin Centre. Thirty-five craft packs by Yvette Ja were distributed, and a celebration event on 20th December at Bensham Grove exhibited participants' work, engaging 100 attendees.

  Between January to March 2024, artist Emma Sheridan led workshops with our Feel Good Group to create a banner for GemArts Holi celebrations at Baltic.

  Over the programme we delivered Tai Chi and Zumba sessions with our Feel-Good Group and at our Wednesday drop in sessions. We worked with 320 participants and engaged over 5000 audience members far exceeding our target. We worked with a total of 9 professional artists. Participant backgrounds include those who are from Sudan, Ukraine, Russia, Albania, Rwanda,

Kurdistan, Iraq, Guatamala, El Salvador, Iran, Kuwait, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, India and England/Gateshead.

GemArts Cultural Threads programme was highlighted in the Transformation in Gateshead – The Story So far video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uQmTyTqEaA

- Cultural Threads - NHS Sessions

GemArts continued our Cultural Threads programme to work with partners at NHS who identify frontline staff from the whole of the health and social care sector. We are working with staff members who are battling COVID-19, and have faced and continue to experience burn out, fatigue, trauma and bereavement, be that their family, friends and/or colleagues. and when needed signposting NHS staff to professional help and support, to improve their mental, physical and social health and wellbeing.
Final on-line Chinese Watercolour sessions with visual artist Chun Chao began in June 2023 on Monday and Tuesday evenings. We delivered 12 sessions with 68 participants and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and despite continuing to evidence the impact the sessions have had on improving NHS staff heath and wellbeing the funding has been pulled due to NHS cuts.

The feedback from participants has been incredible with 100% reporting that the sessions have improved their health and wellbeing through developing new creative skills.

Researchers at NHS have also evidenced that the Cultural Threads sessions are having the same positive impact on staff's wellbeing as those being referred to clinical psychologist/therapists.

- Spring Bank Pavilion, Leazes Park

In partnership with Urban Green and The Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust GemArts delivered a new set of Cultural Threads sessions between June – October 2023: 12 sessions with Lily Daniels on nature textile dying; 1 session with Saya Naruse exploring nature print making; 3 sessions with Sofia Barton creating nature rangoli and Gond Art; 2 sessions with Michelle Wood creating concertinas booklets inspired by nature. We engaged with 60 participants. Lily also delivered a Willow tray workshops on 16th September at celebratory event.

- Culture Exchange Group, Byker

Visual artist Emma Sheridan worked with Barnardo's Newcastle Family Hub East, a group for refugees and those seeking asylum. Over 7 weeks delivered a Recycling Decoupage project, followed by another 5 weeks focusing on textiles, sewing and mixed media. The women are from Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran. They all contributed to a shared piece of art work which is proudly displayed in the centre as well as creating their own individual pieces to take home. The sessions also enable the group to develop English language skills, networks and access to further services.

GemArts Cultural Threads programme continues to reiterate our knowledge that the need for culturally relevant practitioners to deliver creative projects is significant. When working with historically marginalised communities, it is imperative to consider inclusivity, accessibility, lived experience and a sense of belonging within every aspect of the project to ensure that we are meeting the cultural and personal needs of participants in relation to improving mental health and wellbeing.

The National Centre for Creative Health (NCCH) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing (APPG AHW) launched the report of the Creative Health Review https://ncch.org.uk/creative-health-review on 6th December 2023 where GemArts Cultural Threads programme is included as a case study, in particular highlighting GemArts culturally relevant arts practice to engage with minority ethnic communities. The Report highlights the potential for creative health to help tackle pressing issues in health and social care and more widely, including health inequalities and the additional challenges we face as we recover from Covid-19.

As well as many other sessions in community settings GemArts teamed up with Gateshead Art Diamonds to deliver Emerald Explorer sessions to engage people of retirement age in creative workshops during Masala Festival including Bollywood dance with Breeze George, Mystical Tote Bag Printing with artists Mani Kambo and make your own Concertina Books in Boxes with Michelle Wood;

and Tapestry Workshops with Sajil Kaleem. We also delivered a range of African drumming workshops with musician Fanuel engaging adults and carers across South Shields and Sunderland.

GemArts expanded the reach and depth of our rich cultural offer for Children and Young People across the region within schools and community settings offering unparalleled access to high quality culturally diverse arts opportunities. Working in some of the most deprived wards in the region GemArts schools programme supported curriculum topics, diversity weeks, arts weeks, summer transition and contributed towards SMSC development. We worked with 30 schools (primary and secondary), delivered 166 sessions, engaged with 5645 young people and supported 8 schools across the North East to achieve and maintain Arts Mark as well as delivering creative CPD sessions with teachers in 2 primary schools.

GemArts supported 10 children and young people to achieve Arts Award (Discover and Bronze). From experience, we know accessible, accredited learning like Arts Award makes a huge difference to young people from minority ethnic communities and starts to address the balance in attainment gaps.

Highlights include:

Between May-June 2023 GemArts delivered a diverse range of artists residencies with the Roman Road Primary in Gateshead working with all year groups and engaging 250 young people. Emma Sheridan worked with all school years exploring collage, print making, collagraph, and painting; Fanuel delivered African Drumming; and we commissioned Andy Morley to create a new Mural on a storage container working with Year 6 pupils who have been researching and inspired by Brazilian artist Romero Britto. A celebration event was held at in July where all the art work was displayed, and young people performed with Fanuel to invited guests, family and friends.

Richard Avenue, in Sunderland is a new school and GemArts was highly recommended to them. We delivered South American percussion with David Olatunji and Tinku dance sessions with Yuvel Soria over 7 weeks to develop a performance at the end of the school year for a Carnival event with 120 pupils. Art teachers worked with pupils to create masks and costumes and received CPD from GemArts. The feedback from the school has been excellent and teachers commented that our artists have also engaged brilliantly with young people that have behavioural issues.

Working in partnership with the South Tyneside Music Hub we have collaborated with 6 schools (one of them special school) across South Shields to deliver African drumming school assembly performances, workshops and teachers CPD engaging with 550 pupils.

At Brighton Avenue Primary, Gateshead Mani Kambo worked with 6 classes across Key Stage 2 (180 pupils) to co-create an installation and banner to exhibit at Masala Festival. We worked closely with teachers to achieve key curriculum objectives.

GemArts collaborated with Durham Council International Office to offer schools artists residencies to support them to work towards gaining accreditation under the British Council's award scheme. We have worked with 10 schools and delivered Capoeira, Steel Pans, African Drumming, World's Visual Arts and Kuchipudi dance sessions. Many of the schools are in some of the most rural parts of County Durham, very white working class with little or no access to cultural provision. The programme has engaged with over 1800 young people and has had fantastic feedback from schools, artists, pupils and parents.

We continued to deliver Music Production and DJ'ing sessions at Woodlands PRU in Durham during term time with music leader Adam Cogdon every Wednesday. These are one to one session with 13 young people who are SEN. In addition, music leader April Olatunji is delivering vocal, choir and piano sessions on Thursday and Friday's at Excelsior Academy with young people from diverse communities.

GemArts flagship East by North East youth music programme has continued to engage over 200 young people each week strengthening partnerships across 6 host organisations (North Benwell Youth Project, Life Transformational Church, Excelsior Academy, Benfield School and Side by Side) in the west and east end of Newcastle, and in Gateshead, to provide young people living in challenging circumstances from Global Majority and wider communities to participate in high quality culturally diverse music making opportunities.

The programme is young person led and includes regular weekly music sessions, accreditation, progressions routes, sharing events and performances. In addition, a key element of the programme is to further diversify the music skills and workforce of music practitioners in the North East and we offer CPD, training and development.

We advocate the benefits of using music to break down barriers to social change and greater community cohesion; evidencing the personal, social and musical impact on young people's lives that the programme has had, enabling them to build their confidence and trust by sharing their musical genres/traditions, and empowering them to reassert their cultural identity; promoting gender equality and progression routes. The celebration and performance event at Sage Gateshead on 1st July 2023 was a huge success, and we also had our annual festive sharing event in December at Life Transformation Church where all the young people performed from across the programme including youth led MC DJ-Toby. Many of the long-term participants have developed into young leaders, volunteers, with 3 becoming paid artists/music leaders. Filip who was a young person on the project in 2015 when he was 11 years old, now 18 year he has now progressed to a paid position as a young leader/musician and is being mentored by Fred and Adam at NBYP. We commissioned a new film to evidence and demonstrate the musical, personal, social and organisational outcomes of EBNE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJy0OUU5aEA

GemArts expanded our music provision to Peterlee in County Durham in partnership with Creative Youth Opportunities. Music leaders Adam Cogdon and Kema Kay delivered music production, rap and lyric writing workshops for 6 weeks with young people to prevent anti-social behaviour. In addition, we supported Dhol Drumming session led by music leader Rosh Landa every Friday (term time) at Diversity Hub, Newcastle with 10 young people and 8 adults.

Our Mini Mela at Masala Festival in July and at Caedmon Hall during February half term were both a great success attracting children and family audience of over 900 to both; we extended the Mini Mela offer and programmed a full day of culturally diverse arts activities at the Miners Picnic on 10th June at Woodhorn Museums, Northumberland engaging with 300 new audiences.

GemArts celebrated diverse cultural and faith festival throughout the year. To celebrate Buddhas birthday artist Jayamini delivered a full day of Visak lantern making workshops on 24th April at the Oriental Museum, Durham. In November artist Emma Sheridan created Diwali Lanterns with participants for a parade at Newcastle Hindu Temple's fireworks display where over 3000 audiences attended. In partnership with Durham Council for Chinese New Year 2024 Lip Lee and Pui Lee delivered visual arts sessions to celebrate the year of the Dragon whilst Wendy Chan demonstrated Tai Chi engaging with 3500 audiences and participants.

GemArts participatory arts programme has continued to engage with diverse communities that are marginalised and least engaged, we have offered culturally relevant arts opportunities and have demonstrated the positive impact of our artistic practice in keeping people connected, creative, reducing isolation and improving their health and wellbeing at this extremely challenging time.

Sector wide, GemArts has taken a leadership role in advocating the benefits of creativity and diversity at a strategic level. GemArts has demonstrated exemplary practice and contributed to the development needs of minority ethnic communities, artists, practitioners, and leaders, enabling the organisation to achieve and maintain the highest 'Outstanding' rating from Arts Council England.

We know that people from our communities' face racism and discrimination. We are an anti-racist charity. GemArts alongside reginal artists and arts organizations are leading on Culture Against Racism, a collaborative network committed to creating an anti-racist culture, and creative sector, in the North East of England.

Despite many challenges, GemArts has shown exceptional leadership and is adaptable, and demonstrates resilience and innovation in working and meeting local, regional and national policy agendas. Our work with local authorities, educational institutions, children and adult services, cultural, voluntary and public sector organisations, continues to strengthen the reach and long term impact of our

work, enabling us to secure commissioning grants and funding from trusts and foundations to meet wider strategic objectives.

We would like to thank all our funders, trusts and foundations, donors, sponsors and all our partners for their generous and continued support, and all our amazing artists, volunteers, staff, partners, trustees, communities, participants and audiences for their kindness, generosity and resilience.
www.gemarts.org

The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described above.

Financial Review:
The financial position for the year shows net incoming funds of £412,845 and total outgoing resources of £300,768 with the balance from 2022-23 of £586,130 this leaves assets of £698,207 of which £395,109 are restricted funds and £170,500 are designated funds as per our reserves policy. This leaves £132,598 unrestricted funds. The Trustees consider the financial position of the organisation to be stable.

Risk Management:
The Trustees are examining the major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business. They are considering the likelihood and the impact of risks and reviewed what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are being designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:
It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months expenditure plus redundancy liability which due to increased costs has increased to £170,500. This required an additional £30,000 to be transferred from the unrestricted fund to the designated fund. This will provide sufficient funds to cover redundancy liabilities, management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time, a designated contingency fund has been set up for this purpose.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	MSDhSg	Date	24/01/25
Name	Angela Singh	Position	Treasurer
Signature		Date	24/01/25

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 13-20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination; it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act;and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
-

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Keith Blackett FMAAT

Date 240125

Signed

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023-24 £	Total Funds 2022-23 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and Legacies		11,060	0	0	11,060	2,077
Charitable Activities		87,976	0	312,796	400,772	213,641
Other Trading Activities		0	0	0	0	89,997
Investments		1,013	0	0	1,013	0
Total Income and Endowments		100,049	0	312,796	412,845	305,715
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds		0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities		52,596	0	248,172	300,768	284,017
Other resources expended		0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure		52,596	0	248,172	300,768	284,017
Income less Expenditure before transfers		47,453	0	64,624	112,077	21,698
Transfers		(30,000)	30,000		0	0
Total Funds brought forward		115,145	140,500	330,485	586,130	564,432
Total funds carried forward		**132,598**	**170,500**	**395,109**	**698,207**	**586,130**

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	Total Funds 2023-24 £	Total Funds 2022-23 £
Current Assets			
Stocks and Work in Progress		0	0
Debtors	7	0	0
Investments		0	0
Cash at Bank and In Hand		698,207	586,130
Total Current Assets		698,207	586,130
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(300)	(300)
Total Current Assets less Current Liabilities		(300)	(300)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Net assets or liabilities including pension asset or liability		697,907	585,830
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		395,109	330,485
Designated Funds		170,500	140,500
Unrestricted income funds		132,598	115,145
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		698,207	586,130

Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Name Manjit Singh Dhindsa Position Secretary

Signature MSDhindsa Date 24/9/25

Name Angela Singh Position Treasurer

Signature A Singh Date 24/9/25.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period to 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

Basis of Preparation

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

Resources Expended and Liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Funds

The Charity has 3 funds, an unrestricted general fund, a designated fund, comprising 6 months running costs and redundancy liabilities as per the reserves policy, and a restricted fund used for purchasing items of a specific: hence all movements on each fund are disclosed.

Restricted Funds Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
GVEMSG	£	£	£	£	£
MEMCO and Warm Spaces	3,051	2,225	(836)	0	4,440
GVEMSG Total	3,051	2,225	(836)	0	4,440
GEM ARTS					
Arts Council England - NPO	93,550	182,208	(173,525)		102,233
Catalyst	75,688	20,000	0.00		95,688
National Foundation for Youth Music	42,102	19,089	(42,039)		19,152
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD	27,044	0.00	0.00		27,044
Town Hall	7,770	0.00	0.00		7,770
ACE - Culture Against Racism	2,817	0.00	(300)		2,517
GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme	15,324	0.00	0.00		15,324
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead	4,948	0.00	0.00		4,948
Cumbria NHS	29,489	0.00	(3,144)		26,345
Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder	20,820	58,320	(12,952)		66,188
Lankelly Chase - English Language Enquiry	2,265	12,000	(4,081)		10,184
GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community Health	5,617	10,000	(8,423)		7,194
Lankelly Chase – Deaf Festival	0.00	8,954	(2,872)		6,082
GEM ARTS Total	327,434	310,571	(247,336)	0	390,669
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	330,434	312,796	(248,172)		395,109

Designated Funds Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Contingency and Redundancy Liability	140,500			30,000	170,500
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	140,500	0	0	30,000	170,500

Unrestricted Funds Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
GVEMSG - General Fund	6,600	0	(60)		6,540
GEM Arts - General Fund	108,545	100,049	(52,536)	(30,000)	155,992
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	115,145	100,049	(52,596)	(30,000)	132,532
TOTAL FUNDS	586,130	412,845	(300,786)		698,207

Purpose of Funds

GVEMSG

a) MEMCO transfer

GemArts

a) Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation -The grant is towards core costs and artistic programme
b) Catalyst – building fundraising capacity
c) National Foundation for Youth Music - The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project focusing on music with children living in challenging circumstances, and training/developing a diverse music leader workforce
d) European Social Fund: Gateshead Goes Global – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts programme with women furthest from the labour market to make progress towards volunteering, employment, enterprise, education or training.
e) Town Hall – for the delivery of a South Asian music and performance programme
f) Arts Council England/Donations – sector support/partnership to deliver Culture Against Racism
g) GMBC and Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme
h) Bluestone Collaborative – Well NewcastleGateshead – The grant is for the delivery of 'Hyem' a high quality arts, health and wellbeing programme
i) Cumbria NHS – The grant is for the delivery of Cultural Threads an arts health and wellbeing programme with NHS staff in Cumbria, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear
j) Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder funding to support wages and core costs
k) Lankelly Chase - to support Englsih Langauage Enquiry with people seeking sanctuary
l) GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community Health - The grant is to deliver Cultural Threads arts, health and wellbeing programme in Gateshead
m) Lankelly Chase - to support a Deaf Festival

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2023-24

Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**Total**
GEM ARTS				-
Sponsorship and Donations	11,060			11,060
				0
				0
GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total	**11,060**	**0**	**0**	**11,060**
GVEMSG				0
Box Office	0			0
Grants	0		2,225	2,225
GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total	**0**	**0**	**2,225**	**2,225**
GEM ARTS				
Arts Council England - NPO			202,208	202,208
National Foundation for Youth Music			19,089	19,089
Lankelly Chase – Bridgebuilder			58,320	58,320
Lankelly Chase – English Language Enquiry			12,000	12,000
GMBC – Gateshead Community Health			10,000	10,000
Lankelly Chase – Deaf Festival			8,954	8,954
GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total	**0**	**0**	**310,571**	**310,571**
	0	0	312,796	312,796
Other Incoming Resources				
	87,976	0	0	87,976
	87,976	0	0	87,976
Total Income and Endowments	**100,049**	**0**	**312,796**	**412,845**

Expenditure on:				
Charitable Activities				
GVEMSG				
Refreshments/Catering				0
Bank Charges	60			60
Rent/Telephone/Internet				0
Training and Development				0
Venue Hire				0
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				0
Community Worker wages				0
GVEMSG Total Charitable Activities	**60**	**0**	**0**	**60**
GEM Arts				
Artist Fees, Materials & Production	52,536		88,833	141,369
Food Deliveries and Volunteer Expenses			4,226	4,226
Venue & Tech			6,520	6,520
Org Dev and Catalyst			3,625	3,625
Marketing/PR/Doc			8,019	8,019
Evaluation			0	0
IT and Equipment			1,892	1,892
Stationery/Printing/Postage			255	255
Insurance			1,116	1,116
Phone/Internet			944	944
Rent			2,475	2,475
Expenses			1,808	1,808
Wages and Pensions			127,571	127,571
Payroll Admin	0		526	526
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
Bank Charges			62	62
GEM ARTS Total Charitable Activities	**52,536**	**0**	**248,172**	**300,708**
Raising Funds				
				0
	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	**52,536**	**0**	**248,172**	**300,768**

Support Costs

Support Cost Type	**Fundraising Activity £**	**Charitable Activity £**	**Governance Activity £**	**Total Cost £**
GVEMSG				-
Insurance				-
Rent/Telephone/Internet				-
Sessional Staff				-
Stationery/Equipment				-
Training and Development				-
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				-
Community Worker wages				-
GVEMSG Total Support Costs			-	
GEM ARTS				-
Venue & Tech		6,520		6,520
Marketing/PR/Doc		8,019		8,019
Evaluation		-		
IT and Equipment		1,892		1,892
Stationery/Printing/Postage		255		255
Insurance		1,116		1,116
Phone/Internet		944		944
Expenses		1,808		1,808
Wages		127,571		127,571

Payroll Admin	526		526
Independent Examination of Accounts		300	300
GEM ARTS Total Support Costs	**148,651**	**300**	**148,951**
Total Support Costs	**148,651**	**300**	**148,951**

3 Staff Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023-24 Total £
GVEMSG			0
Salaries and NI	0		0
GVEMSG Total Employee Costs		**0**	**0**
GEM ARTS			
Salaries and NI		122,271	122,271
Pension		5,300	5,300
Child Care Vouchers			0
Payroll Fees		526	526
GEM ARTS Total Employee Costs	**0**	**128,097**	**128,097**
Total Employee Costs	0	128,097	128,097

	2023-24 Number
3 full time and 3 part time employees	6

These costs were for the employment of 3 full time and 3 part time members of staff and include Employer's NI. All other staff are casually employed tutors/facilitators. No member of staff was paid remuneration of £60,000 or more.

4 Trustees remuneration, benefit and expenses

There were none during this period.

5 Debtors

There are no debtors at this time.

6 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023-24 Total £
Independent Examination Fee	300		300
			-
	300	-	300

7 Related Party Disclosures

There were no related parties during this period.

8 Taxation

Due to the nature of its activities, the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

9 Transfer

Due to increased costs there was a requirement to transfer additional funds to the designated fund, to ensure that the reserves policy would be met.

GATESHEAD VISIBLE ETHNIC MINORITIES SUPPORT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1008100

Accounts



Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group

(Registered Charity No. 1008100)

Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 March 2023

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Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group
Charity No:	1008100
Principal Address:	89 Salcombe Gardens Low Fell GATESHEAD Tyne & Wear NE9 6UD
Trustees:	Mr Ashok Kumar (Chair) Mr A Singh Gill MBE (Vice Chair) Angela Singh (Treasurer) Manjit Singh Dhindsa (Secretary) Michael Harte Birinder Singh Brar Ala Miah
Patrons:	Cllr Martin Gannon Rt Hon Baroness Joyce Quinn Ian Mearns MP
Governing Document:	The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 2 November 1991, and is unincorporated.
Bankers:	HSBC plc 110 Grey Street Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3JG
Independent Examiner:	Keith Blackett FMAAT Beechwood Accounting NE Ltd 80 Beechwood Gdns GATESHEAD NE11 0DA

Trustees Annual Report

Objects:
To undertake activities which help individuals and groups to understand and learn about different cultures and to support them in their efforts to overcome ignorance, language barriers, disadvantage, prejudice and racism. We undertake a variety of activities and events to fulfill our vision of creating a multi-cultural all-inclusive community.

Achievements:

Our Work:

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group works with and for vulnerable and marginalised Black Asian and Minority Ethnic, asylum seeker and refugee communities who face barriers on many levels, including personal, family, community and wider social and institutional contexts, and are at risk of isolation and exclusion and face racism and discrimination. We are an anti-racist charity. Through the work we deliver we support all communities in making representation to service providers and ensure they have equal access to the services they provide; we provide an opportunity for communities to raise issues of concern and take positive action; and develop effective links between organisations and other associations operating in the area, on matters of common concern. Equality, diversity, equity and inclusion is fundamental to our work.

Our projects contribute to strengthening the Minority Ethnic voluntary infrastructure through high quality activity, training and development, and capacity building.

Overall our projects increase community engagement amongst those who are at risk of exclusion and isolation, combating racism and discrimination, helping to strengthen community cohesion, and go towards achieving a reduction in race inequalities.

Through providing access to engaging, high quality activity, including training, educational and cultural activities, led by professional practitioners, support workers and volunteers, our programmes aim to provide our beneficiaries with the opportunity to:

- Develop new skills & interests
- Raise their confidence & self esteem
- Experience working alongside professional practitioners
- Identify and explore educational, volunteering and career opportunities
- Improve social, physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Become more active and healthy
- Interact with others in a creative, dynamic & enjoyable environment.
- Mutual support and working together
- Opportunities to examine issues affecting their lives
- Giving a voice to culturally diverse groups to raise awareness of and celebrate their own culture/identity

We work in partnership with Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police, Community Safety Team, NHS, Public Health, local schools and community groups, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Gateshead Interfaith Forum, housing services, and Leisure/Cultural Services

2022/23 – Activities & Achievements:
The COVID19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and has further amplified racial and health inequalities. We know that many people in our communities are feeling even more isolated, lonely, worried and vulnerable, which is having a negative impact on their health and wellbeing - with women, older people, children and young people at greatest risk. Digital exclusion is a major barrier faced by communities we work with. We have continued to do be responsive to community needs as Covid restrictions eased.

GVEMSG has further developed the capacity of the organisation in terms of governance, operational, monitoring, reporting and financial management system. We continue to employ part time salaried Community Development Worker, GemArts Director, Project Manager and Administrator; and provide our trustees, staff and volunteers with appropriate training and development.

At our base in Bensham Grove Community Centre in Gateshead we continue to deliver a range of weekly support, advice and development sessions –

Mondays, 1pm-3pm - Feel Good Group: We deliver weekly Health and Wellbeing sessions supporting and working with women from minority ethnic and wider communities who feel isolated. The sessions engage women in activities to overcome barriers and enable them to access culturally relevant creative learning opportunities and to socialise and interact with other women. The women in the group have various physical and mental health issues, and the sessions offer an active, educational and safe environment to build their own confidence, improve health and wellbeing, and support each other. Members come from different faith and cultural backgrounds but find common ground in activities. The group receives GP referrals of women who would benefit from joining the group to access support and advice. The weekly activities include visual arts sessions, movements, dance and exercise sessions, group outings to local areas of intertest, and providing training, as well as facilitating their progress towards further training, volunteering, employment and enterprise.

Between April – May 2022 as part of GemArts Cultural Thread programme the group worked over 8 weeks with visual artist Mani Kambo developing creative skills in mixed media and textiles exploring superstation, storytelling and folk lore. This was the first set of full sessions after pandemic and made a huge positive difference to the women's wellbeing, many who had met in person for the first time after nearly 2 years.

June – July 2022: 15 women worked with artist Michelle Wood over 6 weeks to create Books of Hope. Their beautiful, handmade concertina books and decorated boxes were exhibited as part of GemArts Masala Festival 2022. Responding to the question "What do you hope for?", the women created artists' books using collage, painting and printmaking techniques. They also made postcards for family and friends to share their messages of hope.

Tai Chi sessions commenced in October 2022, were facilitated by Wendy Chan and ran for 7 weeks. We engaged with over 30 people throughout the sessions, 88% of participants who took part were over 50 years old and 90% of attendees were women.

Tuesdays, 10am-1pm - English Classes: Zahra our Community Bridge Builder has been working with people seeking sanctuary. We know a lack of English language skills pose significant barriers for many people across the borough. Asylum seekers and refugees in their first 6-months after arrival are particularly vulnerable in the current system of language skills provision. Zahra, has been delivering English for beginners classes, supported by Harpal, our Community Development Worker. The sessions are proving to be very popular with up to 30 learners in each session and we have offered refreshments and through funding from Lankelly Chase we cover their travel expenses so we remove barriers to attending. The sessions offer a whole range of additional help, support and signposting to other services as well as supporting the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and families.

Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm – Drop In Centre: as lockdown restrictions eased we welcomed back communities to Bensham Grove offering advice and support and signposting to a range of services including housing, health and wellbeing, cultural and creative opportunities, social services, environmental services, education, volunteering, career opportunities, access to Police, we are a safe reporting centre. Our organisation is proud to be part of the #WarmSpacesNetwork across Gateshead. Everyone who comes to our warm space is offered a hot or cold drink, biscuits, snacks, hot food and is welcomed by one of our staff members and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers speak various community languages and helped with interpretation and translation and filling in forms. The drop in provides an opportunity for social inclusion and cohesion. It is both popular and indispensable for existing communities and new arrivals.

These sessions have been invaluable in keeping people connected, active and improving their health and wellbeing.

Collaborating with Gateshead Council and Public Health:
In response to our valuable work and insight with Minority Ethnic communities in Gateshead we continued to collaborate with Gateshead Council and Public Health to deliver on Gateshead Covid Champions programme. We identified barriers to accessing accurate information, and concerns that the community had, and provided tailored support including translated material, recruiting and training community champions, and encouraging take-up of the vaccination programme in Gateshead to enable people to improve their own outcomes around Covid-19, their broader life chances, access to services, health and wellbeing.

Trustees and staff team have representation on and regularly attend meetings including Local Outbreak Engagement Board, Vaccination Inequality Group, Covid Champions Community Group, MECC and regional and national online workshops. This has enabled us to cascade the most current information down, as well as feedback concerns from the community, which have been acted upon immediately by Gateshead Council and Public Health, which has created greater trust and strengthening of relationships between the local community and stakeholders.

Sector/Strategic Development:
Trustees, staff and volunteers are also trustees on other boards and forums including - Bensham Grove Community Centre, Citizens Advice Gateshead and Northern Stage

GVEMSG has worked in partnership with local minority ethnic voluntary groups in Gateshead and Tyne and Wear to provide advocacy and support

Volunteer Development
Volunteers support the aims of our charity and play an integral part in meeting our vision and mission. 50 volunteers have supported our charity this year, and we have provided a whole range of support and we value their contributions enormously.

Our volunteers and staff have done an amazing job during this recovery phase and in such unprecedented and challenging circumstances, and we are truly grateful!

In 2022/23 through this programme of work we have engaged, supported and worked with over 2000 people from across all age ranges, faith communities and ethnicities.

Retirement
Narinder Dhindsa has been supporting the charity since its inception and after 20 years as GVEMSG Community Development Worker retired in April 2022. Narinder will continue in a voluntary role with the organisation. Trustees, staff and volunteers wished Narinder all the best and are hugely grateful for her excellent contribution to the charity and community for so many years.

GemArts
GemArts is one of a limited number of National Portfolio Organisation funded by the Arts Council England and is an award winning leader in the South Asian and diversity arts sector. GemArts creates and programmes high quality concerts, events, festivals, workshops and commissions with regional, national and international artists across all art forms. We specialise high quality culturally diverse participatory arts projects with Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged, and proactively disseminated best practice advances through regional and national networks and platforms.

GemArts has built on our recovery programme from the previous year and continue to deliver an ambitious and inspiring artistic programme across all strands of work. We know that this has been an exceptionally difficult time for our communities, freelance artists and creative workforce. GemArts is absolutely committed to supporting artists at every stage of their career, ensuring that talent and artistic excellence is diverse, thriving and celebrated and truly reflective of contemporary Britain.

In 2022-23 GemArts grew our programme and continued to respond to audience feedback to ensure that we build confidence to reach out to new audiences and re-connect with loyal audiences returning to public gatherings. The programming of international work continued to be significantly challenged because of international travel restrictions to limit the spread of Covid, especially from the Indian sub-continent. Despite these challenges we produced and programmed 40 performances, exhibitions and events spanning traditional and contemporary arts forms, employed 221 individual artists, and attracted audiences in excess of 45,000 live audiences from diverse communities and 41,500 on-line audiences.

GemArts added to its critically acclaimed Riverside Ragas concert series at Sage Gateshead, presenting the very best in classical, folk and contemporary music. We delivered pre-concert talks, demonstrations, workshops and masterclasses with academics, musicians and journalists, including online content (podcasts). As part of the series we continued to support and programme some the UK's very best talent including Roopa Panesar one of Europe's finest sitarists accompanied by the formidable Shahbaz Hussain on tabla; Divergence a double bill featuring Giuliano Modarelli (guitar) and Kitha Balakirishnan (violin); the brilliant sarod player Soumik Dutta presented his new work Hope Notes; Seyed Ali Jaberi and the Hamdel Ensemble performed deeply moving contemporary devotional Persian Sufi music, Rumi poetry and dance.

We continued to engage new audiences working in partnership with venues of different size and scale across the region. Award-winning clarinettist Arun Ghosh performed music from his brand-new album Seclused in Light, and celebrated UNESCO International Jazz Day at The Globe. Arun also delivered a children and family music workshop and performance earlier in the day. Jazz pianist Helen Anita Wilson mesmerised audiences at the Lit & Phil; and India's ever-evolving When Chai Met Toast showcased their folk-pop roots with forays into indie rock and alternative rock at Bobiks. Strengthening our partnership with Durham University and to celebrate Holi, GemArts collaborated on the second edition of Indian Spring Colours with a stellar line up of musicians over two days including sitarist Ashraf Khan, khyal vocalist Vijay Rajput, Kaviraj Singh on santoor and odissi dancer Maryiam Shakiba.

GemArts commitment to supporting traditional and contemporary dance was absolutely demonstrated this year through an exceptional programme which included a full house in stage 1 at Northern Stage as two extraordinary dancers Aakash Odedra (UK/ India) and Hu Shenyuan (China) used their disciplines of Kathak, Chinese folk, ballet and contemporary dance to explore the Buddhist notion of Samsara – a well deserved standing ovation! We collaborated with Festival of Thrift as Nina Raj Rani's Jham! performed to over 6000 audiences; and presented internationally acclaimed Odissi dancer Arushi Mudgal with Dance City. Furthermore, Spy Monkey by Atma Dance which was co-commissioned by GemArts over the pandemic was able connect with children and young people.

We welcomed back GemArts Masala Festival in July 2022, marking its seventh year with a diverse program celebrating South Asian arts and culture. From dance theatre performances like SEVENS by Srishti dance company to visual arts exhibitions Lore by Mani Kambo and Narivad by Sofia Barton showcasing regional talent, the festival presented a rich array of experiences. In addition, the festival gave a platform to new talent, presenting Jashn, a group exhibition by students from Newcastle and Sunderland University. Other highlights included Momentum, an evening of contemporary South Asian short films at BALTIC; Bloodaxe poets, Amali Gunasekera and Shazea Quraishiat at Culture Lab, and music performances featuring Yaatri at The Globe; and virtuoso sitar player Jasdeep Singh Degun performed with an ensemble of 9 incredible musicians from his critically acclaimed debut album Anomaly at Sage Gateshead to a full house. The festival culminated with our spectacular Mini Mela for children and families with creative workshops, delicious Indian food from our sponsors Dabbawal and outdoor performances.

For the second year GemArts delivered Holi Festival of Colours on 11th March 2023 in partnership with Baltic where over 4000 people attended this EPIC event! We celebrated colour and the Holi tradition through creative workshops, Henna stations, dance, music, food and a joyous colour throw on Baltic Square attracting a diverse young and family audience. This is quickly becoming a firm favourite in the North East cultural calendar and we had fantastic coverage on local BBC and Tyne Tees news and media.

GemArts invested in R&D and encouraged artists to take risks, commissioning ground-breaking, innovative projects, artist talks and productions to raise both the profile and quality of South Asian arts and intercultural collaborations across England.

GemArts co-commissioned 4 new works: The Forest Dream by kuchipudi dancer Payal Ramchandani - this multi-styled dance-theatre work explores the fine balance between human existence and climate emergency; kathak dancer Jaivant Patel's Waltzing The Blue Gods; a new art work by visual artist Mani Kambo explores the inner spirit by drawing on her own personal totemic symbols for her exhibition Lore and Sophia Barton's Narivad (meaning Feminism in Sanskrit) which were both exhibited at Masala Festival 2022.

GemArts continue to nurture a new generation of creative artists/practitioners from under-represented groups, with a long-term aim of diversifying senior management and leadership roles in the arts.

In 2022/23 our Creative Associates Programme supported 18 artists whose work reflects creative and cultural diversity through training, developmental, participatory and performance opportunities. Of those, 16 were music leaders from the region on our Youth Music funded East By North East programme; we broadened the cohort to ensure gender equality across the programme, supporting artists to lead complex projects with several partners working with children living in challenging circumstances, providing professional development, peer mentoring, training and sharing best practice. The programme continues to evidence progression routes from participants, to young leaders, to volunteer and to practitioners.

GemArts demonstrates considerable depth of knowledge and understanding around complex issues related to cultural diversity and arts. In 2022/23 we have continued to build on our excellent track record, further collaborating with the public and voluntary sector to expand our artistic programme to provide more opportunities for professional artists and Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged to work with one another, co-create, sustaining the arts regionally, and addressing community needs and issues.

This year we have delivered a blended programme of face to face and on-line sessions across the North East, employed and supported a culturally diverse workforce of 60 artists in participatory settings, and delivered, in formal education and community settings, 780 sessions with over 17,300 participants (and 10,470 on-line) from minority ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged and across protected characteristics and age ranges. Highlights include:

Cultural Threads - GemArts arts, health and wellbeing programme provides culturally relevant arts opportunities with vulnerable minority ethnic and wider communities to reduce loneliness and isolation, keep people connected, creative, improving health and wellbeing.

- GemArts was awarded funding from Gateshead Community Mental Health fund to expand our Cultural Threads programme in Gateshead. Building on the success from the first phase, during Feb – March 2023 we delivered 6 half day sessions each week with 3 groups to create decorative art works to be displayed at Baltic for GemArts Holi Celebrations:
    - Mani Kambo worked with City Refugee Welcome Project: Women, children and men in Gateshead co-created hanging decorations with beads and Pom Poms as well as paper flower decorations
    - Michelle Wood worked with GVEMSG Feel Good Group to co-create 'Colour Burst' banners and decorative paper hangings
    - Pui Lee worked with a diverse group of women that access the Millin Charity. The group learned a variety of different mindful papercut and crafting techniques to make colourful and vibrant hand-made 3D pieces, which are brought together to form a unique abstract paper-craft installation.
    - GemArts worked with over 230 participants and engaged over 5000 audience members far exceeding our target. We worked with a total of 4 professional artists. Participant backgrounds include those who are from Sudan, Ukraine, Russia, Albania, Rwanda,

Kurdistan, Iraq, Guatamala, El Salvador, Iran, Kuwait, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, India and England/Gateshead.

- GemArts Cultural Threads featured in The Chronicle on 6th March 2023: Gateshead arts charity boss explains how £10,000 transformed mental health offering in one of the borough's most deprived areas - Chronicle Live
- GemArts Cultural Threads programme was highlighted in the Transformation in Gateshead – The Story So far video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uQmTyTqEaA
- On 27th February 2023 Alice Wiseman (Director of Public Health Gateshead) and Hannah Waterson (Research and Policy Manager from National Centre for Creative Health) visited GemArts Cultural Threads project with our Feel Good Group which is to be used as a case study to evidence excellent practice as part of the Creative Health Review Overview.

- Cultural Threads - NHS Sessions

GemArts continued our Cultural Threads programme to work with partners at NHS who identify frontline staff from the whole of the health and social care sector. We are working with staff members who are battling COVID-19, and have faced and continue to experience burn out, fatigue, trauma and bereavement, be that their family, friends and/or colleagues. We are currently engaging up to 80 staff members each week from across Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear in high quality culturally diverse on-line arts sessions, including Chinese Water Color sessions with artists Chun Chao Chui, visual arts with Jayamini de Silvia, dance/movement with Breeze George and Yuvel Soria, and creative writing with Tahmina Ali; and when needed signposting NHS staff to professional help and support, to improve their mental, physical and social health and wellbeing.

The feedback from participants has been incredible with 100% reporting that the sessions have improved their health and wellbeing through developing new creative skills.

Researchers at NHS have also evidenced through initial data gathering that the Cultural Threads sessions are having the same positive impact on staff's wellbeing as those being referred to clinical psychologist/therapists.

- Spring Bank Pavilion, Leazes Park

In partnership with Urban Green and The Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust GemArts delivered our Cultural Threads sessions over 19 weeks between Sept 2022 – March 2023 with artist Pui Lee to explore themes of nature, space, community, and wellbeing, through various methods of print making with participants. A final celebration event took place at Spring Bank on 1st April which included a video installation of the work created by participants and Pui delivered a half day of drop in sessions.

- Culture Exchange Group, Byker

Visual artist Emma Sheridan worked with Barnardo's Newcastle Family Hub East, a group for refugees and those seeking asylum. Over 16 weeks delivered a textile and sewing project. The women are from Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran. The sessions also enable the group to develop English language skills, networks and access to further services.

We Stand Together: GemArts worked with 40 volunteers and participants at Comfrey Project to co-create a beautiful large-scale mosaic with professional artist Emma Sheridan. Over 12 sessions, the participatory arts project enabled the group to develop new creative skills, discuss and raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it, whilst exploring themes of respect, welcoming communities, diversity, belonging and nature. The participants incorporated all these ideas into the final artwork which is displayed permanently at The Comfrey Project. There was a final celebration event on 13th May attended by over 250 people and the art work was unveiled by Ian Mearns MP.

As well as many other sessions in community settings GemArts teamed up with Gateshead Art Diamonds to engage people of retirement age in creative workshops during Masala Festival including Mystical Pattern Prints with Mani Kambo; Paper Tea Cup Making and Peacock Prints with Michelle Wood; Bollywood Dance with Suzy; and Tapestry Workshops with Sajil Kaleem. We also delivered a

range of African drumming workshops with musician Fanuel engaging adults and carers across South Shields and Sunderland.

GemArts expanded our rich cultural offer for Children and Young People across the region within schools and community settings offering unparalleled access to high quality culturally diverse arts opportunities. Working in some of the most deprived wards in the region GemArts schools programme supported curriculum topics, diversity weeks, arts weeks and summer transition. We worked with 27 schools (primary and secondary) and supported 8 schools across the North East to achieve and maintain Arts Mark.

GemArts supported 15 children and young people to achieve Arts Award (Discover and Bronze). From experience, we know accessible, accredited learning like Arts Award makes a huge difference to young people from minority ethnic communities and starts to address the balance in attainment gaps.

It was great to be back working in schools again after covid restrictions had been lifted. Between May – July 2022 GemArts delivered a diverse range of artists residencies with the Roman Road Primary in Gateshead working with all year groups and engaging 220 young people, with the theme of celebrating cultures and countries. Art forms included South American percussion and carnival, Chinese block printing and calligraphy, African drumming, song and dance, mask making, Bollywood dance and Indian peacock prints, plus much more which culminated in a final showcase performance and exhibition event at the school where parents and carers were invited to.

GemArts worked with 7 schools across County Durham to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. We delivered 5 artists residencies over 5 weeks including Steel Pans, African drumming, Bollywood Dance, Kuchipudi Dance and Gospel singing introduced pupils to the culture, music and dance of different parts of the Commonwealth, resulting in a special celebratory concert at Gala Durham on Tuesday 14 June, which included performances by Voices of Virtue Choir, Mandingo Bay Warriors and Breeze George. We worked with 300 children, 20 artists and welcomed 1300 audience members to two shows. The concerts were presided over by Her Majesty's personal representative, The Lord-Lieutenant of Durham and other VIP guests. Incredible project and amazing feedback from artists, teachers, children and audiences all summed up in this short film https://youtu.be/Zzmre_FaEYM

We delivered Music Production and DJ'ing sessions at Woodlands PRU in Durham during term time with music leader Adam Cogdon every Wednesday. These are one to one session with 13 young people who are SEN. In addition, music leader April Olatunji is delivering vocal, choir and piano sessions on Thursday and Friday's at Excelsior Academy with young people from diverse communities.

GemArts flagship East by North East youth music programme has continued to engage over 200 young people each week strengthening partnerships across 6 host organisations (North Benwell Youth Project, Life Transformational Church, Excelsior Academy, Benfield School and Gateshead Resettlement Team) in the west and east end of Newcastle, and in Gateshead, to provide young people living in challenging circumstances from Global Majority and wider communities to participate in high quality culturally diverse music making opportunities.

The programme is young person led and includes regular weekly music sessions, accreditation, progressions routes, sharing events and performances. In addition, a key element of the programme is to further diversify the music skills and workforce of music practitioners in the North East and we offer CPD, training and development.

We advocate the benefits of using music to break down barriers to social change and greater community cohesion; evidencing the personal, social and musical impact on young people's lives that the programme has had, enabling them to build their confidence and trust by sharing their musical genres/traditions, and empowering them to reassert their cultural identity; promoting gender equality and progression routes. Many of the long-term participants have developed into young leaders, volunteers, with 3 becoming paid artists/music leaders.

Our Mini Mela at Caedmon Hall during February half term was another great success attracting children and family audience of over 600 throughout the day; we extended the Mini Mela offer and programmed a

full day of arts activities at Darlington Hippodrome engaging more than 1000 new audiences! We partnered up with Arbela Roman Fort again to deliver a full day of creative drop in sessions to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Artists included Pui Lee delivered block printing, Emma Sheridan – tile printing and Henna by Gurbax with 200 people attending throughout the day; and with Durham Council for Chinese New Year 2022 Lip Lee and Pui Lee delivered visual arts sessions to celibate the year of the Rabbit whilst Wendy Chan demonstrated Tai Chi engaging with 3000 audiences and participants.

GemArts participatory arts programme has continued to engage with diverse communities that are marginalised and least engaged, we have offered culturally relevant arts opportunities and have demonstrated the positive impact of our artistic practice in keeping people connected, creative, reducing isolation and improving their health and wellbeing at this extremely challenging time.

Sector wide, GemArts has taken a leadership role in advocating the benefits of creativity and diversity at a strategic level. GemArts has demonstrated exemplary practice and contributed to the development needs of minority ethnic communities, artists, practitioners, and leaders, enabling the organisation to achieve and maintain the highest 'Outstanding' rating from Arts Council England.

We know that people from our communities' face racism and discrimination. We are an anti-racist charity. GemArts alongside reginal artists and arts organizations are leading on Culture Against Racism, a collaborative network committed to creating an anti-racist culture, and creative sector, in the North East of England.

Despite many challenges, GemArts has shown exceptional leadership and is adaptable, and demonstrates resilience and innovation in working and meeting local, regional and national policy agendas. Our work with local authorities, educational institutions, children and adult services, cultural, voluntary and public sector organisations, continues to strengthen the reach and long term impact of our work, enabling us to secure commissioning grants and funding from trusts and foundations to meet wider strategic objectives.

We would like to thank all our funders, trusts and foundations, donors, sponsors and all our partners for their generous and continued support, and all our amazing artists, volunteers, staff, partners, trustees, communities, participants and audiences for their kindness, generosity and resilience.
www.gemarts.org

The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described above.

Financial Review:
The financial position for the year shows net incoming funds of £305,715 and total outgoing resources of £284,017 with the balance from 2021-22 of £564,432 this leaves assets of £586,130 of which £330,485 are restricted funds and £130,500 are designated funds as per our reserves policy. This leaves £125,145 unrsestricted funds. The Trustees consider the financial position of the organisation to be stable.

Risk Management:
The Trustees are examining the major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business. They are considering the likelihood and the impact of risks and reviewed what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are being designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:
It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months expenditure plus redundancy liability which due to increased costs has increased to £140,500. This required an additional £10,000 to be transferred from the unrestricted fund to the designated fund. This will provide sufficient funds to cover redundancy

liabilities, management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time, a designated contingency fund has been set up for this purpose.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Mr Ashok Kumar	Position	Chair
Signature	Ashok Kumar.	Date	27.1.24
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	MSDhindsa	Date	27.1.24

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on pages 13-20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination; it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act;and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
-

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Keith Blackett FMAAT

Date 27 JAN 24

Signed

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022-23 £	Total Funds 2021-22 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and Legacies	2	2,077	0	0	2,077	908
Charitable Activities	2	767	0	212,874	213,641	271,956
Other Trading Activities	2	89,997			89,997	14,853
Investments	2		0	0	0	0
Total Income and Endowments		92,841	0	212,874	305,715	287,717
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds	2				0	0
Charitable Activities	2	54,195		229,822	284,017	203,561
Other resources expended	2				0	0
Total Expenditure		54,195	0	229,822	284,017	203,561
Income less Expenditure before transfers		38,646	0	(16,948)	21,698	84,156
Transfers	9	(10,000)	10,000		0	0
Total Funds brought forward		86,499	130,500	347,433	564,432	480,276
Total funds carried forward		115,145	140,500	330,485	586,130	564,432

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2023

	Note	Total Funds 2021-22 £	Total Funds 2020-21 £
Current Assets			
Stocks and Work in Progress		0	0
Debtors	7	0	0
Investments		0	0
Cash at Bank and In Hand		586,130	564,732
Total Current Assets		586,130	564,732
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(300)	(300)
Total Current Assets less Current Liabilities		(300)	(300)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Net assets or liabilities including pension asset or liability		585,830	564,432
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		330,485	347,433
Designated Funds		140,500	130,500
Unrestricted income funds		115,145	86,499
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		586,130	564,432

Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Name	Mr Ashok Kumar	Position	Chair
Signature	Ashok Kumar.	Date	27.1.24.
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	MSDhindsa	Date	27.1.24.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period to 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

Basis of Preparation

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

Resources Expended and Liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Funds

The Charity has 3 funds, an unrestricted general fund, a designated fund, comprising 3 months running costs and redundancy liabilities as per the reserves policy, and a restricted fund used for purchasing items of a specific: hence all movements on each fund are disclosed.

Restricted Funds Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
GVEMSG	£	£	£	£	£
MEMCO and Warm Spaces	2,051	1,000	0	0	3,051
GVEMSG Total	2,051	1,000	0	0	3,051
GEM ARTS					
Arts Council England - NPO	91,879.00	122,208.00	(120,537.00)		93,550
Catalyst	75,688.00	0.00	0.00		75,688
National Foundation for Youth Music	63,377.00	37,498.00	(58,773.00)		42,102
Police & Crime Commissioners Fund	4,375.00	0.00	(4,375.00)		0
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD	28,735.00	0.00	(1,691.00)		27,044
Town Hall	7,770.00	0.00	0.00		7,770
ACE - Culture Against Racism	2,415.00	750.00	(348.00)		2,817
GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme	18,624.00	0.00	(3,300.00)		15,324
Community Foundation - Gateshead Housing Co	3,894.00	0.00	(3,894.00)		0
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead	4,948.00	0.00	0.00		4,948
Sport England - This Girl Can	2,290.00	0.00	(2,290.00)		0
Cumbria NHS	41,387.00	0.00	(11,898.00)		29,489
Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder	0.00	36,418.00	(15,598.00)		20,820
Lankelly Chase - English Language Enquiry	0.00	5,000.00	(2,735.00)		2,265
GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community Health	0.00	10,000.00	(4,383.00)		5,617
GEM ARTS Total	345,382	211,874	(229,822)	0	327,434
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	347,433	212,874	(229,822)		330,485

Designated Funds Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Contingency and Redundancy Liability	130,500			10,000	140,500
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	130,500	0	0	10,000	140,500

Unrestricted Funds Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
GVEMSG - General Fund	6,446	767	(613)		6,600
GEM Arts - General Fund	80,053	92,075	(53,583)	(10,000)	108,545
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	86,499	92,842	(54,196)	(10,000)	115,145
TOTAL FUNDS	564,432	305716	(284,018)	0	586,130

Purpose of Funds

GVEMSG

a) MEMCO transfer

GemArts

a) Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation -The grant is towards core costs and artistic programme.
b) Catalyst – towards building fundraising capacity.
c) National Foundation for Youth Music - The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project focusing on music with children living in challenging circumstances, and training/developing a diverse music leader workforce.
d) Police Crime and Commissioners Fund – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project.
e) European Social Fund: Gateshead Goes Global – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts programme with women furthest from the labour market to make progress towards volunteering, employment, enterprise, education or training.
f) Town Hall – for the delivery of a South Asian music and performance programme.
g) Arts Council England/Donations – sector support/partnership to deliver Culture Against Racism.
h) GMBC and Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme.
i) The Gateshead Housing Company at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project to tackle hate crime and improve community safety.
j) Bluestone Collaborative – Well NewcastleGateshead – The grant is for the delivery of 'Hyem' a high quality arts, health and wellbeing programme.
k) Sport England - This Girl Can – The Grant is for the delivery of a high quality movement and dance programme.
l) Cumbria NHS – The grant is for the delivery of Cultural Threads an arts health and wellbeing programme with NHS staff in Cumbria, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear.
m) Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder funding to support wages and core costs.
n) Lankelly Chase - to support English Language Enquiry with people seeking sanctuary
o) GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community Health - The grant is to deliver Cultural Threads arts, health and wellbeing programme in Gateshead.

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2021-2

Income and Endowments from: **Donations and Legacies**	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**Total**
GEM ARTS				-
Sponsorship and Donations	2,077			2,077
				0
				0
GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total	**2,077**	**0**	**0**	**2,077**
GVEMSG				0
Box Office	767			767
Grants	0		1,000	1,000
GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total	**767**	**0**	**1,000**	**1,767**
GEM ARTS				
Arts Council England - NPO			122,208	122,208
National Foundation for Youth Music			37,498	37,498
ACE – Culture Against Racism			750	750
Lankelly Chase – Bridgebuilder			36,418	36,418
Lankelly Chase – English Language Enquiry			5,000	5,000
GMBC – Gateshead Community Health			10,000	10,000
Other incoming resources				0
GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total	**0**	**0**	**211,874**	**211,874**

	767	0	212,874	213,641
Other Incoming Resources				
	89,997	0	0	89,997
	89,997	0	0	89,997
Total Income and Endowments	**92,841**	**0**	**212,874**	**305,715**
Expenditure on:				
Charitable Activities				
GVEMSG				
Refreshments/Catering				0
Bank Charges	60			60
Rent/Telephone/Internet	300			300
Training and Development				0
Venue Hire				0
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport	157			157
Community Worker wages	96			96
GVEMSG Total Charitable Activities	**613**	**0**	**0**	**613**
GEM Arts				
Artist Fees, Materials & Production	53,582		84,246	137,828
Food Deliveries and Volunteer Expenses			3,415	3,415
Venue & Tech			6,414	6,414
Org Dev and Catalyst			4,394	4,394
Marketing/PR/Doc			7,937	7,937
Evaluation			0	0
IT and Equipment			1,470	1,470
Stationery/Printing/Postage			449	449
Insurance			1,091	1,091
Phone/Internet			1,079	1,079
Rent			2,500	2,500
Expenses			4,079	4,079
Wages and Pensions			111,655	111,655
Payroll Admin	0		730	730
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
Bank Charges			63	63
GEM ARTS Total Charitable Activities	**53,582**	**0**	**229,822**	**283,404**
Raising Funds				
				0
	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	**54,195**	**0**	**229,822**	**284,017**

Support Costs

Support Cost Type	**Fundraising Activity £**	**Charitable Activity £**	**Governance Activity £**	**Total Cost £**
GVEMSG				-
Insurance				-
Rent/Telephone/Internet				-
Sessional Staff				-
Stationery/Equipment				-
Training and Development				-
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				-
Community Worker wages		96		96
GVEMSG Total Support Costs		**96**	-	**96**
GEM ARTS				-
Venue & Tech		6,414		6,414
Marketing/PR/Doc		7,937		7,937

Evaluation	-		
IT and Equipment	1,470		1,470
Stationery/Printing/Postage	449		449
Insurance	1,091		1,091
Phone/Internet	1,079		1,079
Expenses	4,079		4,079
Wages	111,655		111,655
Payroll Admin	730		730
Independent Examination of Accounts		300	300
GEM ARTS Total Support Costs	**134,904**	**300**	**135,204**
Total Support Costs	**135,000**	**300**	**135,300**

3 Staff Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021-22 Total £
GVEMSG			0
Salaries and NI	96		2,240
GVEMSG Total Employee Costs		**0**	**2,240**
GEM ARTS			
Salaries and NI		106,042	103,907
Pension		5,613	4,866
Child Care Vouchers			0
Payroll Fees		730	578
GEM ARTS Total Employee Costs	**0**	**112,385**	**109,351**
Total Employee Costs	96	112,385	111,591

	2022-23 Number
3 full time and 3 part time employees	6

These costs were for the employment of 3 full time and 3 part time members of staff and include Employer's NI. All other staff are casually employed tutors/facilitators. No member of staff was paid remuneration of £60,000 or more.

4 Trustees remuneration, benefit and expenses

There were none during this period.

5 Debtors

There are no debtors at this time.

6 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020-21 Total £
Independent Examination Fee	300		300
			-
	300	-	300

7 Related Party Disclosures

There were no related parties during this period.

8 Taxation

Due to the nature of its activities, the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

9 Transfer

Due to increased costs there was a requirement to transfer additional funds to the designated fund, to ensure that the reserves policy would be met.

GATESHEAD VISIBLE ETHNIC MINORITIES SUPPORT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1008100

Accounts



Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group

(Registered Charity No. 1008100)

Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 March 2022

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Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group
Charity No:	1008100
Principal Address:	89 Salcombe Gardens Low Fell GATESHEAD Tyne & Wear NE9 6UD
Trustees:	Councillor Martin Gannon (President) Mr Ashok Kumar (Chair) Mr A Singh Gill MBE (Vice Chair) Angela Singh (Treasurer) Manjit Singh Dhindsa (Secretary) Michael Harte Birinder Singh Brar Ala Miah
Governing Document:	The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 2 November 1991, and is unincorporated.
Bankers:	HSBC plc 110 Grey Street Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3JG
Independent Examiner:	Kate Tully FMAAT FICE AATQB 20 Ennerdale Crescent Winlaton Blaydon on Tyne NE21 6PS

Trustees Annual Report

Objects:
To undertake activities which help individuals and groups to understand and learn about different cultures and to support them in their efforts to overcome ignorance, language barriers, disadvantage, prejudice and racism. We undertake a variety of activities and events to fulfill our vision of creating a multi-cultural all-inclusive community.

Achievements:
Our Work:

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group works with and for disadvantaged and marginalised Black Asian and Minority Ethnic, asylum seeker and refugee communities who face barriers on many levels, including personal, family, community and wider social and institutional contexts, and are at risk of isolation and exclusion and face racism and discrimination. We are an anti-racist charity. Through the work we deliver we support all communities in making representation to service providers and ensure they have equal access to the services they provide; we provide an opportunity for communities to raise issues of concern and take positive action; and develop effective links between organisations and other associations operating in the area, on matters of common concern.

Our projects contribute to strengthening the Minority Ethnic voluntary infrastructure through high quality activity, training and development, and capacity building.

Overall our projects increase community engagement amongst those who are at risk of exclusion and isolation, combating racism and discrimination, helping to strengthen community cohesion, and go towards achieving a reduction in race inequalities.

Through providing access to engaging, high quality activity, including training, educational and cultural activities, led by professional practitioners, support workers and volunteers, our programmes aim to provide our beneficiaries with the opportunity to:

- Develop new skills & interests
- Raise their confidence & self esteem
- Experience working alongside professional practitioners
- Identify and explore educational, volunteering and career opportunities
- Improve social, physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Become more active and healthy
- Interact with others in a creative, dynamic & enjoyable environment.
- Mutual support and working together
- Opportunities to examine issues affecting their lives
- Giving a voice to culturally diverse groups to raise awareness of and celebrate their own culture/identity

We work in partnership with Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police, Community Safety Team, NHS, Public Health, Gateshead Carers, local schools, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Gateshead Interfaith Forum, Gateshead housing services, and Leisure/Cultural Services

In 2021/22 we have engaged, supported and worked with over 2000 people from across all age ranges, faith communities and ethnicities

2021/22 – Activities & Achievements:
The COVID19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and has further amplified racial and health inequalities. We know that many people from our communities during this crisis are feeling even more isolated, lonely, worried and vulnerable, which is having a negative impact on their health and wellbeing - with women, older people, children and young people at greatest risk. Digital exclusion is a major barrier faced by communities we work with.

Our charity supports and works with some of the most vulnerable Minority Ethnic and wider communities and we have continued to do so during this COVID pandemic and adapted our delivery in response to restriction and social distancing to meet the needs of our communities.

From the beginning of the pandemic and continuing this year we worked with our amazing volunteers to:

- create multi language Covid19 advice videos
- offer a telephone befriending and translation/interpretation service for vulnerable minority ethnic communities to access support and advice
- cook hot Indian veg meals (100 per week) and deliver them with creative arts packs to vulnerable families and those who are shielding across Gateshead. We also received referrals from local schools via their Family Support Workers, with demand increasing over the summer holidays.

Our volunteers and staff would check up on families and older people when delivering the food and communicate important information in a range of languages for those that needed, or just chat on the doorstep and find out if they needed any other help. Many older people and families, especially those who were shielding, were hugely grateful for the personal contact as they were feeling very lonely at that time, and particularly during the cold and dark winter months.

We delivered more than 3600 hot food deliveries and packages benefiting some of the most vulnerable and isolated people from Black Asian and Ethnic Minority communities in Gateshead, including South Asian, Syrian, Afghan, Kurdish, Iranian, African, refugees, and those seeking asylum and wider communities, without which many would be left struggling, hungry, and malnourished, ill informed, lonely, withdrawn, and impoverished. Especially, in cases where individuals have no recourse to public funds and cannot receive financial support from the Council, Government, public body, and some charities.

Collaborating with Gateshead Council and Public Health:
In response to our valuable work and insight with Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Gateshead we were awarded funding through Gateshead Council and from the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund, to build our capacity and employ a full time Community Development Worker, Jola Olafimihan who took up post in June 2021, to deliver on Gateshead Covid Champions programme.

The post enabled us to build our capacity and further tap into existing local networks and develop new networks to ensure that accurate and consistent information about Coronavirus is communicated to Minority Ethnic communities. We identified barriers to accessing accurate information, and concerns that the community had, and provided tailored support including translated material, recruiting and training community champions, and encouraging take-up of the vaccination programme in Gateshead to enable people to improve their own outcomes around Covid-19, their broader life chances, access to services, health and wellbeing.

Trustees and staff team have representation on and regularly attend meetings including Local Outbreak Engagement Board, Vaccination Inequality Group, Covid Champions Community Group, MECC and regional and national online workshops. This has enabled us to cascade the most current information down, as well as feedback concerns from the community, which have been acted upon immediately by Gateshead Council and Public Health, which has created greater trust and strengthening of relationships between the local community and stakeholders.

Drop-In Centre: Wednesdays 1.30pm to 3pm: as lockdown restrictions eased we welcomed back communities to Bensham Grove, ensuring the space was covid secure and social distancing in place, and continued to provide advice and support to minority ethnic communities and those seeking asylum. The Drop-In Centre gives people access to Police services, health, wellbeing and medical care; education, volunteering and career opportunities; environmental services, housing and social services. The session give advice and support to those families and individuals that are in most need, through translators in a safe and comfortable setting, providing them with access to voluntary, public, statutory and non-statutory organisations. The drop in provides an opportunity for social inclusion and cohesion. It is both popular and indispensable for existing communities and new arrivals.

Feel Good Group: We deliver weekly Health and Wellbeing sessions working with women from minority ethnic and wider communities who feel isolated. The sessions engage women in activities to overcome barriers and enable them to access informal creative learning opportunities and to socialise and interact with other women. The women in the group have various physical and mental health issues, and the sessions offer an active, educational and safe environment to build their own confidence, improve health and wellbeing, and support each other. Members come from different faith and cultural backgrounds but find common ground in activities. The group receives GP referrals of women who would benefit from joining the group to access support and advice.

Due to covid restrictions, and participants having underlying health issues which meant that some were shielding, the Feel-Good Group were not able to meet in person, increasing isolation, which for many had a detrimental effect on their health and wellbeing. Many of the women have limited IT skills, so working with GemArts artists Michelle Wood, we created arts packs which were posted out for people to create things in their own time. The group use what's app to stay connected and share their creations, and we have shared photographs of their work across our social media platforms.

Arts packs included – Felt project with embroidered hearts, birds and flowers; Print stamp card making; Paper and fabric Origami hearts; Rainbow bunting, paper flowers and felt bowls; Diwali pattern concertina book making in November and Christmas card stamp printing in December.

We developed digital skills and confidence within the group as we began to deliver on-line sessions with them, creating step by step guides to get connected on zoom and ensured staff members were on hand to help with any difficulties. On-line sessions included:

- Origami Cherry Blossom session inspired by Japanese Festival of Spring Hanami with artists Saya Rose Naruse
- Clay arts sessions creating bowls, pinch pots and house wall hangings, embellished, painted and printed upon.
- Collage card making sessions
- Movement, Yoga and Pilates sessions

These sessions have been invaluable in keeping people connected, creative, having fun and improving their health and wellbeing. It was lovely to welcome the group back in person at Bensham Grove in late summer.

Sector/Strategic Development:
Trustees, staff and volunteers are also trustees on other boards and forums including - Bensham Grove Community Centre, Citizens Advice Gateshead and Northern Stage

GVEMSG has worked in partnership with local minority ethnic voluntary groups in Gateshead and Tyne and Wear to provide advocacy and support

Volunteer Development
Volunteers support the aims of our charity and play an integral part in meeting our vision and mission. 50 volunteers have supported our charity this year, and we have provided a whole range of support and we value their contributions enormously.

Our volunteers and staff have done an amazing job during the pandemic and in such unprecedented and challenging circumstances, and we are truly grateful!

Impact of our work:
Gateshead Director of Public Health annual report 'Behind the masks: Gateshead's Covid stories' focuses on the impact of the first year of the pandemic on Gateshead. Case study on GVEMSG/GemArts work is featured www.gateshead.gov.uk/BehindTheMasks

GemArts is one of a limited number of National Portfolio Organisation funded by the Arts Council England, and is an award winning leader in the South Asian and diversity arts sector. GemArts creates and programmes high quality concerts, events, festivals, workshops and commissions with regional, national and international artists across all art forms. We specialise high quality culturally diverse participatory arts projects with Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged, and proactively disseminated best practice advances through regional and national networks and platforms.

The Covid-19 pandemic has continued to impact the delivery of GemArts programme, our organisation, the artists and communities we work with and for.

GemArts has built on our recovery programme from the previous year and continue to deliver an ambitious and inspiring artistic programme across all strands of work. We know that this has been an exceptionally difficult time for our communities, freelance artists and creative workforce. GemArts is absolutely committed to supporting artists at every stage of their career, ensuring that talent and artistic excellence is diverse, thriving and celebrated and truly reflective of contemporary Britain.

As covid restrictions relaxed in summer 2021 GemArts delivered a blended programme of live events in covid secure venues and spaces, with socially distanced audiences, and on-line performances that were pre-recorded or live streamed. The programming of international work continued to be significantly challenged because of international travel restrictions to limit the spread of Covid, especially from the Indian sub-continent. Despite all the challenges we produced and programmed 21 performances spanning classical, folk and contemporary works, employed 96 regional, national and international artists, and attracted 8,200 live audiences and over 50,000 on-line audiences.

Henna Asikainen's *'between two shores'* which is co-commissioned by GemArts was launched on-line as part of Refugee Week Celebration in June 2021. The work examines the intertwined issues of climate change and its impact on migration and human rights. The project is located in the environment of Holy Island (Lindisfarne). The online event featured a screening and introductory presentation by Henna, followed by a discussion with senior specialist Sarah Taylor from Natural England, producer Tom Green from Refugee Week (Counterpoints Arts), lead producer Andrea Carter from D6, and director Vikas Kumar from GemArts . Watch the trailer here

In July 2021 we were thrilled to bring back our award-winning Masala Festival. Working in partnership with Borneo Bengkel, a cultural arts platform based in Sarawak, East Malaysia, we presented an international collaboration between spoken word performers from East Malaysia and Northern England exploring identity, marginalisation, dualism and otherness. The performance was hosted simultaneously in both England (Alphabetti Theatre) and Malaysia (HAUS KCH), and was broadcast digitally, reaching across borders and bringing an international audience together. In addition, GemArts commissioned an eclectic mix of outstanding on-line performances including a khyal performance by leading vocalist Apoorva Gokhake in partnership with Durham University; Narivad – Sofia Barton discusses her new work commissioned by GemArts for Masala Festival with Lady Kitt; 'Love and Lament' by kuchipudi dancer Payal Ramchandani which was filmed at Dance City; 'A God at the Door' - award winning poet Tashina Joshi (India) read from her new book; and TATTOO STORIES podcast by Vimal Korpal. The festival also celebrated brining back live audiences inside venues as we programmed Helen Anita Wilson (piano) and Shahbaz Hussain (tabla) at the Lit & Phil; and Jasdeep Sign Degun (sitar) and Harkirat (tabla) at the Globe, both concerts received standing ovations and a full house.

GemArts continued to strengthen and develop new partnerships across the region. We programmed kuchipudi dancer Payal Ramchandani at outdoor performances at IncludFest in Durham and as part of Northern Stages Trailer Stories in Leazes Park in Newcastle. During Gateshead History Month in September we copromoted with Gateshead Library author Neema Shah as she discussed her debut novel Kololo Hill and the plight of South Asian communities that were expelled from Uganda in 1972. Some of our audience members, including trustees were originally from Uganda and had lived experience, which brought a real depth to the discussion. GemArts also continued our partnership with Jazz North East to present world class jazz pianist Zoe Rehman who later went on to win an Ivor Novlleo Award……absolutely well deserved!

In November, as part of GemArts Diwali celebrations, we were delighted to be back with our Riverside Ragas at Sage Gateshead as we presented brilliant vocalist Swati Natekar who performed classical, Bollywood and ghazals; and at Dance City we programmed Kattam Katti by Pagrav Dance which is co-commissioned by GemArts. Both performances were stunning, in front of capacity audiences and to standing ovations.

GemArts performance programme culminated on 19th March 2023 with Holi Festival of Colours at Baltic where over 4000 people attended this EPIC event! Feedback has been incredible. We took over the whole building with arts activities, music, dance, and commissioned a large scale Rangoli by Raj Rani, and the colour throwing in Baltic Square at the end was joyous! Amazing feedback including from Lord Mayors of Newcastle and Gateshead, and Deputy Lord Lieutenant as well as diverse young audiences.

In 2021/22 our Creative Associates Programme supported 17 artists whose work reflects creative and cultural diversity through developmental, reflective, participatory and performance opportunities. GemArts allocated funds from our performance programme to our Creative Associates, RnD and Commissioning programme to ensure we continued to support and invest in artists at every stage of their career, especially during this time when our diverse freelance workforce is at most risk. We have invested and commissioned 5 new works: Narivad by Sofia Barton a visual arts exhibition and exploration of the Indian suffragettes who helped shape feminism on a global scale; Kattam Katti by Pagrav Dance; Spy Monkey by Atma Dance; and Of Love and Lament and The Forest Dreams both by Payal Ramchandani. The commissions all have a digital element and will be realised as live performances and exhibitions.

The COVID19 pandemic has adversely impacted our local communities in so many ways. Lockdown and shielding forced people to stay at home or indoors more, which meant we were not able to connect with our friends, family and neighbours as we would like, and has led to increased isolation, loneliness, and physical and mental health issues. We know this has been a difficult time for so many.

In 2021-22 GemArts adapted and expanded our arts, health and wellbeing programme by creating a mixture of on-line and in person arts activities. We provided creative opportunities for professional artists and minority ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged to work with one another, sustaining the arts regionally, and addressing community needs and issues.

This year we have employed 40 freelance artists in participatory settings, and delivered, in formal education and community settings, 276 in person sessions with 5,693 participants; and 246 on-line sessions engaging with 21,148 participants.

Cultural Threads: This is our flagship Arts, Health and Wellbeing programme. Through consultation with communities we commissioned a range of local artists, whose work reflects creative and cultural diversity, to work in community settings and/or produce on-line content and sessions as well as bespoke creative arts packs, which include arts materials, that are delivered to individuals and community groups. https://gemarts.org/projects/138/cultural-threads-programme

GemArts expanded our Cultural Threads programme to work with partners at NHS who identify frontline staff from the whole of the health and social care sector. We are working with staff members who are battling COVID-19, and have faced and continue to experience burn out, fatigue, trauma and bereavement, be that their family, friends and/or colleagues. We are currently engaging up to 80 staff members each week from across Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear in high quality culturally diverse on-line arts sessions, including Chinese Water Color sessions with artists Chun Chao Chui, visual arts with Jayamini de Silvia, dance/movement with Breeze George and Yuvel Soria, and creative writing with Tahmina Ali; and when needed signposting NHS staff to professional help and support, to improve their mental, physical and social health and wellbeing.

Hyem: GemArts culturally relevant arts practice has continued to engage with some of the most isolated and vulnerable people from diverse communities in the Bridges Ward and Felling in Gateshead, and in the East and West End of Newcastle. GemArts recruited a team of local visual artists including Emma Sheridan, Mani Kambo, Pui Lee, Michelle Wood and Sofia Barton to engage participants in weekly arts sessions that enabled people to capture diverse narratives of what Hyem (Geordie for home) means to

them, before and during the pandemic. Working with participants from our Feel Good Group, Comfrey Project, The Hub and Byker Sands we explored themes of belonging, community, resilience, kindness and peoples hopes for the future. The final exhibition was displayed at Bensham Grove in September 2021 which included textiles, paintings, prints, mixed media, sculpture and film, and communities and families from across the project came to celebrate their achievements.

Changing Perspectives: The creative arts project engaged women from diverse communities living in high deprivation areas in Gateshead and those furthest away from the labour market, to work with professional artists to develop creative, personal and social skills, build confidence and progress to volunteering, enterprise and/or employment.

Together we Move: GemArts delivered a series of movement and dance sessions with women from Gateshead to improve health and wellbeing and to get people more active. We engaged with 61 participants from the ages of 5 to 78 years in online Yoga and Pilates sessions; and in person Bollywood dance sessions at Bensham Grove and Tai Chi at Teams Life Centre in Gateshead

We have continued to raise awareness of Hate Crime and reporting through engaging communities in participatory arts funded by Gateshead Housing Company and PCC funding:
We Stand Together: GemArts worked with 40 volunteers and participants at Comfrey Project to co-create a beautiful large-scale mosaic with professional artist Emma Sheridan. Over 12 sessions, between January to April 2022, the participatory arts project enabled the group to develop new creative skills, discuss and raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it, whilst exploring themes of respect, welcoming communities, diversity, belonging and nature. The participants incorporated all these ideas into the final artwork which is displayed permanently at The Comfrey Project. There was a final celebration event on 13th May attended by over 250 people and the art work was unveiled by Ian Mearns MP.

Amplify: is a creative arts programme produced and delivered by GemArts working with schools and community groups to address discrimination, racism, bullying and to prevent anti-social behaviour. Funding enabled GemArts to work in partnership with Side Step who referred young people suspected to be involved in serious organised crime and the possibility of exploitation (usually in the form of county lines). The aim over the duration of the visual arts sessions was for each participant to become able to draw and paint in an accomplished style and to feel confident and comfortable in the creation process so that they could complete the large-scale mural, and to open discussion and develop a sense of belonging, respect and ownership of their local community. We also worked with two primary schools in Gateshead, Whitemere and Caedmon Primary, where music leaders Georgia May and Adam Cogdon developed lyric writing, rap, singing and music production skills to co-produce brand new songs promoting greater awareness, understanding and respect for one another.

The pandemic has had an immense negative impact on the young people we work with. Our exemplar **East by North East** youth music programme has continued to engage young people living in challenging circumstances. We have delivered socially distanced sessions in community settings, as well as weekly on-line sessions, which have enabled young people to connect with their friends, and supported their musical, personal and social development. We built on our successful program over the lockdown and Covid restrictions, and in September 2021 we started delivering face to face sessions, across the whole programme, engaging 200 young people in weekly session with partners at North Benwell Youth Project, Life Transformation Church, Excelsior Academy and Benfield School in Newcastle, and the Sound Room in Gateshead. We have recruited 3 new music leaders to add to our cohort;
The programme includes regular weekly music sessions, accreditation, progressions routes, sharing events and performances. In addition, a key element of the programme is to further diversify the music skills and workforce of music practitioners in the North East through CPD, training and development.

GemArts continued to build on our successful programme to provide on-line creative content for **schools.** We worked in partnership with Durham Council, South Tyneside and Gateshead Music Education Hub, and Express Yourself Festival to create culturally diverse digital arts content which was distrusted to 54 schools across Gateshead, South Tyneside, Newcastle and Durham, engaging thousands of children and young people.

As restrictions eased we were able to deliver sessions in 8 schools. Working in some of the most deprived wards in the region GemArts schools programme supported curriculum topics, transition, enrichment and diversity weeks. Our projects promoted cultural diversity and shared values and contributed towards SMSC development. GemArts also collaborated with Newcastle Bridges and Ferndene Hospital providing Young People who are SEND with a rich cultural offer through visual arts, storytelling, puppet making and dance.

In February 2022 GemArts Mini Mela returned to Caedmon Hall, which was a great success, engaging with many children and families from local communities, and we collaborated with Durham County Council's International Team to deliver workshops at Chinese New Year which attracted audiences in excess of 2000.

GemArts participatory arts programme has continued to engage with diverse communities that are marginalised and least engaged throughout the pandemic, we have offered culturally relevant arts opportunities and have demonstrated the positive impact of our artistic practice in keeping people connected, creative, reducing isolation and improving their health and wellbeing at this extremely challenging time.

We know that people from our communities' face racism and discrimination. We are an anti-racist charity. GemArts alongside reginal artists and arts organizations are leading on Culture Against Racism, a collaborative network committed to creating an anti-racist culture, and creative sector, in the North East of England.

After 15 years of hard work, dedication, and commitment as Project Manager, Alex Marsden Gordon left GemArts at the end of October 2021. Alex has been an integral part of GemArts success over the years. The board, staff and volunteers formally recorded our appreciation and gratitude for all her fantastic work and wished Alex every success and all the best in all future endeavours. In February 2022 we welcomed Zahra Bazarganianpour to GemArts team who will be working as a part time Community Bridge Builder in Gateshead funded through Lankelley Chase Foundation. Zahra has been volunteering for our charity for many years so this will be a fantastic opportunity for her, our organization and the community to build knowledge, experience and capacity.

Despite challenges that the pandemic has thrown, GemArts has shown exceptional leadership, innovation and resilience. Our successful funding strategy and established reserves gave us working capital to manage the early impact on the loss of earned and box office income, and sponsorship. Our strong community development approach and excellent participatory arts programme has enabled GemArts to access additional funding from trusts and foundations so that we can continue to work with and support communities that are least engaged and who are more likely to suffer long-term impacts and poor outcomes from COVID-19.

We would like to thank all our funders, trusts and foundations, donors, sponsors and all our partners for their generous and continued support, and all our amazing artists, volunteers, staff, partners, trustees, communities, participants and audiences for their kindness, generosity and resilience during these unprecedented times.

The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described above.

Financial Review:
The financial position for the year shows net incoming funds of £287,717 and total outgoing resources of £203,561 with the balance from 2020-21 of £480,276 this leaves assets of £564,432 of which £347,433 are restricted funds and £130,500 are designated funds as per our reserves policy. This leaves £86,499 unrsestricted funds. The Trustees consider the financial position of the organisation to be stable.

Risk Management:
The Trustees are examining the major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business. They are considering the likelihood and the impact of risks and reviewed what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are being designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:
It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months expenditure plus redundancy liability which currently stands as £130,500. This will provide sufficient funds to cover redundancy liabilities, management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time, a designated contingency fund has been set up for this purpose.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Mr Ashok Kumar	Position	Chair
Signature	Ashok Kumar	Date	25th January 2023
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	M S Dhindsa	Date	25th January 2023

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 set out on pages 13-20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination; it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act;and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
-

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB

Date 26th January 2023

Signed K A Tully

acie association of charity independent examiners

aat

Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021-22 £	Total Funds 2020-21 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and Legacies	2	908	0	0	908	0
Charitable Activities	2	0	0	271,956	271,956	221,106
Other Trading Activities	2	14,853			14,853	6,840
Investments	2		0	0	0	0
Total Income and Endowments		**15,761**	**0**	**271,956**	**287,717**	**227,946**
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds	2				0	
Charitable Activities	2	10,401		193,160	203,561	125,255
Other resources expended	2				0	0
Total Expenditure		**10,401**	**0**	**193,160**	**203,561**	**125,255**
Income less Expenditure before transfers		**5,360**	**0**	**78,796**	**84,156**	**102,691**
Transfers					0	0
Total Funds brought forward		81,139	130,500	268,637	480,276	377,585
Total funds carried forward		**86,499**	**130,500**	**347,433**	**564,432**	**480,276**

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2022

	Note	Total Funds 2021-22 £	Total Funds 2020-21 £
Current Assets			
Stocks and Work in Progress		0	0
Debtors	7	0	0
Investments		0	0
Cash at Bank and In Hand		564,732	480,756
Total Current Assets		564,732	480,756
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(300)	(300)
Total Current Assets less Current Liabilities		(300)	(300)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Net assets or liabilities including pension asset or liability		564,432	480,456
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		347,433	268,637
Designated Funds		130,500	130,500
Unrestricted income funds		86,499	81,139
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		564,432	480,276

Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Name Mr Ashok Kumar Position Chair

Signature Ashok Kumar Date 25th January 2023

Name Manjit Singh Dhindsa Position Secretary

Signature M S Dhindsa Date 25th January 2023

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period to 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

Basis of Preparation

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

Resources Expended and Liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Funds

The Charity has 3 funds, an unrestricted general fund, a designated fund, comprising 3 months running costs and redundancy liabilities as per the reserves policy, and a restricted fund used for purchasing items of a specific: hence all movements on each fund are disclosed.

Restricted Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
GVEMSG	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
MEMCO transfer	2,051	0	0	0	2,051
GVEMSG Total	**2,051**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2,051**
GEM ARTS					
Arts Council England - NPO	59,836	122,208	(90,165)		91,879
Catalyst	75,688	0	0		75,688
National Foundation for Youth Music	52,336	44,997	(33,956)		63,377
Police & Crime Commissioners Fund	1,196	10,000	(6,821)		4,375
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD	26,739	4,546	(2,550)		28,735
Town Hall	7,770	0	0		7,770
HMRC - JRS Grant	0	6,455	(6,455)		0
Arts Council England/Donations - Culture Against Racism	8,065	0	(5,650)		2,415
GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme	9,250	27,750	(18,376)		18,624
Community Foundation - Gateshead Housing Co	5,000	0	(1,106)		3,894
Community Foundation - NET Covid Appeal Fund	4,384	0	(4,384)		0
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead	12,373	6,000	(13,425)		4,948
Sport England - This Girl Can	3,950	0	(1,660)		2,290
Cumbria NHS	0	50,000	(8,613)		41,387
GEM ARTS Total	**266,587**	**271,956**	**(193,161)**	**0**	**345,382**
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	**268,638**	**271,956**	**(193,161)**	**0**	**347,433**

Designated Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Contingency and Redundancy Liability	130,500				130,500
					0
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	**130,500**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**130,500**

Unrestricted Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
GVEMSG - General Fund	8,868	0	(2,422)		6,446
GEM Arts - General Fund	72,271	15,761	(7,979)		80,053
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	**81,139**	**15,761**	**(10,401)**	**0**	**86,499**
TOTAL FUNDS	**480,277**	**287,717**	**(203,562)**	**0**	**564,432**

Purpose of Funds

GVEMSG

a) MEMCO transfer

GemArts

a) Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation -The grant is towards core costs and artistic programme
b) Catalyst – towards building fundraising capacity

c) National Foundation for Youth Music - The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project focusing on music with children living in challenging circumstances, and training/developing a diverse music leader workforce
d) Police Crime and Commissioners Fund – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project
e) European Social Fund: Gateshead Goes Global – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts programme with women furthest from the labour market to make progress towards volunteering, employment, enterprise, education or training.
f) Town Hall – for the delivery of a South Asian music and performance programme
g) HMRC – Corona Virus Job Retention Scheme Grant
h) Arts Council England/Donations – sector support/partnership to deliver Culture Against Racism
i) GMBC and Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme
j) The Gateshead Housing Company at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project to tackle hate crime and improve community safety
k) Community Foundation - NET Covid Appeal Fund – The grant is for the preparation of hot food and bespoke creative arts pack deliveries to vulnerable communities in Gateshead
l) Bluestone Collaborative – Well NewcastleGateshead – The grant is for the delivery of 'Hyem' a high quality arts, health and wellbeing programme
m) Sport England - This Girl Can – The Grant is for the delivery of a high quality movement and dance programme
n) Cumbria NHS – The grant is for the delivery of Cultural Threads an arts health and wellbeing programme with NHS staff in Cumbria, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2021-2

Income and Endowments from: **Donations and Legacies**	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**Total**
GEM ARTS				-
Sponsorship and Donations	908			908
				0
				0
GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total	**908**	**0**	**0**	**908**
GVEMSG				0
Box Office				0
Grants	0			0
GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
GEM ARTS				
Arts Council England - NPO			122,208	122,208
National Foundation for Youth Music			44,997	44,997
Police & Crime Commissioners Fund			10,000	10,000
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD			4,546	4,546
HMRC - JRS Grant			6,455	6,455
GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme			27,750	27,750
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead			6,000	6,000
Cumbria NHS			50,000	50,000
				0
				0
Other incoming resources				0
GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total	**0**	**0**	**271,956**	**271,956**
	0	0	271,956	271,956
Other Incoming Resources				
	14,853	0	0	0
	14,853	0	0	0
Total Income and Endowments	**15,761**	**0**	**271,956**	**287,717**

Expenditure on:				
Charitable Activities				
GVEMSG				
Refreshments/Catering				0
Bank Charges	15			15
Rent/Telephone/Internet				0
Training and Development				0
Venue Hire				0
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport	167			167
Community Worker wages	2,240			2,240
GVEMSG Total Charitable Activities	**2,422**	**0**	**0**	**2,422**
GEM Arts				
Artist Fees, Materials & Production	7,979		69,921	77,900
Food Deliveries and Volunteer Expenses			1,100	1,100
Venue & Tech			1,940	1,940
Org Dev and Catalyst			1,062	1,062
Marketing/PR/Doc			1,312	1,312
Evaluation			0	0
IT and Equipment			2,163	2,163
Stationery/Printing/Postage			127	127
Insurance			1,090	1,090
Phone/Internet			1,484	1,484
Rent			1,000	1,000
Expenses			3,040	3,040
Wages and Pensions			107,963	107,963
Payroll Admin	0		578	578
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
Bank Charges			80	80
GEM ARTS Total Charitable Activities	**7,979**	**0**	**193,160**	**201,139**
Raising Funds				
				0
	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	**10,401**	**0**	**193,160**	**203,561**

Support Costs

Support Cost Type	**Fundraising Activity £**	**Charitable Activity £**	**Governance Activity £**	**Total Cost £**
GVEMSG				-
Insurance				-
Rent/Telephone/Internet				-
Sessional Staff				-
Stationery/Equipment				-
Training and Development				-
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				-
Community Worker wages		2,240		2,240
GVEMSG Total Support Costs		**2,240**	**-**	**2,240**
GEM ARTS				-
Venue & Tech		1,940		1,940
Marketing/PR/Doc		1,312		1,312
Evaluation		-		
IT and Equipment		2,163		2,163
Stationery/Printing/Postage		127		127
Insurance		1,090		1,090
Phone/Internet		1,484		1,484
Expenses		3,040		3,040

Wages	107,963		107,963
Payroll Admin	578		578
Independent Examination of Accounts		300	300
GEM ARTS Total Support Costs	**119,697**	**300**	**119,997**
Total Support Costs	**121,937**	**300**	**122,237**

3 Staff Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019-20 Total £
GVEMSG			0
Salaries and NI	2,240		2,240
GVEMSG Total Employee Costs		**0**	**2,240**
GEM ARTS			
Salaries and NI		103,907	103,907
Pension		4,866	4,866
Child Care Vouchers			0
Payroll Fees		578	578
GEM ARTS Total Employee Costs	**0**	**109,351**	**109,351**
Total Employee Costs	2,240	109,351	111,591

	2021-22 Number
3 full time and 2 part time employees	5

These costs were for the employment of 2 full time and 2 part time members of staff and include Employer's NI. All other staff are casually employed tutors/facilitators. No member of staff was paid remuneration of £60,000 or more.

4 Trustees remuneration, benefit and expenses

There were none during this period.

5 Debtors

There are no debtors at this time.

6 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020-21 Total £
Independent Examination Fee	300		300
			-
	300	-	300

7 Related Party Disclosures

There were no related parties during this period

8 Taxation

Due to the nature of its activities, the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

GATESHEAD VISIBLE ETHNIC MINORITIES SUPPORT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1008100

Accounts



Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group

(Registered Charity No. 1008100)

Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 March 2021

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Legal and Administrative Information

Name:	Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group
Charity No:	1008100
Principal Address:	89 Salcombe Gardens Low Fell GATESHEAD Tyne & Wear NE9 6UD
Trustees:	Councillor Martin Gannon (President) Mr Ashok Kumar (Chair) Mr A Singh Gill MBE (Vice Chair) Mr Fahim Manzur (Treasurer) Manjit Singh Dhindsa (Secretary) Michael Harte Birinder Singh Brar Angela Singh
Governing Document:	The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 2 November 1991, and is unincorporated.
Bankers:	HSBC plc 110 Grey Street Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3JG
Independent Examiner:	Kate Tully FMAAT FICE AATQB 20 Ennerdale Crescent Winlaton Blaydon on Tyne NE21 6PS

Trustees Annual Report

Objects:
To undertake activities which help individuals and groups to understand and learn about different cultures and to support them in their efforts to overcome ignorance, language barriers, disadvantage, prejudice and racism. We undertake a variety of activities and events to fulfill our vision of creating a multi-cultural all-inclusive community.

Achievements:
Our Work:

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group works with and for disadvantaged and marginalised Black Asian and Minority Ethnic, asylum seeker and refugee communities who face barriers on many levels, including personal, family, community and wider social and institutional contexts, and are at risk of isolation and exclusion. Through the work we deliver we support all communities in making representation to service providers and ensure they have equal access to the services they provide; we provide an opportunity for communities to raise issues of concern and take positive action; and develop effective links between organisations and other associations operating in the area, on matters of common concern.

Our projects contribute to strengthening the Minority Ethnic voluntary infrastructure through high quality activity, training and development, and capacity building.

Overall our projects increase community engagement amongst those who are at risk of exclusion and isolation, combating racism and discrimination, helping to strengthen community cohesion, and go towards achieving a reduction in race inequalities.

Through providing access to engaging, high quality activity, including training, educational and cultural activities, led by professional practitioners, support workers and volunteers, our programmes aim to provide our beneficiaries with the opportunity to:

- Develop new skills & interests
- Raise their confidence & self esteem
- Experience working alongside professional practitioners
- Identify and explore educational, volunteering and career opportunities
- Improve social, physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Become more active and healthy
- Interact with others in a creative, dynamic & enjoyable environment.
- Mutual support and working together
- Opportunities to examine issues affecting their lives
- Giving a voice to culturally diverse groups to raise awareness of and celebrate their own culture/identity

We work in partnership with Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police, Community Safety Team, NHS, Public Health, Gateshead Carers, local schools, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Gateshead Interfaith Forum, Gateshead housing services, and Leisure/Cultural Services

In 2020/21 we have supported, engaged and worked with over 4000 people from across all age ranges, faith communities and ethnicities

2020/21 – Activities & Achievements:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 23rd March 2020 the Prime Minister announces the first lockdown in the UK, ordering people to “stay at home”. This would have a profound effect on our local communities, society as a whole, and how our charity operates, engages with communities and delivers services.

All face to face delivery within community and formal education settings was no longer possible. This meant that our regular Wednesday Drop in sessions, Feel Good Group, Lunch Clubs, Cricket Club, education, volunteering, Arts, Health and Wellbeing sessions were no longer able to take place at Bensham Grove Community Centre. As a result, from 1st April 2020 our Community Development Worker; and GemArts Projects Manager and Projects Assistant/Admin were furloughed. The charity claimed monthly from the Governments Job Retention Scheme. As from 1st September 2020 GemArts Projects Manager and Projects Assistant/Admin worked 2 days per week and furloughed for the rest. GemArts Director remained working full time throughout.

Our annual Vaisakhi, Diwali, Eid, Christmas and Mini Mela events, which we have been delivering in the Gateshead for the last 30 years, for the first time all had to be cancelled.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and has amplified racial and health inequalities. With people from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities 4.2 times more likely to die from Covid-19. We know that many people from our Minority Ethnic communities are feeling even more isolated, lonely, worried and vulnerable, which is having a negative effect on their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.

Our organisation supports and works with some of the most vulnerable Minority Ethnic and wider communities and we have continued to do so during this COVID pandemic and adapted our delivery to meet the needs of our communities.

Befriending and Advice Service - As we could no longer deliver in person advice and support sessions at Bensham Grove we started to offer a telephone befriending and translation and interpretation service via Gateshead voluntary sector directory to Minority Ethnic communities and working in partnership with other local charities to give support and advice to those most in need.

Multi-Language Videos - To ensure that communities were accessing correct and up to date messaging Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group/GemArts worked very early on in the crisis in partnership with Gateshead Council and Connected Voice HAREF to create multi language Covid19 advice videos with our volunteers. Languages included Kurdish, French, Arabic and Farsi https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15692/Multi-language-coronavirus-advice-videos-for-Gateshead-communities

We had fantastic feedback from communities, public, voluntary and cultural sector partners. The videos have been shared widely from our and partner social media platforms. They have been such a success that Gateshead Citizens Advice and Gateshead Council requested us to create some new videos with our volunteers to sign post vulnerable minority ethnic communities to additional support and help in Gateshead. We created 8 additional videos with our volunteers in Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Kurdish, French, Arabic and Farsi. https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15787/Multi-language-coronavirus-advice-how-to-access-support

Food Deliveries – starting in mid-April 2020 to January 2021 every Friday from Elgin Community Kitchen, based in Deckham worked with our amazing volunteers to cook hot vegetarian Indian meals and deliver fresh vegetable and fruit (donated by Fare Share) to vulnerable families and individuals in Gateshead. These were open to any vulnerable households as well as Minority Ethnic families.

Initially when we started the Indian hot meals we were cooking and delivering 40 per week. The demand increased very quickly to 100 per week as families faced food poverty. We also received referrals from local schools via their Family Support Workers during the summer holidays. Our charity was able to upscale and build capacity to meet this demand through funding from Gateshead Council and Community Foundation COVID19 Emergency Fund. International students from the Indian sub-continent also benefited from our food deliveries, as they were also facing hardship as they could no longer work in their part time jobs which subsidised their living expenses as all businesses were closed. We also delivered to key workers in local schools and care homes.

Our volunteers would check up on families and older people when delivering the food and communicate important information in a range of languages for those that needed, or just chat on the doorstep and find

out if they needed any other help. Many older people and families, especially those who were shielding, were hugely grateful for the personal contact as they were feeling very lonely at that time, and particularly during the cold and dark winter months.

We delivered more than 3600 hot food deliveries and packages benefiting some of the most vulnerable and isolated people from Black Asian and Ethnic Minority communities in Gateshead, including South Asian, Syrian, Afghan, Kurdish, Iranian, African, refugees, and those seeking asylum and wider communities, without which many would be left struggling, hungry, and malnourished, ill informed, lonely, withdrawn, and impoverished. Especially, in cases where individuals have no recourse to public funds and cannot receive financial support from the Council, Government, public body, and some charities.

Collaborating with Gateshead Council and Public Health: Staff completed all Gateshead Covid Champions Training modules and have also been delivering Covid Champion Training to people and groups from local Minority Ethnic Communities in Gateshead. In addition, we have continued to work with Gateshead Council and Public Health to create culturally appropriate and relevant resources and information, including translated materials in several languages, to recruit more champions from Minority Ethnic communities. We have been able to create a safe environment where people with lived experience, and those facing cultural, social and economic barriers, can discuss with their communities' legitimate concerns about the vaccine without stifling debate, and to challenge misinformation and receive reliable messaging about the programme.

Trustees and staff team have representation on and regularly attend meetings including Local Outbreak Engagement Board, Vaccination Inequality Group, Covid Champions Community Group and regional and national online workshops. This has enabled us to cascade the most current information down, as well as feedback concerns from the community, which have been acted upon immediately by Gateshead Council and Public Health, which has created greater trust and strengthening of relationships between the local community and stakeholders.

In response to our valuable work and insight with Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Gateshead we have been awarded £37,000.00 through Gateshead Council and from the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund, to build our capacity and employ a full time Community Development Worker to deliver on Gateshead Covid Champions programme.

Sector/Strategic Development:
GVEMSG has representation and contribute to the following boards and forums:
Gateshead Council's – Diversity Forum, GSP and Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Forum
Trustees, staff and volunteers are also trustees on other boards including - Bensham Grove Community Centre, Citizens Advice Gateshead and Northern Stage

GVEMSG has worked in partnership with local minority ethnic voluntary groups in Gateshead to provide advocacy and support

Volunteer Development
Volunteers support the aims of our charity and play an integral part in meeting our vision and mission. 50 volunteers have supported our charity this year, and we have provided a whole range of support and we value their contributions enormously.

Our volunteers and staff have done an amazing job during the pandemic and in such unprecedented and challenging circumstances, and we are truly grateful!

Impact of our work:
Quotes from beneficiaries:
"Thank you again, you have made this scary time so much easier for us all"

"My thoughts are filled with gratitude for all the kind things you all take the time to do"

On a regional level our charity received a card from **Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear** expressing gratitude for the incredible support and service the organisation has given during the Covid-19 crisis. We were also featured in the Connected Voice Autumn Magazine for our important work with Black Asian and Minority communities during the pandemic.

On a national level, Vikas Kumar, GemArts Director, was invited to speak at the All Parliamentary Group on Arts and Health Webinar Chaired by Tracy Brabin MP, Shadow Minister for Cultural Industries. Speakers talked from a range of perspectives about the context of Covid-19 and how the arts and creativity have been used to support people who are shielding and vulnerable in our communities.

GemArts is one of a limited number of National Portfolio Organisation funded by the Arts Council England, and is an award winning nationally recognised leader in the South Asian and diversity arts sector. GemArts creates and programmes high quality concerts, events, festivals, workshops and commissions with regional, national and international artists across all art forms. We specialise high quality culturally diverse participatory arts projects with Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged, and proactively disseminated best practice advances through regional and national networks and platforms.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an immense impact on the delivery of GemArts programme, our organisation, the artists and communities we work with and for.

In line with government guidance GemArts postponed or cancelled all public performances and events on 16th March 2020 and all face-to-face delivery across participation and talent development stopped. GemArts honoured all artists contracts and paid in full for any cancelled contracted hours and projects.

The first few months were a period of stabilization, and all staff, apart from the GemArts Director, were furloughed in April 2020. As from 1st September 2020 GemArts Project Manager and Project Assistant/Admin came back to work two days per week and furloughed for the rest.

Due to lockdown and social distancing guidelines, ever changing laws and regulations nationally and those imposed locally GemArts has adapted our artistic practice and delivery to be responsive and meet the needs of our communities and artists.

The Director met regularly online with national South Asian artists, arts organisations, promoters and NPOs. These networks prided incredibly valuable to help digest and understand the ever-changing landscape, and as means for advocacy and supporting the sector.

The negative impact on all freelance artists and creatives has been huge in terms of loss of immediate income and anxiety about future work and earnings. We helped North based artists working in the culturally diverse arts sector, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic artists and those who have English as an alternative language to access Arts Council England emergency funds over the two rounds, and financial support from other funders. We gave advice and support to 18 artists, majority of the artists had never applied for funding previously. All artists were successfully awarded financial support

GemArts allocated funds from our performance programme to our Artists Development, RnD and Commissioning programme to ensure we continued to support and invest in artists at every stage of their career, especially during this time when our diverse freelance workforce is at most risk. The commissions all have a digital element and will be realised as live performance and exhibitions in 2022-23:

Narivad (meaning Feminist in Sanskrit) – Sofia Barton
An exploration of the Indian suffragettes who helped shape feminism on a global scale. With the use of matchbox designs inspired by those in her grandfather's collection, Sofia Barton creates a homage of images to these influential figures. From small matchbox miniatures to large posters each piece holds colourful & intricate details to catch your mind's eye.

Neelam's Story – Rekesh Chauhan

GemArts is thrilled to be supporting multi award-winning British pianist and composer Rekesh Chauhan. Rekesh is releasing a new music video production to highlight the impact of COVID-19 and its effect on the mental health of the South Asian diaspora whom are disproportionally affected by the virus. The music video production, kept in regional language of Hindi, widely spoken by the South Asian diaspora, opens with a true story of a young girl, Neelam, writing a letter to herself expressing her feelings and portraying a profound case study from the British Asian Trust, a charity whom as part of their portfolio work to end the stigma and transform support for people with mental health needs in South Asia.
The video was released on 10th October 2020 - World Mental Health Day
https://drive.google.com/file/d/15wAWuFevrXN16E-ck6wkJe3qDIb6WVzI/view?usp=sharing

Kattam Katti – Pragav Dance Compnay
Choregraphed by leading Kathak dancer Urja Thakore, Pagrav's new work is set amidst the chaos, creativity and colour of the Uttarayan kite festival. Through tales of competition, danger, excitement and unity, Kattam Katti explores the parallels between this fiercely competitive event and deeply divided societies, echoing the current global climate.
With striking set design, and interaction between the dancers and musicians

Spy Monkey – ATMA Dance
GemArts will be building on our past relationship with leading Bhratnatyam Dancer and Choreographer Mayuri Boonham. I have the fullest confidence that Mayuri will build on her successful track record of producing work which is artistically excellent. This new work is unique and will make a significant difference to the development and presentation of professional Bharatanatyam dance that is made for children and families from South Asian and wider communities, re-imaging Indian epic narratives of Hanuman within contemporary settings.

Between Two Shores - Henna Asikainen
An artistic investigation which examines the inextricably intertwined issues of climate change and its contribution to the human migration and the human rights.
The work will include:
- a moving image work based on the documentation of a mass participatory walk across the causeway to Holy Island which is an iconic site along the North Sea coastline in the North East England.
- a digital archive / multimedia work consisting of peoples' personal climate change related migration testimonies, especially from those with a refugee background.
- exhibition & podcast.

Waltzing The Blue Gods – Jaivant Patel
GemArts is supporting the ACE application submitted by Jaivant Patel for the R&D for his new production Waltzing The Blue Gods. The new work will build on our past relationship with Jaivant where we were seed commissioner on YATRA, and will enable us to once again support the work of a leading UK based choreographer and dancer. This new work is unique and will make a significant difference to the development and presentation of professional Kathak dance and South Asian LGBTQ+ work.

The Boy Who Grew a Forest – Payal Ramchandani
The dance-theatre production, a confluence of 3 dance styles- Bharatnatyam, Kuchipud and Contemporary is based on Jadav Payeng's true story. Distressed by deforestation and erosion on his dying Majuli Island (one of the world's largest river islands in the Brahmaputra River), little Jadav made a small effort of planting a small bamboo thicket that grew over the years into a 1,300-acre forest filled with native plants and animals. The work will take the audience on Payeng's adventurous journey of impactful attempts to help his beloved land highlighting his defiance against all odds to nurture what he had planted, that grew into an unexpected sanctuary sheltering many.

In a typical year GemArts would normally programme around 35 live performances and events, plus our award-winning Masala Festival working with regional, national and international artists across art forms with regional and national venues partners, however this was not possible. GemArts international programme has been significantly challenged because of international travel restrictions to limit the spread of Covid, especially from the Indian sub-continent, and we envisage this to continue for some time. GemArts is exploring collaborations with national and international organisations and expertise to create high quality click and pay performances on digital platforms

We did commission a range of pre-recorded digital performances, and some live performances which were streamed including:

- Tahmina Ali @ VCS – Home Truths on-line event – GemArts programmed Tahmina a spoken word poet from South Shields who we have supported and programmed previously at Masala Festival for this voluntary sector event.
- Yazz Ahamed @ Sage Gateshead, 14th November – Yazz Ahmed is a British Bahraini trumpet player and composer who seeks to blur the lines between jazz, electronic sound design, bringing together the sounds of her mixed heritage. This was meant to be our first socially distanced live concert with audiences since March 2020. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown we were not able to go ahead as planned and it had to be live streamed. Yazz and her band were incredible and response from audiences was fantastic.

As already highlighted, the COVID19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and has further amplified racial and health inequalities. We know that many people from our communities during this crisis are feeling even more isolated, lonely, worried and vulnerable, which is having a negative impact on their health and wellbeing - with women, older people, children and young people at greatest risk.

Digital exclusion is a major barrier faced by communities we work with.

Prior to lock down, our artists were delivering weekly sessions face to face with participants in community settings. Very quickly we responded and adapted our delivery to meet the needs of our communities and those who are shielding, using our artistic practice to keep people connected, creative and improve their health and wellbeing.

In 2020-21 GemArts adapted and expanded our arts, health and wellbeing programme by creating a mixture of on-line and offline arts activities.

Cultural Threads - We worked with and commissioned artists, across art forms, whose work reflects creative and cultural diversity, to produce on-line content and sessions, as well as bespoke creative arts packs, which include arts materials, and we delivered these to individuals, families, community groups and schools across the North East. We delivered the arts packs with our weekly hot Indian meals to families in Gateshead. Creative content included Chinese block printing, Origami hearts, Bollywood dance sessions, dhol drumming, zine making, creating your own mandala, and Kathputli puppets from Rajasthan. https://gemarts.org/projects/138/cultural-threads-programme

"Thank you for your kindness. The food has been delicious, and I have loved making my origami hearts and sharing them with my family and friends" Participant Feedback

We created a Cultural Threads booklet which features the arts activities that were created for online, so that people who are digitally excluded can also take part. We printed 500 of GemArts Cultural Threads booklets and delivered these with our food deliveries as well as distributing them to wider vulnerable families and individuals via community partners including AgeUK, Gateshead Carers and Gateshead Council's Community Hub.

Changing Perspectives - this creative programme aims to work with 60 women over 2 years to enable those furthest away from the labour market, to build confidence and develop skills to re-enter employment and/or take part in volunteering. GemArts are working with GVEMSG Feel-Good Group and lead artist Michelle Wood. The sessions would have normally taken place at Bensham Grove Community Centre on a weekly basis. Many of the women we work with have very limited IT skills, so we created arts packs which were posted out or delivered to them (140 packs so far). The group use what's app to stay connected and share their creations, which we shared across our social media platforms. Arts activities included – Felt project with embroidered hearts, birds and flowers; Print stamp card making; Paper and fabric Origami hearts; Rainbow bunting, paper flowers and felt bowls; Diwali pattern concertina book making and Christmas card stamp printing.

We provided some digital training with the women and began to deliver some on-line zoom sessions. Artist Michelle Wood delivered a card making collage activity, and the group also explored the Japanese Festival of Spring Hanami with artists Saya Rose Naruse, in collaboration with Dingy Butterflies 10x10 project. In this session the group created their own origami cherry blossoms for display.

Hyem (meaning Home in Geordie**):** In September we launched our new participatory arts programme funded by Blue Stone Collaborative/Well NewcastleGateshead to engage with isolated and vulnerable minority ethnic and wider communities in Gateshead (Bridges Ward and Felling); and in the East and West End of Newcastle. The project will offer culturally relevant arts activities to improve health and wellbeing; and bring communities together to share and celebrate their creativity by exploring diverse narratives of Hope, Kindness and Home during the pandemic. We recruited the artists team who will be working with four groups over 12 months
Artist Emma Sheridan began working with the Cultural Exchange group in September, with women from asylum seeker and refugee communities settled in Byker. The sessions have focused on textiles, fabric and tile painting. The engagement levels have been very good and the group have found the sessions positive in terms of creative skills development and improving social wellbeing. Over the 2nd lockdown the project was adapted to a family project, to involve the children who were being home schooled. These sessions worked towards the project aims of school readiness and better mental health.

Children and Young People: Lockdown, not being able to attend school and meet freely with friends has had a huge impact on the young people we work with.

GemArts exemplar **East by North East** youth music programme has continued to engage young people living in challenging circumstances. We have delivered socially distanced sessions in community settings, as well as weekly on-line sessions, which have enabled young people to connect with their friends, and supported their musical, creative, personal and social development. We continued to support and develop a diverse music leader workforce at North Benwell Youth Project including hip hop, rap and gyspy folk music; and at Life Transformational Church young people wanted to focus on protest songs in response to BLM movement. The group learnt and performed Glory by John Legend, and a video was created which was launched in October 2020 during Black History Month. This is the first time they worked on-line and have created a brilliant performance video – see here --- https://youtu.be/GUmG-zj1KNQ

'The music sessions have been tremendous for the group, it has given them a focus and supported them during these tough times. It's nice to hear them laugh, connect with friends and have fun!'
Support Worker Feedback

GemArts **Schools programme** from April 2020 was severely affected by the pandemic and lockdown. We were unable to deliver any face to face sessions this year. We offered creative packs to key worker children and have continued to innovate and created on-line digital content and resources for schools celebrating Diwali and Chinese New Year.

44 schools across Durham and 2 in Gateshead accessed the Diwali digital content; and 40 schools accessed the Chinese New Year workshop.

In March 2021 we also created content for the Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages, which is a celebration of the diverse languages, cultures and communities in the region and our connections with the world. Over this week with provided the following arts activities presented with simple language phrases

- Bolivian Tinku Carnival Dance with Yuvel Soria (Spanish/English)
- Dhol Drumming with Rosh Singh (Punjabi/English)
- Bharatnatym Dance with Breeze George (Tamil/English)

34 schools accessed these resources over the festival week from across the North East.

GemArts enabled 22 young people to achieve Arts Award accreditation and supported 11 schools to maintain Arts Mark.

GemArts demonstrates considerable depth of knowledge and understanding around complex issues related to cultural diversity and arts. GemArts participatory arts programme has continued to engage with thousands of people across all ages from diverse communities throughout the pandemic, we have offered culturally relevant arts opportunities and have demonstrated the positive impact of our artistic practice in keeping people connected, creative, reducing isolation and improving their health and wellbeing at this extremely challenging time.

GemArts exponentially increased our digital presence over the pandemic and reached over 107,000 on-line audiences engaging with our South Asian and culturally diverse arts programme. We contracted 107 freelance staff across all art forms in 2020-21

Sector Support and Development: We know that people from our communities' face racism and discrimination. The murder of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter movement further brought to light racial inequalities. We are an anti-racist charity. Inclusivity, Diversity and Equality is fundamental to our organization and creative practice. GemArts alongside regional artists and arts organizations are leading on **Culture Against Racism**, a collaborative network committed to creating an anti-racist culture, and creative sector, in the North East of England. In November 2022 our first on-line Town Hall event was held with 150 people attending from across the cultural, public, voluntary and private sector including artists, organisations and senior leaders and decision makers.

GemArts Director Vikas Kumar was invited to speak and present at the following regional and national online conferences, networks events and webinars:

Thinking International 2020 - 15th July: the North East Perspective
Chaired by Ros Rigby this event explored how North East organisations might develop their international working in a post-COVID-19 world. GemArts alongside 2 other North East arts and heritage organisations with a history of international working shared both the impact of Covid-19 on their international work in recent times, and how they plan to work internationally in the coming months and years.

All Parliamentary Group on Arts and Health Webinar - 16th July
Chaired by Tracy Brabin MP, Shadow Minister for Cultural Industries. Speakers talked from a range of perspectives about the context of Covid-19 and how the arts and creativity have been used to support people who are shielding and vulnerable in our communities. This was followed by a Q&A with the audience

North East Culture Partnership Annual Forum 2021: Shifting Cultures – 29th January 2021: Stabilisation, Survival and Growth: How have organisations and independent creatives managed to stabilise over the last year? Where are the examples of positive change and growth? How have organisations survived? How can they continue to survive and thrive?

Northern Asian Power Mission: India, a virtual 5-day trade event 1 - 5 March 2021**:** Northern Asian Power Mission: Creative Industries and Culture Masterclass – Vikas Kumar, GemArts Director was named in Northern Asian Power List 2020

At this time of extreme change, GemArts has shown exceptional leadership, innovation and resilience. Our successful funding strategy and established reserves gave us working capital to manage the early impact on the loss of earned and box office income, and sponsorship. Our strong community development approach and excellent participatory arts programme has enabled GemArts to access additional funding from trusts and foundations so that we can continue to work with and support communities that are least engaged and who are more likely to suffer long-term impacts and poor outcomes from COVID-19.

We would like to thank all our funders, trusts and foundations, donors, sponsors, and all our partners for their generous and continued support, and all our amazing artists, volunteers, staff, partners, trustees, communities, participants and audiences for their kindness, generosity and resilience during these unprecedented times. Covid-19 will continue to raise huge challenges in the coming year for our

communities, artists and sector and we can only meet those by supporting one another and working together. www.gemarts.org

The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described above.

Financial Review:
The financial position for the year shows net incoming funds of £227,946 and total outgoing resources of £125,255 with the balance from 2019-20 of £377,585 this leaves assets of £480,276 of which £268,637 are restricted funds and £130,500 are designated funds as per our reserves policy. This leaves £81,139 unrestricted funds. The Trustees consider the financial position of the organisation to be stable.

Risk Management:
The Trustees are examining the major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business. They are considering the likelihood and the impact of risks and reviewed what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are being designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:
It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months expenditure plus redundancy liability which currently stands as £130,500. This will provide sufficient funds to cover redundancy liabilities, management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time, a designated contingency fund has been set up for this purpose.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Mr Ashok Kumar	Position	Chair
Signature	Ashok Kumar	Date	24th January 2022
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	M S Dhindsa	Date	24th January 2022

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 13-20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination; it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act;and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement
My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
-

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB

Date 24th January 2022

Signed 

acie association of charity independent examiners

aat

Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020-21 £	Total Funds 2019-20 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and Legacies	2		0	0	0	5,395
Charitable Activities	2	1,000	0	220,106	221,106	233,628
Other Trading Activities	2	6,840			6,840	41,710
Investments	2		0	0	0	0
Total Income and Endowments		**7,840**	**0**	**220,106**	**227,946**	**280,733**
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds	2				0	
Charitable Activities	2	3,654		121,601	125,255	254,757
Other resources expended	2				0	0
Total Expenditure		**3,654**	**0**	**121,601**	**125,255**	**254,757**
Income less Expenditure before transfers		**4,186**	**0**	**98,505**	**102,691**	**25,976**
Transfers					0	0
Total Funds brought forward		76,953	130,500	170,132	377,585	351,609
Total funds carried forward		**81,139**	**130,500**	**268,637**	**480,276**	**377,585**

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2021

	Note	Total Funds 2020-21 £	Total Funds 2019-20 £
Current Assets			
Stocks and Work in Progress		0	0
Debtors	7	0	0
Investments		0	0
Cash at Bank and In Hand		480,576	377,885
Total Current Assets		480,576	377,885
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(300)	(300)
Total Current Assets less Current Liabilities		(300)	(300)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		0	0
Net assets or liabilities including pension asset or liability		480,276	377,585
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		268,637	170,132
Designated Funds		130,500	130,500
Unrestricted income funds		81,139	76,953
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		480,276	377,585

Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Name	Mr Ashok Kumar	Position	Chair
Signature	Ashok Kumar	Date	24th January 2022
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	M S Dhindsa	Date	24th January 2022

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period to 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

Basis of Preparation

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

Resources Expended and Liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Funds

The Charity has 3 funds, an unrestricted general fund, a designated fund, comprising 3 months running costs and redundancy liabilities as per the reserves policy, and a restricted fund used for purchasing items of a specific: hence all movements on each fund are disclosed.

Restricted Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
GVEMSG	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
MEMCO transfer	2,051	0	0	0	2,051
GVEMSG Total	**2,051**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2,051**
GEM ARTS					
Arts Council England NPO	44,726	92,208	(77,098)		59,836
Arts Council England Catalyst	45,688	30,000	0		75,688
National Foundation for Youth Music	57,136	0	(4,800)		52,336
Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund	1,196	0	0		1,196
Community Foundation - Cultural Bridge Fund	461	0	(461)		0
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD	9,605	23,778	(6,644)		26,739
Middlesbrough Town Hall	9,270	0	(1,500)		7,770
HMRC JRS Grant	0	22,565	(22,565)		0
Arts Council England/Donations - Culture Against Racism	0	9,455	(1,390)		8,065
GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme	0	9,250	0		9,250
Community Foundation - Gateshead Housing Company	0	5,000	0		5,000
Community Foundation - NET Covid Appeal Fund	0	9,900	(5,516)		4,384
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead	0	14,000	(1,627)		12,373
Sport England - This Girl Can	0	3,950	0		3,950
GEM ARTS Total	**168,082**	**220,106**	**(121,601)**	**0**	**266,587**
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	**170,132**	**220,106**	**(120,601)**	**0**	**268,637**

Designated Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Contingency and Redundancy Liability	130,500				130,500
					0
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	**130,500**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**130,500**

Unrestricted Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
GVEMSG - General Fund	11,186	1000	(3,318)		8,868
GEM Arts - General Fund	65,762	6,840	(336)		72,266
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	**76,948**	**7,840**	**(3,654)**	**0**	**81,134**
TOTAL FUNDS	**377,580**	**227,946**	**(124,285)**	**0**	**480,276**

Purpose of Funds

GVEMSG

a) MEMCO transfer

GemArts

a) Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation -The grant is towards core costs and artistic programme
b) Catalyst – towards building fundraising capacity

c) National Foundation for Youth Music - The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project focusing on music with children living in challenging circumstances, and training/developing a diverse music leader workforce
d) Police Crime and Commissioners Fund – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project
e) Culture Bridge Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project during the Summer holidays with young people in Gateshead
f) European Social Fund: Gateshead Goes Global – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts programme with women furthest from the labour market to make progress towards volunteering, employment, enterprise, education or training.
g) Town Hall – for the delivery of a South Asian music and performance programme
h) HMRC – Corona Virus Job Retention Scheme Grant
i) Arts Council England/Donations – sector support/partnership to deliver Culture Against Racism
j) GMBC and Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme
k) The Gateshead Housing Company at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project to tackle hate crime and improve community safety
l) Community Foundation - NET Covid Appeal Fund – The grant is for the the preparation of hot food and bespoke creative arts pack deliveries to vulnerable communities in Gateshead
m) Bluestone Collaborative – Well NewcastleGateshead – The grant is for the delivery of 'Hyem' a high quality arts, health and wellbeing programme
n) Sport England - This Girl Can – The Grant is for the delivery of a high quality movement and dance programme

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2020-21

Income and Endowments from: **Donations and Legacies**	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**Total**
GEM ARTS				-
Sponsorship and Donations				0
				0
				0
GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
GVEMSG				0
Box Office				0
Grants	1000			1,000
GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total	**1,000**	**0**	**0**	**1,000**
GEM ARTS				
Arts Council England NPO			92,208	92,208
Arts Council England Catalyst			30,000	30,000
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD			23,778	23,778
HMRC JRS Grant			22,565	22,565
Arts Council England/Donations -Culture Against Racism			9,455	9,455
GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme			9,250	9,250
Community Foundation - Gateshead Housing Company			5,000	5,000
Community Foundation - NET Covid Appeal Fund			9,900	9,900
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead			14,000	14,000
Sport England - This Girl Can			3,950	3,950
Other incoming resources				0
GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total	**0**	**0**	**220,106**	**220,106**
	1,000	0	220,106	221,106
Other Incoming Resources				
	6,840	0	0	0
	6,840	0	0	0
Total Income and Endowments	**7,840**	**0**	**220,106**	**227,946**

Expenditure on:				
Charitable Activities				
GVEMSG				
Refreshments/Catering				0
Insurance				0
Rent/Telephone/Internet				0
Training and Development				0
Venue Hire				0
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				0
Community Worker wages	3,318			3,318
GVEMSG Total Charitable Activities	**3,318**	**0**	**0**	**3,318**
GEM Arts				
Artist Fees PA, Materials & Production			19,503	19,503
Food Deliveries and Volunteer Expenses			2,833	2,833
Venue & Tech			200	200
Org Dev and Catalyst			1,510	1,510
Marketing/PR/Doc			312	312
Evaluation			0	0
IT and Equipment			300	300
Stationery/Printing/Postage			45	45
Insurance			1,265	1,265
Phone/Internet			477	477
Expenses			1,848	1,848
Wages			92,878	92,878
Other	336			336
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
Bank Charges			130	130
GEM ARTS Total Charitable Activities	**336**	**0**	**121,601**	**121,937**
Raising Funds				
				0
	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	**3,654**	**0**	**121,601**	**125,255**

Support Cost Type	**Fundraising Activity £**	**Charitable Activity £**	**Governance Activity £**	**Total Cost £**
GVEMSG				-
Community Worker wages		3,318		3,318
GVEMSG Total Support Costs		**3,318**	**-**	**3,318**
GEM ARTS				-
Venue & Tech		200		200
Marketing/PR/Doc		312		312
Evaluation		-		
IT and Equipment		300		300
Stationery/Printing/Postage		45		45
Insurance		1,265		1,265
Phone/Internet		477		477
Expenses		1,848		1,848
Wages		92,878		92,878
Rent		336		336
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
GEM ARTS Total Support Costs		**97,661**	**300**	**97,961**
Total Support Costs		**100,979**	**300**	**101,279**

3 Staff Costs

Employees	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019-20 Total £
GVEMSG			0
Salaries and NI	3,318		3,318
GVEMSG Total Employee Costs		**0**	**3,318**
GEM ARTS			
Salaries and NI		87,759	87,759
Pension		4,676	4,676
Child Care Vouchers		23	23
Payroll Fees		420	420
GEM ARTS Total Employee Costs	**0**	**92,878**	**92,878**
Total Employee Costs	3,318	92,878	96,196

These costs were for the employment of 2 full time and 2 part time members of staff and include Employer's NI. All other staff are casually employed tutors/facilitators. No member of staff was paid remuneration of £60,000 or more.

4 Trustees remuneration, benefit and expenses

There were none during this period.

5 Debtors

There are no debtors at this time.

6 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020-21 Total £
Independent Examination Fee	300		300
			-
	300	-	300

7 Related Party Disclosures

There were no related parties during this period

8 Taxation

Due to the nature of its activities, the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.