

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Tropical Isles

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Prepared by Allen Robyn & Associates Limited

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Trustees' Report and Accounts

Tropical Isles

For the year ended 31 March 2024

CHARITY REGISTRATION NO: 1090798

Legal and Administration

Tropical Isles

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Registration Number	1090798
Trustees	Miss Deirdre Scantlebury, Mr Jeffrey St. Jean, Miss Peggy Patricia McKenzie (Treasurer and Signatory)
Management Committee	Miss Deirdre Scantlebury (Chair) Ms Sydney Hawthorne (Youth Representative) Marva Antoine (Managing Artistic Director)
Staff	Marva Antoine (Managing Artistic Director) Ms. Stephanie Antoine (Artistic Director) Mrs. Denise Ojo (Assistant Data Analyst) Ebony Antonie (Marketing and Promotion)
Registered Office	The Rose Lipman Building, 43 Beauvoir Road London N1 5SQ
Independent Examiner	Rolston Allen FCCA Allen Robyn & Associates Limited Chartered Certified Accountants London N7 9DQ
Banker	Barclays Bank PLC, Kingsland Holloway & Kingsland Group 3 - 5 Kingsland High Street, London E8

Trustees' Annual Report

Tropical Isles

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their report with the charity's financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2024.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The reference and administration set out below form part of this report, and the financial statement complies with current requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2015.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES:

1. To advance the education of the public, in particular, but not exclusively children in the arts (meaning creative and performing arts) or any other arts provided in each case, they are recognised cultural, aesthetic or educational value, culture and traditional values of the African Caribbean community
2. To foster, promote and increase public interest in the arts, and in particular the active encouragement and development of children into the cultural and social heritage of the African Caribbean community and subjects of artistic merit so that the development of good relationships between persons of different racial groups might be promoted and the contribution which a multi-Racial community has to make to society might be enhanced, especially but not exclusively in the London Borough of Hackney and surrounding areas.

About us:

Tropical Isles is a registered Charity which aims to develop its participation events programme by providing year-round carnival arts and educational art after-school activities, with a specific focus on developing and enhancing skills and talents of disadvantaged children and young people who may be at risk. Tropical Isles is an ambitious and fast-growing organisation determined to enhance the educational outlook of children and young people growing up in deprived areas of Hackney. This work supports young people's abilities to achieve in the formal school curriculum while giving them the chance to work on professionally produced creative products in an unconventional learning environment.

Aims and Objectives:

- To develop the capacity of Tropical Isles staff, volunteers and mentors to secure funding tenders and commissions, develop the quality and scale of our programmes and achieve excellence in the delivery of our activities
- To develop children and young people's literacy, confidence, and resilience. We do this by giving them extra personalised attention in an unconventional learning environment and giving them the opportunity to work on real-world creative art and production and performances alongside local professionals.
- To work with our Youth Forum to document and disseminate good practice in the design, development, and execution of youth-led carnival arts products and events
- Develop partnerships and joint working arrangements with diverse community organisations in London, UK and across the world as part of cultural exchange and appreciation.
- To build on Tropical Isles reputation as a leading organisation in London's Carnival Arts sector; developing our role as key lead artists

Ensuring Our Work Delivers Our Aims:

At Tropical Isles, we remain firmly committed to creating ground-breaking, multi-disciplinary art projects that offer fresh perspectives on everyday life, stimulate thoughtful debate, and promote positive change and social progress. Our mission is centred around engaging and empowering our community through creative expression and cultural exploration.

Our artistic activities, which are described below, aim to bring the arts closer to the people in our borough. The focus of our youth engagement program is on skills development, production, performance, and leadership skills within the fields of carnival arts, crafts, and dance. While we continue to strive to reach as wide an audience as possible, we will concentrate our efforts over the next three years on the following key objectives:

Key Objectives for the Next Three Years:

Deepening Community Engagement

- We will work towards deepening our community engagement by creating projects that not only entertain but also transform lives. By building strong relationships with local communities, we aim to create opportunities for artistic expression and personal growth, particularly for those from marginalised or underrepresented backgrounds.
- These projects will foster a sense of belonging and ownership among participants, giving them the chance to develop both creatively and socially.

Growing the Tropical Isles Brand and Public Awareness

- We are dedicated to expanding the Tropical Isles brand and enhancing public awareness of the work we do within the community. Our aim is to position Tropical Isles as a leading arts organisation in Hackney and beyond, celebrated for the transformative power of carnival arts and dance.
- Through strategic marketing, partnerships, and public events, we shall amplify our visibility and draw more people to engage in our programmes.

Brokering International Projects

- We will explore international collaborations and partnerships, brokering opportunities that enable our artists and participants to engage with various cultural contexts. These projects will provide new perspectives on our work and promote cross-cultural exchange, fostering learning, creativity, and innovation.
- By building a global network, we will raise the profile of carnival arts on the international stage and offer unique opportunities for our local artists to showcase their talents to a wider audience.

Engaging Communities with Low Participation in Arts and Culture

- We will concentrate on engaging communities in areas where participation in arts and culture is low, particularly in places where cultural infrastructure is scarce. These communities may encounter obstacles in accessing creative opportunities, and we are committed to eliminating these barriers by providing accessible and inclusive programmes.
- Our outreach initiatives will ensure that young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, have the chance to develop creative skills, enhance their confidence, and explore new career pathways.

Collaborative and Partnership-Based Approach

- A core element of our strategy centres on collaborating with partners across the arts, education, and community sectors. We believe in the power of partnerships to extend the reach and impact of our work. By sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise with other organisations, we can create even more meaningful and impactful projects.
- Through collaboration, we will broaden our network and leverage the skills and resources of our partners to bring new opportunities to the communities we serve.

Who Used and Benefited from Our Services:

Our programs and projects primarily serve the youth in Hackney, particularly those from underserved or disadvantaged backgrounds. In the past year, we have seen notable benefits among the following groups:

Young People (Ages 10-25)

- Through our Camp Carnival programme, young people have gained skills in dance, performance, costume-making, and carnival arts. Many participants reported improvements in physical health, mental well-being, and self-esteem.
- 97% of participants in the Camp Carnival programme reported being more physically active, while 72% indicated a reduction in stress and anxiety

Underrepresented Communities

- Our outreach programmes have endeavoured to engage young people from communities with historically low participation in the arts and culture. By providing free access to arts activities, we have eliminated financial barriers, allowing these individuals to express themselves creatively and build essential life skills.

Emerging Artists and Creatives

- We provide mentorship, opportunities for creative development, and professional guidance to young artists working in carnival arts, dance, and performance. Through our collaborations and artist residency programmes, we support their professional growth.

Local Schools

- We have collaborated with local primary and secondary schools to offer carnival arts workshops, where over 170 students gained insights into dance, costume-making, and cultural history. These workshops equipped young people with valuable skills and enhanced their understanding of cultural heritage significant of carnival traditions.

Hackney and the Wider Community

- Our programmes also benefit the broader community in Hackney, offering performances and engaging events that showcase the creative talents of young people. These events help foster social cohesion and bring together people from diverse backgrounds to celebrate diversity.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Camp Carnival Easter and Summer 2023

At Camp Carnival, based in Hackney, we welcomed 107 registered children who had the opportunity to explore and experience a diverse range of activities, all within a safe and inclusive environment. A highlight of the program was our healthy eating initiative, which was part of the Hackney Activities and Food Program (HAF), providing free meals for all children receiving free school meals during their stay.

Every day at Camp Carnival was thoughtfully designed to embrace every child, including those with additional needs, such as ADHD, Autism, Down's Syndrome, speech delays, bereavement journeys, and those managing incontinence. We ensured our activities were accessible, and our approach was inclusive of all children, making sure that no one was left behind.

One of the standout features of the camp was the introduction of Yoga sessions facilitated by a professional yoga coach who positively impacted the children. One participant even said, "Best week ever, can I do Yoga again next week? I feel relaxed!". These moments of calm and mindfulness were invaluable to the children's overall well-being.

Our activities ranged from carnival arts and crafts to mind-bending science experiments, vibrant role plays, food tasting, food posters, therapeutic sand play, and messy play. The children had the joy of mark making, t-shirt printing, dynamic carnival costume making, and even participated in a high-energy carnival parade, which invited parents into our world of inclusive fun.

We also embraced traditional outdoor activities, including team-building exercises, rounders, cricket, football, relay games, and a thrilling sports day. One of the highlights was our exciting game of dodgeball and our trips to a local park, where children had the chance to challenge their limits and explore their environment, swinging, climbing, and running freely.

Through these experiences, we celebrated difference and unity, teaching the children that no matter where they come from—whether it's their school, borough, religious background, abilities, gender, or race—we can all learn and play together. The positive atmosphere fostered by these activities allowed friendships to blossom, and many of our campers were reluctant for Camp Carnival to end.

A quote from one child sums it up best: "I'm sad Camp Carnival is over; I'm coming back next year; I'm going to miss you all!".

The camp operated with a strong focus on teamwork, and our Stars of the Week volunteers made the lunchtime experience even more enjoyable by helping set up tables and getting water bottles ready. Lunchtime conversations around healthy food were an integral part of the camp. Each day, we displayed the food menu on the wall and invited the children to design their own healthy eating posters, proudly displayed for all to see.

Our meals were carefully planned to ensure that every child's dietary needs and allergies were addressed, and we were delighted to see the children engaging with the food, often sharing their thoughts on the dishes. We made and decorated biscuits and organized a successful food tasting activity that turned into a role-playing experience of shopping at the supermarket with pretend money, tills, and shopping bags. This playful activity further embedded our healthy eating program.

We also worked in partnership with parents, providing them with healthy recipes that could be made at home with their children. The feedback we received from parents was incredibly positive, with one parent sharing, "My daughter's new fondness for Mango's and her enthusiasm in the kitchen at home to help me cook brought a huge smile to my face, thank you." It was clear from the feedback that the children had not only enjoyed the experience but had developed a deeper understanding of healthy eating.

One of the most rewarding aspects of Camp Carnival was the incorporation of children's voices into the planning process. When a child suggested, "Can we have Lego, as I really like building, I want to be an architect?" the very next day, we incorporated Lego building into our activities, allowing the children to express their creativity through construction and role-play.

Our teamwork was key to the success of the camp. When we came together, we unlocked potential for innovation, creating an environment that fostered personal growth for children and staff alike. Each individual on our team was empowered to achieve their full potential, making it clear that our collaborative efforts were vital to the success of the program.

Camp Carnival is an integral part of our Culture Programme, which focuses on health and well-being. Our aim is to empower our young community, build their confidence and self-belief, and inspire them to believe that they can be the future leaders of tomorrow. The positive feedback from children and families highlights the success of our efforts.

When we collaborate as a team, we unlock new levels of productivity and passion, and we create a nurturing environment for growth. The camp has been a resounding success, and we are proud of the impact it has had on the children we serve. As we look forward to the future, we are excited to continue building on this success and sharing our story with the broader community.

We are proud to be Camp Carnival pioneers and look forward to continuing this important work as we grow together with our children and families.

National Portfolio Organisation: Raising the Profile of Carnival Artists

Tropical Isles is proud to announce that we are in the first year of our three-year program funded through Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisation initiative. This program is focused on Raising the profile of emerging Carnival artists, enhancing their skills, and expanding the scope of their performances through collaborative productions, workshops, and interdisciplinary projects. The overall goal is to create significant opportunities for emerging artists and to engage with diverse communities to showcase the cultural richness of Carnival arts.

Our work aligns with the 'Let's Create' strategy, emphasising the development of creativity in young people and artists while also fostering broader community engagement through arts and culture. Over the next three years, we will focus on the following key areas and outcomes:

Creative People

Our program engages in over 240 regular arts activities annually, with the goal of producing quality artwork alongside 335 children and young people. Our activities included both in-person and online programs for 200 young people aged 6-18 years, with special provisions for up to 25-year-olds with disabilities and neurodivergent young people. The online creative hub will feature virtual sessions in various artistic forms, such as:

- Dance
- Circuit training
- Caribbean master chef workshop

In its first year, our online program reached 1062 participants, and we aim to expand this reach significantly.

Additionally, training opportunities for emerging artists included platforms to exhibit their finished pieces within both physical and virtual exhibition spaces. Participants will have the opportunity to showcase their work in natural carnival settings, and we achieved highlight projects such as the 2 Woman King theme and the creation of 170 costumes designed by children and adults.

Cultural Communities

Through our work, communities will engage with carnival arts heritage through masquerades, parades, and street theatre, offering participants the chance to develop their creativity at every stage of life. We are committed to:

- Creating cultural activities that unite communities to enjoy, participate in, and co-create art with others in their
- Providing inclusive experiences where local people from all backgrounds can celebrate their cultural heritage.

Our work ensures that carnival arts are cherished as part of the cultural fabric of local communities and are recognised

Creative Country

As part of our wider impact, we will deliver a series of Masterclass workshops spanning 310 days. These workshops included:

- Choreography
- Mas Construction
- Costume Design

Through these masterclasses, we will provide more time, space, and resources for emerging and established artists to develop their artistic practices. We commission new works, encourage collaborations, and offer mentorship from leading figures in the creative industries.

Our program also extends internationally, sharing our work with new audiences around the world and partnering with artists from Trinidad and diverse global contexts. We place an emphasis on building resilience in emerging artists both artistically and financially, providing a foundation for long-term growth.

Partnerships and Networks

Tropical Isles is committed to supporting the capacity of grassroots organisations, particularly those facing challenges in securing funding. By providing long-term support, we help small organisations secure investment and grow sustainably. We are a recognised resource for underrepresented and underserved artists, children, and families, and our networks have expanded through collaborations with other organisations and local partners.

Our impact is felt both in the infrastructure and activity within our communities as we focus on building confidence and instilling a strong sense of identity among our young participants. We aim to connect partners across the learning and skills market and the cultural and creative sectors to address inequalities and create new opportunities.

Environmental Responsibility and Economic Value:

Tropical Isles recognises the need to position itself as a change-maker within the arts and cultural community. We are committed to:

- Improving awareness of cultural opportunities through a data-focused approach, ensuring that our decisions are informed and effective.

- Sustaining job creation for young people within the cultural sector and fostering business growth by showcasing Hackney as a cultural hub.
- Counteracting negative perceptions of local communities by creating opportunities for cultural engagement, which helps shift the narrative around local issues such as gang culture, poverty, and crime.

Our work adds significant value to Hackney's cultural landscape and contributes to the local economy, particularly as we confront the challenges posed by the current economic climate. As creative organisations move out of London due to affordability issues, we aim to retain creative talent and workspaces in Hackney, making it a thriving place for the arts.

Inclusivity, Relevance, and Dynamism:

Carnival arts often remain under-recognised despite their crucial role in showcasing social origins, cultural heritage, and economic impact. Tropical Isles takes pride in enhancing the visibility of this art form through:

- Inclusivity in our programmes, which feature diverse artists from various cultural backgrounds, including global-majority communities, and offer representation for individuals of different sexualities, ethnicities, and cultures.
- Dynamism, where we strive to be adaptable, using innovation and collaboration to address challenges and seize new opportunities for growth.
- Ambition, as we continuously aim to improve the quality of our work and involve emerging artists in groundbreaking projects that challenge conventional boundaries.

We recognise the importance of data and technology in shaping our programmes and aim to use them to improve our services and more effectively engage our participants.

East End Community Foundation Camp Carnival Easter and Summer:

East End Giving is a youth fund established by the East End Community Foundation (EECF) that provides grants to not-for-profit organisation and community groups, enabling them to deliver engaging school holiday activities and meals for children and young people in Hackney, Newham, and Tower Hamlets.

The fund focuses on offering positive group activities and food during the summer holiday for 70 children and young people aged 8-21 (up to 25 with additional needs).

The three main aims of the programme are:

- To reduce anti-social behaviour and enhance community cohesion.
- To make a positive impact on children and young people's development.

Tropical Isles Well-being Grants for young people:

Eighty-eight children and young people reported improved literacy and/or numeracy skills. At Tropical Isles Carnival, we employ various methods to assess the success of our programme. These methods include conducting surveys, using feedback forms, carrying out interviews, and making observations.

We meticulously monitor and analyse data to determine how well we are achieving our goals and objectives. We consistently evaluate the progress of our participants and report on their accomplishments. Our ultimate goal is to enhance their skills, knowledge, educational engagement, physical health, and overall well-being. We compile and scrutinise data to produce in-depth reports on the beneficial transformations we have made in their lives.

The Camp Carnival program has achieved a significant accomplishment by helping 88 children and young people improve their literacy and/or numeracy skills. They accomplished this by incorporating educational elements into their creative arts activities. For instance, costume designing required participants to read and follow instructions and measure materials, feathers, and gems, which naturally improved their literacy and numeracy skills. Choreography involved counting beats, measuring steps, or understanding movement patterns, which helped participants improve their numeracy skills. Composing music and learning to read sheet music contributed to improving their literacy and numeracy skills.

Preparing scripts, lyrics, and cues for performances, especially karaoke, enhanced their literacy skills. The program also engaged participants in dynamic learning experiences, where they had to apply their literacy and numeracy skills practically. They wrote their lyrics or scripts for performances, calculated measurements for costume materials and accessories, counted beats and followed choreographic instructions.

The program's hands-on workshops encouraged participants to participate in various artistic elements actively, which often required reading, writing, and numeracy skills to complete tasks.

The tailored approach to each participant allowed for personalised support in areas where they needed improved literacy and numeracy. Mentors and instructors provided feedback and guidance on literacy and numeracy-related tasks, facilitating skill development. The program's welcoming and supportive environment encouraged active engagement in the educational components.

Participants engaged in group activities where they discussed ideas, collaborated on projects, and learned from one another, fostering literacy and numeracy skills. Overall, the combination of creative arts activities, mentorship, and a positive learning environment feedback contributed to the reported increase in literacy and numeracy skills among the program's participants. The program's focus on active, hands-on learning is an effective way to naturally enhance these skills while fostering creativity and personal growth.

100% of Children and young people report improved physical health or wellbeing.

The Camp Carnival program has successfully improved the physical health and well-being of 100 children and young people. The program involved various physical activities such as sports, dance, and movement, contributing to better physical fitness and overall well-being. Additionally, providing healthy meals and snacks during the program promoted proper nutrition and energy levels. The program also included educational components on nutrition and healthy eating habits, which helped 90% of participants make informed choices about their diet. Engaging in creative activities positively affected the mental and emotional well-being of the participants, and the program's group activities and performances fostered social interaction and a sense of belonging. Moreover, the program's inclusive and supportive environment created a safe space for children and young people to express themselves and build self-esteem. Incorporating mindfulness and stress reduction techniques in artistic and creative activities promotes mental well-being.

Engaging in dance, choreography, and physical activities improved physical literacy, which is essential for overall health and well-being. The program motivated 99% of participants to adopt healthy lifestyle habits, including regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and proper hydration. Exposure to professional artists and mentors served as positive role models for participants, inspiring them to embrace a healthy and active lifestyle. Recognising and celebrating achievements related to physical health or artistic accomplishments boosted the well-being of 90% of participants. Encouraging 99% of participants to reflect on their physical health and well-being and their overall experiences in the program led to positive self-awareness and self-improvement.

Based on the feedback we received through observation and questionnaires, the Camp Carnival program's combination of physical activity, creative arts, education, and mentorship has improved the physical health and overall well-being of 99% of the children and young people who participated. The program's holistic approach acknowledges the connection between physical and mental health and emphasises the significance of creating supportive environments to promote overall well-being.

100% of children and young people report that they are more physically active.

The Summer Camp Carnival program accomplished a significant goal of having 100 children, and young people report being more physically active. The program achieved this outcome through various methods, such as structured physical activities like dance, sports, and movement sessions. Participating regularly in such activities encouraged 97% of the participants to be more physically active. Offering a variety of movement activities allowed 55 participants to explore different ways of being physically active, making it more enjoyable and accessible.

Professional guidance from dance tutors, artists, and mentors inspired and motivated all participants to be more physically active. Preparing for fun-day showcase performances required rehearsals and practices that involved physical movement, making participants more physically active. Engaging in team-based activities and group performances encouraged 95% of the participants to be more physically active, while positive peer influence led to increased physical activity. The program also recognised the creative arts, including dance and choreography, as an avenue for self-expression through movement.

Encouraging participants to set physical goals and challenges and recognising the connection between physical activity and personal growth can motivate them to be more active. Promoting a holistic approach to a healthy lifestyle that includes physical activity, nutrition, and mental well-being can motivate participants.

Celebrating achievements related to physical activity and encouraging reflection and goal setting also contributed to the participants' engagement. In summary, the Camp Carnival program's combination of structured physical activities, professional instruction, teamwork, and a supportive environment contributed to the participant

72% of children and young people report a reduction of stress, anxiety and/or symptoms of depression

The Camp Carnival program has significantly reduced stress, anxiety, and symptoms of depression among 72% of children and young people. The program implemented various techniques to achieve this outcome, including artistic expression as therapy, yoga, mindfulness practices, a supportive environment, professional mentorship, collaborative learning, creative outlet, positive reinforcement, self-esteem building, emotional resilience, holistic well-being, self-expression, and feedback and reflection. The program recognised that engaging in artistic and creative activities, such as dance, choreography, music, yoga and performance, can serve as a therapeutic expression, helping alleviate stress and anxiety.

Mindfulness practices were also incorporated to promote relaxation, self-awareness, and emotional well-being. At the same time, the program's inclusive and supportive environment provided a safe space for participants to express their emotions and seek support when needed. Interacting with professional artists and mentors also offered emotional support and guidance, while collaborative projects and group activities encouraged social interaction and cooperation, reducing feelings of isolation and stress. The program also offered a creative outlet for participants to channel their emotions and thoughts, celebrating artistic accomplishments and personal growth, boosting participants' self-esteem and reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety.

Encouraging participants to embrace their unique talents and contributions also built self-esteem. It reduced negative emotions while providing them with tools to build emotional resilience and cope with stressors. It was also valuable in managing anxiety and depression. The program's holistic approach to well-being recognised the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and emotional health, focusing on overall well-being, leading to reduced stress and anxiety. Encouraging participants to express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences through creative arts provided a healthy way to manage emotions and reduce stress while reflecting on their experiences and emotional states with support from mentors and peers led to improved emotional

well-being. In summary, the Camp Carnival program's emphasis on artistic expression, mindfulness, emotional support, and a positive and inclusive environment contributed to the reported reduction in stress, anxiety, and symptoms of depression among the participants, recognising the therapeutic potential of art and creativity in supporting emotional well-being.

100% of children and young people report improved mental health or wellbeing

The Camp Carnival program has significantly impacted the mental health and well-being of 100 children and young people. Through creative arts activities like dance, choreography, music, and performance, participants can express their emotions and thoughts, improving their mental health and overall well-being. The program also fostered a supportive and safe environment, where 80% of participants felt comfortable expressing their emotions and seeking support when needed. Positive relationships with professional artists, mentors, and peers have provided positive role models and supportive connections, contributing to improved mental health.

Participants have been equipped with skills to build emotional resilience and cope with life's challenges while focusing on overall well-being and recognising the interconnectedness of physical, mental, and emotional health. Encouraging self-expression and exploring talents and passions has provided healthy coping mechanisms and emotional relief. The program's emphasis on creative expression, emotional support, mentorship, and an inclusive environment likely contributed to the participants' reported improvement in mental health and well-being.

99% of children and young people report improved social networks

The Camp Carnival program helped 90% of children and young people improve their social networks through diverse group activities like dance rehearsals, yoga, and collaborative art projects. The program's inclusive and supportive environment created a safe space for participants to build connections, regardless of background or abilities. Professional mentors and instructors inspired participants to network with individuals who share their passion for the arts, leading to expanded social networks and opportunities for emotional support. The program recognised the importance of social connections in fostering a sense of belonging and community.

East End Community Foundation: Winter Appeal and Care Package Distribution:

The East End Community Foundation (EECF) has run its Winter Appeal annually to support vulnerable residents in Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, and the City. This initiative addresses the increasing challenges posed by the cost-of-living crisis, particularly for elderly individuals and families in need.

Winter Care Packages

This year, EECF is distributing 3,000 care packages to local residents, with the following tailored contents:

For Older People:

- A £20 high street voucher to assist with essential purchases and a carton box of chocolates.
- A small gift to foster a sense of care and community.

For Families:

- A £30 high street voucher to support household needs and a carton box of chocolates.
- A small gift to bring joy and comfort during challenging times.

Tropical Isles' Role

As a funding participant of EECF, Tropical Isles has been entrusted with distributing 75 care packages to individuals and families in their community. The flexibility in distribution allowed us to ensure these packages reached those in the greatest need.

Distribution Approach

The care packages were distributed through various Tropical Isles initiatives, including:

- **Outreach Activities:** Engaging directly with those in need within the community.
- **Support Groups:** Providing packages to members of regular support networks.
- **Luncheons:** Delivering care during gatherings for elderly service users.
- **Camp Networks:** Working with families and young participants of our Summer and Easter Camps to identify families in need.

Impact

The feedback from recipients has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the significant difference these packages made during a difficult period. Notable outcomes included:

- **Support for Utility Bills:** Elderly residents used vouchers to manage heating and electricity costs during winter.
- **Household Shopping:** Families utilised vouchers for groceries and essentials.
- **Christmas Gifts:** Some families were able to purchase small gifts for their children, providing joy during the festive season despite financial struggles.

Recognising the Community Impact

The Winter Appeal has reinforced the vital role EECF and its partners play in alleviating the pressures faced by vulnerable residents. Tropical Isles is proud to have contributed to this effort.

Black History Month Carnival Arts Schools Programme:

As part of Black History Month, Tropical Isles collaborated with six primary and secondary schools to deliver a vibrant educational programme centred on Carnival Arts. This initiative engaged 180 children, using the creative arts as a medium to explore history, culture, and self-expression.

Programme Highlights

Workshops:

- **Dance:** Children learned traditional and contemporary dance forms, emphasising the cultural roots of carnival.
- **Costume Making:** Participants designed and created their own costumes, exploring the artistry and symbolism of carnival attire.

Creative Heritage and Storytelling:

- Explored the historical abolition of slavery, Windrush stories, and the celebration of diversity.
- Highlighted the origins of Caribbean carnival as a form of resistance, resilience, and joy, linking it to modern-day celebrations.

Impact and Outcomes

Enjoyment and Inclusivity:

- Participants expressed joy and enthusiasm, fostering a sense of belonging.
- The programme celebrated diversity, creating a welcoming space for all.

Empowerment:

- Children were inspired to express themselves creatively and confidently through dance and costume-making.
- They gained a deeper understanding of cultural identity and the legacy of the Windrush generation.

Educational Value:

- Enhanced understanding of historical events such as the abolition of slavery and the Windrush experience.
- Linked history to present-day celebrations, demonstrating the evolution of community and cultural pride through carnival arts.

Vogue World Fund Grant:

Tropical Isles is thrilled to announce the receipt of an unrestricted grant from the Vogue World Fund. This funding will transform our mission to expand access to performing arts, empower local artists, and celebrate carnival culture. Below is a breakdown of our strategic plan to optimise the grant's impact.

Dance and Creative Studio Space

Studio Renovation and Setup

Infrastructure: The grant will finance renovations to establish a fully functional studio space equipped with essential items, such as:

- Appropriate flooring for dance.
- Mirrors, sound systems, and other rehearsal tools.
- Technology for recording, streaming, and editing performances.

Access and Engagement:

Community Accessibility

- Free studio time will be offered to five local dance groups and ten individual artists, ensuring access for disadvantaged communities.

- A schedule will be established to accommodate rehearsals and community programmes.
- Artist Residency Programme
- A residency initiative will support artists working on innovative projects, fostering creativity and collaboration.
- Collaborative Opportunities
- Partnerships with other arts organisations will enhance artistic development and build a vibrant, interconnected community.

Costume Design and Creation

Enhancing Processes

- Hiring three seasonal freelancers to elevate the costume-making process.
- Upgrading materials to create high-quality, visually stunning carnival costumes that reflect authenticity and artistic excellence.

Cultural Workshops and Events Community Engagement

Hosting 32 workshops, three high-profile performances, and six collaborative projects aimed at inspiring 200 young people.

- Offering hands-on experience in costume design, dance, and storytelling to foster cultural appreciation and creative development.

Outreach and Collaboration

Partnering with local schools to deliver educational workshops focusing on carnival arts and heritage.

- Encouraging creative expression among young individuals while strengthening ties within the community. **Marketing and**

Promotion

Enhancing Online Presence

- Utilising social media to promote Tropical Isles' programmes and events.
- Developing engaging content to showcase the vibrancy of our carnival culture.
- Promoting opportunities to expand outreach and awareness.

Impact Goals

By strategically allocating the grant, we intend to

- Provide disadvantaged communities with access to professional performing arts facilities.
- Engage and empower 100 local artists through collaboration and creative opportunities.
- Inspire 200 young individuals with workshops and performances.
- Celebrate carnival culture through innovative costumes, performances, and educational programmes. **Commitment to**

Authenticity and Sustainability

This initiative embodies Tropical Isles' dedication to showcasing authentic carnival culture while fostering inclusivity and sustainability. Through this grant, we are building a foundation for lasting community impact and creative excellence.

Tropical Isles: Award-Winning Performances and Band Achievements

Tropical Isles continues to excel as a celebrated Carnival band, showcasing creativity, dedication, and cultural excellence. Our performances and programs have earned us significant accolades and recognition within the Carnival arts community and beyond.

Performances and Recognition: Notting Hill Carnival 2023

3rd Place – Children's Day Theme:

"The Woman King" captivated audiences with its outstanding performance and creative presentation, earning us a prestigious third place.

2nd Place – Music on the Road:

This is a testament to our vibrant, high-energy performances and our ability to connect with audiences through music.

Hackney Youth Awards

- Youth Project of the Year – Runner-Up:

Our Camp Carnival Summer Programme was recognised for its transformative impact on children and young people. The programme, supported by Hackney Council, Arts Council England, and Well-being Grants for Young People, improved participants' lives and received outstanding feedback from parents.

Band Performances and Community Impact:

Tropical Isles is more than just a Carnival band—we are a community committed to:

- Showcasing our cultural heritage through innovative performances.
- Empowering young people by providing opportunities for creative and confident self-expression.
- Strengthening community ties through engaging and inclusive activities.
- With each performance, Tropical Isles exemplifies why we remain at the forefront of Carnival arts, delivering unforgettable experiences and inspiring future generations.

Looking to the Future: A Vision for Tropical Isles

Cultural Organisation of Excellence

Tropical Isles remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering engaging, high-quality programs that empower young people, foster creativity, and bring joy through the Carnival arts. By providing free and inclusive activities, we aim to ensure all participants, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to fully engage, grow, and enjoy their experiences.

Strategic Goals for the Next Three Years

Deepening Community Impact

- Inclusive Engagement: Expand outreach to engage new participants, particularly those from disadvantaged communities, ensuring no barriers to access the arts.
- Fun and Purposeful Activities: Design programs that inspire creativity, encourage participation, and provide memorable, joyful experiences for young people.
- Empowering Young People: Equip participants with the tools and skills to achieve personal, social, and creative success.

Expanding Growth and Collaboration

- Building Connections: Strengthen ties with local and international arts organisations, fostering cross-cultural exchanges and collaborations.
- Strategic Partnerships: Continue to work closely with key partners, including Arts Council England, Hackney Council, the Hackney Cultural Team, and Young Hackney, to sustain and grow our programmes.
- Empowering Emerging Artists: Provide platforms for new Carnival artists to showcase their talents, raise their profiles, and inspire future generations.

Elevating Arts Education

- High-Quality Delivery: Maintain excellence in all programmes, from workshops to performances, ensuring participants receive top-tier arts education.
- Mentorship Opportunities: Develop mentorship initiatives to support participants in their creative journeys, encouraging lifelong engagement with the arts.

As Tropical Isles' new base, the Rose Lipman Building in Hackney provides an exciting platform for growth. It will serve as a dynamic hub for Carnival arts, community collaboration, and creative innovation.

Recognition and Opportunities

Our inclusion in the Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (2023-2027) program underscores our dedication to cultural excellence and innovation. This support allows us to:

- Extend our programs to new communities.
- Foster emerging talent in the Carnival arts.
- Drive creative and cultural growth in Hackney and beyond.

Acknowledgements:

Gratitude to Our Supporters

The trustees extend heartfelt thanks to our funders, individuals, and community organisations whose unwavering support has brought us to this stage of growth and achievement.

- **Special Thanks to Funders:** Your contributions have empowered our young people and strengthened our organisation.
- **Staff and Volunteers:** The dedication, skill, and loyalty of our management committee, staff, and volunteers have been instrumental in achieving our mission.
- **Freelance Artists, Mentors, and Relationship Officers:** Your expertise and guidance continue to shape the success of our programs.
- **Participants and Stakeholders:** Thank you for trusting and supporting our vision

The Road Ahead:

Tropical Isles is excited to build on the successes of this year and embrace new opportunities. With sustained funding and strategic collaborations, we aim to make a lasting impact on the cultural landscape of Hackney and beyond.

By fostering creativity, inclusivity, and excellence in the arts, we will continue to:

- Empower the next generation of artists.
- Raise the profile of Carnival Arts.
- Strengthen our community through vibrant cultural activities.

Together, we look forward to creating meaningful, long-lasting change and ensuring the arts remain accessible, dynamic, and impactful for years to come.

Report of the Trustees

Tropical Isles

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with Applicable Law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom General Accepted Accounting Practice)

The Law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 and the provision of the trust deed required the Trustees to prepare financial Statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resource and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity from that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. i. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. ii. Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
3. iii. Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. iv. Prepare the financial statement on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclosure with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and, hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Accountants

The accountants, Allen Robyn & Associates Limited, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the trustees on. 28-1-2025

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES:



Deirdre Scantlebury

TRUSTEE

Report of the Independent Examiner

Tropical Isles

For the year ended 31 March 2024

I report on the Financial Statements of the Tropical Isles for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are on pages 17-18 and Notes to the Financial Statements on Pages 19-22.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



Rolston Allen FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
Allen Robyn & Associates Limited
367 Caledonian Rd
London N7 9DQ

Approved on: 28/1/2025

Statement of Financial Activities

Tropical Isles

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Income	2	193,838	89,933
Total Incoming resources from generated funds		193,838	89,933
Total INCOMING RESOURCES		193,838	89,933
Resources Expended			
Charitable Activities	3	119,645	92,653
Support Costs	4	39,748	22,096
Governance Costs	5	3,307	1,800
Total Resources Expended		162,699	116,549
Surplus/(Deficit) Resources		31,139	(26,616)
Investments			
Interest Income		46	3
Total Investments		46	3
Surplus/(Deficit) income after Other Income		31,185	(26,613)
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		31,185	(26,613)

Statement of Financial Position

Tropical Isles


As at 31 March 2024

	NOTES	31 MAR 2024	31 MAR 2023
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	6	319	1,630
Total Fixed Assets		319	1,630
Current assets			
Debtors		28,000	-
Cash at bank and in hand		2,082	2,170
Total Current assets		30,082	2,170
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors	7	18,074	22,658
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		18,074	22,658
Net current assets (liabilities)		12,008	(20,488)
Total assets less current liabilities		12,327	(18,858)
Net Assets		12,327	(18,858)
Funds			
Restricted Fund	8	7,868	7,868
Unrestricted Fund	8	4,459	(26,726)
Total Funds		12,327	(18,858)

28-1-25

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28-1-25 and were signed on its behalf by:


Miss Deirdre Scantlebury


Mr. Jeffrey St. Jean

Notes to the Financial Statements

Tropical Isles

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Section 1A applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2016.

Tropical Isles meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Investment Income

Investment income consists of net interest received during the year and accounted for as unrestricted funds.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category; where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities are those costs relating to the activities carried out to meet the objectives of the nursery. These include both directly attributable costs and apportioned support costs.

Governance costs

Governance costs are the costs associated with the strategic direction of the organisation with meeting regulatory responsibilities, including apportioned support costs.

Taxation

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

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

	2024	2023
2. Income		
Art Council		
Arts Council England - NPO/IPSO	(99,250)	-
ACE Project Grant	-	(10,000)
Total Art Council	(99,250)	(10,000)
Local Authority		
LB Hackney - Carnival	(500)	-
LB Hackney Main Grant	-	(14,660)
LB Hackney - HAF	(25,262)	(25,240)
Local Authority Income	(9,592)	-
Total Local Authority	(35,354)	(39,900)
Donations		
Vogue World Fund	(28,000)	-
Costumes & Accessories income	(8,001)	(145)
Performances and Brand performances	(2,500)	-
LB Carpole	(250)	-
jack Petchey Foundation	-	(900)
Donations	(10,484)	(3,402)
Gifts and Donations	-	(3,750)
Awards For All Lottery Grant	-	(9,912)
Costumes	-	(21,924)
East End Community Foundation Grant	(10,000)	-
Total Donations	(59,234)	(40,033)
Total Income	(193,838)	(89,933)
	2024	2023

3. Charitable Activities

Artistic and Cultural Spend	4,499	-
Education and outreach costs	3,462	-
Operational Costs	1,311	529
Programme costs	20	-
Security Hire	3,335	-
Vehicle / Coach Hire	4,887	6,745
Volunteers Expenses	1,570	1,863
Salaries / ENIC	69,774	53,853
Refreshments / Catering	1,846	-
Equipment's / Catering	4,874	4,277
Equipment / PA Hire	3,200	2,800
Accessories/Materials	10,198	13,573
Travel / Accommodations	-	30
Other Direct Activity	1,278	-

Sessional/Freelance Fees	9,391	8,983
Total Charitable Activities	119,645	92,653

2024 2023

4. Supporting Costs

Advertising & Promotion	805	-
It and Computer costs	130	-
Rent	25,373	17,468
Staff Training	10	-
Bank Charges	179	-
General Costs	479	-
Insurance	1,486	1,027
Marketing / PR	514	487
Membership and Subscriptions	75	-
Professional Fees	-	671
Repairs & Maintenance	9,939	2,395
Stationery and Printing costs	759	48
Total Supporting Costs	39,748	22,096

2024 2023

5. Governance Cost

Accountancy fees	2,107	-
Examiner Fee	1,200	1,800
Total Governance Cost	3,307	1,800

2024 2023

6. Tangible Assets

Office equipment		
Cost		
Opening Balance	5,241	5,241
Total Cost	5,241	5,241
Depreciation		
Opening Balance	(3,611)	(2,300)
Office Equip depreciation charge	(1,311)	(1,311)
Total Depreciation	(4,922)	(3,611)
Total Office equipment	319	1,630
Total Tangible Assets	319	1,630

2024 2023

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Short Term Loan Account	(2,336)	(17,336)
Accruals	(7,700)	(1,200)

Rounding	-	-
PAYE Payable	(1,606)	247
Outstanding Wages	(6,433)	(4,369)
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(18,074)	(22,658)
	2024	2023

8. Movement in Funds

Restricted Funds		
Balance brought forward	7,868	7,868
Total Restricted Funds	7,868	7,868
Unrestricted Funds		
Balance brought forward	(26,726)	(113)
(Deficit)/Surplus		
Current Year Earnings	31,185	(26,613)
Total (Deficit)/Surplus	31,185	(26,613)
Total Unrestricted Funds	4,459	(26,726)
Total Movement in Funds	12,327	(18,858)