

ARK - T CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1079495

Details

Other names ARK T CENTRE

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2000-02-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Venue
242B Barns Road
Oxford
OX4 3RQ

Phone 01865772095

Email mail@ark-t.org

Website www.ark-t.org

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE ARTS IN THE AREA OF THE CITY OF OXFORD AND PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF COWLEY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF ARTISTIC WORKS

Activities: Ark T is a community arts charity based in Oxford, working primarily in East Oxford. We use arts and creativity to support the mental health and wellbeing of local people, including children, young people and adults, people living with disabilities, neurodivergent people, and LGBTQIA people. Our programmes are co created with the community and shaped by ongoing listening to respond to local needs.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** AREA OF CITY OF OXFORD AND PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF COWLEY
- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£339,040	£306,870	-	-
2023-12-31	£351,736	£370,528	-	-
2022-12-31	£375,093	£433,964	-	-
2021-12-31	£459,488	£543,650	-	-
2020-12-31	£435,328	£350,574	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Daniel Joseph Levy		2021-01-27
Donnia Reafat		2024-04-17
Hassan Elmi Sabriye		2022-01-26
Ivan Wise		2023-09-13
Johanna Rice		2022-01-26

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England & Wales - Charity number 1079495

Accounts

**Ark T CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2024**

CHARITY NUMBER: 1079495

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

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ARK T CENTRE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Ark T Centre
Charity number	1079495
Principal & registered office address	The Venue 242b Barns Road Oxford OX4 3RQ
Trustees	Helen Morton (Chairperson) (resigned March 2024) Ivan Wise (appointed September 2023), Chairperson from March 2024) Sharon Evans (resigned Jan 2025) Dr Andrew Gant (resigned Nov 2024) Laura Jostins-Dean (resigned June 2024) Daniel Levy (Treasurer) Shakeel Marham (resigned Dec 2024) Donnia Reafat (appointed April 2024) Johanna Rice Hassan Elmi Sabriye
Accountants	SPX Oxford Ltd Peace House 19 Paradise Street Oxford OX1 1LD
Independent examiner	Caroline Webster FCA UHY Ross Brooke Suite I Windrush Court Abingdon Business Park Abingdon OX14 1SY
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing Kent

www.Ark.T.org Instagram: @arktoxford Facebook: ArkTOxford

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT FROM IVAN WISE, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

2024 has been a year of change for Ark T. The challenges facing the charity sector remain considerable – from reduced funding opportunities to the rising cost of delivering vital services – yet Ark T has continued to respond with creativity, determination, and care.

This year brought a key moment in our leadership journey as we welcomed Catherine Flutsch as CEO in July. Catherine has quickly brought fresh perspective and energy to the role, while honouring the strong foundations laid by Tracey Schueler, who guided Ark T with skill and dedication through the post-pandemic years and into our current home at Templars Square. I would like to thank Tracey for her dedication and commitment.

I also wish to pay particular tribute to our staff and volunteers. Their ability to adapt, innovate, and stay rooted in our mission is what makes Ark T so valued in the community. I also thank our funders and partners, whose continued belief in our work enables us to keep providing spaces where people can connect, create, and belong.

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Ivan Wise
Chairperson, Ark T Centre

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Ivan Wise
Chairperson, Ark T Centre

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STATEMENT FROM CEO, Catherine Flutsch

2024 has been a year of profound change and transition for Ark T. I begin by sincerely thanking my predecessor, Tracey Schueler, who stepped down in July to relocate to London. Tracey led Ark T through a period of considerable challenge, leaving a deep and lasting legacy for the organisation.

I took over as CEO in July, leaving my legal career for my first role in the charity sector. I am grateful to the Trustees for the trust they have placed in me and for the privilege of leading this much-loved organisation. From the outset, my focus has been on bringing professionalism, analytical rigour, collaboration, and kindness to the role, and on listening with depth and intention to the voices of our community, our partners, and our team.

Our achievements in 2024 reflect that deep listening, alongside the exceptional commitment of Ark T's staff and volunteers, and the steadfast support of our funders. Our staff embody Ark T's values in all they do — bringing professionalism, skill, and compassion to their work. There is no Ark T without them, and society owes them a debt of gratitude. I also want to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of our volunteers, whose generosity with their time, energy, and talents enables us to reach more people, run more activities, and create the warm, welcoming atmosphere that defines Ark T. We could not do what we do without them.

This year has been particularly difficult for charities across the UK. Many funding streams have narrowed or closed, and competition for what remains has intensified. In East Oxford, these pressures are compounded by entrenched generational poverty and stark inequalities in wealth, opportunity, and access — disparities that are especially visible in a city as divided as Oxford.

In this climate, we are profoundly grateful to the many funders who share our values and our belief in the power of creativity to transform lives, and who have shown their commitment through tangible support. Their investment is more than financial — it is an expression of trust in our mission, confidence in our team, and solidarity with the communities we serve. It is thanks to

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their generosity that we have been able to sustain and grow our programmes, reach those most in need, and continue to provide spaces where creativity, connection, and hope can flourish.

The cost of living crisis has reduced opportunities for those without wealth to engage in arts and culture. This has been compounded by a wider international trend towards reduced empathy and shrinking commitments to humanitarian and cultural support. The rhetoric and policies of some global leaders have set a precedent that risks normalising the withdrawal of compassion at all levels of society. This pressure has real political consequences, restricting access to creative opportunities, and deepening social and economic divides. In this context, Ark T's creative spaces and programmes — which foster connection, nurture creativity and resilience, and build stronger communities — are not just valuable, they are essential.

Looking ahead, I remain hopeful. Every day, I see the transformative impact of creativity — in the confidence built, friendships formed, and sense of belonging that grows when people come together and create. Engaging with the arts fosters resilience, helping individuals and communities to face life's burdens with strength, connection, and optimism. With the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the commitment of our partners, and the generosity of our funders, I believe Ark T will not only meet the challenges ahead but emerge stronger, deepening our impact and extending our reach in 2025 and beyond.

Catherine Flutsch
CEO, Ark T Centre

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

Ark T's Structure

Ark T Centre is a registered charity (charity number 1079495) constituted as an unincorporated association and governed by its constitution. The charity operates as a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Its principal charitable object is the advancement of education in the arts in the City of Oxford for the benefit of the local community.

Organisational Structure

Ark T is governed by a Board of Trustees, who are responsible for setting the charity's strategic direction, ensuring good governance, and monitoring performance. The Trustees meet regularly throughout the year and retain oversight of major decisions, budgets, and policies.

Day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is supported by a senior leadership team covering programmes, operations, finance, and fundraising. Staff work across Ark T's venues in East Oxford to deliver creative programmes, community events, and partnership projects.

Volunteers play a vital role in extending Ark T's reach and capacity, contributing their time and skills to help run activities, support events, and create a welcoming environment for participants.

Decision-Making

The Board retains responsibility for major strategic and policy decisions, with delegated authority to the CEO for operational matters within approved budgets and policies. Designated trustee leads support specific areas such as finance, fundraising, and safeguarding, working closely with the CEO and relevant staff to ensure strong governance and oversight.

Trustee Recruitment and Induction

Trustees are recruited based on the skills, experience, and perspectives needed on the Board at any given time, ensuring a balanced mix across governance, finance, fundraising, arts,

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community engagement, and safeguarding. Prospective trustees meet with the Chair, the CEO, and other trustees before their appointment is confirmed by a majority Board vote.

All trustees are required to provide a current DBS certificate and complete safeguarding training if not undertaken within the last two years.

Induction for new trustees includes an introduction to Ark T's governance framework, key policies and procedures, current strategic priorities, and the Charity Commission's guidance on trustee duties. Trustees also receive regular updates via e-bulletins from the Charity Commission and sector bodies to maintain awareness of relevant legal and regulatory developments.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a formal process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the major risks the charity faces, reviewed at least annually and more frequently when necessary. Key risks in 2024 included:

- The continuing cost-of-living crisis, which increases both the demand for services and pressure on income.
- The competitive and contracting funding environment.
- Safeguarding responsibilities in working with vulnerable children, young people, and adults.

Mitigation measures include diversification of income streams, robust financial controls, close monitoring of budgets and forecasts, strengthened partnership working, and rigorous safeguarding procedures.

OBJECTIVES

The charity's objective is the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic works.

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PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by Ark T.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND SERVICES

In 2024, Ark T provided free and low-cost creative programmes to over 9,500 engagements with people from East Oxford and beyond, including children, young people, and adults experiencing poverty, isolation, poor mental health, and other forms of disadvantage. Our work is open to all, but is particularly targeted towards those who face the greatest barriers to participation in the arts and community life.

The Art Nest and the Art Nest After School Club

The Art Nest is a therapeutic creative space at Orchard Meadow Primary School for children aged 6–11. Weekly sessions during school hours, with one after school club provide a calm and nurturing environment that helps children re-engage with learning and improve attendance. Each session blends storytelling, creative projects, and space for conversation, supporting children to explore feelings, build resilience, and develop positive connections with peers and school.

“The impact of Art Nest on our most vulnerable pupils cannot be overstated...We are immensely proud and grateful to offer this therapeutic resource, which is not only a crucial part of our school’s safeguarding and support systems but also a key contributor to the mental, emotional, and social development of our pupils. Art Nest continues to be a source of inspiration and pride for our school and community.”

Executive Principal, Orchard Meadow Primary School



The Art Nest



31

We ran 31 creative wellbeing sessions at a group called The Rookery for **parents**



212

We ran 212 **creative wellbeing sessions** for children aged 6 to 11 years old



82

We worked with 82 **children** from Orchard Meadow and Pegasus primary schools

September 2023 to July 2024

Creativity Changes Lives

Creativity Changes Lives is the name of a group of free creative wellbeing programmes and holiday provision for young people aged 6–18, offering safe, creative spaces where young people can explore identity, develop confidence, and build supportive friendships.



Case Study – Young Person: “If This Was A School, I’d Come To It”

I started coming to Ark-T in 2021 and kept coming because it was fun, creative, and helped me feel better. I was shy at first, but the staff were really kind and made me feel safe. We laughed, made art, and went on fun summer trips where everyone was kind and less judgmental than at school.

At Ark-T, we make our own plays from scratch—create the characters, name the story, set the scene. I once played a talking dog and a half-demon, half-human. We all get involved, try on costumes, and make decisions together. It’s fun and expressive—nothing like school.

Ark-T is a space where you’re free to be yourself. You don’t have to put your hand up, wear a uniform, or hide your feelings. If something’s wrong—like if your dog dies or someone upsets you—they give you time and space to deal with it. They help you feel better, not worse.

This place helped me grow in confidence, speak up for myself, and understand my emotions. You can come here feeling low and leave feeling joyful. It’s a place to heal, create, and just be you. If this was a school, I’d come to it.

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Creativity Changes Lives - Creativity Camps

Creativity Camps are our free holiday camps for children aged 6–11 who are experiencing poverty or disadvantage. Running every school break (other than Christmas) at Ark T from 9:30am–3:30pm, the camps provide a safe and supportive environment where children can have nutritious food, play, create, and make friends while building confidence and resilience.

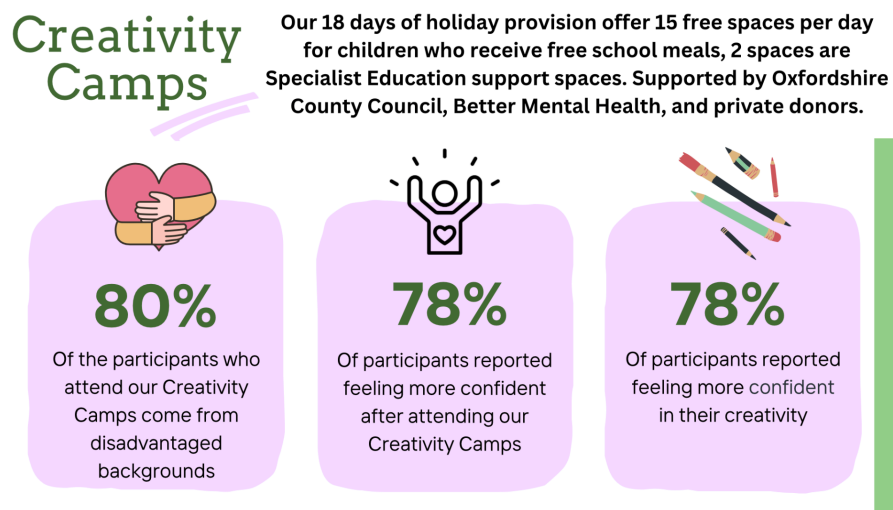
In 2024, we delivered 18 days of holiday provision, offering 15 free spaces per day for children receiving free school meals, plus 2 additional spaces for specialist education support.

“Fantastic provision for children.” – Oxfordshire County Council, 2024

- 80% of participants came from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 78% of children reported feeling more confident after attending.
- 78% reported feeling more confident in their creativity
- 1,188 healthy breakfasts, snacks, and hot meals were cooked and shared.

Children attended weekly trips, gaining access to experiences they might not otherwise have.

One parent said; “My daughter was soooo happy at Ark T camp. She tried to cook all the recipes from the camp because she said she had the best food there, and one day she prepared pasta with tomato sauce for her dad for dinner. She was tired at the end of the day but full of emotions and happiness! Thank you so much for your great work.”



Creativity Changes Lives - HerSpace Junior

HerSpace Junior is a free after-school art club for girls aged 6–11. Through playful projects, participants explore identity and wellbeing while building confidence and friendships. Feedback from parents and young people expressed greater self-confidence and stronger peer connections. 14 young people attended this group consistently over the year. One young person said *“I like that I can be myself here. It makes me feel happier about going to school.”* Another participant said; *“I didn’t know I could make something like this – it makes me proud.”*



Case Study: Creativity Changes Lives - “Ark T made me!”

Z is neurodiverse and experiences physical difficulties. They have been part of HerSpace Senior for two years, experiencing significant growth, confidence, and creative expression. When Z first joined, they found the environment challenging. In early sessions, they stayed close to a friend from school and rarely interacted with others. A structured plan for each creative activity helped Z settle in and express themselves. Over time, Z grew in confidence, moving from sitting quietly with a friend to engaging with the whole group. They now regularly lead activities, sharing their skills with enthusiasm. HerSpace Senior includes a news-sharing time where everyone is encouraged to speak. Z has used this space to discuss issues like homophobia, transphobia, and prejudice against

neurodivergent people, showing how they feel safe and empowered to use their voice.

Z’s creativity has flourished, with the group encouraging experimentation. They’ve developed a passion for crochet and sculpture, mediums through which they express deeply meaningful themes. Their creative voice is authentic and evolving.

Z values HerSpace Senior deeply, saying, “Ark T made me!” and describing the experience as “laughter therapy.” One session stands out: Z spent the time crafting miniature origami stars, turning them into beads for a necklace. After a moment of shared laughter, they smiled and said, “This is like laughter therapy!”

HerSpace Senior has become a place of belonging, joy, and self-expression—a space where creativity and community support personal transformation.

Creativity Changes Lives - HerSpace Senior

HerSpace Senior empowers young women aged 11–17 to use creativity as a tool for self-expression, leadership, and confidence. Weekly sessions provided a safe and supportive environment where participants could share experiences and develop new skills. 10 young women consistently took part across the year. Participants reported increased confidence in speaking up and stronger peer networks.

“It’s a space where we can be ourselves without judgment.”

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Creativity Changes Lives - MySpace Online

We started the MySpace Online creative group in September 2024. It is the only provision that we are aware of created especially for young people aged 10–14 who are living with emotional based school avoidance (EBSA). Levels of EBSA are rising across the country with particularly high rates in Oxfordshire.

We provided weekly online creative sessions staffed by specialist staff. We sent each participant a beautiful box of art supplies and young people joined in with the creative activities in a low pressure environment, in their own homes, with all the necessary art supplies provided. This gave young people the opportunity to gently reengage with organised learning on their own terms.

“I like that I can join from home when school feels too hard.”

Creativity Changes Lives - Theatre Makers

Our Theatre Makers group guided young people devise plays from the ground up — inventing characters, writing scripts, and designing costumes together. The collaborative and playful process helped them to grow in confidence, resilience, and teamwork while expressing themselves creatively. One participant summed up the experience: *“If Ark T was a school, I’d come to it. You don’t have to put your hand up here, wear a uniform, or hide your feelings. They help you feel better, not worse.”*

Creativity Changes Lives - Youth Council

Our Youth Council, meeting once a week, offered young people a voice in shaping Ark T’s programmes. Participants developed leadership and advocacy skills, while influencing decisions about group activities and future projects.

The group created their own artworks to showcase in an exhibition for Artweeks, Oxfordshire’s county-wide arts festival. Their exhibition was promoted through the festival’s official publication and website, and the young people played an active role in curating and installing the display. Toward the end of 2024, we made the difficult decision to close our Youth Council due to lack of

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funding. We are actively pursuing funding streams, and hope to reopen a new version of Youth Council in 2026.

Creativity Changes Lives - Printing the Elements

Our free Printing the Elements workshops gave young people the opportunity to experiment with printmaking techniques while exploring their own identity and creativity. Participants created original printed artworks, some of which were shared at our biannual groups art exhibitions that are open to the community to visit.



Creativity Changes Lives Groups

In 2024 we ran 5 free after school creative wellbeing groups. Including HerSpace Junior, HerSpace Senior, Theatre Makers, Youth Council, Printing the Elements and MySpace Online.

- We delivered **1278 hours** of free after school support
- We supported **73 young people**
- We ran **124 creative wellbeing sessions** after school

Community Lunches

We hosted monthly Community Lunches that brought around 40 people together each time — including families, older residents, people experiencing homelessness, and those living with dementia. More than just a free meal, these gatherings reduced isolation, built resilience, and created relationships that helped people face life's difficulties knowing they were not alone.

Each event combined a warm, shared lunch with creative activities, play sessions, and access to light-touch signposting through the attendance of representatives from our partner organisations.

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Attendees were able to find support around benefits, debt, housing, dementia, mental health, and employment in an approachable and informal way.

A distinctive feature of the lunches was the programme of artistic workshops led by professional artists, museums, and galleries. Participants took part in craft sessions, dementia-friendly socials and games, bitesize talks, and hands-on creative wellbeing workshops. These ranged from textiles and quilting to storytelling, painting, and interactive activities inspired by local museum collections. In 2024, 99 people took part in these creative sessions, discovering new ways to express themselves, build confidence, and connect with others.

Over the year, we served 340 meals — 160 of them free on a pay-as-you-feel basis — and welcomed 87 parents and children into our Early Years Stay & Play sessions. Many participants told us how much the events lifted their spirits: *“The best thing about the event was how welcoming it was.”* Another simply said: *“It made my day.”*



435 PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

"I am glad I came it has made my day"



340

Pay-as-you-feel meals served

160

Of the 340 meals served 160 Free Meals were served

27

Attended dementia support & advice services



87

Attended our Early Years play sessions



99

People attended one of our Creative Wellbeing sessions

56

Volunteers helped us

2024

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Welcome Space

In October 2023, we opened a new community hub in Templars Square Shopping Centre, transforming an empty retail unit into a vibrant place for creativity, connection, and support. Originally called *the Hub*, it was renamed *the Welcome Space* in 2024 after our new CEO received feedback from local people, who suggested a name that better reflected warmth, safety, and inclusion.

With the help of volunteers and community partners, the once-yellow walls were brought to life, and the space quickly became a much-loved home for the local community. Open four days a week from 10am to 3pm, the Welcome Space offered a warm welcome to all — with free creative materials available every day, an early years play area with supported drop-ins, and a programme of workshops and groups.

Regular highlights included a weekly macramé drop-in, a monthly support group for families raising PDA autistic children, and a series of six community exhibitions. Each exhibition showcased local creativity, from textiles to large-scale collaborative artworks, and invited visitors to take part in free, hands-on activities.

The Welcome Space provided more than activities: it was warm in winter, cool in summer, and always clean, safe, and inclusive. This was particularly important for families and young people during school holidays, when opportunities for free creative activities in the Cowley area are limited.

In 2024, the Welcome Space was open for 900 hours and welcomed 1,437 visitors. People came not just for activities but to find friendship, respite, and a sense of belonging. As one visitor put it, *“This place is precious.”* Another shared, *“It makes me feel happy and comfortable,”* while a third summed it up simply: *“Love this place, I feel good here.”*



Exhibitions

During 2024, the Welcome Space hosted six exhibitions, each free to visit, which truly reflected local creativity and wellbeing themes. These ranged from displays of work made in our regular groups to curated shows by local artists and special projects that invited community interaction. All exhibitions encouraged visitors to respond, reflect, or even add their own creativity. They celebrated local voices, sparked conversations, and highlighted how art supports connection and wellbeing.

Some notable examples from 2024:

- Textiles Exhibition: One exhibition featured a giant, participatory loom where visitors could select fabrics and weave them into a collective piece. They were also invited to write a message, thought, or intention on their chosen fabric piece before adding it to the loom, making the work an evolving community tapestry.
- Everyday Oxford Exhibition: In collaboration with TORCH and the Museum of Oxford, we ran a creative writing and wellbeing course for adults. The participants produced an anthology of poems inspired by objects from the Museum’s collection. The associated

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exhibition in the Welcome Space included the anthology works and an interactive segment—a creative writing loom—where visitors could respond to prompts and contribute their own threads.

Across all six exhibitions, themes touched on wellbeing, local environment, identity, and seasons, among others. Each exhibition included hands-on activities or interactive pieces so that visitors weren't just spectators but participants—writing, weaving, reflecting, or creating.

Festivals & Workshops

In 2024, Ark T shared creativity with the wider community through festivals, workshops and celebration events—low-barrier, welcoming spaces that helped people connect, relax and build confidence together.

We took creative wellbeing activities out across Oxfordshire, using art, music and hands-on making to create inclusive moments of connection. Highlights included Cowley Road Carnival, where 70 people joined our headdress-making workshop and 16 took part in the procession; Leys Festival, with around 60 participants in our creative activities; Offbeat Festival at the Old Fire Station, engaging 40 participants over two days; ROAR Festival, with a workshop for 12 people; and Science Together, where three workshops drew 45 attendees. We also welcomed over 100 visitors to our exhibition openings, celebrating community-made artwork. These events reduced isolation, sparked conversation and offered joyful entry points into creativity for all ages.

Alongside festivals, we ran a regular programme of free adult and family workshops designed to support wellbeing and strengthen community bonds. A particular strand was our creative writing workshops for adults, delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford and the Museum of Oxford. Sessions were a mix of bookable and drop-in, open to all skill levels, and focused on gentle, practical exercises that built confidence and encouraged self-expression. Work produced in workshops was shared at exhibition openings in the Welcome Space—turning personal creativity into a collective celebration, and deepening a sense of belonging.

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Together, our festivals and workshops helped people feel less alone, reinforced local relationships and offered practical, creative ways to face life's difficulties—one conversation, one poem, one headdress, one shared moment at a time.

Venue Hire

At our venue on Barns Road, Ark T provides welcoming, flexible spaces that serve both the community and local organisations. By offering low-cost hire rates, we make it possible for grassroots groups, charities, and community members to access clean, safe, and well-maintained facilities for meetings, classes, celebrations, and events. These spaces reflect Ark T's values of creativity, inclusivity, and care—places where people can come together, build connections, and feel at home.

Venue hire also generates vital income that helps sustain Ark T's programmes. Every booking supports our wider mission: using creativity to improve wellbeing, strengthen resilience, and nurture community. In this way, our commercial activity at Barns Road is directly tied to social impact—ensuring that while our spaces are used by many, their benefit is felt even more widely across Oxford.

WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

Oxford is one of the most unequal cities in the UK, with sharp disparities in life expectancy, education, and income between its wealthiest and most disadvantaged communities. In this context, inclusive, high-quality arts education and creative community spaces are not a luxury — they are a lifeline. Without them, poverty and deprivation deepen, increasing the risks of poor mental health, disengagement from education, limited employment, and social isolation.

Arts education is central to our mission because it delivers more than creative skills — it builds confidence and resilience, fosters community, develops critical thinking, enhances communication, and encourages collaboration. These are the foundations for success in every area of life.

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Ark T's programmes provide evidence-based, non-clinical interventions that use creativity and the arts to improve wellbeing, build confidence and resilience, and strengthen relationships — opening pathways to learning, employment, and active community participation. The benefits ripple outward: by enabling people to connect, express themselves, and grow, we reduce the need for costly crisis interventions in health, education, and social care, while strengthening community bonds. We are developing ways to measure the public money saved through our work — showing that investing in arts education is both socially transformative and economically sound.

Designed around evidence-based research

Our approach is informed by a substantial body of research demonstrating that engagement with the arts can:

- Reduce anxiety, stress, and depression while improving mood and self-esteem.
- Build resilience, giving people the skills and confidence to navigate life's challenges.
- Strengthen social connection and a sense of belonging, which are known protective factors against isolation and mental ill health.
- Enhance focus, problem-solving, and creativity — supporting learning and employability.
- Bridge divides by creating inclusive spaces where people from all backgrounds participate as equals.

We also integrate the Wellcome Trust's "Active Ingredients" for adolescent mental health into our youth programmes. This means we deliberately design activities to include:

- Quality social and cultural connection.
- Supportive adult relationships.
- Opportunities for self-expression and agency.
- Identity-safe environments.
- Play and meaningful creative activity.

These elements are embedded across our programmes for all ages, helping participants to thrive, adapt, and recover in the face of adversity.

Achievements Against Objectives: Our impact

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The benefits of our work extend beyond individual participants to the wider community. By building stronger networks of support, fostering inclusive community spaces, and equipping people with the resilience to face life's challenges, Ark T helps to reduce demand on overstretched public services.

As the cost of living crisis continues and philanthropic funding contracts, the need for these community-led, evidence-based creative programmes has never been greater. Our work demonstrates that the arts are not an “extra” — they are a powerful and proven tool for building healthier, more connected, and more resilient communities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and Expenditure Overview

In 2024, Ark T received **£339,040** in total income and incurred **£306,870** in total expenditure, resulting in a surplus of **£32,170**.

Compared to 2023, this represents a **decrease** in income of **£12,696** and a **decrease** in expenditure of **£63,657**.

This year, we continued to diversify our income streams, with funding coming from a balanced mix of grants, venue hire, donations, and new income-generating activities. We also worked to strengthen relationships with existing funders and develop new partnerships, helping to protect our programmes from fluctuations in single income sources.

Statement of the Charity's Financial Position

As of 31 December 2024, Ark T held total funds of **£91,494**, of which **£26,959** were unrestricted and **£64,535** were restricted for specific purposes.

The charity remains committed to careful cost control and prudent financial management, ensuring that every pound is used effectively to deliver our mission.

Reserves Policy

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Reserves are defined as unrestricted funds available to spend on any of Ark T's charitable purposes. Restricted income, grant balances, tangible fixed assets, and any investment funds are excluded from this calculation.

Reserves are held to:

- Cover unexpected spending requirements or operational costs.
- Bridge any shortfall in income from donations or grants.
- Manage any delays in receiving grant payments.
- Ensure we can fulfil all legal and contractual obligations.

Ark T's beneficiaries often face multiple disadvantages, including poverty, poor mental health, and social isolation. Many rely on our programmes for support, skills, and community connection. It is therefore essential that reserves are sufficient to maintain services if normal income were interrupted.

The Trustees have set a reserves policy of holding the equivalent of **three months** of general operating costs, including salaries. This policy and the reserve level are reviewed annually.

At the end of 2024, we held **£26,959** in unrestricted reserves, equivalent to **2.5 months** of operating costs. While this is below our target level, we are actively rebuilding reserves through increased fundraising, donor engagement, and encouraging contributions to unrestricted funds.

Principal Funding Sources and Application

In 2024, Ark T's principal funding sources were:

- **Grant funding** from trusts, foundations, and public bodies.
- **Donations** from individuals and community supporters.
- **Earned income** from venue hire, events, and workshops.

ARK T CENTRE

These funds were applied to delivering Ark T's core programmes, running our community and creative spaces, and meeting essential operational costs.

Investment Policy and Performance

Ark T does not currently hold investments. Any surplus funds are retained in a low-risk bank account to ensure security and immediate access.

Significant Financial Risks

The main financial risks in 2024 were:

- The challenging fundraising environment, with many funding streams closing or becoming more competitive.
- The ongoing cost of living crisis, which has increased demand for our services while putting pressure on our operating costs.
- Short-term grant funding cycles that make long-term planning more difficult.

We have mitigated these risks through prudent budgeting, diversifying income sources, strengthening relationships with funders, and maintaining strict cost controls.

FUTURE PLANS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

Ark T will strengthen its roots and widen its reach — creating spaces where creativity, connection, and community can flourish for all.

In the year ahead, Ark T will focus on strengthening our foundations and amplifying our impact. We will refine our governance, direct people's talents where they have the greatest effect, and introduce new wellbeing initiatives for staff — because thriving teams create thriving communities.

We will work with an experienced fundraiser, explore new income streams, and shape our programmes with the community, ensuring they remain relevant, high-quality, and responsive to need.

ARK T CENTRE

Our reach will grow through stronger media and social media presence, bringing more high-quality arts to East Oxford and ensuring our voice is heard in decision-making spaces.

We will continue to provide community lunches enriched with creative experiences — building connection, resilience, and joy — and champion the arts as a transformative force for healthier, more connected communities.

THANK YOU

In 2024, Ark T was supported by many grant giving organisations, and individual donors, and we are deeply grateful to each of them for their belief in our mission and their investment in our work.

We would particularly like to acknowledge Garfield Weston, Mabs Mardulyn Charitable Trust, UK Youth, Wates Foundation, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council Holiday Activity Fund, The National Lottery, Children in Need, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action and our major individual donors Rod Cooke, Tony and Judith Yarrow for their significant contributions to sustaining our programmes and core activity.

Your generosity has made it possible for us to reach those who need us most and to continue creating spaces where creativity, connection, and resilience can thrive.

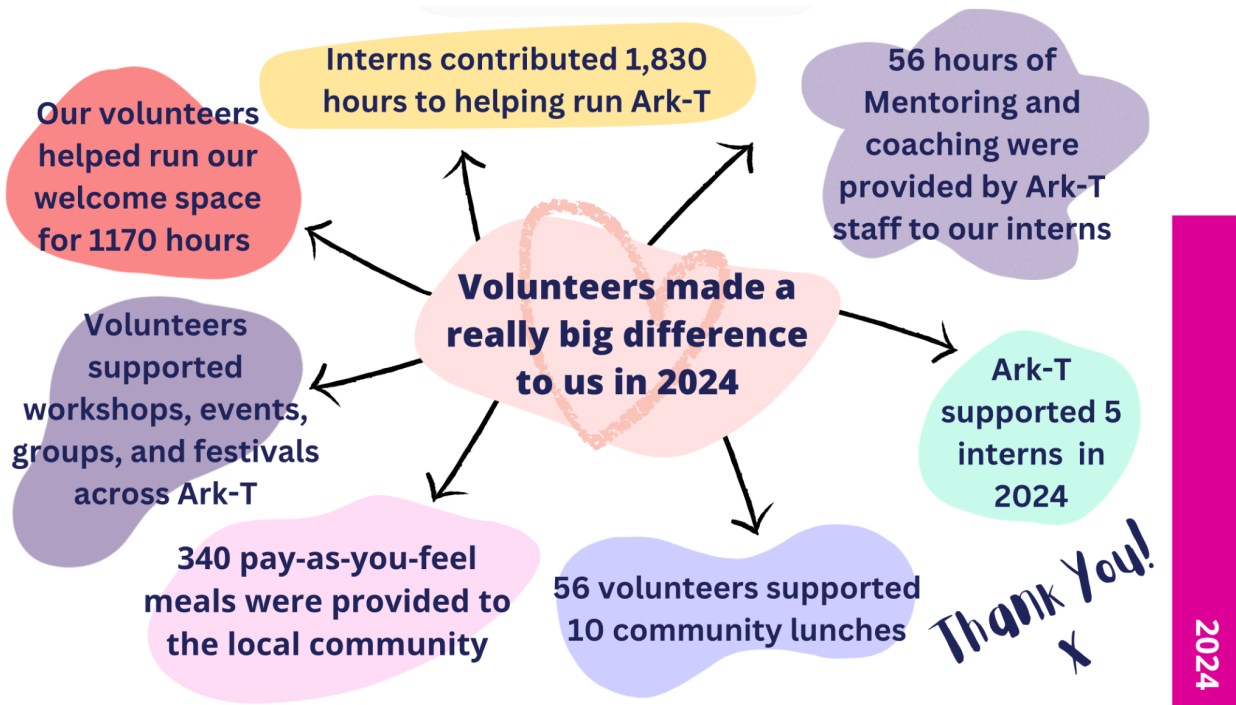
We are equally thankful to the many members of the public who have supported us with monthly and one-off donations. Every contribution — no matter the size — has a tangible impact on our work and gives us the courage to persevere in challenging times.

Our thanks also go to the community organisations, groups, and individuals who hire our spaces. Their bookings provide crucial unrestricted income while enabling a wide range of activities that improve health, wellbeing, and community connection.


Finally, we are proud to work alongside our valued delivery partners from across Oxfordshire's voluntary, cultural, education, and mental health sectors, including but not limited to *Flo's the Place in the Park*, *Waste2Taste*, *Oxford Community Action*, *No Vice Ice*, *Damascus Rose Kitchen*,

ARK T CENTRE

SOFEA, Oxford Mutual Aid, Oxford City Farm, the OX4 Early Years Alliance, Cultural Education Partnership, SAFE!, Donnington Doorstep, Orchard Meadow Primary School, Greyfriars Catholic School, Activate Learning, Modern Art Oxford, Film Oxford, GLAM, TORCH, UK Youth, and our partners on the mental health partnership including Response, Oxford Health, RAW, SOFEA, TRAX, BYHP, and Oxfordshire Youth. Together, we are building stronger communities, offering inclusive opportunities, and ensuring that creativity remains accessible to everyone, regardless of background or circumstance.



Approved by the Trustees on 15/10/28

Signed on their behalf by 

Ivan Wise

Chairperson

ARK T CENTRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ARK T CENTRE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out in pages 25-36.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

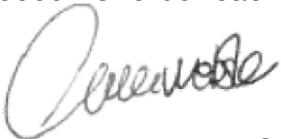
Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Caroline Webster FCA

Date.....16/10/2025.....

ARK T CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	99,337	157,065	256,402	86,900	151,205	238,105
Charitable activities	3	7,446	9,963	17,409	4,828	14,316	19,144
Other trading activities	4	62,806	-	62,806	87,882	1,258	89,140
Other income		-	-	-	3,420	-	3,420
Investments		2,423	-	2,423	1,927	-	1,927
Total income		<u>172,012</u>	<u>167,028</u>	<u>339,040</u>	<u>184,957</u>	<u>166,779</u>	<u>351,736</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	8,774	229	9,003	6,924	520	7,444
Charitable activities	6	164,773	133,094	297,867	195,251	167,832	363,083
Total expenditure		<u>173,547</u>	<u>133,323</u>	<u>306,870</u>	<u>202,175</u>	<u>168,352</u>	<u>370,527</u>
Net income / -expenditure		- 1,535	33,705	32,170	- 17,218	- 1,573	- 18,791
Transfers between funds		2,508	- 2,508	-	- 2,738	2,738	-
Net movement in funds		<u>973</u>	<u>31,197</u>	<u>32,170</u>	<u>- 19,956</u>	<u>1,165</u>	<u>- 18,791</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forwards		25,986	33,338	59,324	45,942	32,173	78,115
Total funds carried forward		<u>26,959</u>	<u>64,535</u>	<u>91,494</u>	<u>25,986</u>	<u>33,338</u>	<u>59,324</u>

ARK T CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		-		1,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	20,587		12,757	
Cash at bank		79,142		83,160	
		99,729		95,917	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13		- 8,235		- 37,593
NET CURRENT ASSETS			91,494		58,324
NET LIABILITIES			91,494		59,324
FUNDS					
INCOME FUNDS					
Unrestricted Income funds	15		26,959		25,986
Restricted income funds			64,535		33,338
TOTAL INCOME FUNDS			91,494		59,324

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15/10/25
and are signed on behalf of the board by:


.....

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic work.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The 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 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees recognise the current financial situation of Ark T is not ideal and that there are inevitable uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have met regularly and been engaged and informed throughout the period in scrutinizing and monitoring financial reports and budget forecasts to assess the impact on the activities of Ark T during the year and have agreed a number of actions to reduce costs and increase income which are already showing positive results. They are confident that the outcome of these actions will enable the charity to continue as a going concern and to rebuild the reserves over the next few years.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

(b) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income, trading income and other income are recognised on a receivable basis.

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any Value Added Tax which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Expenditure on generating funds comprises costs associated with attracting income.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such services and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Improvements to Property	25% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	25% straight line
Musical equipment	25% straight line

(f) Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Donations	12,589	20,020	32,609	41,672	60,785	102,457
Gift Aid	541	-	541	2,156	-	2,156
Grants	86,207	136,045	223,252	43,072	90,420	133,492
	99,337	157,065	256,402	86,900	151,205	238,105

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Fees received	7,446	9,963	17,409	4,828	14,316	19,144
	7,446	9,963	17,409	4,828	14,316	19,144

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. Income from trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Café rental and venue hire	-	-	-	2,809	-	2,809
Rents receivable	62,806	-	62,806	85,073	1,258	86,331
	<u>62,806</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,806</u>	<u>87,882</u>	<u>1,258</u>	<u>89,140</u>

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Generating funds	8,774	229	9,003	6,924	520	7,444
	<u>8,774</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>9,003</u>	<u>6,924</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>7,444</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Staff	110,615	84,205	194,820	113,331	123,121	236,452
Premises	16,541	302	16,843	22,264	3,977	26,241
Office	9,484	915	10,399	21,776	2,222	23,998
Projects	6,045	30,339	36,384	2,973	33,089	36,062
Accountancy	14,792	-	14,792	12,693	-	12,693
Loss on disposal	-	-	-	16,452	-	16,452
Depreciation	1,000	-	1,000	1,342	-	1,342
Legal and professional	5,726	-	5,726	2,795	-	2,795
Other	570	17,333	17,903	1,625	5,423	7,048
Total charitable activities	<u>164,773</u>	<u>133,094</u>	<u>297,867</u>	<u>195,251</u>	<u>167,832</u>	<u>363,083</u>

7. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed, analysed by activity was:

	2024	2023
Charitable activities	13	16

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages	183,734	217,297
Social security costs	6,651	1,083
Pension costs	2,883	4,234
Training, DBS fees and other staff costs	4,068	4,068
	197,336	226,682

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more.

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses.

Remuneration paid to key management personnel amounted to £31,391 (2023: £35,892).

Pension costs for key management personnel amounted to £578 (2023: £864).

9. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the current and prior year.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Musical Equipment	Office and IT equipment	Total
	£		£
COST			
At 1 January 2024	1,329	4,027	5,356
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	1,329	4,027	5,356
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2024	1,329	3,027	4,356
Charge for the year	-	1,000	1,000
Written back on disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	1,329	4,027	5,356
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2024	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	1,000	1,000

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

11. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	10,254	10,239
Other debtors	10,333	2,518
	<u>20,587</u>	<u>12,757</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Taxation and social security	3,193	2,930
Accruals and other creditors	2,859	4,382
Deferred income	-	20,000
Trade creditors	2,183	10,281
	<u>8,235</u>	<u>37,593</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13. Movements on restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Art Nest Donations	10,727	48,000	- 44,589	-	14,138
Arts Council	1,665	-	-	- 1,665	-
Artwork	- 265	9,425	- 9,160	-	-
OCF - Better Mental Health	-	13,268	- 3,322	-	9,946
Children In Need	4,425	9,865	- 12,791	- 1,499	-
DCMS	-	-	-	-	-
HAF	466	11,000	- 11,000	-	466
Household Support Grant (GFO)	-	1,000	- 15	-	985
Maggie Black	1,458	5,470	- 5,235	-	1,693
Martha 21	- 125	20	-	105	-
National Lottery	-	19,873	- 5,046	-	14,827
National Lottery / OX4 Food Crew	-	3,038	- 3,045	4	-
Oxford City Council	-	2,000	- 2,000	-	-
OCC Christmas Lights	-	2,000	- 2,000	-	-
Oxford City Council Culture Fund	1,441	-	-	-	1,441
Topaz	13,306	-	- 13,306	-	-
TORCH	-	1,800	- 800	-	1,000
TORCH / MOX	-	2,445	- 720	-	1,725
Science Together (University of Oxford)	-	9,621	- 9,621	-	-
University of Reading	240	3,203	- 3,990	547	-
Wates Foundation Limited	-	15,000	- 3,740	-	11,260
Well Together - OCVA/CFO	-	10,000	- 2,946	-	7,054
Total funds	33,338	167,028	- 133,323	- 2,508	64,535

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Movement on restricted funds 2023

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Art Nest Donations	5,462	59,750	- 54,485	-	10,727
Arts Council	1,668	-	- 3	-	1,665
Arts in the Element	-	890	- 961	71	-
Artswork	-	9,769	- 10,034	-	- 265
Children In Need	2,545	39,458	- 37,578	-	4,425
DCMS	3,004	-	- 3,722	718	-
HAF	823	15,843	- 16,200	-	466
Maggie Black	617	5,546	- 4,705	-	1,458
Martha 21	2,535	145	- 2,805	-	- 125
National Lottery / OX4 Food Crew	-	1,758	- 1,758	-	-
Oxford City Council Culture Fund	-	1,950	- 509	-	1,441
Oxford University Small Community Grant	1,250	-	- 1,250	-	-
Samworth	-	15,431	- 17,380	1,949	-
Topaz	14,269	-	- 963	-	13,306
TORCH	-	14,780	- 14,780	-	-
University of Reading	-	1,459	- 1,219	-	240
Total funds	32,173	166,779	- 168,352	2,738	33,338

ARK T CENTRE

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

14. Movement on unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	25,986	172,012	- 173,547	2,508	26,959
	25,986	172,012	- 173,547	2,508	26,959

Movement on unrestricted funds 2023

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	29,490	184,957	- 185,723	- 2,738	25,986
Designated depreciation fund	16,452	-	- 16,452	-	-
	45,942	184,957	- 202,175	- 2,738	25,986

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestrict ed	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible assets	-	-	-
Current assets	15,194	84,535	99,729
Creditors within one year	11,765	- 20,000	- 8,235
Net assets	26,959	64,535	91,494

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

16. Art Nest Donations: Art Nest was funded by the Mabs Mardulyn Charitable Trust, Rod Cooke, Tony and Judith Yarrow.

Arts Council England: Funded materials for CCL groups.

Arts in the Elements: Funded by Oxford City Council, Cultural Education Partnership.

Artwork: Funded apprentices.

Children in Need: Funded our Creativity Changes Lives programme including term time sessions and holiday activities, aiming to increase the wellbeing, resilience and leadership skills of some of the most deprived children and young people in Oxford City.

DCMS: Funded our work with young people.

Holiday Activity Fund: Funded by Oxfordshire County Council.

Household Support Grant (GFO) : Good Food Oxfordshire provided funding for cooking supplies, enabling young people to develop practical cooking skills.

Lloyds Bank Foundation: Funded specialist consultants to work with Ark T across the areas of IT, Fundraising, Communications and coaching.

Maggie Black: Funded equipment for our young people's programmes as well as excursions to theatre and museums and installation costs for exhibitions.

Martha21: Funded work with young people.

National Lottery/OX4 Food Crew: Funded Community Hub Days.

Oxford City Council Culture Fund : Core funds Ark T as one of their Cultural Partners through the Big Ideas grant. They also funded us to be a part of their annual Christmas Lights Festival.

OCF - Better Mental Health : Oxfordshire Community Foundation funded CCL groups, camps and MySpace

Oxford University Small Community Grant: Funded our work with young people.

Samworth Foundation: CEO salary.

Science Together (University of Oxford) : The University of Oxford's Science Together Programme and the University of Oxford's Participatory Research Fund funded the Living Well Locally project.

Tony and Judith Yarrow: Funded the Summer Lights Festival and The Art Nest.

ARK T CENTRE

Topaz: Funded our work with young people.

TORCH (Oxford University): Partnered with us/funded a number of projects.

TORCH / MOX : TORCH Knowledge Exchange and Museum of Oxford funded the creative writing project

University of Reading: Funded our interns.

Wates Foundation: The Wates Foundation provided funding to support the salary of the Programmes Manager

Well Together - OCVA/CFO: Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) and Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) funded the After School Club at The Art Nest and the online group MySpace.

ARK - T CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1079495

Accounts

**ARK-T CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2023**

CHARITY NUMBER: 1079495

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

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Notes to the financial statements	10

ARK T CENTRE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Ark-T Centre
Charity number	1079495
Principal & registered office address	The Venue 242b Barns Road Oxford OX4 3RQ
Trustees	Helen Morton (Chairperson) (resigned March 2024) Ivan Wise (appointed September 2023, Chairperson from March 2024) Sharon Evans Dr Andrew Gant Laura Jostins-Dean Daniel Levy (Treasurer) Shakeel Marham Donnia Reafat (appointed April 2024) Johanna Rice Hassan Elmi Sabriye
Accountants	SPX Oxford Ltd Peace House 19 Paradise Street Oxford OX1 1LD
Independent examiner	Caroline Webster FCA UHY Ross Brooke Suite I Windrush Court Abingdon Business Park Abingdon OX14 1SY
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing Kent

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Chair Person's Statement

The year 2023 has been another challenging yet transformative year for Ark-T Centre. We have continued to navigate the cost-of-living crisis and post-pandemic recovery. However, I am pleased to report that we have made significant strides in growing our impact, particularly with the opening of a new venue in a busy shopping centre, Templars Square, which has significantly increased our visibility and capacity to reach more people.

Our new programmes, including expanded creative wellbeing and community driven initiatives, allowed us to engage with many participants. Our partnerships, especially with organisations addressing food insecurity and mental health, have deepened, allowing us to serve some of Oxford's most disadvantaged communities.

One of our key achievements this year was stabilising our finances post-pandemic - thanks to the strategic leadership of our CEO, Tracey Schueler, and the Ark T team. We were sad to hear the news that Tracey would be leaving us in mid 2024 as her husband had been appointed to a new role in London and the family would be moving. We would like to thank Tracey very much for everything that she has achieved since she joined Ark-T in 2022, especially the increased financial stability and the move of Ark-T into Templars Square and out of the John Bunyan Baptist Church. The Trustees have been very fortunate to recruit Catherine Flutsch as our new CEO who started in July 2024, and has brought new energy and experience to support our vision and activities.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the funders, partners, and individuals who continue to support our work.

At Ark-T, we believe in the transformative power of creativity and community. Our vision remains focused on fostering inclusive, creative spaces where people can connect, express themselves, and work toward community-led change. We continue to tackle systemic inequalities, focusing on supporting people facing complex disadvantages, especially in Cowley and Blackbird Leys.

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Administrative details are shown on page 1

The charity is also grateful to all the staff and volunteers.

Website

www.ark-t.org

Twitter @ArkTOxford

Facebook /ArkTOxford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ARK T CENTRE

Ark-T is proud to operate as a leading arts and community centre with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. From our three venues in Cowley and Blackbird Leys, we use creativity to bring people together and inspire social change. With our new venue's increased visibility in a bustling shopping centre, we have expanded our reach.

For over two decades, Ark-T has been a safe, inclusive space for people of all ages and backgrounds. Our programmes target the inequalities prevalent in our surrounding neighbourhoods, with some areas ranked in the 10-20% most deprived in England. We offer free, person-centred creative programmes for children, young people, and vulnerable adults, providing pathways to employment, opportunities for volunteering, and experiences that foster community engagement.

In 2023, our focus has remained on tackling the growing mental health crisis, especially among young people. Through our creative programmes, we have seen remarkable transformations in participants' wellbeing and confidence. We continue to work collaboratively with our local partners to deepen our impact and reach.

Key Statistics for 2023:

- We reached over **3,000 people** of all ages
- **122 children** participated in our Creativity Changes Lives projects
- **84 children** benefited from the Art Nest programme
- **370** people visited our monthly Hub Days
- **29** young adults participated in the Mental Wealth Academy programme
- **173** visitors came to our family evening events
- **3** work placements worked with us over the year
- **33** Adults attended our adult creative wellbeing workshops

Objective

The charity's objective is the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic works.

Trustee recruitment and induction

Trustees are recruited according to the skills needed on the board. Trustees are invited to meet with prospective trustees and the CEO on a 1-1 and group basis and are then voted through a majority vote. Trustees are then required to submit a DBS certificate and attend safeguarding training if not previously completed within the last two years.

The trustees receive regular e-bulletins from the Charity Commission and others regarding relevant updates in legislation.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

Financial review

ARK T CENTRE

Income and Expenditure Overview

In 2023, the charity received £351,736 in income and incurred £370,527 in expenditure, resulting in a deficit of £18,791, which was smaller than the two previous financial years (2022 -£58,871 and 2021 -£84,162). Key to this was our focus on diversifying income streams, including growing our venue hire revenue, increasing grants, and launching new initiatives like the Creative Wellbeing Workshops.

Our CEO, Tracey Schueler, continued to lead efforts to streamline costs while maintaining the quality of our programmes.

Reserves

Reserves are defined as unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charitable purposes of the Charity (the Ark-T Centre). Funds such as restricted income funds, the balance of restricted grants, tangible fixed assets and any investment funds are excluded from the reserves. Reserves are held to meet any unexpected spending requirements and unforeseen day-to-day operational costs, any shortfall in income from donations or grants, any delays in receiving grant payments and to fulfil the obligations of the Charity (the Ark-T Centre).

Our Beneficiaries are individuals and groups with complex needs who are often vulnerable and facing multiple disadvantages. They come to the Charity (the Ark-T Centre) for creative arts activities and rely on the Charity to provide them with ongoing access to support, guidance, mentoring, creative outlets, skills training and information and they would be adversely affected if the Centre was unable to operate and provide them with these outlets and support.

The Trustees therefore consider that a suitable policy for this Charity (the Ark-T Centre) is to hold in reserves the equivalent of a minimum of three to six months of general operating costs including salary costs. This policy and the level of reserves will be reviewed once a year by the Trustees.

At the end of 2023, we held £25,986 in unrestricted reserves which is the equivalent of between one and two months general operating costs for the Charity (the Ark-T Centre). We aim to increase the reserves to the planned level of a minimum of three months of general operating costs by significantly increasing our fundraising activity and identifying suitable donors and organisations from whom general donations for this purpose can be requested. The Trustees and management team are conscious that they are likely to face financial headwinds, and are focussed on increasing income and managing costs with rigour. Where possible, funders are being urged to contribute to Ark-T's unrestricted funds, and not to restrict contributions to specific projects. Management is committed to using a portion of general income to rebuild Ark-T's reserves.

Risk management

The Trustees regularly review Ark-T's risk management strategy, focusing on financial stability, operational resilience, and safeguarding practices. Key risks in 2023 included economic pressures and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, which increased demand for our services while challenging our funding streams. We have mitigated these risks through careful financial planning, strategic fundraising, and operational efficiencies.

ARK T CENTRE

FUTURE PLANS FOR 2024 AND BEYOND

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, we are excited to continue growing our impact, especially through the increased visibility of our new venue. We anticipate engaging over **3,000 participants** through our programmes. We will also deepen our partnerships across Oxford to address the growing needs of our communities, particularly in mental health and wellbeing.

Our priorities include securing additional funding for core activities, and continuing to develop programmes that meet the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following funders for their support for programmes and core activity.

Arts Council England, Children In Need, Oxford City Council via Big Ideas grant, Oxfordshire County Council Holiday Activity Fund, Dragon School, Activate, The Funding Network, Oxford City Council through the Oxford Cultural Education Partnership, UK Youth, Mabs Mardulyn Charitable Trust, Response, The National Lottery via Flo's People Place Participation, Garfield Weston, TORCH Oxford University, our regular monthly donors, two donors who gave major gifts for The Art Nest, and our four wonderful donors who gave gifts to enable us to support our core costs.

And to the many wonderful members of the public who gave to us throughout 2023 through monthly donations and one-off donations which made a vital difference to our charity and gave us the courage to persevere.

We would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to all the community organisations, community groups and individuals who hire our space, not only providing us with crucial unrestricted funding, but moreover, enabling positive activities which support the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

And to our inspirational partners:

Flo's the Place in the Park, Waste2Taste, Oxford Community Action, No Vice Ice, Damascus Rose Kitchen, SOFEA, Oxford Mutual Aid, Oxford City Farm, the OX4 Early Years Alliance, Cultural Education Partnership, SAFE!, Donnington Doorstep, Orchard Meadow Primary School, Greyfriars Catholic School, Activate Learning, Modern Art Oxford, Film Oxford, GLAM, TORCH, and our partners on the mental health partnership including Response, Oxford Health, RAW, SOFEA, TRAX, BYHP, and Oxfordshire Youth.

Approved by the Trustees on ...22 October 2024.....



Signed on their behalf by

Ivan Wise
Chairperson

ARK T CENTRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARK T CENTRE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out in pages 7-17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Caroline Webster FCA

Date.....25.10.2024.....

ARK T CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	86,900	151,205	238,105	102,991	185,954	288,945
Charitable activities	3	4,828	14,316	19,144	1,044	-	1,044
Other trading activities	4	87,882	1,258	89,140	81,158	2,192	83,350
Other income		3,420	-	3,420	1,284	-	1,284
Investments		1,927	-	1,927	470	-	470
Total income		<u>184,957</u>	<u>166,779</u>	<u>351,736</u>	<u>186,947</u>	<u>188,146</u>	<u>375,093</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	6,924	520	7,444	1,093	71	1,164
Charitable activities	6	195,251	167,832	363,083	191,098	241,702	432,800
Total expenditure		<u>202,175</u>	<u>168,352</u>	<u>370,527</u>	<u>192,191</u>	<u>241,773</u>	<u>433,964</u>
Net income / -expenditure		- 17,218	- 1,573	- 18,791	- 5,244	- 53,627	- 58,871
Transfers between funds		<u>- 2,738</u>	<u>2,738</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,274</u>	<u>- 19,274</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>- 19,956</u>	<u>1,165</u>	<u>- 18,791</u>	<u>14,030</u>	<u>- 72,901</u>	<u>- 58,871</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forwards		<u>45,942</u>	<u>32,173</u>	<u>78,115</u>	<u>31,912</u>	<u>105,074</u>	<u>136,986</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>25,986</u></u>	<u><u>33,338</u></u>	<u><u>59,324</u></u>	<u><u>45,942</u></u>	<u><u>32,173</u></u>	<u><u>78,115</u></u>

ARK T CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		1,000		18,794
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	12,757		17,905	
Cash at bank		83,160		132,050	
		95,917		149,955	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	- 37,593		- 90,634	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			58,324		59,321
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
NET ASSETS			59,324		78,115
FUNDS					
INCOME FUNDS					
Unrestricted Income funds	14		25,986		45,942
Restricted income funds	13		33,338		32,173
TOTAL INCOME FUNDS			59,324		78,115

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on24 October 2024..... and are signed on behalf of the board by:



.....

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic work.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The 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 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees recognise the current financial situation of Ark-T is not ideal and that there are inevitable uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have met regularly and been engaged and informed throughout the period in scrutinizing and monitoring financial reports and budget forecasts to assess the impact on the activities of Ark-T during the year and have agreed a number of actions to reduce costs and increase income which are already showing positive results. They are confident that the outcome of these actions will enable the charity to continue as a going concern and to rebuild the reserves over the next few years.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

(b) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income, trading income and other income are recognised on a receivable basis.

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any Value Added Tax which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Expenditure on generating funds comprises costs associated with attracting income.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such services and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Improvements to Property	25% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	25% straight line
Musical equipment	25% straight line

(f) Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Donations	41,672	60,785	102,457	26,470	3,162	29,632
Gift Aid	2,156	-	2,156	693	-	693
Grants	43,072	90,420	133,492	75,828	182,792	258,620
	86,900	151,205	238,105	102,991	185,954	288,945

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Fees received	4,828	14,316	19,144	1,044	-	1,044
	4,828	14,316	19,144	1,044	-	1,044

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. Income from trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Café rental and venue hire	2,809	-	2,809	5,725	-	5,725
Rents receivable	85,073	1,258	86,331	75,433	2,192	77,625
	<u>87,882</u>	<u>1,258</u>	<u>89,140</u>	<u>81,158</u>	<u>2,192</u>	<u>83,350</u>

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Generating funds	6,924	520	7,444	1,093	71	1,164
	<u>6,924</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>7,444</u>	<u>1,093</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>1,164</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Staff	113,331	123,121	236,452	89,714	184,757	274,471
Premises	22,264	3,977	26,241	33,522	2,145	35,667
Office	21,776	2,222	23,998	17,770	4,526	22,296
Projects	2,973	33,089	36,062	18,994	39,599	58,593
Accountancy	12,693	-	12,693	9,597	-	9,597
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	16,452	-	16,452	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,342	-	1,342	13,705	-	13,705
Legal and professional	2,795	-	2,795	6,704	1,025	7,729
Other	1,625	5,423	7,048	1,092	9,650	10,742
Total charitable activities	<u>195,251</u>	<u>167,832</u>	<u>363,083</u>	<u>191,098</u>	<u>241,702</u>	<u>432,800</u>

7. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed, analysed by activity was:

	2023	2022
Charitable activities	16	15

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages	217,297	250,784
Social security costs	10,853	14,926
Pension costs	4,234	4,487
	<u>232,384</u>	<u>270,197</u>
Training, DBS fees and other staff costs	4,068	4,274
	<u>236,452</u>	<u>274,471</u>

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more.

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses.

Remuneration paid to key management personnel amounted to £35,892 (2022: £33,116).

Pension costs for key management personnel amounted to £864 (2022: £541).

9. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the current and prior year.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & Fittings £	Musical Equipment £	Improvements to Property £	Office and IT equipment	Total £
COST					
At 1 January 2023	18,023	1,329	31,869	4,027	55,248
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	- 18,023	-	- 31,869	-	- 49,892
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,027</u>	<u>5,356</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 January 2023	7,920	1,329	25,520	1,685	36,454
Charge for the year	-	-	-	1,342	1,342
Written back on disposals	- 7,920	-	- 25,520	-	- 34,440
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,027</u>	<u>4,356</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>10,103</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,349</u>	<u>2,342</u>	<u>18,794</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

ARK T CENTRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	10,239	17,805
Other debtors	2,518	100
	<u>12,757</u>	<u>17,905</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Taxation and social security	2,930	4,178
Accruals and other creditors	4,382	9,334
Deferred income	20,000	70,947
Trade creditors	10,281	6,175
	<u>37,593</u>	<u>90,634</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13. Movements on restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Art Nest Donations	5,462	59,750	- 54,485	-	10,727
Arts Council	1,668	-	- 3	-	1,665
Arts in the Element	-	890	- 961	71	-
Artwork	-	9,769	- 10,034	-	- 265
Children In Need	2,545	39,458	- 37,578	-	4,425
DCMS	3,004	-	- 3,722	718	-
HAF	823	15,843	- 16,200	-	466
Maggie Black	617	5,546	- 4,705	-	1,458
Martha 21	2,535	145	- 2,805	-	- 125
National Lottery / OX4 Food Crew	-	1,758	- 1,758	-	-
Oxford City Council Culture Fund	-	1,950	- 509	-	1,441
Oxford University Small Community Grant	1,250	-	- 1,250	-	-
Samworth	-	15,431	- 17,380	1,949	-
Topaz	14,269	-	- 963	-	13,306
TORCH	-	14,780	- 14,780	-	-
University of Reading	-	1,459	- 1,219	-	240
Total funds	<u>32,173</u>	<u>166,779</u>	<u>- 168,352</u>	<u>2,738</u>	<u>33,338</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Movement on restricted funds 2022

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers for grants spent on capital items	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Art Nest Donations	11,394	32,175	- 38,107	-	-	5,462
Arts Council	-	8,974	- 7,306	-	-	1,668
Anonymous	22,710	-	- 23,000	-	290	-
Children In Need	41,609	37,985	- 77,049	-	-	2,545
DCMS	-	35,983	- 11,241	- 21,738	-	3,004
HAF	-	14,583	- 13,760	-	-	823
Helen Morton Donation	-	900	- 900	-	-	-
Iffley Church Charity	-	1,000	- 1,773	-	773	-
Maggie Black	-	1,109	- 492	-	-	617
Martha 21	2,556	1,012	- 1,033	-	-	2,535
Oxford City Council Culture Fund	-	850	- 813	-	- 37	-
Oxford University Small Community Grant	-	1,500	- 250	-	-	1,250
Response	3,076	15,000	- 24,137	-	6,061	-
SAFE	-	6,559	- 6,510	-	- 49	-
Samworth	-	15,432	- 21,180	-	5,748	-
Topaz	14,269	-	-	-	-	14,269
TORCH	2,209	5,220	- 8,790	-	1,361	-
Youth Music	3,933	9,864	- 5,432	-	- 8,365	-
Lloyds Bank	3,318	-	-	-	- 3,318	-
Total funds	<u>105,074</u>	<u>188,146</u>	<u>- 241,773</u>	<u>- 21,738</u>	<u>2,464</u>	<u>32,173</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14. Movement on unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	29,490	184,957	- 185,723	- 2,738	25,986
Designated depreciation fund	16,452	-	- 16,452	-	-
	<u>45,942</u>	<u>184,957</u>	<u>- 202,175</u>	<u>- 2,738</u>	<u>25,986</u>

Movement on unrestricted funds 2022

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers for grants spent on capital items	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	31,912	186,947	- 192,191	5,286	- 2,464	29,490
Designated depreciation fund	-	-	-	16,452	-	16,452
	<u>31,912</u>	<u>186,947</u>	<u>- 192,191</u>	<u>21,738</u>	<u>- 2,464</u>	<u>45,942</u>

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible assets	1,000	-	1,000
Current assets	42,579	53,338	95,917
Creditors within one year	- 17,593	- 20,000	- 37,593
Net assets	<u>25,986</u>	<u>33,338</u>	<u>59,324</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Art Nest Donations: Art Nest was funded by the Mabs Mardulyn Charitable Trust, Rod Cooke, Tony and Judith Yarrow.

Arts Council England: Funded materials for CCL groups.

Arts in the Elements: Funded by Oxford City Council, Cultural Education Partnership.

Artswork: Funded apprentices.

Children in Need: Funded our Creativity Changes Lives programme including term time sessions and holiday activities, aiming to increase the wellbeing, resilience and leadership skills of some of the most deprived children and young people in Oxford City.

DCMS: Funded our work with young people.

Holiday Activity Fund: Funded by Oxfordshire County Council.

Lloyds Bank Foundation: Funded specialist consultants to work with Ark-T across the areas of IT, Fundraising, Communications and coaching.

Maggie Black: Funded equipment for our young people's programmes as well as excursions to theatre and museums and installation costs for exhibitions.

Martha21: Funded work with young people.

National Lottery/OX4 Food Crew: Funded Community Hub Days.

Oxford City Council Culture Fund : Core funds Ark-T as one of their Cultural Partners through the Big Ideas grant. They also funded us to be a part of their annual Christmas Lights Festival.

Oxford University Small Community Grant: Funded our work with young people.

Samworth Foundation: CEO salary.

Tony and Judith Yarrow: Funded the Summer Lights Festival and The Art Nest.

Topaz: Funded our work with young people.

TORCH (Oxford University): Partnered with us/funded a number of projects.

University of Reading: Funded our interns.

ARK - T CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1079495

Accounts

**ARK-T CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2022**

CHARITY NUMBER: 1079495

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2022**

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ARK T CENTRE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Ark-T Centre
Charity number	1079495
Principal & registered office address	Crowell Road Oxford OX4 3LN
Trustees	Helen Morton (Chairperson) Sharon Evans Dr Andrew Gant Laura Jostins-Dean (appointed January 2022) Daniel Levy (Treasurer) Shakeel Marham Emerald O'Shaughnessy (resigned June 2022) Johanna Rice (appointed January 2022) Hassan Elmi Sabrie (appointed January 2022)
Accountants	SPX Oxford Ltd Peace House 19 Paradise Street Oxford OX1 1LD
Independent examiner	Caroline Webster FCA UHY Ross Brooke Suite I Windrush Court Abingdon Business Park Abingdon OX14 1SY
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing Kent

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Chair Person's Statement

As is the case for many other arts and community organisations, the past year has been challenging with a slow recovery after the pandemic and changes in working patterns plus a very competitive funding landscape. The cost of living crisis in 2022 was a further blow to our recovery as it significantly increased our running costs and has led to even more competition for grants from funders and donors. We are fortunate that we have been able to continue to deliver our essential work with participants in the community throughout the year because most of our current programmes are fully funded until next year (Creativity Changes Lives, The Art Nest, the Blueprint Project, the monthly Community Hub Days and other celebration events, OX4 Food Crew etc). We are particularly pleased with the successful outcomes being achieved with the Blueprint Project and the Art Nest, based in Orchard Meadow Primary School, and you can read more about these later in this annual report.

We completed the review of our Business Plan and Strategy and the various supporting documents, including the Vision, Mission, Values and Theory of Change in early 2022 and concluded that the organisation really needed a full time CEO to implement the plans. Lizzy McBain was part time and not able to move to full time and she decided to step down as CEO. I would like to thank Lizzy very much for all she has achieved since she joined Ark-T as the Creativity Changes Lives Manager in 2018 and to wish her the very best. We recruited a full time CEO, Tracey Schueler, who started in July and has brought a really clear focus on our finances through increasing sustainable income streams while reducing costs wherever possible.

We have started to diversify our income sources while growing the income from venue hire back towards the level reached before the pandemic through more marketing to encourage new hirers to use our spaces. We launched SpArks, a members scheme to encourage regular donors to Ark-T, and we have developed Creative Wellbeing Workshops which are delivered by our amazing staff to local organisations so their staff can benefit from our skills and experience in this area. Our wonderful and resilient team have continued to work very flexibly and to adapt our activities and we have developed our partnerships with organisations such as Oxford Community Action and Syrian Sisters to help us meet the needs of participants and our communities. We continue to improve our impact reporting to enable us to better demonstrate the changes that we help participants to achieve.

Despite the seeming affluence of Oxford, there are several parts of the city which remain severely deprived. Ark-T is based in Cowley which is one of the top 20% most deprived wards in the UK and we use the powers of creativity and community to change lives and inspire community driven social change. We can see the impact of our work in many ways, from delivering weekly group sessions to children and young people to give a stronger sense of belonging to a community, offering 1-2-1 creative mentoring to increase confidence and build emotional resilience and wellbeing to exploring leadership and creativity leading to opportunities in further education, training and employment. I am confident that Ark T will continue to adapt and innovate to meet participant and community needs.

I would again like to offer my heartfelt thanks, gratitude and appreciation to all the funders, donors and partners with whom we work and especially to all of our team who share our vision and believe in the power of our work and the potential of all the people we work with.

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Administrative details are shown on page 2

The charity is also grateful to the following staff and artists in residence.

Team

Lizzy McBain CEO until July 2022
Tracey Schueler CEO from July 2022

Alice Dore (Head of Programmes and Deputy Director, maternity leave from May)
Emily Walsh (Head of Operations and Finance)
Lisa Bates (Creativity Changes Lives Project Manager until May)
Anna Martin (Community Development Manager)
Clare Keep (Art Nest Project Manager)

Jo Race (Transitional Wellbeing Practitioner until May)
(Head of Programmes from May)
Alice Crocker (Transitional Wellbeing Practitioner)

Tony Lorenzo (Centre Coordinator)
Hazel Wilson (Marketing Coordinator)

Nicky Weiner (Centre and Programmes Support)
Su Frizzell (Creative Practitioner)
Leone White (Creative Programme Office from May)
Ruben Hurera & Jessica Buritica Izquierdo (cleaners)

Artists in Residence

Biddy Hudson & Zuhura Plummer

Website

www.ark-t.org

Twitter @ArkTOxford
Facebook /ArkTOxford

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Objective

The charity's objective is the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic works.

Trustee recruitment and induction

Trustees are recruited according to the skills needed on the board. Trustees are invited to meet with prospective trustees and the CEO on a 1-1 and group basis and are then voted through a majority vote. Trustees are then required to submit a DBS certificate and attend safeguarding training if not previously completed within the last two year. Trustees are then invited to join different sub-committees including the Fundraising Subcommittee and Finance Subcommittee, or specific roles, such as Mentor to Young Trustee.

The trustees receive regular e-bulletins from the Charity Commission and others regarding relevant updates in legislation.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

Financial review

During the year, the charity received £375,093 of income (2021: £459,487) and incurred £433,964 of expenditure (2021: £543,649) resulting in a deficit of £58,871 (2021: deficit of £84,162). Ark-T's income in 2022 was limited by the unusual circumstances of being in a post pandemic period. The hire of Ark-T's premises is taking a long time to build up to the pre-covid level as people's working and leisure habits have changed. Applications for grants continued to be submitted but there was significant competition for grants from other charities and so not all applications were successful.

The Trustees are pleased to see that income from room hire has started to increase again post pandemic and that marketing efforts to increase room hire have been successful, although there is still much work to be done. A successful crowdfunding campaign was run in May 2022 and a decision was made to employ a full time CEO to bring in more income. The new CEO began work in July 2022 and submitted a number of new grant applications. A membership scheme (SpArks) has been established to encourage friends and supporters of Ark-T to make regular donations and to help attract new donors. The management team have reviewed all areas of expenditure and have identified areas in which costs can be decreased and the benefits of all these actions will be seen in future accounting periods.

Reserves

Reserves are defined as unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charitable purposes of the Charity (the Ark-T Centre). Funds such as restricted income funds, the balance of restricted grants, tangible fixed assets and any investment funds are excluded from the reserves. Reserves are held to meet any unexpected spending requirements and unforeseen day-

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

to-day operational costs, any shortfall in income from donations or grants, any delays in receiving grant payments and to fulfill the obligations of the Charity (the Ark-T Centre).

Our Beneficiaries are individuals and groups with complex needs who are often vulnerable and facing multiple disadvantages. They come to the Charity (the Ark-T Centre) for creative arts activities and rely on the Charity to provide them with ongoing access to support, guidance, mentoring, creative outlets, skills training and information and they would be adversely affected if the Centre was unable to operate and provide them with these outlets and support.

The Trustees therefore consider that a suitable policy for this Charity (the Ark-T Centre) is to hold in reserves the equivalent of a minimum of three to six months of general operating costs including salary costs. This policy and the level of reserves will be reviewed once a year by the Trustees.

We currently hold only £45,942 in unrestricted reserves which is the equivalent of around two months general operating costs for the Charity (the Ark-T Centre). We aim to increase the reserves to the planned level of a minimum of three months of general operating costs by significantly increasing our fundraising activity and identifying suitable donors and organisations from whom general donations for this purpose can be requested. The Trustees and management team are conscious that they are likely to face financial headwinds, and are focussed on increasing income and managing costs with rigour. Where possible, funders are being urged to contribute to Ark-T's unrestricted funds, and not to restrict contributions to specific projects. Management is committed to using a portion of general income to rebuild Ark-T's reserves.

Risk management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, undertaken on a regular basis;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to manage and mitigate those identified risks; and
- Implementation of actions to minimise the potential impact of those risks on the charity, should they materialise.

The main area of risk to which the charity is exposed is financial risk, in particular due to slow rebuilding of bookings income following the pandemic, the cost of living crisis, the ongoing difficulties in obtaining grant funding and the time and effort required to develop income from other fundraising sources. Key elements in the management of this area of risk, included in the Business Plan, are identifying new core funders, negotiating for longer term financial commitments from existing core funders, developing new partnerships, attracting new donors, strengthening performance reporting to core funders and donors and achieving a satisfactory level of reserves

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

MISSION STATEMENT: We use the powers of creativity and human connection to change lives

VALUES: Be Brave, Be Kind, Be True to Yourself and Be a Change Maker

Ark-T is an arts and community centre and mental health and wellbeing charity with two centres based in Cowley, Oxford, in the heart of one of the 20% most deprived areas in the United Kingdom. Despite being in one of the richest cities in the country, many people who live in the surrounding area experience multiple inequalities.

When we say the word inequality, we mean two things:

1. People are not having their basic needs met in housing, education, employment, and health
2. People are marginalised by class, gender, sexuality, disability, and race and poverty

The problems we are tackling:

- 29% of children in Oxford live below the poverty line (Indices of Deprivation, 2019)
- Number of Oxfordshire young people seeking help from mental health services has risen by 40% in the last 2 years
- 3 of our local state schools in East Oxford are currently in special measures
- 50% of people aged 65 and over in Oxfordshire, say TV or pets are their main company
- Half of all LGBTQ people have experienced depression in the last year.
- 11% of workers in England's Arts Council NPO organisations are from the Global Majority
- 6% of arts workforce identify as disabled

These multiple, complex disadvantages lead to poor mental and physical health, barriers to education and employment, less chance to be heard, and reduced opportunity to come together and celebrate. We use creativity to tackle the inequality in our community, through transformative programmes that unlock people's potential. People of all ages come here to make art, make friendships and make change in their own lives, and the world around them. Our vision is for the communities in this area to become recognised for their creative talent and leadership and to no longer be labelled as victims of a system of inequality, but instead celebrated as powerful makers of creativity and community-led change.

There are no quick fixes, or short projects which will deal with the deep systemic issues of inequality in Oxford. We take a partnership approach, prioritising long term system-change in order to tackle these problems. We know that diversity of thinking and the courage to think, plan, and take action will make the meaningful and lasting change we know is possible.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Our Unstoppable Vision

We will not stop until:

- All those who want to participate in, and gain life-changing benefits of, the arts in Oxford have the opportunity
- We see much better mental health and resilience in our communities
- We see more people from deprived areas with fulfilling jobs, volunteering roles and further training opportunities
- There is greater representation of marginalised voices and stories shaping the arts.
- We are a fully inclusive organisation, including our workforce. This looks like disabled, working class and/or Global Majority people leading the organisation.
- We can see the creative talent we cultivate in our communities, making a difference to where people live.
- We see a new wave of cultural leaders who are rooted in their communities, using their creative skills to enhance their lives and the lives of others.

Mission

We use the powers of Creativity and Community to change lives and inspire community-driven social change. We passionately believe that creativity and community are powerful resources that can regenerate people's mental health, their vision for their lives and the world around them.

We make this happen by:

- Providing person-centred, creative education, training, pathways to volunteering & employment.
- Creating opportunities for communities to come together to put on events & share transformational experiences.
- Creating a safe and inclusive space where everyone in our community has the opportunity to take part in the arts, and experience the positive impact creativity has on mental & physical health.

We are particularly concerned that the creative arts are being removed from state education and that this is having a damaging impact on children and young people's mental health. Our work with families, and our focus on different generations coming together to be creative, is a key way we contribute to keeping our community healthy and happy. Diversity in the arts is central to our vision

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

and mission. We want to see everybody having equal access to creativity and work strategically with partners to champion better inclusion.

Creativity is about imagination, play, and self-expression. Community is about connection, acceptance and belonging. Together both can change lives and create powerful communities.

How do people take part?

At Ark-T, community members can get involved in many enriching ways:

- No-cost 1-on-1 mentoring and wellbeing support for ages 16-25 through ***The Mental Wealth Academy***
- Free and pay-what-you-can visual art, music, and theatre sessions welcome youth and young adults weekly through ***Her Space Junior, Her Space Senior, Art in the Elements*** and ***Theatre Makers***
- Youth leadership shines through our ***Youth Council*** for ages 14-19.
- ***Art Nest*** provides therapeutic art for 42 children weekly, plus parent sessions, including refugees.
- The ***Martha Fernback Art Prize*** mentors young female artists from underrepresented communities.
- ***Blueprint Project*** uses music and mentoring to steer at-risk young men away from exploitation.
- ***Community Hub Days*** unite all ages for meals, music, classes and intergenerational activities.
- Through our ***OX4 Food Crew*** partnership, we tackle food inequality via cooking courses.
- Our free community events like ***Summer Lights*** provide volunteering chances to gain experience.
- Our lively holiday creative programmes give 6-12 year-olds productive activities during school breaks.
- We make the arts accessible via free trips to performances and exhibits for families and groups.
- Our venues provide affordable rental space prioritising creative and social change.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- **OXForum** convenes diverse neighbourhood residents quarterly to share experiences and suggest improvements.
- **Creative Wellbeing Workshops** allow organisations like schools and businesses to invest in staff wellness.

At Ark-T, creativity and human connection transform lives. We invite everyone to join our vibrant programmes.

We also sit on numerous county-wide partnerships which promote inclusion in the arts and work strategically with other organisations to make positive change for those with additional needs.

This includes:

- The Roar Partnership - promoting disability inclusion
- Cultural Education Partnership
- Children and Young People Mental Health Partnership
- OX4-2030 - with Donnington Doorstep & Waste2Taste
- OX4 Food Crew
- OX4 Early Years Alliance

What does our community gain?

- Increased artistic and leadership skills
- Improved wellbeing and creative tools for managing their own mental health
- Feel an enhanced sense of community
- Achieve accreditations such as Arts Awards
- Build a portfolio of work that can be used for interviews at further education or for employment
- Make new friendships and learn essential group work and social skills
- Build confidence & self-expression, and learn to value their individuality

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- Take part in volunteering and training that leads to employment
- Have their creativity and achievements celebrated in sessions, exhibitions, performances and events
- Share food and celebrate with others in OX4
- Greater access to more diverse cultural experiences

If you could sum Ark-T up in 3 words, what would they be?

"I want to live here forever"

"Inclusive, Fun, Big Hearted"

Love, Community, Creativity"

"Accepting, Hopeful, Community"

Ark-T Participants

Statement from CEO, Tracey Schueler

Since starting as CEO in July 2022, I have focused on stabilising Ark-T's finances post-pandemic by increasing sustainable income streams while reducing costs wherever possible.

While many excellent programmes were already underway and funds committed, I saw an urgent need to balance income and expenditures going forward. My plan centres on judiciously reducing spending in 2023 so we can break even, while boosting unrestricted income through several new initiatives started this past year.

On the income side, I have worked to:

- Increase venue rentals through expanded marketing and direct sales outreach.
- Introduce Creative Wellbeing Workshops as a new revenue stream, sold to schools, care facilities, companies, and nonprofits.
- Prioritised grant applications focused on unrestricted support rather than programme funding.
- Grow donations from individuals via networking and stewarding existing donors.

Though launched in 2022, these efforts will bear fruit in 2023. We also held a Fundraising Breakfast to engage past and potential supporters.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I was pleased to inherit robust policies, a theory of change, and business plan from my predecessor. This enabled me to devote my full energy to stabilising finances through strategic cost reductions and sustainable income growth.

I am proud to report that in 2022 we worked with YP on the following areas: anxiety and stress management (377 times); education, employment and training (448 times); physical health and body image (273 times); relationships and social media (385 times); social skills & engagement (564 times); steps to wellbeing (320 times); community engagement (186 times); self-harm (20 times); suicide ideation (8 times); disordered eating (28 times). We have also had 247 new referrals across all our referral programmes (not including drop ins). We worked with 14 young people not in education and training and 493 who were in education and training. 27 young people were on our waiting list, and we conducted 269 one-to-one sessions.

Despite the challenges post pandemic and with the cost of living on the rise, our team delivered impactful programmes in 2022, outlined below. I am confident that by balancing costs and diversifying income streams, we can secure Ark-T's future as a thriving community asset.

In 2022 we delivered the following programmes:

The Art Nest

“It's been really good coming here, it's been good to talk about things that I wouldn't normally talk about”

The Art Nest provides a nurturing place for children facing adversity. At Orchard Meadow Primary School, this therapeutic arts program serves 5-11 year olds who benefit from time away from the classroom. Reasons for referral: 21% self-esteem, 31% low confidence, 10% those living with others who have a mental health illness, 18% refugees, 29% had a significant change in their lives.

In Oxford neighbourhoods we serve, nearly 5,000 children live in poverty. Late 2019 NHS figures showed a 40% increase in mental health referrals for local youth. We proudly sustained Art Nest funding in 2022 through initial 2020 donations from anonymous and charitable supporters.

Initially in Jan 2022 we were open for 4 days a week, then with help from one of our Donors we were able to open for the 5th day. Orchard Meadow asked if we would work with 8 Afghan children who arrived in England in September and who were/are still living in a hotel. Now operating 8 sessions weekly, The Art Nest engages 146 children annually in 12-week blocks. Children undertake hands-on creative projects from start to finish—sanding, priming, designing, painting, decorating, and varnishing treasured keepsakes for home. These making steps and the lasting creations boost confidence.

Equally vital are nurturing activities like sharing toast, conversing, and reading stories that inspire discussions about life and friendships. This safe atmosphere built on peer support enables children to return to class calmer and more positively self-regarding.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

At The Art Nest, creativity and compassion transform young lives under strain. We remain committed to securing its future as a refuge where imagination and human connection empower young people experiencing inequality.

The Rookery (Parents Group) now has 4 parents and 2 toddlers who come consistently. They are all open in their conversations about their Mental Health, one Mum mentions The Rookery to their Mental Health Nurse and how coming here really helps. They have supported each other with house moves, children being born in their families and death. They have talked about the cost of living and have sign posted each other as to where they could get some help.

Creativity Changes Lives - funded by Children in Need, Maggie Black and HAF

“My daughter was soooo happy at ark-t camp. She tried to cook all the recipes from the camp because she said she had the best food there and one day prepared pasta with tomato sauce for her dad for dinner. She was tired at the end of the day but full of emotions and happiness! Thank you so much for your great work.” - Parent

Session Leader quote

“Because it's a collaborative work it generated lots of discussion and decision making. It was really nice to see them help each other out and to see how much fun they were having. “

Creativity Changes Lives uplifts disadvantaged youth through multifaceted arts engagement. Our after-school art and theatre sessions serve 30 children and young people weekly. In 2022, we held 123 weekly sessions of after school groups. Additionally, 30 participants join us for Creativity Camps during each school break, and 5-10 teens per month guide our Youth Council.

Roughly 75% of participants reside in Oxford's most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods. A recent study found over a third of young people here live below the poverty line, with rates up to 69% in surrounding areas attendees travel from. Moreover, over 75% of participants experience inequality stemming from mental health challenges, learning differences, or disabilities.

Many come from families requiring food bank assistance, needs worsened by Covid-19. Facing financial limitations, these youth lack other recreational outlets, resulting in heightened isolation. Our programs provide a crucial outlet for self-expression and community belonging.

We successfully ran 19 days of **Creativity Camps** for young people in school holidays running from 9-5pm, for 6-12-year-olds. The camps are free for young people who are eligible for free school meals. The camps included healthy food and cooking workshops as well as arts and craft for wellbeing.

Furthermore, we delivered the **Martha Mary Fernback prize**, providing support to two young women in developing their artistic practice and organising an exhibition to showcase their work it included nine, one-to-one artistic and wellbeing mentoring sessions held with award recipient, one

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

exhibition, one zine designed and printed, annual prize giving award ceremony, 10 applications received for the 2022/23 prize, one new prize winner awarded (Alice).

The zine and exhibition included all the work she had created over the last year whilst being the awardee.

Art in the Elements (outdoor creative wellbeing) ran for 12 weeks, bringing art experiences to the green spaces at Ark-T. We have for the first time used themes (Surroundings, Journeys and Identity) each term to explore across programmes so we can have more continuity within our biannual exhibitions.

In October half term we took a group of 20 young people on a **trip to the Ashmolean** - to see a contemporary opera 'Tutankhamun's Shoes' and have a private tour of the Egyptian section of the Ashmolean. It was many of the young people's and some staff's first experience of opera. Ashmolean staff supplied creative activities for everyone to try before the opera began.

Integrating wellbeing activities and surveys enables us to measure and boost mental health impacts. Participants gain creative confidence and connections. By empowering disadvantaged youth artistically, Creativity Changes Lives helps transform self-perception and cultivate community. Unlocking potential remains our unwavering commitment.

Exhibitions

We have held two programme exhibitions of all young people's artwork that has been made in regular groups at Ark T since September 2022. Many of the young people took time to see the exhibition during their sessions and all families were informed that the exhibition was taking place and when its opening hours were. Having an exhibition is a good chance to celebrate the achievements of the young people and to show the visitors to Ark T the other things that Ark T does. The first exhibition was around the shared topic of *Identity* and the second around *Journey's*. This is the first time we have all worked on the same themes across all of our programmes.

The Mental Wealth Academy funded by The Department for Health and Social Care via Response

"It's good to talk to someone and have external validation. I might not trust myself if I gave myself the same advice or reassurance."

"The dynamic in-person is much better than on the phone or online, I could talk safely about things I couldn't discuss at home."

"Feeling more knowledgeable about anxiety and being able to talk about it with other people now. Having insights about my relationships and boundaries that I haven't had before."

The Mental Wealth Academy is an innovative project launched in 2020 designed and created by a partnership of local third sector organisations within Oxfordshire. Together, the partnership

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

provides modern approaches to Mental Health support responding to young peoples' needs through engaging, relatable and impactful practice. The Mental Wealth Academy offers 1-1 support, education and training for young ambassadors and workshops for parents and carers.

The Mental Wealth Academy is a programme managed by Response but delivered across charities in Oxfordshire - Ark T is one of those partnership organisations.

The programme works with people aged 16 to 25 for people with mild to moderate mental health challenges. The Transitional Wellbeing practitioners delivered up to twelve weekly creative wellbeing sessions tailored around the individual needs of each person. The Mental Wealth Academy staff continued to deliver up to 20 sessions per week at Oxford Brookes University, Greyfriars school (previously named St Gregory's) and at Ark T.

Students, both at Brookes and Greyfriars, who present as "high functioning" have disclosed issues that would otherwise have flown under the radar and have been referred to CAMHS or student support where they previously had not considered seeking support.

Working with Greyfriars and Oxford Brookes has meant early intervention around any safeguarding concerns which are now being monitored by their educational establishments.

2022 Information:

- 257 1:1 sessions were held
- 53 Participants signed up for the Mental Wealth Academy sessions with Ark T
- 41 Participants took part in Wemwbs wellbeing monitoring
- 20 Participants completed all 12 sessions offered
- 21 Participants have currently completed baseline Wemwbs - this is either due to still having sessions or having left the programme early
- 11 Participants left early during 2022

We ask all participants ten set questions (Wemwbs: Warwickshire-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale – tool to measure changes in wellbeing) at the beginning, middle and end of the programme to monitor individual mental wellbeing. This helps us understand how the young person is feeling at that particular moment and guides the support we can give them over the 12 weeks of sessions.

Our social media presence and following flourished, publishing high quality co-produced young person content offering advice, guidance and support.

We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved together and excited about the potential of our partnership and community reach.

Blueprint Project funded by Thames Valley Police and Oxford City Council

The participants of the Blueprint Project were asked at the end of the project. "In what ways have you changed?" This was one response:

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

"I have loved coming to blueprint" "I feel so more confident around people and for my voice to be heard."

"No one from the project is doing that stuff [selling drugs] anymore, I don't even smoke weed now! It has made a difference." "I understand that shit [exploitation] more now." "I'm trying to tell my brothers [friends] about it."

The Blueprint Project works with at-risk young men through music, mentoring, and community. Launched in 2019, Oxford charities Ark-T, SAFE!, and Donnington Doorstep joined forces with the City Council's Youth Ambition team.

Blueprint fills a void as Oxford's sole programme combining music studio access, exploitation expert guidance, group sessions, and 1-on-1 support tailored to each youth. Participants gain production skills, performance confidence, and pathways away from substance misuse and criminality.

Trust emerges through creative engagement with caring adult role models. Youth work principles emphasise identifying innate talents. Young men create original tracks using their lived experiences to address personal and societal issues.

During respectful group discussions, misconceptions get challenged through music and lyrics. Despite occasionally tough topics, the men engage meaningfully. They report feeling heard, inspired, and supported towards healthier mindsets and relationships.

From June to August 2022, 12 workshops convened. Blueprint's dual approaches allow youth to progress at suitable paces. For one new Oxford resident fleeing gang threats, initial one-on-one studio time led to disclosing trauma. Only then did he feel ready to join the group.

In providing tailored support, Blueprint guides troubled teens towards brighter futures. We remain committed to nurturing their wellbeing and potential through strength-based creative engagement.

Community Development / Community Hub Day

Quotes from Partners:

"The talks went well – Steven, the researcher, thoroughly enjoyed the event and felt that people were really engaged with his talk/card game." - TORCH (Oxford University)

"We just wanted to express our excitement and joy at the first music workshop at the Ark-T Centre. It was a great group with a good number of our clients and carers there taking part – fantastic to see them all joining in and being creative together! It was a real magical moment to see them enjoying themselves and connecting with the music." Dementia Oxfordshire

Quote from visiting organisation:

"I found both venues informal, welcoming and providing useful and essential activities, including benefit advice, victim support, casual chats and a lively art session."

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Quotes from attendees:

"Brilliant, really enjoyed the music session, best day out for a long time."

Community Hub Day attendee

"The best thing about the event was the open-ended activities for kids to play with (we loved the natural wooden blocks and sticks)." - attendee, Community Hub Day

This past year, Ark-T made meaningful strides in community outreach and volunteer engagement. Our Hub Days played an integral role hosting quarterly OxForum sessions and planning the Winter Lights festival. That signature event drew record turnout and revenue, selling out tickets and pizza to generate £677. Winter Lights also welcomed 8 new volunteers, including students from Oxford Brookes University, an underrepresented demographic among our volunteers.

Seeking fresh programming, we brought on community musician Luke Newby to facilitate dementia-friendly workshops—a new audience for Ark-T. Joining the Communities of Practice network expanded our connections and best practice knowledge.

Continuously improving, we surveyed community members and analysed feedback on programming and processes. Consequently, Talking Space Plus NHS will now offer hands-on mental health workshops during Hub Days rather than just information, better serving attendees' needs.

With partner Agnes Smith Advice Centre, we provided financial guidance to equip community members with critical money management skills and resources.

Ark-T and Waste 2 Taste held an appreciation event for our 25 steadfast volunteers. This celebrated their gifts while further strengthening our support network.

Guiding Ark-T forward, we actively pursue opportunities to grow programming and make our community offerings sustainable. Our passion for serving OX4 residents stays constant. We adapt based on their feedback, forge mutually beneficial partnerships, and remain dedicated to our mission of using creativity and human connection to transform lives.

OX4 Food Crew

What did you like the most?

"Just like my first volunteering experience, the atmosphere on Friday was friendly, inclusive and welcoming. I really enjoyed the facepainting but my favourite part was meeting with and talking to the attendees. It was a fantastic event!"

"The all-inclusive feel of the centre, how welcoming everyone was (staff and other volunteers) and I felt valued for coming to help. I've got explained everything clearly, everyone happy to answer questions and I was able to get involved straight away."

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

United by a mission that "everyone in OX4 has enough good food and can thrive," the OX4 Food Crew tackles inequality through community nourishment.

Formed in 2020 between Ark-T, Waste2Taste, and 7 other grassroots groups, we began delivering emergency meals as food insecurity rose amidst lockdowns. As needs evolved, we expanded offerings and partners.

Funding in late 2021 sustained projects addressing lasting pandemic impacts now exacerbated by soaring costs. Our agile, co-created responses build local food resilience.

At Ark-T, sharing meals bonds our arts programs. We help address hunger through cooking classes and by bringing people together monthly for Community Meals.

Additional partners like City Farm, Mutual Aid, Donnington Doorstep, No Vice Ice, and Damascus Rose Kitchen help strengthen the fabric of support. Surveys, interviews, and focus groups guide efforts.

Evolving from emergency relief, our alliance now takes a systemic approach to equipping our community with knowledge and access that reduce reliance on food banks.

By uniting neighbours experiencing hardships, the OX4 Food Crew nourishes bodies, sparks friendships, and cultivates hope. Our solidarity and care help tackle inequality, one meal at a time.

Our latest feedback survey has highlighted how involvement in this has been beneficial for our volunteers.

- 100% of our volunteers told us that volunteering for the OX4 Food Crew has positively impacted their mental health and wellbeing
- 80% experienced an extremely positive impact
- 20% experienced a high positive impact
- 100% of our volunteers would recommend volunteering with the OX4 Food Crew to their friends.

THANK YOU

We have had some amazing support from funders and individuals.

We would particularly like to thank Lloyds Bank Foundation and their South/Central Manager Marie Hale, for their continued support during this time and for providing support through freelance consultants to improve our operations in the areas of IT systems, Public Fundraising, Marketing and coaching for the new CEO.

We would also like to thank the following funders for their support for programmes and core activity.

ARK T CENTRE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Arts Council England, Children In Need, Oxford City Council via Big Ideas grant, Oxfordshire County Council Holiday Activity Fund, Dragon School, Activate, The Funding Network, Oxford City Council through the Oxford Cultural Education Partnership, UK Youth, Mabs Mardulyn Charitable Trust, Response, The National Lottery via Flo's People Place Participation, Garfield Weston, TORCH Oxford University, our regular monthly donors, two donors who gave major gifts for The Art Nest, and our four wonderful donors who gave gifts to enable us to support our core costs.

And to the many wonderful members of the public who gave to us throughout 2022 through monthly donations and one-off donations which made a vital difference to our charity and gave us the courage to persevere.

We would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to all the community organisations, community groups and individuals who hire our space, not only providing us with crucial unrestricted funding, but moreover, enabling positive activities which support the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

And to our inspirational partners:

Flo's the Place in the Park, Waste2Taste, Oxford Community Action, No Vice Ice, Damascus Rose Kitchen, SOFEA, Oxford Mutual Aid, Oxford City Farm, the OX4 Early Years Alliance, Cultural Education Partnership, SAFE!, Donnington Doorstep, Orchard Meadow Primary School, Greyfriars Catholic School, Activate Learning, Modern Art Oxford, Film Oxford, GLAM, TORCH, and our partners on the mental health partnership including Response, Oxford Health, RAW, SOFEA, TRAX, BYHP, and Oxfordshire Youth.

We are stronger together!

Approved by the Trustees on 26 September 2023

Signed on their behalf by Helen Morton

Helen Morton
Chairperson

ARK T CENTRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ARK T CENTRE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out in pages 20 - 31.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Caroline Webster FCA

UHY Ross Brooke
Suite 1
Windrush Court
Abingdon Business Park
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

Date..... 29/9/23

ARK T CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	102,991	185,954	288,945	97,627	313,343	410,970
Charitable activities	3	1,044	-	1,044	11,409	2,317	13,726
Other trading activities	4	81,158	2,192	83,350	33,396	-	33,396
Other income		1,284	-	1,284	1,380	-	1,380
Investments		470	-	470	15	-	15
Total income		<u>186,947</u>	<u>188,146</u>	<u>375,093</u>	<u>143,827</u>	<u>315,660</u>	<u>459,487</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	1,093	71	1,164	1,881	-	1,881
Charitable activities	6	191,098	241,702	432,800	252,129	289,639	541,768
Total expenditure		<u>192,191</u>	<u>241,773</u>	<u>433,964</u>	<u>254,010</u>	<u>289,639</u>	<u>543,649</u>
Net income / - expenditure		- 5,244	- 53,627	- 58,871	- 110,183	26,021	- 84,162
Transfers between funds		19,274	- 19,274	-	31,385	- 31,385	-
Net movement in funds		<u>14,030</u>	<u>- 72,901</u>	<u>- 58,871</u>	<u>- 78,798</u>	<u>- 5,364</u>	<u>- 84,162</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forwards		31,912	105,074	136,986	110,710	110,438	221,148
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>45,942</u></u>	<u><u>32,173</u></u>	<u><u>78,115</u></u>	<u><u>31,912</u></u>	<u><u>105,074</u></u>	<u><u>136,986</u></u>

ARK T CENTRE

**BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		18,794		7,762
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	17,905		6,932	
Cash at bank				147,275	
			149,955	154,207	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	- 90,634		- 24,983	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			59,321		129,224
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
NET LIABILITIES			78,115		136,986
FUNDS					
INCOME FUNDS					
Unrestricted Income funds	14		45,942		31,912
Restricted income funds	13		32,173		105,074
TOTAL INCOME FUNDS			78,115		136,986

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 September 2023 and are signed on behalf of the board by:


 Helen Morton
 Chairperson

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic work.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The 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 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees recognise the current financial situation of Ark-T is not ideal and that there are inevitable uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have met regularly and been engaged and informed throughout the period in scrutinizing and monitoring financial reports and budget forecasts to assess the impact on the activities of Ark-T during the year and have agreed a number of actions to reduce costs and increase income which are already showing positive results. They are confident that the outcome of these actions will enable the charity to continue as a going concern and to rebuild the reserves over the next few years.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

(b) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income, trading income and other income are recognised on a receivable basis.

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any Value Added Tax which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Expenditure on generating funds comprises costs associated with attracting income.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such services and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Improvements to Property	25% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	25% straight line
Musical equipment	25% straight line

(f) Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations	26,470	3,162	29,632	91,903
Gift Aid	693	-	693	811
Grants	75,828	182,792	258,620	318,256
	<u>102,991</u>	<u>185,954</u>	<u>288,945</u>	<u>410,970</u>

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fees received	1,044	-	1,044	3,247
JRS grant	-	-	-	10,479
	<u>1,044</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,044</u>	<u>13,726</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4. Income from trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Café rental and venue hire	5,725	-	5,725	400
Rents receivable	75,433	2,192	77,625	32,996
	<u>81,158</u>	<u>2,192</u>	<u>83,350</u>	<u>33,396</u>

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Generating funds	1,093	71	1,164	1,881
	<u>1,093</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>1,164</u>	<u>1,881</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff	89,714	184,757	274,471	288,925
Premises	33,522	2,145	35,667	43,350
Office	17,770	4,526	22,296	23,514
Projects	18,994	39,599	58,593	115,945
Partnership costs	-	-	-	48,179
Accountancy	9,597	-	9,597	11,295
Depreciation	13,705	-	13,705	7,713
Legal and professional	6,704	1,025	7,729	2,086
Other	1,092	9,650	10,742	761
Total charitable activities	<u>191,098</u>	<u>241,702</u>	<u>432,800</u>	<u>541,768</u>

7. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed, analysed by activity was:

	2022	2021
Charitable activities	15	13

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

8. Staff costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages	250,784	263,715
Social security costs	14,926	16,425
Pension costs	4,487	4,947
	270,197	285,087

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more.

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses.

Remuneration paid to key management personnel amounted to £33,116 (2021: £31,191).

Pension costs for key management personnel amounted to £541 (2021: £639).

9. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the current and prior year.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Musical Equipment	Improvements to Property	Office and IT equipment	Total
	£	£	£		£
COST					
At 1 January 2022	4,750	1,329	23,404	1,028	30,511
Additions	13,273	-	8,465	2,999	24,737
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	18,023	1,329	31,869	4,027	55,248
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 January 2022	3,711	1,142	17,553	343	22,749
Charge for the year	4,209	187	7,967	1,342	13,705
Written back on disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	7,920	1,329	25,520	1,685	36,454
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 December 2022	10,103	-	6,349	2,342	18,794
At 31 December 2021	1,039	187	5,851	685	7,762

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

11. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	17,805	6,832
Other debtors	100	100
	<u>17,905</u>	<u>6,932</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Taxation and social security	4,178	6,537
Accruals and other creditors	9,334	5,286
Deferred income	70,947	-
Trade creditors	6,175	13,160
	<u>90,634</u>	<u>24,983</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

13. Movements on restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers for grants spent on capital items	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Art Nest Donations	11,394	32,175	- 38,107	-	-	5,462
Arts Council	-	8,974	- 7,306	-	-	1,668
Anonymous	22,710	-	- 23,000	-	290	-
Children In Need	41,609	37,985	- 77,049	-	-	2,545
DCMS	-	35,983	- 11,241	- 21,738	-	3,004
HAF	-	14,583	- 13,760	-	-	823
Helen Morton Donation	-	900	- 900	-	-	-
Iffley Church Charity	-	1,000	- 1,773	-	773	-
Maggie Black	-	1,109	- 492	-	-	617
Martha 21	2,556	1,012	- 1,033	-	-	2,535
Oxford City Council Culture Fund	-	850	- 813	-	- 37	-
Oxford University Small Community Grant	-	1,500	- 250	-	-	1,250
Response	3,076	15,000	- 24,137	-	6,061	-
SAFE	-	6,559	- 6,510	-	- 49	-
Samworth	-	15,432	- 21,180	-	5,748	-
Topaz	14,269	-	-	-	-	14,269
TORCH	2,209	5,220	- 8,790	-	1,361	-
Youth Music	3,933	9,864	- 5,432	-	- 8,365	-
Lloyds Bank	3,318	-	-	-	- 3,318	-
Total funds	<u>105,074</u>	<u>188,146</u>	<u>- 241,773</u>	<u>- 21,738</u>	<u>2,464</u>	<u>32,173</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Movement on restricted funds 2021

	Balance at 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Community In Reach	19,094	30,596	- 24,289	- 24,012	1,389
Creativity Changes Lives	37,929	40,530	- 41,998	-	36,461
Children In Need	-	31,566	- 26,419	-	5,148
Music for Everyone	- 3,815	30,416	- 48,580	25,912	3,933
Singing	2,103	-	-	- 2,103	-
Topaz	14,269	-	-	-	14,269
The Art Nest	27,466	40,500	- 29,106	- 27,466	11,394
FamJam	999	560	- 1,404	- 155	-
OMental Wealth Academy	7,774	11,250	- 17,337	-	1,687
Blueprint Music Project	-	14,000	- 5,991	- 8,009	-
Impact Project	-	10,885	- 17,682	10,115	3,318
OX4 Free Food Crew	-	73,500	- 50,790	-	22,710
Oxford Community Action	-	23,979	- 18,312	- 5,667	-
Roarsomes	-	7,356	- 5,147	-	2,209
MARTHA 21	4,619	522	- 2,584	-	2,556
Total funds	<u>110,438</u>	<u>315,660</u>	<u>- 289,639</u>	<u>- 31,385</u>	<u>105,074</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

14. Movement on unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers for grants spent on capital items	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	31,912	186,947	- 192,191	5,286	- 2,464	29,490
Designated depreciation fund	-	-	-	16,452	-	16,452
	<u>31,912</u>	<u>186,947</u>	<u>- 192,191</u>	<u>21,738</u>	<u>- 2,464</u>	<u>45,942</u>

Movement on unrestricted funds 2021

	Balance at 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	110,710	143,827	- 254,010	31,385	31,912
	<u>110,710</u>	<u>143,827</u>	<u>- 254,010</u>	<u>31,385</u>	<u>31,912</u>

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible assets	18,794	-	18,794
Current assets	46,834	103,121	149,955
Creditors within one year	- 19,686	- 70,948	- 90,634
Net assets	<u>45,942</u>	<u>32,173</u>	<u>78,115</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Activate: Funding for the Rookery parents art group at Orchard Meadow Primary School

Rod Cooke: Donated to The Art Nest

The National Lottery via Flo's People Place Participation: Funded Community Hub Days

Mabs Mardulyn Charitable Trust: Funded the Art Nest

Tony and Judith Yarrow: Funded the Summer Lights Festival and The Art Nest

Arts Council England: Funded materials for CCL groups

Anonymous donor: Provided an unrestricted grant

BBC Children in Need: Funds our Creativity Changes Lives programme including term time sessions and holiday activities, aiming to increase the wellbeing, resilience and leadership skills of some of the most deprived children and young people in Oxford City.

Oxfordshire County Council HAF: Holiday Activity Fund for Ark-T Creativity Camps holiday workshops through the school holidays

Helen Morton donation: Funded safeguarding software - My Concern

Iffley Church Charity: Funded the Community Hub Days

Maggie Black: Funded equipment for our young people's programmes as well as excursions to theatre and museums and installation costs for exhibitions.

Private anonymous Donors funded The Martha Prize

Oxford Health/Response: The Mental Wealth Academy, funding two part-time salaries of mental health support workers to run 1:1 Creative mentoring sessions for young people aged 11-25 experiencing mild to moderate mental health crises.

Oxford City Council Culture Fund : Core funds Ark-T as one of their Cultural Partners through the Big Ideas grant. They also funded us to be a part of their annual Christmas Lights Festival.

Oxford City Council, Cultural Education Partnership: Funded Arts in the Elements

Lloyds Bank Foundation: Funded specialist consultants to work with Ark-T across the areas of IT, Fundraising, Communications and coaching.

SAFE & Donnington Doorstep: Blue Print Project

Samworth Foundation: CEO salary

Topaz: We currently hold £14k for this organisation

ARK T CENTRE

TORCH (Oxford University): Grant towards Community Hub Days where they partner with us.

ARK - T CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1079495

Accounts



ARK·T

**ARK-T CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2021**

CHARITY NUMBER: 1079495

ARK T CENTRE

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021**

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ARK T CENTRE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Ark T Centre
Charity number	1079495
Principal & registered office address	Crowell Road Oxford OX4 3LN
Trustees	Helen Morton (Chairperson) Giles Davies (resigned June 2021) Hazel Douglas (resigned November 2021) Sharon Evans Dr Andrew Gant Laura Jostins-Dean (appointed January 2022) Daniel Levy (appointed January 2021) Ros Loten (resigned June 2021) Shakeel Marham Emerald O'Shaughnessy (appointed June 2021) Johanna Rice (appointed January 2022) Hassan Elmi Sabrie (appointed January 2022) Dr Eleanor Vogel (resigned June 2021)
Accountants	SPX Oxford Ltd Peace House 19 Paradise Street Oxford OX1 1LD
Independent examiner	Caroline Webster FCA UHY Ross Brooke Windrush Court Abingdon Business Park Suite I Bucklands Way Abingdon OX14 1SY
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing Kent

ARK T CENTRE

Chair Person's Statement

The past year has been challenging for Ark-T as we have continued our recovery following the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the charity, our staff and participants and the community. I am extremely proud of the way in which everyone at Ark-T has responded and of the strength, resilience and flexibility that they have shown in dealing with the changing requirements and circumstances, including working from home, delivering sessions online and finally returning to in person sessions at the centres. The organisation has undergone further structural change as outlined below while continuing to demonstrate flexibility in adapting services and activities and in developing new partnerships so that we can still meet the needs of our participants and communities, including the food banks in our centres with the OX4 Free Food Crew and OCA! Indeed, we were honoured to accept an award from Lord Mayor Councillor Mark Lygo recognising our efforts to support the community throughout the pandemic.

Emmy O'Shaughnessy, who had been our CEO since 2016 and then co-CEO with Lizzy McBain since 2020, decided to step down in July 2021 and Lizzy became the sole CEO. They took the opportunity to carry out a full review of Ark-T and its staffing structure in consultation with staff and trustees and put in place a new structure with a strong and robust senior management team and better support and more sharing of best practice for programmes. I would like to thank Emmy very much for all that she has contributed to Ark-T over the last 6 years and am delighted to say that she has now become one of our trustees! Lizzy and the senior management team have worked hard and made a lot of progress, especially in providing support to staff and improving our plans, policies and procedures. We reviewed and updated our Business Plan, Values, Vision, Mission and Aims and produced our first financial strategy and improved our impact measurement.

We were very pleased to secure a further 3 years of funding from Children in Need for the Creativity Changes Lives Programmes and from Mabs Mardulyn for the Art Nest. We were delighted to be invited to join with the Story Museum in their Welcoming Amal celebration in Oxford in October which was attended by thousands of people and the year finished with a Christmas Light Night event as part of a Cultural Hub, with funding from Oxford City Council. New funding from Oxford City Council and the Funding Network enabled us to start a programme of monthly Community Hub days in February 2022 to provide community meals and intergenerational activity and these have brought in members of the local community and a number of new partners.

Despite the seeming affluence of Oxford, there are several parts of the city which remain severely deprived. Ark-T is based in Cowley which is one of the top 20% most deprived wards in the UK and we use the powers of creativity and community to change lives and inspire community driven social change. We can see the impact of our work in many ways, from delivering weekly group sessions to children and young people to give a stronger sense of belonging to a community, offering 1-2-1 creative mentoring to increase confidence and build emotional resilience and wellbeing to exploring leadership and creativity leading to opportunities in further education, training and employment. I am confident that Ark-T will continue to adapt and innovate to meet participant and community needs.

I would again like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks, gratitude and appreciation to all the funders, donors and partners with whom we work and especially to all of our team who share our vision and believe in the power of our work and the potential of all the people we work with.

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

ARK T CENTRE

Administrative details are shown on page 2

The charity is also grateful to the following staff and artists in residence.

Team

Lizzy McBain (CEO from July 2021)

Emmy O'Shaughnessy (Until July) & Lizzy McBain (Co-CEO's)
Alice Dore (Head of Programmes and Deputy Director from Sept)
(Alice was Transitional Wellbeing Practitioner until Sept)
Emily Walsh (Head of Operations and Finance from Sept)
(Emily was Individual Donor and Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator March-Sept)
Lisa Bates (Creativity Changes Lives Project Manager)
Hannah Bruce (Youth Music Project Manager)
Anna Martin (Community Development Manager)
Clare Keep (Art Nest Project Manager)

Jo Race (Transitional Wellbeing Practitioner from May 2021)
Ansh Ramklown (Community In Reach Worker)
Kezia Johnson (Centre Coordinator)
Hazel Wilson (Marketing Coordinator)

Nicky Weiner (Centre and Programmes Support)
Su Frizzell (Creative Practitioner)

Artists in Residence

Biddy Hudson & Zuhura Plummer

Website

www.ark-t.org

Twitter @ArkTOxford
Facebook /ArkTOxford

Objective

The charity's objective is the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic works.

Trustee recruitment and induction

Trustees are recruited according to the skills needed on the board. Trustees are invited to meet with prospective trustees and the CEOs on a 1-1 and group basis and are then voted through a majority vote. Trustees are then required to submit a DBS certificate and attend safeguarding training if it is not already in place. Trustees are then invited to join different sub-committees including the Fundraising Subcommittee and Finance Subcommittee, or specific roles, such as Mentor to Young Trustee.

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The trustees receive regular e-bulletins from the Charity Commission and others regarding relevant updates in legislation.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

Financial review

During the year, the charity received £459,488 of income (2020: £435,328) and incurred £543,650 of expenditure (2020: £350,574) resulting in a deficit of £84,162. Ark-T's income in 2021 was limited by the unusual circumstances of the Covid period and the lockdowns. The hire of Ark-T's premises was very restricted and there were a limited number of fundraising events that were possible. Applications for grants continued to be submitted but there was significant competition for grants from other charities and so not all applications were successful.

The Trustees are confident that income will increase now that there are no restrictions on face to face meetings and have agreed several actions to be taken to address the issues. These include running a successful crowdfunding campaign in May 2022, employing a full time CEO who started work in July 2022 and submitting a number of new grant applications. A membership scheme (SpArks) has been established to encourage friends and supporters of Ark-T to make regular donations and to help attract new donors. The management team have reviewed all areas of expenditure and have identified areas in which costs can be decreased and the benefits of all these actions will be seen in future accounting periods.

Reserves

Reserves are defined as unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charitable purposes of the Charity (the Ark-T Centre). Funds such as restricted income funds, the balance of restricted grants, tangible fixed assets and any investment funds are excluded from the reserves. Reserves are held to meet any unexpected spending requirements and unforeseen day-to-day operational costs, any shortfall in income from donations or grants, any delays in receiving grant payments and to fulfill the obligations of the Charity (the Ark-T Centre).

Our Beneficiaries are individuals and groups with complex needs who are often vulnerable and facing multiple disadvantages. They come to the Charity (the Ark-T Centre) for creative arts activities and rely on the Charity to provide them with ongoing access to support, guidance, mentoring, creative outlets, skills training and information and they would be adversely affected if the Centre was unable to operate and provide them with these outlets and support.

The Trustees therefore consider that a suitable policy for this Charity (the Ark-T Centre) is to hold in reserves the equivalent of a minimum of three to six months of general operating costs including salary costs. This policy and the level of reserves will be reviewed once a year by the Trustees.

We currently hold only £32,000 in unrestricted reserves which is the equivalent of between one and two months general operating costs for the Charity (the Ark-T Centre). We aim to increase the reserves to the planned level of a minimum of three months of general operating costs by significantly increasing our fundraising activity and identifying suitable donors and organisations from whom general donations for this purpose can be requested. The Trustees and management team are conscious that they are likely to face financial headwinds, and are focussed on increasing income and managing costs with rigour. Where possible, funders are being urged to

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contribute to Ark-T's unrestricted funds, and not to restrict contributions to specific projects. Management is committed to using a portion of general income to rebuild Ark-T's reserves.

Risk management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, undertaken on a regular basis;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to manage and mitigate those identified risks; and
- Implementation of actions to minimise the potential impact of those risks on the charity, should they materialise.

The main area of risk to which the charity is exposed is financial risk, in particular due to the impact of Covid-19 and the resultant significant reduction in bookings income, the recent difficulties in obtaining grant funding and the time and effort required to develop income from other fundraising sources. Key elements in the management of this area of risk, included in the Business Plan, are identifying new core funders, negotiating for longer term financial commitments from existing core funders, developing new partnerships, attracting new donors, strengthening performance reporting to core funders and donors and achieving a satisfactory level of reserves

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MISSION STATEMENT: We use the powers of creativity and human connection to change lives

VALUES: Be Brave, Be Kind, Be True to Yourself and Be a Change Maker

Ark-T is an arts and community centre and mental health and wellbeing charity with two centres based in Cowley, Oxford, in the heart of one of the 20% most deprived areas in the United Kingdom. Despite being in one of the richest cities in the country, many people who live in the surrounding area experience multiple inequalities.

When we say the word inequality we mean two things:

1. People are not having their basic needs met in housing, education, employment, and health
2. People are marginalised by class, gender, sexuality, disability, and race and poverty

The problems we are tackling:

29% of children in Oxford live below the poverty line (Indices of Deprivation, 2019)
Number of Oxfordshire young people seeking help from mental health services has risen by 40% in the last 2 years
3 of our local state schools in East Oxford are currently in special measures
50% of people aged 65 and over in Oxfordshire, say TV or pets are their main company
Half of all LGBTQ people have experienced depression in the last year.
11% of workers in England's Arts Council NPO organisations are from the Global Majority
6% of arts workforce identify as disabled

These multiple, complex disadvantages lead to poor mental and physical health, barriers to education and employment, less chance to be heard, and reduced opportunity to come together and celebrate.

We use creativity to tackle the inequality in our community, through transformative programmes that unlock people's potential. People of all ages come here to make art, make friendships and make change in their own lives, and the world around them.

Our vision is for the communities in this area to become recognised for their creative talent and leadership and to no longer be labelled as victims of a system of inequality, but instead celebrated as powerful makers of creativity and community-led change.

There are no quick fixes, or short projects which will deal with the deep systemic issues of inequality in Oxford. We take a partnership approach, prioritising long term system-change in order to tackle these problems. We know that diversity of thinking and the courage to think, plan, and take action will make the meaningful and lasting change we know is possible.

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Our Unstoppable Vision

We will not stop until:

- All those who want to participate in, and gain life-changing benefits of, the arts in Oxford have the opportunity
- We see much better mental health and resilience in our communities
- We see more people from deprived areas with fulfilling jobs, volunteering roles and further training opportunities
- There is greater representation of marginalised voices and stories shaping the arts.
- We are a fully inclusive organisation, including our workforce. This looks like disabled, working class and/or Global Majority people leading the organisation.
- We can see the creative talent we cultivate in our communities, making a difference to where people live.
- We see a new wave of cultural leaders who are rooted in their communities, using their creative skills to enhance their lives and the lives of others.

Mission

We use the powers of Creativity and Community to change lives and inspire community-driven social change. We passionately believe that creativity and community are powerful resources that can regenerate people's mental health, their vision for their lives and the world around them.

We make this happen by:

- Providing person-centred, creative education, training, pathways to volunteering & employment.
- Creating opportunities for communities to come together to put on events & share transformational experiences.
- Creating a safe and inclusive space where everyone in our community has the opportunity to take part in the arts, and experience the positive impact creativity has on mental & physical health.

We are particularly concerned that the creative arts are being removed from state education and that this is having a damaging impact on children and young people's mental health. Our work with families, and our focus on different generations coming together to be creative, is a key way we contribute to keeping our community healthy and happy.

Diversity in the arts is central to our vision and mission. We want to see everybody having equal access to creativity and work strategically with partners to champion better inclusion.

Creativity is about imagination, play, and self-expression. Community is about connection, acceptance and belonging. Together both can change lives and create powerful communities.

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How do people take part?

- Free / pay what you can weekly sessions in visual art, music and theatre arts for all young people and young adults
- Free 1-2-1 mentoring and wellbeing sessions for 11-25 yr olds through our CAMHS partnership
- Free School holiday creative provision for 6-18 yr olds
- A youth council for 11-25 yr olds
- Free trips to theatre shows and exhibitions for families and groups
- Programming in the Roar annual disability arts festival
- An annual Art Prize for a young female artist from an under-represented community alongside creative and emotional mentoring
- Seasonal community events (Summer Lights and Winter Lights) with volunteering and leadership opportunities for young people and adults
- Multiple spaces available for affordable room hire, prioritising creative and social change activity
- OXForum - a focus group of diverse OX4 residents who meet quarterly to share experiences and feedback on local needs and services

We also sit on numerous county-wide partnerships which promote inclusion in the arts and work strategically with other organisations to make positive change for those with additional needs.

This includes:

- The Roar Partnership - promoting disability inclusion
- Cultural Education Partnership
- Children and Young People Mental Health Partnership
- OX4-2030 - with Donnington Doorstep & Waste2Taste
- OX4 Food Crew
- OX4 Early Years Alliance

What does our community gain?

- Increased artistic and leadership skills
- Improved wellbeing and creative tools for managing their own mental health
- Feel an enhanced sense of community
- Achieve accreditations such as Arts Awards
- Build a portfolio of work that can be used for interviews at further education or for employment
- Make new friendships and learn essential group work and social skills
- Build confidence & self-expression, and learn to value their individuality
- Take part in volunteering and training that leads to employment
- Have their creativity and achievements celebrated in sessions, exhibitions, performances and events
- Share food and celebrate with others in OX4
- Greater access to more diverse cultural experiences

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"I want to live here forever"

If you could sum Ark-T up in 3 words, what would they be?

"Inclusive, Fun, Big Hearted"

Love, Community, Creativity"

"Accepting, Hopeful, Community"

Ark-T Participants

Charity Activity

Statement from CEO, Lizzy McBain

2021 was about gradually bringing people safely and confidently back into our buildings, re-establishing our programmes in-person and learning from what had changed during the pandemic. Things remained uncertain at times, as we continued to experience lockdown restrictions on and off, but there was also a great deal to build on and new learning bring to the way we do things. Participants benefited from the new flexibility of accessing sessions and 1-2-1's online should they need, which suited some people better, particularly those with access requirements as seen in the music project SingSign choir and the ROARsomes disability arts group. We were also able to adapt and be flexible and run our Creativity Camps holiday programme online when needed, sending creative packages and recipe parcels to children and young people to engage with workshops from their home.

Our partnership work was key to sharing learning in 2021 about what had changed for our local communities during the pandemic, to hearing what people and families in OX4 need from their local charities and venues, and working together to share resources.

In particular this included reframing the work of the OX4 Food Crew in partnership with Flo's PP, OCA and Waste2Taste to expanding the service beyond meal delivery and food redistribution, and inviting several new partner organisations onboard to expand the offer to include community meals and cooking courses, with the aim to build food resilience for the whole of OX4.

We also started a new partnership, OX4 2030, with Waste2Taste and Donnington Doorstep to explore how we can collectively address the exploitation of both young people and the exploitation of the environment in our locality, through writing a proposal to the Samworth Foundation that was successful in receiving funding, and which will see the three organisations work together to develop a shared strategy throughout 2022.

We continued to work in partnership with Donnington Doorstep and Safe! to deliver a new Blueprint music and mentoring project for young men at risk of exploitation in summer 2021, and collectively successfully fundraise for a third 12 week project in summer 2022.

We continue to sit on the ROAR partnership, advocating alongside many other Oxfordshire based organisations for greater representation of disabled artists in the arts, and co-produced an online ROAR festival in October.

2021 was also very much about reviewing our staffing structure and addressing some capacity needs by creating a new Senior Leadership Team with the implementation of two new posts, the Head of Programmes and Head of Operations, to support the work of the CEO, following the departure of Co-CEO, Emmy O'Shaughnessy in July 2021, after 5 years at Ark-T. The new Senior Leadership Team was put in place by September 2021 and has made a significant impact on the work of the organisation already. Emily Walsh in the role of Head of Operations & Finance has

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helped staff to feel more supported operationally with new and improved systems for every area of our work from HR, to finance, safeguarding and monitoring. Alice Dore in the role of Head of Programme has also implemented a new Ark-T wide impact measurement gathering approach, making it easier to gather evidence of our impact through Monthly Portfolios which include case studies, participant quotes and photographs for all our different programme areas, and this will support the publishing of a full organisation wide impact report planned in early 2023.

The Senior Leadership Team also worked together to develop our new Theory of Change, which illustrates our ambition to enable everyone in OX4 to unlock their full potential through our programme of creative wellbeing activity and community celebration events. This has also led to the consolidation of our programme into an annual calendar of events, celebrations and activities, for both our project participants and wider community.

Despite the challenges that Covid has thrown at all of the charity sector, and in particular, the ongoing financial challenges of fundraising in a more stretched economic environment, Ark-T does feel like a stronger organisation and the sense of community that surrounds the building and the team, which is so visible at our new Winter Lights and Summer Lights annual Festivals, is palpable.

Lizzy McBain
July 2022

In 2021 we delivered the following programmes:

The Art Nest

I only came in today as it was Art Nest - Year 6 pupil

I feel calm and settled and less likely to blow up in Class - Year 4 pupil

The Art Nest is a therapeutic arts intervention for children at Orchard Meadow Primary School aged 5-11 who need time out of the normal classroom environment for a number of reasons including challenging home life situations which are impacting on their ability to focus or engage in everyday lessons.

Ark-T made the strategic decision to take on management of the Art Nest (formerly the Art Room) service in 2020, just as the pandemic hit after its umbrella charity A Place to Be, made the decision to withdraw its services from Oxfordshire. We recognised the growing needs of children from this local community to have access to safe spaces which support their mental health and enable their creativity to flourish and wanted to ensure the service could continue. In the areas of Oxford Ark-T serve, just under 5000 children are living in poverty, NHS figures published in late 2019 show that there has been a 40% increase in referrals for children and adolescents seeking mental health support. We are very proud to celebrate our success in securing continued funds in 2021 following our initial campaign in 2020 from a small pool of anonymous donors and a charitable trust.

The Art Nest delivers 6 sessions per week and works with 72 children per year in blocks of 6 months. Children come to the Art Nest to see a creative project through from start to finish, including every step of the making process from sanding, to priming, to designing, painting, decorating, and varnishing. The work the children make is long lasting and is taken home and treasured for many years to come. Other parts of the session such as making and eating toast, talking, reading and discussing stories which inspire conversation about home life and friendships

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are an essential part of creating a safe space and an environment that encourages peer-led support so that children can return to the classroom calmer and with a more positive view of themselves.

At the end of 2021 we secured funding from Activate College through their Personal and Community Development Learning Funding, to start a weekly group in early 2022 for parents and carers of children attending the Art Nest to give them space and time to be creative and continue to provide therapeutic support to the whole family.

Creativity Changes Lives - funded by Children In Need, Arts Council, Tambour Foundation, Wates Foundation and individual donors

**“It is a great opportunity to really express yourself and make new friends!
I think you would enjoy it! (Creativity Camps Attendee)**

“the project has helped me feel comfortable expressing myself and exposed me to a range of new skills and passions that I would never have found otherwise”

Creativity Changes Lives is a programme of multi-arts activity for 6-25 year olds, for those experiencing multiple disadvantages to gain increased confidence in creativity, improved emotional wellbeing and a greater sense of belonging to a community. The project works with 24 individuals per week in after-school art and theatre sessions, 5 individuals per month in our Youth Council and 20-40 individuals in every school holiday at Creativity Camps.

Approximately 75% of children and young people (CYP) live in the wards of OX4, which includes areas of multiple deprivation within the 20% most deprived areas in the country. A recent report found that over a third of CYP based in Cowley - where our centres are located - are in poverty (Oxfordshire Community Foundation), with rates reaching up to 69% in the other key locations participants attend from. Many participants come from low income families who require access to food support services including food banks, and these needs have been further exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19. Over 50% of participants experience inequality due to disclosed mental health difficulties, low mood, anxiety, SEN or physical disabilities. As a result of this and/or low income, many have limited access to other activities or after school provision and therefore face increased social isolation.

Overall in 2021, we have delivered 81 weekly group sessions, and 21 Creativity Camps days, continuing to operate both provisions virtually during the lockdowns. This included a 'Winter Wellbeing Week' in February which reached nearly 50 children and young people and provided them with mental health support packs, creative materials, workshops and recipe kits in the height of the 3rd lockdown. In December we also took children and young people to a live theatre show at the North Wall.

In August 2021 we piloted Arts Award opportunities within Creativity Camps to offer young people the chance to gain a nationally recognised accreditation as part of their engagement.

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Throughout the pandemic we were able to deliver all CCL sessions online. In September 2021 we brought all weekly groups back to the centres in person. We also launched a new group HerSpace Senior + offering further leadership opportunities for 16-18 year olds.

We celebrated the work of our first Annual Martha Mary Fernback Art Prize, Rossie Martinha Lay with a solo exhibition, where we also announced the next recipient Molly, and raised over £2000 from attendees to fund her receiving support from an artist mentor for 12 months, and also have an exhibition of her work at the end of the award.

CCL young people's artwork has been showcased in 1 public exhibition alongside professional artists from across the county in a city centre gallery OVADA, and at 2 large public events: Oxford City Light Night when we became a cultural hub, as well as the international Welcoming Amal event in partnership with the Story Museum in the centre of Oxford in October half-term. Participants made banners and stood at the entrance to Christ Church Meadows and welcomed the giant puppet who had walked to Oxford all the way from Syria. It was an overwhelmingly powerful occasion and it was a unique and memorable experience for the young people who took part.

Finally, sharing tools for improved wellbeing and measuring impact on mental health has been integrated into CCL alongside our other mental wellbeing programmes, with wellbeing activity becoming a more concrete part of every session and use of WEMWBS surveys every term.

Music For Everyone funded by Youth Music

“It makes my Mondays” - Music for Everyone Project

In January 2021 the Ark-T music project was renamed Music for Everyone, and is funded by Youth Music to break down barriers to music making for LGBTQIA and Disabled young people.

This programme of work has 5 main outcomes attached to it:

1. To increase the music making skills of LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People.
2. To enhance the wellbeing of LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People.
3. To strengthen inclusion in the sector within Oxfordshire leading to improved access to music making opportunities for LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People.
4. To build a level of music expertise within the team to better serve the musical needs and aspirations of LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People.
5. To enhance leadership of LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People

Due to the pandemic, both 1-1 and group work sessions were paused in March 2020 and only recommenced online in January 2021.

Activity included:

- 1-2-1 sessions with our team of expert music freelancers
- 8 Arts Award accreditations in 1-2-1's and at Creativity Camps
- A BSL SignSong choir run by @Fletch, a nationally renowned signing choir leader - with pre-recorded performances at Oxford Pride, Ark-T's Festival or Teenagehood, Oxford Folk Weekend and ROAR Festival
- Reading Machine Sessions in collaboration with Oxford Brookes University and Oxfordshire County Libraries
- Music Taster workshops during Creativity Camps including music production, Ukulele playing and African drumming

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- and a weekly My Normal Voice music leadership group which combined with the Roarsomes later in 2021 and presented an Access All Areas: Diversifying Live Music panel and Zine at ROAR Festival.

The My Normal Voice Leadership Group also took a core role in curating and presenting our first Festival of Teenagehood event online, in partnership with the Young Oxford Creatives participants on the CCL project, in April, to showcase the work of all our youth programmes at Ark-T, and included the sharing of a film of our signing choir, and a documentary about our Blueprint Project.

The ROARsomes funded by Arts Council England and Youth Music

The ROARsomes was an arts and activism leadership group for young disabled adults in their late teens and twenties. Founded in the same year as ROAR Festival in 2017, a disability youth arts festival, the group have previously led on curating the festival and have worked closely with Cowley Road Carnival and the Winter Light Festival to bring inclusive spaces into community spaces.

The ROARsomes met weekly to create artwork in response to issues they feel passionately about. Throughout the pandemic and for much of 2021, the ROARsomes continued to meet online and produced a wide range of artwork responding to their experiences of lockdown. In September, due to low numbers as many of the participants had outgrown the group, and because of shared aims and objectives the ROARsomes combined with the Music for Everyone My Normal Voice Leadership group. Together throughout the autumn/winter term, they designed and created pop-up cards that shared their hopes and ambitions for accessible and inclusive spaces for all people. These cards, alongside artwork created during lockdown, were displayed as part of a ROARsomes exhibition at the Old Fire Station, October-December, and part of the 2021 ROAR Festival.

With the end of music project funding from Youth Music The ROARsomes disbanded at the end of 2021, however Ark-T still sit on the ROAR partnership who are currently creating a disability manifesto for culture in the city, and will be bringing the ROAR Festival back in 2022, and are continuing to create opportunities to share and celebrate the work of disabled artists. In addition, inclusion and accessibility are core values of all of our projects, and we are seeking more funding to upskill our entire staff team with training to enable all our activity to be as inclusive and accessible as possible.

The Mental Wealth Academy funded by The Department for Health and Social Care

“My young person started sessions 2 months ago - they started getting involved in 1:1 because they suffer from low mood anxiety. They like the fact that they are able to get out of the house and do something they enjoy. It has definitely boosted mood and given a reason to get up. If you could sum Ark T up in 3 words they would be Confidence building, perfect. It would be good to have options to be involved in activities for longer” - A parent of young person taking part in MWA

The Mental Wealth Academy is an innovative new project launched in 2020 designed and created by a partnership of local third sector organisations within Oxfordshire. Having been delivery partners on various mental health and wellbeing projects for the past five years, the partnership highlighted the gap in provision for those young people transitioning between children’s and adult services. These innovative and creative organisations collaborated to develop the Mental Wealth Academy.

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Together, the partnership provides modern approaches to Mental Health support responding to young peoples' needs through engaging, relatable and impactful practice. The Mental Wealth Academy offers 1-1 support, education and training for young ambassadors and workshops for parents and carers.

In 2021, our Transition Wellbeing Practitioners, Alice Dore & Jo Race, provided tailored 1-1 mental health support for 81 x 16-25-year-olds informed by talking therapies. We have continued our outreach work at a local sixth form, Larkmead, and have completed a whole term working at Abingdon and Witney College with students, offering a creative approach to wellbeing to all their students.

Our TWP's also offered creative wellbeing activity at summer Creativity Camps. These workshops used tried and tested activities developed by the TWP's to create self-esteem collage portraits, make mental health first aid kits and a food and mood creativity camp bake off. Offering these workshops across different projects at Ark-T is enabling further collaboration amongst staff, cross-fertilisation of ideas, and sharing of best practice and resources, ultimately leading to a greater sense of team, an Ark-T approach and way of delivering creative wellbeing practice, and better services for children and young people.

In our first year together, the partnership has supported over 370 young people through face-to-face and virtual 1-1 sessions, with an increased positive change in their mental health and wellbeing due to the Mental Wealth Academy support. 100% of parents and Carers who attended our workshops felt they had significantly increased their knowledge of children and young people's mental health and their ability to identify risks to their young people. Our excellent mental health ambassadors have successfully co-created workshops, created online content and continue to act as positive young role models to their peers.

Our social media presence and following flourishes, publishing high quality co-produced young person content offering advice, guidance and support.

We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved together and excited about the potential of our partnership and community reach.

In 2021, the Transitional Wellbeing Practitioners, Alice Dore and Jo Race, provided 379 sessions to 69 young people aged between 16 and 25. In total, 286 hours of mental health and wellbeing support were provided to the young people on the Ark-T Mental Wealth Academy.

Community In Reach commissioned by Oxford Health

"I found the session today to be informative and gave me clarity. I learnt how to break my worries down a bit more. I would say to a young person thinking about getting involved with Ark T that it's really nice and calm. There's no pressure and it's a good environment."

Our Community In-Reach (CIR) Programme forms part of our mental health and wellbeing support offer to children and young people aged between 11 and 16. It is designed to reduce the time in which young people struggling with mild to moderate mental health issues have to wait to receive support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Support from Oxford Health. We are commissioned by Oxford Health, via lead partner 'Response'. This 5-year contract has resulted in Ark-T strengthening our mental health offer for the local community.

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Ark-T has been part of the CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Community in Reach programme since 2017. The CiR program has had a steady stream of activity within the service with 20 YP on the caseload at all times. Cancellations or “Did not arrive” (DNA) have been minimal. Via CiR we have also participated in Team around the Family meetings for 2 YP which include Thames Valley Police, School Student Well-being and Welfare Services, and Early Help Services. These meetings not only help inform Ark-T’s practice but also lead to improved interventions for the YP concerned.

The project has made steady progress in delivering services to young people on the CiR caseload this year. Mindful therapeutic art exercises have been met with enthusiasm by young people. Two YP have reported that the Nepali Singing Bowl we used in sessions to create sound has helped them to develop better focus and concentration at school.

Young people have used many creative approaches to supporting their mental health for example using paper folding or origami techniques for YP to use as a way of inducing calm to lessen anxiety has also been well met with full engagement. This method has also been offered to YP as a distraction from self-harm. The use of various worksheets dealing with anger management and self-esteem has also shown a positive improvement in the way a few YP are engaging and dealing with behavioural difficulties and being able to recognise emotions.

As part of the mental wellbeing team at Ark-T, our CiR worker, alongside the MWA workers, and Art Nest staff, has been developing resources that can be shared across all of our programmes and is furthering the mental health and creative curriculum that will be developed for roll-out across Ark-T in 2022.

Blueprint Project funded by Thames Valley Police and Oxford City Council

“I like the Blueprint (Project), I have met people from different walks of life, people who have different lifestyles to mine and I really enjoy getting to know and understand new people and new ways of living. It (Blueprint) teaches me a lot, it helps me with a lot of my stress and allows my brain to be free I wish it was on more often but I understand that it can’t always be like that; either way Blueprint is a “win-win”.

“Blueprint has been good, I definitely enjoyed it from the start, I particularly liked it when we talked about “Beef” (resolving conflict) because it was relevant to my life at the time”.

“I don’t want to live that stupid road life anymore, hadn’t thought about some of the issues we have talked about like that before, this project gives us something positive to do”

- Blueprint Participants

The Blueprint Project was conceived in late 2019 when a coalition of Oxford based voluntary sector organisations; Ark-T, SAFE! and Donnington Doorstep and the Youth Ambition team at Oxford City Council designed a preventative programme targeted at young men facing increased risk of drug exploitation. This project is the only provision in Oxford for young men that brings together music, parenting support and mentorship provided by exploitation experts and youth work, and combines group work and 1-2-1 mentoring, with all participants having access to the music studio at Ark-T to record their work and develop skills in music production, develop their confidence in self and performing in front of others.

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The first round of the project took place in summer 2020, and then the partnership received additional funding to bring on a new cohort in summer 2021.

A primary focus of Blueprint is to build trusting relationships in safe spaces with adult men in a non-confrontational way and in a creative environment. The youth work approach is strength-based, with a particular emphasis on identifying the individual talents of the group and bringing them together to produce music which came from their stories, lives and perspectives on a range of personal and societal issues.

The following issues were raised in the referral forms, substance misuse, school exclusion, exploitation and mission episodes, witness domestic abuse, and engagement in criminality. Throughout this work there have been lively conversations, the young men have been appropriately challenged on their misconceptions and supported to develop healthy ideas and approaches to positive relationships and consent. The team have used music videos and lyrics to support the facilitation of these discussions, particularly if the young men had not felt confident addressing the topic in a group setting. The work around this subject area has been inspiring and the young men have flourished during the conversations and healthy debates on the topics, always engaging maturely. The group have used the topics to develop their own lyrics as well as contributing to 2 group pieces that will be a showcase of their work and their progress.

The project delivered 12 sessions throughout June-August 2021. The dual approach to this work (one to one mentoring and group work session) allows for young people to engage at a pace that is suitable for their current contexts and personal needs. An example of this in practice: One young man referred to the project had recently moved to Oxfordshire due to concerns about his safety in London and associated gang activity and threat. The young man was not confident enough at that point to attend the group element of the programme and was therefore supported through the one to one offer. The Lead Practitioner worked closely with social care and the young man's family and was able to gain his trust. They were eventually able to record music, again via one to one sessions, and the young man used this as a medium to open up and talk about his experiences in London. The lead practitioner was also able to offer support to the young man after he disclosed his close friend had been murdered.

OX4 Food Crew

“Having the free meals helped me so much, can't thank you enough! Waste2Taste staff are always kind and cheerful, I will miss them all”

“I want to thank you all, so so very much, from myself and my son Ben. You have helped us through, the last two years, and made our lives so much easier and fed us some amazing food.

My son is now working again, and is able to make a contribution to our house, and therefore, relieving me slightly and enabling me to have a better financial situation. We can finally afford to shop more etc. We will no longer need your amazing, kind and generous support. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and wish you all the very best”

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The OX4 Food Crew is an alliance of 9 local grassroots organisations working towards a shared mission, that “everyone in the OX4 has enough good food, are well nourished and can thrive”.

The OX4 Food Crew was initially formed in April 2020 by PPP (who run Flo’s the Place in the Park), Ark-T and Waste2Taste (a social enterprise using surplus food waste and providers of our in house cafe) in response to rising food insecurity in the local community. Initially developed as an emergency meal delivery service, the project has evolved in response to local community needs and is now a thriving place based alliance between 9 local grassroots organisations who are working together to co-produce place based systemic responses to food insecurity in our community.

Since 2020 the needs of the community have changed; whilst the risk of illness from Covid has reduced, the lasting effects of the lockdowns have continued, compounded by increases in the cost of living and cuts to universal credit. Thanks to an injection of funding in September 2021, the OX4 Food Crew has been able to continue to deliver projects that meet these needs, as well as produce a longer term strategy to address food inequality and build a more resilient local food support system in the years to come.

Food has always been central to Ark-T’s programmes – each creative session we run pivots around a shared meal or snack for nourishment and connection. During the pandemic the way we all worked had to change and our programmes moved online, but food remained central, with every participant receiving a recipe bag to make at home and eat together. We also joined the community response to make sure our neighbours were supported with food by setting up a community redistribution service at one of our centres, run by OCA (Oxford Community Action), another core OX4 Food Crew Partner.

Throughout the first half of 2021, OX4 Food Crew maintained the programme established during the pandemic, of twice weekly meal deliveries cooked at Ark-T (over 5000 throughout 2021, and 50 families supported) and the once weekly food larder operating from our hall (distributing over 10,000 food parcels).

Alongside this activity, the OX4 Food Crew partnership evolved and brought on new partners including Oxford City Farm, Oxford Mutual Aid, Donnington Doorstep, No Vice Ice and Damascus Rose Kitchen, and began a period of exploration and consolidation as the programme of activity and parallel research and development, as the partnership prepared to move in to a new phase of post-covid activity. Based on research and feedback conducted with the local community through surveys, telephone interviews and focus groups with our volunteers and recipients we are now beginning to expand and develop the partnership to move beyond the emergency pandemic driven response, to include services which help to build community food resilience. 2021 saw Ark-T’s purpose in the partnership evolve to focus on bringing people back in to the centres to connect whilst sharing food at our new monthly Community Meal as part of Hub Days beginning in February 2021, and by co-delivering free cooking for health and wellbeing courses for parents and families in collaboration with Waste2Taste and Donnington Doorstep.

We are very lucky to have worked with a dedicated team of over 50 volunteers in 2021 (over 200 across the partnership). In November 2021 the volunteers of the OX4 Food Crew received an award for outstanding contribution during Covid-19 from the High Sheriff of Oxford.

Our latest feedback survey has highlighted how involvement in this has been beneficial for our volunteers.

ARK T CENTRE

100% of our volunteers told us that volunteering for the OX4 Food Crew has positively impacted their mental health and wellbeing.

- 28.6% experienced an extremely positive impact
- 40% experienced a high positive impact

100% of our volunteers would recommend volunteering with the OX4 Food Crew to their friends.

ARK T CENTRE

THANK YOU

We have had some amazing support from funders and individuals during this period of transition.

We would particularly like to thank Lloyds Bank Foundation and their South/Central Manager Marie Hale, for their continued support during this time, not only by providing a number of consultants to audit our HR policies and facilitate sessions that led to the development of our new Business Plan and Theory of Change, but also for their additional Covid emergency grant which enabled us to recruit, for the first time in our charity's history, a Full-Time Fundraiser.

We would also like to thank the following funders for their support for programmes and core activity.

Arts Council England, Children In Need, Councillor John Saunders via the Councillors' Priority Fund, the Lord Mayor Mark Lygo, Doris Field Charitable Trust, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Mabs Mardulyn Charitable Trust, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Oxford University Small Grants Fund, Response, The Wates Foundation, The Tambour Foundation, The National Lottery, TORCH Oxford University, Youth Music, our regular monthly donors, two donors who gave major gifts for The Art Nest, and one wonderful donor who gave gifts to enable us to support our core costs.

And to the many wonderful members of the public who gave to us throughout 2021 through monthly donations and one-off donations which made a vital difference to our charity and gave us the courage to persevere. Your kindness will be remembered.

We would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to all the community organisations, community groups and individuals who hire our space, not only providing us with crucial unrestricted funding, but moreover, enabling positive activities which support the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

And to our inspirational partners:

Flo's the Place in the Park, Waste2Taste, Oxford Community Action, No Vice Ice, Damascus Rose Kitchen, SOFEA, Oxford Mutual Aid, Oxford City Farm, the OX4 Early Years Alliance, Cultural Education Partnership, SAFE!, Donnington Doorstep, The ROAR partnership organisations: Yellow Submarine, KEEN, Arts at the Old Fire Station, The Oxford Playhouse, Orchard Meadow Primary School, Modern Art Oxford, Film Oxford, GLAM, TORCH, and our partners on the mental health CAMHS partnership including Response, Oxford Health, RAW, SOFEA, TRAX, BYHP, and Oxfordshire Youth.

We are stronger together!

ARK T CENTRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARK T CENTRE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out in pages 22 - 32.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Caroline Webster FCA

UHY Ross Brooke
Suite 1 Windrush Court
Abingdon Business Park
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 1SY

Date.....27/10/22.....

ARK T CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	97,627	313,343	410,970	158,248	221,103	379,351
Charitable activities	3	11,409	2,317	13,726	28,033	-	28,033
Other trading activities	4	33,396	-	33,396	27,859	-	27,859
Other income		1,380	-	1,380	-	-	-
Investments		16	-	16	85	-	85
Total income		<u>143,827</u>	<u>315,660</u>	<u>459,488</u>	<u>214,225</u>	<u>221,103</u>	<u>435,328</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	1,881	-	1,881	1,716	427	2,143
Charitable activities	6	252,129	289,639	541,768	147,081	201,350	348,431
Total expenditure		<u>254,010</u>	<u>289,639</u>	<u>543,650</u>	<u>148,797</u>	<u>201,777</u>	<u>350,574</u>
Net income / -expenditure		- 110,183	26,021	- 84,162	65,428	19,326	84,754
Transfers between funds		<u>31,385</u>	<u>- 31,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,766</u>	<u>- 18,766</u>	
Net movement in funds		<u>- 78,798</u>	<u>- 5,364</u>	<u>- 84,162</u>	<u>84,194</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>84,754</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forwards		<u>110,710</u>	<u>110,438</u>	<u>221,148</u>	<u>26,516</u>	<u>109,878</u>	<u>136,394</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>31,912</u></u>	<u><u>105,074</u></u>	<u><u>136,986</u></u>	<u><u>110,710</u></u>	<u><u>110,438</u></u>	<u><u>221,148</u></u>

ARK T CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11		7,762		14,448
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	6,933		18,814	
Cash at bank		147,275		200,615	
		154,207		219,429	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	- 24,983		- 12,729	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			129,224		206,700
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
NET LIABILITIES			136,986		221,148
FUNDS					
INCOME FUNDS					
Unrestricted Income funds	15		31,912		110,710
Restricted income funds			105,074		110,438
TOTAL INCOME FUNDS			136,986		221,148

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 October 2022 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



.....
Helen Morton
Chairperson

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic work.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The 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 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees recognise the current financial situation of Ark-T is not ideal and that there are inevitable uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have met regularly and been engaged and informed throughout the period in scrutinizing and monitoring financial reports and budget forecasts to assess the impact on the activities of Ark-T during the year and have agreed a number of actions to reduce costs and increase income which are already showing positive results. They are confident that the outcome of these actions will enable the charity to continue as a going concern and to rebuild the reserves over the next few years.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

(b) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income, trading income and other income are recognised on a receivable basis.

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any Value Added Tax which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

- Expenditure on generating funds comprises costs associated with attracting income.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such services and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Improvements to Property	25% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	25% straight line
Musical equipment	25% straight line

(f) Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations	9,381	82,522	91,902	17,657
Gift Aid	811	-	811	-
Grants	87,435	230,821	318,256	361,694
	<u>97,627</u>	<u>313,343</u>	<u>410,970</u>	<u>379,351</u>

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Fees received	930	2,317	3,247	300
JRS grant	10,479	-	10,479	27,733
Other income	1,380	-	1,380	-
	<u>11,409</u>	<u>2,317</u>	<u>13,726</u>	<u>28,033</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4. Income from trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Café rental and venue hire	400	-	400	1,335
Rents receivable	32,996	-	32,996	26,524
	<u>33,396</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,396</u>	<u>27,859</u>

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Generating funds	1,881	-	1,881	2,143
	<u>1,881</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,881</u>	<u>2,143</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Staff	149,426	139,499	288,924	203,297
Premises	42,986	364	43,350	26,339
Office	21,140	2,375	23,515	23,787
Projects	5,302	110,644	115,945	71,345
Partnership costs	12,250	35,929	48,179	-
Renovations	-	-	-	-
Accountancy	11,295	-	11,295	13,817
Depreciation	7,713	-	7,713	7,371
Legal and professional	1,786	300	2,086	2,475
Other	231	530	760	-
Total charitable activities	<u>252,129</u>	<u>289,639</u>	<u>541,768</u>	<u>348,431</u>

7. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed, analysed by activity was:

	2021	2020
Charitable activities	13	14

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

8. Staff costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages	263,715	189,936
Social security costs	16,425	6,977
Pension costs	4,947	2,886
	285,087	199,799

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more.

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses.

Remuneration paid to key management personnel amounted to £31,191 (2020: £34,801).

Pension costs for key management personnel amounted to £639 (2020: £669).

9. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the current and prior year.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Musical Equipment	Improvements to Property	Office and IT equipment	Total
	£	£	£		£
COST					
At 1 January 2021	4,750	1,329	23,404	-	29,483
Additions	-	-	-	1,028	1,028
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	4,750	1,329	23,404	1,028	30,511
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 January 2021	2,523	810	11,702	-	15,035
Charge for the year	1,188	332	5,851	343	7,714
Written back on disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	3,711	1,142	17,553	343	22,749
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 December 2021	1,039	187	5,851	685	7,762
At 31 December 2020	2,227	519	11,702	-	14,448

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

11. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,833	17,314
Other debtors	100	1,500
	<u>6,933</u>	<u>18,814</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Taxation and social security	6,537	3,056
Accruals and other creditors	5,286	2,500
Deferred income	-	-
Trade creditors	13,160	7,173
	<u>24,983</u>	<u>12,729</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

13. Movements on restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Community In Reach	19,094	30,596	- 24,289	-, 24,012	1,389
Creativity Changes Lives	37,929	40,530	- 41,998	-	36,461
Children In Need	-	31,566	- 26,419	-	5,148
Music for Everyone	- 3,815	30,416	- 48,580	25,912	3,933
Singing	2,103	-	-	- 2,103	-
Topaz	14,269	-	-	-	14,269
The Art Nest	27,466	40,500	- 29,106	- 27,466	11,394
FamJam	999	560	- 1,404	- 155	-
Mental Wealth Academy	7,774	11,250	- 17,337	-	1,687
Blueprint Music Project	-	14,000	- 5,991	- 8,009	-
Impact Project	-	10,885	- 17,682	10,115	3,318
OX4 Free Food Crew	-	73,500	- 50,790	-	22,710
Oxford Community Action	-	23,979	- 18,312	- 5,667	-
Roarsomes	-	7,356	- 5,147	-	2,209
MARTHA 21	4,619	522	- 2,584	-	2,556
Total funds	110,438	315,660	- 289,639	- 31,385	105,074

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Movement on restricted funds 2020

	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers for grants spent on capital items	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Community In Reach	18,570	21,750	- 21,226	-	-	19,094
Carnival Physics Project	185	-	-	-	- 185	-
Creativity Changes Lives	24,952	54,144	- 41,646	-	479	37,929
Energy Efficiency	17,553	-	-	- 17,553	-	-
Health Innovation Fund	1,961	-	- 1,482	-	- 479	-
MARTHA 21	5,224	163	- 768	-	-	4,619
Music for Everyone	24,229	1,850	- 29,894	-	-	- 3,815
Our Voice is Power	169	-	-	-	- 169	-
ROAR	396	5,920	- 6,709	-	393	-
SEN	1,260	-	-	-	- 1,260	-
Singing	697	3,616	- 2,210	-	-	2,103
Step Change	107	21,580	- 22,533	-	846	-
Topaz	14,575	-	- 306	-	-	14,269
The Art Nest	-	43,060	- 15,594	-	-	27,466
ACE MT Access	-	1,172	- 664	-	- 508	-
Blueprint Music Project	-	7,631	- 7,301	-	- 330	-
FamJam	-	999	-	-	-	999
Mental Wealth Academy	-	30,000	- 22,226	-	-	7,774
OX4 Free Food Crew	-	23,088	- 23,088	-	-	-
Oxford Kindness Wave	-	6,130	- 6,130	-	-	-
Total funds	<u>109,878</u>	<u>221,103</u>	<u>- 201,777</u>	<u>- 17,553</u>	<u>- 1,213</u>	<u>110,438</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

14. Movement on unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	110,710	143,827	- 254,010	31,385	31,912
	<u>110,710</u>	<u>143,827</u>	<u>- 254,010</u>	<u>31,385</u>	<u>31,912</u>

Movement on unrestricted funds 2020

	Balance at 1 January 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers for grants spent on capital items	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	26,516	214,225	- 148,797	17,553	1,213	110,710
	<u>26,516</u>	<u>214,225</u>	<u>- 148,797</u>	<u>17,553</u>	<u>1,213</u>	<u>110,710</u>

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible assets	7,762	-	7,762
Current assets	49,133	105,074	154,207
Creditors within one year	- 24,983	-	- 24,983
Net assets	<u>31,912</u>	<u>105,074</u>	<u>136,986</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

BBC Children in Need: Funds our Creativity Changes Lives programme including term time sessions and holiday activities, aiming to increase the wellbeing, resilience and leadership skills of some of the most deprived children and young people in Oxford City.

Oxford Health/Response: Funds two CAMHS projects - Community In Reach, and the Mental Wealth Academy, funding two full-time salaries of mental health support workers to run 1:1 Creative mentoring sessions for young people aged 11-25 experiencing mild to moderate mental health crises.

Oxford City Council: Core funds Ark-T as one of their Cultural Partners and offered additional core funding through Business Rates Grants.

They also funded us to be a part of their annual Christmas Lights Festival as one of four cultural hub venues across Oxford City, and to improve our green spaces in partnership with Templars Square Shopping Centre through the Green Neighbourhood Grant. OCC's Holiday Activity Fund funded Creativity Camps during the Christmas school holidays.

Oxfordshire Community Foundation: OCF's Healthy Relationships Fund funds Roarsomes session delivery costs and salary costs for two facilitators on The Blueprint Project.

Lloyds Bank Foundation: Funded our Impact project to establish impact monitoring systems at Ark-T and the production of an Impact report in 2021/22. The Lloyds Covid Fund funded a temporary fundraising position within the team.

Arts Council England: Covid Response grants towards Ark-T core (Covid Relief Fund, Cultural Recovery Fund & Resilience Fund)

TORCH (Oxford University): Granted £3,000 towards ROAR Festival.

Oxfordshire County Council: Holiday Activity Fund for Ark-T and Syrian Sisters to deliver Creativity Camps holiday workshops through the school holidays

Youth Music: Funds our Music for Everyone project including 1:1's in music production & lyric writing, a SingSign Choir, and My Normal Voice Leadership group

ARK - T CENTRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1079495

Accounts



ARK·T

**ARK-T
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2020**

CHARITY NUMBER: 1079495

ARK T CENTRE

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

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ARK T CENTRE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registered charity name	Ark T Centre
Charity number	1079495
Principal & registered office address	Crowell Road Oxford OX4 3LN
Trustees	Helen Morton (Chairperson) Hazel Douglas Dr Andrew Gant Giles Davies (resigned 23 June 2021) Sharon Evans Ros Loten (resigned 23 June 2021) Shakeel Marham (joined 8 April 2020) Dr Eleanor Vogel (joined 25 September 2019 and resigned 23 June 2021) Heather Payne (resigned 5 August 2020)
Accountants	SPX Oxford Ltd Peace House 19 Paradise Street Oxford OX1 1LD
Independent examiner	Caroline Webster FCA UHY Ross Brooke Windrush Court Abingdon Business Park Suite 1 Bucklands Way Abingdon OX14 1SY
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing Kent

Chair Person's Statement

The past year has been very challenging for Ark T with the continuing impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the charity, our staff and participants and the community. However, I am extremely proud of the way in which everyone at Ark T has responded and of the strength and resilience that they have shown in dealing with these difficult circumstances, including working from home and delivering sessions online where needed. The organisation has continued to grow and we have demonstrated our flexibility in adapting services and activities and in developing new partnerships so that we can still meet the needs of our participants and communities – who would have thought that one of our key activities in 2020 would be to run regular food banks in our centres with the OX4 Free Food Crew and Oxford Community Action!

Our co-CEOs have done an amazing job in keeping the charity going and in working with funders to adapt or pause projects so that where possible we were still able to provide creative projects and enrichment opportunities such as Blueprint, the Art Nest, Music for Everyone, Creativity Camps and the Kindness Wave for children. They were also really successful in raising emergency funding to enable us to keep going and to cope with the significant loss of general income from hiring our centres. For example, we received our first ever grant from the Arts Council England which was a real accolade and shows how our reputation has grown. We took the difficult decision to furlough several project staff at the height of the lockdown but I am pleased to report that almost all our staff are now fully back at work.

Despite the seeming affluence of Oxford, there are several parts of the city which remain severely deprived. Ark T is based in Cowley which is one of the top 20% most deprived wards in the UK and we use the powers of creativity and community to change lives and inspire community driven social change. We can see the impact of our work in many ways, from delivering weekly group sessions to children and young people to give a stronger sense of belonging to a community, offering 1-2-1 creative mentoring to increase confidence and build emotional resilience and wellbeing to exploring leadership and creativity, leading to opportunities in further education, training and employment.

We have taken several steps forward as an organisation. We reviewed our values for Ark T which are now 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Yourself and Be a Change Maker'; we have been working with external consultants on improving our impact measurement, governance and strategic planning; and we have developed a staff appraisal process and introduced a pay structure. The Covid-19 crisis continues to have an impact on us in 2021 and we expect that it will be 2022 before we can look at any growth in room hire income and a more usual way of running our projects but I am confident that Ark T will continue to adapt and innovate to meet participant and community needs.

I would again like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks, gratitude and appreciation to all the funders, donors and partners with whom we work and especially to all of our team who share our vision and believe in the power of our work and the potential of the people we work with. The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.



Helen Morton
Chair of Ark-T

ARK T CENTRE

Administrative details are shown on page 2

The charity is also grateful to the following staff and artists in residence.

Team

CEO: Emmy O'Shaughnessy
Interim Maternity Cover CEO: Micaela Tuckwell
co-CEO: Lizzy McBain (formerly Children In Need Project Manager)
Lisa Bates (Children In Need Project Manager)
Alice Dore (Youth Wellbeing Manager)
Cait Sweeney (Creative Adults Project Manager)
Hannah Bruce (Youth Music Project Manager)
Rachel Hughes (Youth Music Project Manager)
Anna Martin (Centre Development Manager)
Kezia Johnson (Bookings Officer)
Hazel Wilson (Marketing and Comms)
Lauren Baldwin (Community In Reach Worker)
Nicky Weiner (Community In Reach Worker)
Minty Hoyer-Millar (ROAR Festival Assistant)
Su Frizzell (Lead arts practitioner)

Artists in Residence

Cecilia Macfarlane Bidy Hudson Su Frizzell

Website

www.ark-t.org

Twitter @ArkTOxford
Facebook /ArkTOxford

Objective

The charity's objective is the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic works.

Trustee recruitment and induction

Trustees are recruited according to the skills needed on the board. Trustees are invited to meet with prospective trustees and the CEOs on a 1-1 and group basis and are then voted through a majority vote. Trustees are then required to submit a DBS certificate and attend safeguarding training if it is not already in place. Trustees are then invited to 1-1 meetings with staff to be introduced to projects.

The trustees receive regular e-bulletins from the Charity Commission and others regarding relevant updates in legislation.

Reserves

Reserves are defined as unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charitable purposes of the Charity (the Ark T Centre). Funds such as restricted income funds, the balance of restricted grants, tangible fixed assets and any investment funds are excluded from the

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reserves. Reserves are held to meet any unexpected spending requirements and unforeseen day-to-day operational costs, any shortfall in income from donations or grants, any delays in receiving grant payments and to fulfil the obligations of the Charity (the Ark T Centre).

Our Beneficiaries are individuals and groups with complex needs who are often vulnerable and facing multiple disadvantages. They come to the Charity (the Ark T Centre) for creative arts activities and rely on the Charity to provide them with ongoing access to support, guidance, mentoring, creative outlets, skills training and information and they would be adversely affected if the Centre was unable to operate and provide them with these outlets and support.

The Trustees therefore consider that a suitable policy for this Charity (the Ark T Centre) is to hold in reserves the equivalent of a minimum of three to six months of general operating costs including salary costs. This policy and the level of reserves will be reviewed once a year by the Trustees.

We currently hold £110,000 in unrestricted reserves which is the equivalent of three months general operating costs for the Charity (the Ark T Centre). We aim to maintain the reserves at the planned level of a minimum of three months of general operating costs by increasing our fundraising activity and identifying suitable donors and organisations from whom general donations for this purpose can be requested.

Risk management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, undertaken on a regular basis;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to manage and mitigate those identified risks; and
- Implementation of actions to minimise the potential impact of those risks on the charity, should they materialise.

The main area of risk to which the charity is exposed is financial risk, in particular due to the impact of Covid-19 and the consequent loss of bookings income and any reduction or lack of success in securing funding for core costs. Key elements in the management of this area of risk, included in the Business Plan, are identifying new funders for core costs, negotiating for longer term financial commitments from existing funders, attracting new donors, strengthening performance reporting to funders and donors and achieving a satisfactory level of reserves.

ARK T CENTRE

MISSION STATEMENT: We use the powers of creativity and human connection to change lives

VALUES: Be Brave, Be Kind, Be True to Yourself and Aim High

The problems we are tackling:

- 29% of children in Oxford live below the poverty line (Indices of Deprivation, 2019)
- Number of Oxfordshire young people seeking help from mental health services has risen by 40% in the last 2 years
- 3 of our local state schools in East Oxford are currently in special measures
- 50% of people aged 65 and over in Oxfordshire, say TV or pets are their main company
- Half of all LGBTQ people have experienced depression in the last year.
- Only 11% of workers in England Arts Council NPO organisations are from Global Majority backgrounds and only 6% of arts workforce identify as disabled, and are therefore vastly under-represented

Ark-T is an Arts and Community organisation with two centres based in Cowley, Oxford, in the heart of one of the 20% most deprived areas in the United Kingdom. Despite being in one of the richest cities in the country, many people who live in the surrounding area experience multiple inequalities.

When we say the word inequality we mean two things:

1. People are not having their basic needs met in housing, education, employment, and health
2. People are marginalised by class, gender, sexuality, disability, and race and poverty

These multiple, complex disadvantages lead to poor mental and physical health, barriers to education and employment, less chance to be heard, and reduced opportunity to come together and celebrate.

We use creativity to tackle the inequality in our community, through transformative programmes that unlock people's potential. People of all ages come here to make art, make friendships and make change in their own lives, and the world around them.

Our vision is for the communities in this area to become recognised for their creative talent and leadership and are no longer labelled as victims of a system of inequality, but are instead celebrated as powerful makers of creativity and community-led change.

There are no quick fixes, or short projects which will deal with the deep systemic issues of inequality in Oxford. We take a partnership approach, prioritising long term system-change in order to tackle these problems. We know that diversity of thinking and the courage to think, plan, and take action will make the meaningful and lasting change we know is possible.

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Our Unstoppable Vision

We will not stop until:

- All those who want to participate, and gain life-changing benefits of, the arts in Oxford have the opportunity
- We see much better mental health and resilience in our communities
- We see more people from deprived areas with fulfilling jobs, volunteering roles and further training opportunities
- There is greater representation of marginalised voices and stories shaping the arts.
- We are a fully inclusive organisation, including our workforce. This looks like disabled, working class and/or Global Majority people leading the organisation.
- We can see the creative talent we cultivate in our communities, making a difference to where people live.
- We see a new wave of cultural leaders who are rooted in their communities, using their creative skills to enhance their lives and the lives of others.

Mission

We use the powers of Creativity and Community to change lives and inspire community-driven social change. We passionately believe that creativity and community are powerful resources that can regenerate people's mental health, their vision for their lives and the world around them.

We facilitate this through:

- Providing person-centred, creative education & training & pathways to volunteering & employment.
- Creating opportunities for communities to come together to put on events & share transformational experiences.
- Creating a safe and inclusive space where everyone in our community has the opportunity to take part in the arts, and experience the positive impact creativity has on mental & physical health.

We are particularly concerned that the creative arts are being removed from state education and that this is having a damaging impact on children and young people's mental health. Our work with families, and our focus on different generations coming together to be creative, is a key way we contribute to keeping our community healthy and happy.

Diversity in the arts is central to our vision and mission. We want to see everybody having equal access into creativity and work strategically with partners to champion better inclusion.

Creativity is about imagination, play, and self-expression. Community is about connection, acceptance and belonging. Together both can change lives and create powerful communities.

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Our participants

- Gain artistic and leadership skills
- Take part in accreditations such as Arts Awards
- Make new friendships and learn essential group work and social skills
- Build confidence & self-expression, and learn to value their individuality & self-manage their mental health
- Take part in volunteering and training that leads to employment
- Have their creativity and achievements celebrated in sessions, exhibitions, performances and events

*"At Ark-T I feel good and I can see my friends'
it's allowed me to do things I never would have, physically and mentally."*

Charity Activity

Statement from Co-CEO, Emmy O'Shaughnessy

When Covid19 reached the United Kingdom, and the country was placed in lockdown in March 2020, our charity shut its two centres in Cowley, Oxford and made the difficult decision to place 6 members of the team on furlough. Overnight, we lost 100% of the unrestricted income we received for the hire of our two venues and faced imminent crisis.

With a vastly reduced staffing body, we worked through the first 6 months of the pandemic, from March 2020 to October 2020, to establish a frontline response, primarily through emergency food distribution and creative arts parcels to children, young people and vulnerable adults. With Covid-secure measures in place, we were able to deliver one in-house project, Blueprint, which delivered a music and mentorship project to predominantly young Black men from OX4. This work produced a documentary and music video addressing the impact of police violence and structural racism and sends a strong message of hope and empowerment, particularly resonant in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the following wave of Black Lives Matter protests.

We forged new partnerships with local organisations working on the frontline, and witnessed extraordinary courage and resilience, with the shared recognition that together we could bring much better and more coordinated support to those in need.

Alongside this work, we prioritised securing funding to ensure our long-term viability. We were thrilled to receive substantial funding from the Arts Council England - Cultural Recovery Fund, without which we would not have survived. We are profoundly grateful.

We faced difficult decisions when restructuring the staffing of two of our programmes, both our Youth Music Programme and our Community In-Reach Programme, which meant we carried through a redundancy process for the part-time job shares on both projects, in order to create more capacity and sustainability. We would like to acknowledge the difficult impact this had on the team members involved, during an already heightened time of stress and uncertainty. We

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appreciate your integrity, courage and understanding and we have learned much from navigating this previously uncharted territory.

From October 2020, we welcomed back several of our team from furlough, and started up the adaptation of our youth creative arts programmes to deliver them online.

2020 was a year of relentless change and crisis management. We want to acknowledge the difficulties faced by our team to endure this time, cope with adapting programmes to a virtual space, and manage on an ongoing basis to provide outstanding services of quality and compassion to the children, families and young people. Thank you for your profoundly moving service to our communities.

Emmy O'Shaughnessy
July 2021

In 2020 we delivered the following programmes:

The Art Nest

The Art Room was a therapeutic arts intervention which was based within primary and secondary schools. Founded in Oxford over 15 years ago, the charity opened up 'Art Rooms' across the United Kingdom. A Place to Be, a national mental health charity, merged with The Art Room in 2018 and in late 2019 made the decision to withdraw all services from Oxfordshire. Ark-T made the strategic decision to find funding to secure the Art Room service in Orchard Meadow Primary School, recognizing the growing needs of children from this local community to have access to safe spaces which support their mental health and enable their creativity to flourish.

In the areas of Oxford Ark-T serve, just under 5000 children are living in poverty, NHS figures published in late 2019 show that there has been a 40% increase in referrals for children and adolescents seeking mental health support. With the erosion of universal services aimed to reach children and families on the edge of crisis, we have been witnessing an unprecedented number of children and young people going into state care. We knew that this small but vital service was essential to preserve and we launched a local campaign, utilising media and philanthropic networks to seek funding.

We are very proud to celebrate our success in securing funds from a small pool of anonymous donors and a charitable trust following our campaign in February 2020 which enabled us to employ Clare Keep (formerly Manager of The Art Room) and rename the project as 'The Art Nest'. From May 2020, The Art Nest began delivery of sessions in Orchard Meadow Primary School and to date has delivered over 80 sessions to children. Throughout the lockdowns of 2020, The Art Nest remained open with children of keyworkers and vulnerable children being able to access a therapeutic space where they could process and play. We are very excited for its future.

The Roarsomes

"Lock down has made me worse with my anxiety."

L, a member of the ROARsomes

"Roarsomes keeps me happy, entertained, occupied and safe."

L, a member of the ROARsomes

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"Of course it's not the same as in person, but it's live in a sense. Basically, I'm so grateful to be able to meet up. Zoom is my life now. We've learned a lot."

M, a member of the ROARsomes

The ROARsomes are an arts and activism leadership group for disabled adults. Founded in the same year as ROAR Festival in 2017, a disability youth arts festival, the group have led on curating the festival and have worked closely with Cowley Road Carnival and the Winter Light Festival to bring inclusive spaces into community spaces.

The ROARsomes meet weekly and create artwork in response to issues they feel passionately about. Throughout the pandemic, the ROARsomes continued to meet online and produced a wide range of artwork responding to their experiences of lockdown. Their work featured in the windows of our Centre in Cowley as part of the Light Festival in December 2020, large scale hearts with positive words of affirmation lit up so that members of the public passing by, could be energised and encouraged to reflect. The Lead Artist worked tirelessly to deliver art materials to the houses of the ROARsomes so they could continue to make and create from home and join in virtually. This session remaining a constant for the participants throughout the lockdown was a priority and the work produced in response to the pandemic was visually arresting and thought-provoking.

Creativity Changes Lives funded by Children In Need

"I think it is the leadership skills that I see the most and the opportunity to not only feel that she has some agency but to actually be out there, making a difference."

- parent

"I live for these sessions. They are the highlight of my week. My sister has depression and I am bullied and this helps me forget my problems."

- T, IYC participant

Creativity Changes Lives is a programme of multi-arts activity for 6-25 year olds, for those experiencing multiple disadvantages, working with: 21 individuals per week in after-school sessions, 5 individuals per month in evening sessions and 20 individuals per half-term in holiday sessions, 60 family members per year in theatre trips

Approximately 75% of children and young people (CYP) live in the wards of OX4, which includes areas of multiple deprivation within the 20% most deprived areas in the country. A recent report found that over a third of CYP based in Cowley - where our centres are located - are in poverty (Oxfordshire Community Foundation), with rates reaching up to 69% in the other key locations participants attend from. Many participants come from low income families who require access to food support services including food banks, and these needs have been further exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19.

A quarter of participants are disabled or have disclosed mental health difficulties, low mood, anxiety or low confidence before the pandemic; we believe the figure for the latter has since increased significantly. As a result of this and/or low income, many have limited access to other activities or after school provision and therefore face increased social isolation.

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In March 2020, weekly sessions for the Herspace Senior project, Herspace Junior project, International Young Company and Young Oxford Creatives were sadly placed on hold with the Project Manager, Lisa, placed on furlough until May 2020 when she returned and worked with the Oxfordshire Kindness Wave partnership to coordinate the delivery of creative parcels to the children and young people on our Children In Need funded projects. We collaborated with Waste2Taste to integrate cooking sessions into the programme which encouraged families to cook together and learn new and affordable recipes.

Alongside this, Lisa worked incredibly hard to organise the adaptation of delivery for the children and young people on the programme and delivered the following activities with a team of dedicated and skilled arts practitioners, reaching 116 young people in 2020.

- School Holiday Creativity Camps: Summer 'Holidaying at Home' which brought together a digital workshop series enabling CYP and their families to create their own 'paradise'.
- October Half-term Holiday Activities: The 'Power of Us' project which developed a collaborative printmaking/collage project with renowned Oxford Bodleian Library resulting in a professionally printed publication exhibited at Bodleian and a city centre gallery 'OVADA'.
- December panto performance which enabled 15 x households to attend a live online performance by a professional theatre company

Young Oxford Creatives – The Ark-T Youth Council was founded in 2019 and creates a platform for young people on the Creativity Changes Lives programme to develop leadership skills, plan and deliver events and feed into programme design and development. In 2020, 7 x 1.5-2 hour remote sessions were delivered monthly on Monday evenings along with 1 x online public showcase event co-produced by the group.

Again, we were grateful to Children In Need for providing consistent support throughout the lockdowns as we worked hard to adapt plans according to capacity and the needs of the children and young people.

Music Against Prejudice funded by Youth Music

"It's almost like you were invented with them in mind. This is a real ray of light."

Parent of Youth Music Programme

In 2019, we were proud to have been awarded the FUND B level of grant from Youth Music to break down barriers to music making for LGBTQIA and Disabled young people.

This programme of work has 5 main outcomes attached to it:

1. To increase the music making skills of LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People.
2. To enhance the wellbeing of LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People.
3. To strengthen inclusion in the sector within Oxfordshire leading to improved access to music making opportunities for LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People.
4. To build a level of music expertise within the team to better serve the musical needs and aspirations of LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People.
5. To enhance leadership of LGBTQIA and SEN/D Young People

Due to the pandemic, both 1-1 and group work sessions were paused in March 2020 due to the decision to place both members of the team on furlough. In August 2020, we restructured the

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staffing model for the music programme and Hannah Bruce, formerly part-time, accepted a full-time position. Returning in November 2020 to re-design the music programme to be adapted for online delivery, we relaunched the project as 'Music for Everyone' in January 2021. The support and understanding of Youth Music was instrumental in our ability to sustain this vital work and we extend our heartfelt thanks to the team and our grant manager.

The Mental Wealth Academy funded by The Department for Health and Social Care

The Mental Wealth Academy is an innovative new project designed and created by a partnership of local third sector organisations within Oxfordshire. Having been delivery partners on various mental health and wellbeing projects for the past four years, the partnership highlighted the gap in provision for those young people transitioning between children's and adult services. These innovative and creative organisations collaborated to develop the Mental Wealth Academy.

Together, the partnership provides modern approaches to Mental Health support responding to young peoples' needs through engaging, relatable and impactful practice. The Mental Wealth Academy offers 1-1 support, Education and Training for young ambassadors and workshops for parents and Carers.

We employed our first Transition Wellbeing Practitioner in April 2020 who worked tirelessly to provide tailored 1-1 mental health support or 16-25-year-olds informed by talking therapies. In our first year together, the partnership has supported over 370 young people through face-to-face and virtual 1-1 sessions, with an increased positive change in their mental health and wellbeing due to the Mental Wealth Academy support. 100% of parents and Carers who attended our workshops felt they had significantly increased their knowledge of children and young people's mental health and their ability to identify risks to their young people. Our excellent mental health ambassadors have successfully co-created workshops, created online content and continue to act as positive young role models to their peers.

Our social media presence and following flourishes, publishing high quality co-produced young person content offering advice, guidance and support.

We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved together and excited about the potential of our partnership and community reach.

In 2020, the Transition Wellbeing Practitioner, Alice Dore, provided 286 sessions to 58 young people aged between 16 and 25. In total, 270 hours of mental health and wellbeing support were provided to the young people on the Ark-T Mental Wealth Academy.

Blueprint funded by Thames Valley Police and Oxford City Council

"I have more confidence, I have been learning how to use my chest to sing and make music. I am more confident and have better energy. I started out shy and now I feel more confident. "

Blueprint Participant

The Blueprint Project was conceived in late 2019 when a coalition of Oxford based voluntary sector organisations; Ark-T, SAFE! and Donnington Doorstep and the Youth Ambition team at Oxford City Council designed a preventative programme targeted at young men facing increased risk of drug exploitation. This project is the only provision in Oxford for young men that brings together music, parenting support and mentorship provided by exploitation experts and youth work. This group was predominantly led by Black artists and youth workers with the majority of the

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young men aged between 11 and 15, identifying as black. The importance of the group was that they were all coming together to discuss topics which relate to race, risk and exploitation.

A primary focus of Blueprint was to build trusting relationships in safe spaces with adult men in a non-confrontational way and in a creative environment. The youth work approach was strength-based, with a particular emphasis on identifying the individual talents of the group and bringing them together to produce music which came from their stories, lives and perspectives on a range of personal and societal issues.

The following issues were raised in the referral forms, substance misuse, school exclusion, exploitation and mission episodes, witness domestic abuse, and engagement in criminality. Some of these issues were disclosed at the point of referral, whilst others emerged as relationships were built in the course of the project.

- All of the young men were identified as being at risk of exploitation
- 2 had experienced missing episodes
- 4 members of the group were struggling with substance misuse issues
- 3 members of the group were living in poverty
- 1 young man has refused school
- 2 x young men have been excluded from school (1 permanent exclusion)
- 2 x young men have been involved in knife related incidents
- 1 young man who had witnessed Domestic Violence
- 2 x young men experiencing isolation
- 1 young man in foster care
- 3 x young men didn't have positive role models in their lives
- Only 1 young man in the project lived with their father.

The project delivered 17 sessions in 2020, with artists and youth workers operating under strict Covid-19 secure guidelines in our centres.

The documentary and music video made by the talented Sam Mansell at DAW Media can be found on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x_m3-bzr1o

Community In Reach commissioned by Oxford Health

Our Community In-Reach (CIR) Programme forms part of our mental health and wellbeing support offer to children and young people aged between 8 and 18. It is designed to reduce the time in which young people struggling with mild to moderate mental health issues have to wait to receive support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Support from Oxford Health. We are commissioned by Oxford Health, via lead partner 'Response'. This 5-year contract has resulted in Ark-T strengthening our mental health offer for the local community.

In 2020, both CIR workers adapted delivery to providing online mental health resources to young people affected by the pandemic. In May 2020, one of our CIR workers went on long-term sick leave returning to a new adapted role in October 2020 as our Community Outreach Practitioner. We restructured the staffing model, carrying out a redundancy process and transitioning from two part-time Community In-Reach Workers to one full-time Community In-Reach Worker who we recruited in December 2020.

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The Martha Mary Fernback Prize funded by iwill via Oxfordshire Community Foundation and a range of private donors

The Martha Mary Fernback Prize enabled Ark-T to launch an arts award which provided a 16 year-old young woman from a deprived area of Oxford win 12 months of intensive mentoring from an established female artist alongside life-coaching to support her self-esteem and aspirations. During 2020, sessions with the mentor were placed on pause and resumed in Spring 2021. Ark-T plans to curate, with the young woman, an exhibition of her work in 2021.

Covid-19 Response Projects

The Oxfordshire Kindness Wave

"I will always remember your kindness; this means a lot to me. Thank you everyone who made this possible, for holding young people in mind. These amazing warming parcels indeed give a sense of comfort, love, kindness and hope."

Young person with care experience

"We will never forget opening the door and receiving a creative parcel was just the best day. I am a kinship carer for my grandchild and on my own with them. What happened today was just magical and beautiful for that I thank you for holding us in mind."
Grandparent

In the early summer of 2020, Ark-T were honoured to join the partnership with Populate Co-op, Virtual School and many other wonderful organisations, artists and practitioners through the Oxfordshire Kindness Wave movement.

Oxfordshire Kindness Wave was a 'love powered response' to Covid-19, holding children, young people and carers in mind and sending out creative wellbeing parcels throughout the pandemic to inspire and share **Love, Hope, Kindness and Comfort**.

Children In Need were kind enough to support us adapting our delivery of our youth arts programme to enable this initiative and project manager Lisa Bates, along with artists and Clare Keep from The Art Nest managed a superb effort and worked with heart and integrity, to offer creativity and connection while we were unable to create together in person.

Over 619 parcels were distributed to children and young people in Oxford, 294 wellbeing parcels to Carers were distributed in alliance with the Virtual School for Looked After Children, and 268 parcels were distributed to disabled young people and adults via our ROAR partnership network.

For more information, you can visit: <https://oxfordshirekindnesswave.org.uk/about/>

Partnership with Waste2Taste and The OX4 Free Food Crew

"When Waste2taste moved into Ark T in November 2019 we immediately knew we had found our perfect home.

Ethically Ark T are a perfect fit for us and we quickly settled in and our business grew from strength to strength.

In March 2020 when the pandemic happened we were not sure we would survive it, but survive we did and that was largely due to the Love and compassion of the Ark T team. The support Ark T have given to Waste2taste has been truly phenomenal. Partnering with them and Flo's - the Place in the Park has been our most wonderful community project and we could not be more proud of what we have all achieved. We are so grateful to work under the nurturing umbrella of Ark T, we are most definitely stronger together."

Marie Lehri and Sandra Ruge, Directors of Waste2Taste

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"You have saved me so much, Thank you. Things have been so difficult for me and my family since my hours were reduced to 6 a week. You made my week, month. Just to see the happiness again on my kids face. You are angels"

Recipient of OX4 Free Food Support

"Thank you for all your loving support, you have made what has been a very difficult Year, a little bit more bearable. Thank you very much for all the great work you have done. With love"

Recipient of OX4 Free Food Support

Food has always been central to Ark-T's programmes – each creative session we run pivots around a shared meal or snack for nourishment and connection. During the pandemic the way we all worked had to change and our programmes moved online, but food remained central, with every participant receiving a recipe bag to make at home and eat together. We also joined the community response to make sure our neighbours were supported with food by setting up a community larder at one of our centres.

Our community food larder based in Cowley, provided over 2000 parcels to families and individuals in need from April 2020 to September 2020. We would like to expressly thank the volunteers who enabled this operation to be a success, with particular mention to Tim Johnson, and the brilliant dedication shown by our Centre Development Manager, Anna Martin, supported by Kezia Johnson, in coordinating the efforts.

Together with our partners we created the OX4 Food Crew partnership in May 2020 to address food inequality in our area during the pandemic and beyond. OX4 Food Crew (OX4FC) was initially founded by Ark-T, Flo's - the Place in the Park and Waste2Taste in response to the rising levels of food inequality in OX4, which were exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic. Founded in April 2020, the initial organisations quickly responded to local needs by delivering nutritious cooked meals to people experiencing food insecurity in the local area. These include single parents, people with long term health conditions/disabilities and elderly and people who are vulnerably housed. A total of 15,112 meals have been cooked and delivered to date.

Based on research and feedback conducted with the local community through surveys, telephone interviews and focus groups with our volunteers and recipients we are now beginning to expand and develop the partnership to move beyond the emergency pandemic driven response, to include services which help to build community food resilience. So far, these include free cooking for health and wellbeing courses for parents as well as 'Pay as you feel' community meals. We have also expanded our partnership to work with other diversity led and grassroots organisations based in OX4 including: Oxford Community Action, Damascus Rose Kitchen and No Vice Ice CIC. As a coalition of organisations, our aim is to work with our local communities to co-investigate and design flexible community led support and innovations that will help build food resilience in the local area, alongside ongoing emergency food support.

Over 65 volunteers from the local community have enabled this response project to create the impact achieved. You are heroes.

Partnership with Oxford Community Action

"The wonderful team at Ark-T have been an absolute godsend for the collective communities under OCA. When we were struggling for space at our old venue, Ark-T immediately responded and offered a place for us to operate in a much more spacious and comfortable hall, which meant more of our volunteers could get involved to help the rest of our communities."

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Our team has built up a LOT of love and respect for everyone at Ark-T for being so accommodating and for taking the time to truly understand the needs of our communities and then working with us to help us achieve our aims. We couldn't have asked for a better partner! Ark-T's aim to forge a future free from inequality resonates with us on so many levels - and that excites us all for our future together."

Muhajid, Director of Oxford Community Action

In September 2020, we set up a new partnership with Oxford Community Action, a Black-led grassroots organisation committed to alleviating inequality in Oxford. Ark-T provided free use of our centre so they could safely continue their successful food distribution service for families living in poverty. OCA delivered up to 500 emergency food parcels every week with a team of 40 Community Champion volunteers involved in the operation. We worked closely to establish a new relationship with many exciting initiatives in the pipeline for closer collaboration.

Winter Holiday Campaign of Love

In November 2020, we knew that the festive period would be a time for anxiety and isolation for many members of our community, facing increasing economic hardship and the prolonged negative impacts on mental health induced by the national crisis.

We launched a 30-day public campaign to generate presents and food parcels for families in need and were thrilled to be able to deliver over 350 parcels containing gifts and festive food for families in our community. It was a mass effort of volunteers, local partners, members of the public and a local fund, along with our staff team which made this possible. We received phenomenal feedback from families who expressed their relief at knowing their children would receive beautiful gifts and that food would be in their cupboards throughout the school holidays.

THANK YOU

In 2020, we faced enormous uncertainty about our future. The ability to be responsive to our communities at their time of need relied upon the flexibility and responsiveness of our funders who backed us, and gave us the resilience and courage we needed to keep going. This year, it feels essential to thank these wonderful funders; the individuals, the trusts, foundations and the statutory bodies, who came through for us in our time of need and in our communities' time of need.

We would like to thank Lloyds Bank Foundation for their support during this time, not only funding our initiative to design and drive a new impact framework for our work but also for their additional Covid emergency grant which enabled us to recruit, for the first time in our charity's history, a Full-Time Fundraiser.

To the funders who have enabled us to stretch our ambitions and create significantly more impact, inspiring us to sustain our hope and reinforce our commitment throughout the pandemic. Thank you...

Arts Council England, CAF Corona Virus Emergency Fund, Children In Need, Councillor John Saunders via the Councillors' Priority Fund, Councillor Mark Lygo via the Councillors' Priority Fund, Doris Field Charitable Trust, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire

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County Council, Mabs Mardulyn Charitable Trust, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Oxford University Small Grants Fund, Response, The Wates Foundation, The Tambour Foundation, The National Lottery, TORCH Oxford University, Youth Music, our regular monthly donors, two donors who gave major gifts for The Art Nest, and 1 wonderful donor who gave gifts to enable us to support our core costs.

And to the many wonderful members of the public who gave to us throughout 2020 through monthly donations and one-off donations which made a vital difference to our charity and gave us the courage to persevere. Your kindness will be remembered.

We would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to all the community organisations, community groups and individuals who hire our space, not only providing us with crucial unrestricted funding, but moreover, enabling positive activities which support the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

And to our inspirational partners:

Cowley Road Works, Cultural Education Partnership, SAFE!, Donnington Doorstep, The ROAR partnership organisations: Yellow Submarine, KEEN, Arts at the Old Fire Station, The Oxford Playhouse, Orchard Meadow Primary School, Modern Art Oxford, Film Oxford, GLAM, and our partners on the mental health CAMHS partnership including Response, Oxford Health, RAW, SOFEA, TRAX, BYHP, and Oxfordshire Youth.

To all our partners on the Covid-19 frontline response projects; Flo's, Waste2Taste, Oxford Together, Oxford Community Action, SOFEA, and the Oxfordshire Kindness Wave, Populate and the Virtual School for Looked After Children.

We are stronger together and we will recover together.

ARK T CENTRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARK T CENTRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out in pages 19 - 27.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

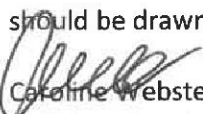
Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Caroline Webster FCA
UHY Ross Brooke
Abingdon OX14 1SY

Date... 11 October 2021...

ARK T CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	158,248	221,103	379,351	46,776	227,702	274,478
Charitable activities	3	28,033	-	28,033	-	-	-
Other trading activities	4	27,859	-	27,859	87,237	-	87,237
Investments		85	-	85	90	-	90
Total income		<u>214,225</u>	<u>221,103</u>	<u>435,328</u>	<u>134,103</u>	<u>227,702</u>	<u>361,805</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	1,716	427	2,143	216	-	216
Charitable activities	6	147,081	201,350	348,431	130,322	166,123	296,445
Total expenditure		<u>148,797</u>	<u>201,777</u>	<u>350,574</u>	<u>130,538</u>	<u>166,123</u>	<u>296,661</u>
Net income / - expenditure		65,428	19,326	84,754	3,565	61,579	65,144
Transfers between funds		18,766	- 18,766	-	10,221	- 10,221	-
Net movement in funds		<u>84,194</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>84,754</u>	<u>13,786</u>	<u>51,358</u>	<u>65,144</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forwards		26,516	109,878	136,394	12,730	58,520	71,250
Total funds carried forward		<u>110,710</u>	<u>110,438</u>	<u>221,148</u>	<u>26,516</u>	<u>109,878</u>	<u>136,394</u>

ARK T CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		2019	
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		14,448		21,818
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	18,814		19,177	
Cash at bank		200,615		107,060	
		219,429		126,237	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	- 12,729		- 11,661	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			206,700		114,576
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-
NET LIABILITIES			221,148		136,394
FUNDS					
INCOME FUNDS					
Unrestricted Income funds	14		110,710		26,516
Restricted Income funds	13		110,438		109,878
TOTAL INCOME FUNDS			221,148		136,394

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 September 2021 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



.....
Helen Morton
Chairperson

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are the advancement of education in the Arts in the area of the City of Oxford and particularly in the area of Cowley, for the benefit of the local community, and in particular to provide facilities for the preparation and presentation of artistic work.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The 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 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The charity's reserves policy is currently slightly exceeded and the Trustees will continue to monitor the situation on a regular basis.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

(b) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income, trading income and other income are recognised on a receivable basis.

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any Value Added Tax which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Expenditure on generating funds comprises costs associated with attracting income.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such services and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Improvements to Property	25% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	25% straight line
Musical equipment	25% straight line

(f) Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Donations	7,018	10,639	17,657	28,088
Grants	151,230	210,464	361,694	60,000
	158,248	221,103	379,351	88,088

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Fees received	300	-	300	-
JRS grant	27,733	-	27,733	-
	28,033	-	28,033	-

4. Income from trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Café rental and venue hire	1,335	-	1,335	5,900
Rents receivable	26,524	-	26,524	81,337
	27,859	-	27,859	87,237

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Generating funds	1,716	427	2,143	216
	<u>1,716</u>	<u>427</u>	<u>2,143</u>	<u>216</u>

6. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Staff	85,652	117,645	203,297	205,777
Premises	26,201	138	26,339	32,339
Office	11,413	12,374	23,787	3,479
Projects	152	71,193	71,345	24,468
Renovations	-	-	-	7,216
Accountancy	13,817	-	13,817	11,720
Depreciation	7,371	-	7,371	7,273
Governance - Independent Examiner's fee	-	-	-	1,680
Legal and professional	2,475	-	2,475	2,493
Total charitable activities	<u>147,081</u>	<u>201,350</u>	<u>348,431</u>	<u>296,445</u>

7. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed, analysed by activity was:

	2020	2019
Charitable activities	14	10

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8. Staff costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages	189,936	129,942
Social security costs	6,977	4,441
Pension costs	2,886	1,794
	199,799	136,177

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more.

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses.

Remuneration paid to key management personnel amounted to £34,801 (2019: £20,780).

Pension costs for key management personnel amounted to £669 (2019: £444).

9. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the current and prior year.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Musical Equipment	Improvements to Property	Total
	£	£	£	£
COST				
At 1 January 2020	4,750	1,329	23,404	29,483
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	4,750	1,329	23,404	29,483
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2020	1,336	478	5,851	7,665
Charge for the year	1,187	332	5,851	7,370
Written back on disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	2,523	810	11,702	15,035
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2020	2,227	519	11,702	14,448
At 31 December 2019	3,414	851	17,553	21,818

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	17,314	19,177
Other debtors	1,500	-
	<u>18,814</u>	<u>19,177</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Taxation and social security	3,056	5,581
Accruals and other creditors	2,500	1,527
Trade creditors	7,173	4,553
	<u>12,729</u>	<u>11,661</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

13. Movements on restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers for grants spent on capital items	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Community In Reach	18,570	21,750	- 21,226	-	-	19,094
Carnival Physics Project	185	-	-	-	- 185	-
Creativity Changes Lives	24,952	54,144	- 41,646	-	479	37,929
Energy Efficiency	17,553	-	-	- 17,553	-	-
Health Innovation Fund	1,961	-	- 1,482	-	- 479	-
MARTHA 21	5,224	163	- 768	-	-	4,619
Music for Everyone	24,229	1,850	- 29,894	-	-	- 3,815
Our Voice is Power	169	-	-	-	- 169	-
ROAR	396	5,920	- 6,709	-	393	-
SEN	1,260	-	-	-	- 1,260	-
Singing	697	3,616	- 2,210	-	-	2,103
Step Change	107	21,580	- 22,533	-	846	-
Topaz	14,575	-	- 306	-	-	14,269
The Art Nest	-	43,060	- 15,594	-	-	27,466
ACE MT Access	-	1,172	- 664	-	- 508	-
Blueprint Music Project	-	7,631	- 7,301	-	- 330	-
FamJam	-	999	-	-	-	999
Mental Wealth Academy	-	30,000	- 22,226	-	-	7,774
OX4 Free Food Crew	-	23,088	- 23,088	-	-	-
Oxford Kindness Wave	-	6,130	- 6,130	-	-	-
Total funds	<u>109,878</u>	<u>221,103</u>	<u>- 201,777</u>	<u>- 17,553</u>	<u>- 1,213</u>	<u>110,438</u>

14. Movement on unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers for grants spent on capital items	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	26,516	214,225	- 148,797	17,553	1,213	110,710
	<u>26,516</u>	<u>214,225</u>	<u>- 148,797</u>	<u>17,553</u>	<u>1,213</u>	<u>110,710</u>

ARK T CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Oxfordshire Community Foundation: OCF funded the Step-Change project which funded the salary of the Centre Development Manager alongside overheads for this post as well as contributions to relevant training up until September 2021.

OCF also granted us Covid 19 Emergency Response Funding to deliver some of the OX4 Free Food Crew food delivery programme in partnership with Flo's People Place and Participation Ltd. and Waste2Taste. **People Place and Participation Ltd.** funded us to deliver more of the OX4 Free Food Crew delivery programme in 2020 as part of funding they received from the National Lottery Covid 19 Emergency Response money.

Arts Council England: Emergency Covid Response grants towards Ark-T core (Emergency Response Fund, & Culture Recovery Fund)

BBC Children In Need: Funds our Creativity Changes Lives programme including term time sessions and holiday activities, aiming to increase the wellbeing, resilience and leadership skills of some of the most deprived children and young people in Oxford City. The also granted us a Covid 19 Booster Grant to help keep the organisation sustainable throughout 2020.

Oxford City Council: Core funds Ark-T as one of their Cultural Partners.

They also funded us to work with young people to make a film as part of the LGBTQIA+ Queering the Spires exhibition at the Museum of Oxford.

Lloyds Bank Foundation: Funded our Impact project to establish impact monitoring systems at Ark-T and the production of an Impact report in 2021/22

Oxford Health/Response: Funded two CAMHS projects - Community In Reach, and the Mental Wealth Academy, funding two full-time salaries of mental health support workers to run 1:1 Creative mentoring sessions for young people aged 11-25 experiencing mild to moderate mental health crises.

Youth Music: Funded our Music for Everyone project including 1:1's in music production & lyric writing, a SingSign Choir, and My Normal Voice Leadership group

Cowley Road Works: Funded us as part of their Arts Council funding to deliver inclusive arts programming with the Roarsomes, our disability arts leadership group, to upskill them to run carnival arts workshops in schools for future Carnival events.

Safe! Support for Young People Affected by Crime: funded us as a core partner on the Blueprint project, a programme for young men at risk of exploitation which used music as a vehicle for exploring healthy relationships and addressing trauma.

TORCH (Oxford University): Granted £500 towards the Winter Parcels of Love giving campaign.