

ACCESSART

2025

Annual report and Financial Statements of AccessArt
(A company limited by guarantee)
Company number 05110197
Charity Number 1105049

For the year
ending 31
March 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

Report prepared by: The Trustees of AccessArt for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name: AccessArt

Charity Registration Number: 1105049

Company Registration Number: 5110197

Principal Address: 6 West Street, Cambridge, CB23 7DS

Trustees during the year:

- Ms Susan Coles
- Mr Chris Owen
- Ms Anne Morten
- Ms Kate Williams Appointed on: 3 July 2024

Independent Examiner:

Missieki Martin Limited,
Chartered Management Accountants,
10 Parkway
Crosby
Liverpool
L23 0ST

Bankers:

The Co-operative Bank, 75 Burleigh Street, Cambridge, CB1 1DF

Report of the Trustees For The Year Ended 31st March 2025

The Trustees of AccessArt present their Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The directors of AccessArt Limited (“the charitable company”) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as its trustees. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Statement of Recommended Practice 2005 “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” and the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees have pleasure in presenting the charitable company’s report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, Governance and Management

AccessArt is a registered charity governed by its constitution adopted on 30 March 2004. The charity is managed by a board of trustees who meet regularly to oversee strategy, compliance, and delivery of charitable objectives. Trustees are recruited through open calls and are inducted through a structured process including review of governance documents and safeguarding policies.

Objectives and Activities Charitable Objectives

AccessArt’s charitable purpose, as set out in its governing document, is to advance education in the visual arts for the benefit of the public. Our mission is to inspire and enable high-quality, inclusive visual arts education for all.

Aims and Strategy

We aim to ensure that children, young people and lifelong learners, have access to meaningful and creative experiences in visual arts. We support educators by providing high-quality resources, professional learning opportunities, and advocacy for the importance of visual arts in education and wider society.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

AccessArt’s activities are designed to advance education and increase access to high-quality visual arts learning. While much of our content is delivered through a low-cost membership model, we ensure affordability by keeping subscription fees as low as possible and by offering significant free resources to support broad access.

We aim to reduce barriers to participation by making free sample resources, guidance materials, and advocacy content publicly available, and by supporting schools and educators across a wide range of socio-economic contexts. Our model ensures sustainability while continuing to deliver genuine public benefit through inclusive and practical support for visual arts education.

Achievements and Performance Overview

AccessArt is a UK charity, founded in 1999, dedicated to championing high-quality, inclusive visual arts education for all. In 2024, we proudly celebrated our [25th anniversary](#) - a milestone that reflects our long-standing commitment to expanding access to high-quality, inclusive arts education,

empowering learners and educators to realise their creative potential, and championing the value of visual arts across education and society.

This mission is fulfilled primarily through the creation and sharing of resources on www.accessart.org.uk, alongside the delivery of online and in-person CPD events and support for educators, learners, and creative practitioners. We also prioritise the development of a welcoming, inclusive, and diverse creative community.

Key Achievements (April 2024 - March 2025)

Resource Development and Innovation

We continue to develop and maintain an extensive library of visual arts teaching resources, accessible to members through our online platform. These resources are designed to be inclusive, practical, and adaptable across a range of educational contexts and learner needs. We published 64 new resources during the year, extending our rich library of materials designed to support high-quality visual arts teaching and learning across settings. 22 of these resources came from external contributors. In addition to working with existing contributors, we collaborated with 6 new artists/artist educators on resources. We also expanded our [Talking Points](#) selection by 18 to continue encouraging diversity among the artists and disciplines explored in educational contexts.

Building on last year's success, we expanded our [Primary Art Curriculum](#) offer with 3 new pathways, offering teachers even more choice and flexibility. In response to wider cultural moments, we created the [AccessArt Olympics](#) initiative, enabling learners across diverse settings to engage creatively with current global themes. We created 16 new pathways that schools could choose from, exploring themes of Olympic Values, History, Athletics and Ceremony.

AccessArt Lab Studio Space.

Another major development this year was the launch of our first physical studio space - [AccessArt Lab](#) - based at Stapleford Granary in Cambridge. Led by Paula Briggs, our Creative Director and CEO, the Lab is a dynamic, creative hub designed to foster collaboration between artists and educators from diverse settings. As well as hosting a half-term 4-day workshop with a group of young people, we also ran a series of morning workshops for practitioners and educators.

The studio enabled us to make progress shaping our KS3 offer, providing us with the space and freedom to explore ideas as they occurred. Activities and pedagogies weave in and out of each other, and we are deliberately giving ourselves permission to stay in an emergent space – a space of “not-knowing” – rather than rush to an outcome which is defined too soon.

We supported teachers, school leaders and artist educators across the UK through in-person workshops, online webinars, email support, and guidance documents - helping them to embed creative, confident visual arts education in their schools and other settings.

Teacher Support and CPD

This year also saw 27 online CPD sessions and events delivered, attracting 2,603 attendees, strengthening our support for teachers and schools. The majority of our online CPD is recorded and made available to members after the live event ensuring we make them as accessible as possible. Our total membership grew by 3.8%, reaching 23,500 by the end of March 2025. We also engaged our wider community through 18 mailouts to a mailing list of 44,000 subscribers.

Collaboration remained central to our CPD programme, with 21 speakers contributing to sessions throughout the year. We also utilised our audience reach to support external projects. We created an online event with Alice Kettle to share her callout for portraits for an exhibiting piece, *Hear my Voice: Portraits*, giving pupils the opportunity to be a part of a major artwork.

A key development was the launch of the [Tiny Art School Movement](#), which supports artist-educators in recognising their impact and exploring new models for working with their local communities. To further this work, we began gathering case studies in a variety of settings, recognising the power of grassroots art education.

Community Engagement

Alongside our ongoing support for educators, we looked outward to engage learners and schools directly through large-scale creative events. To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we organised our first-ever [AccessArt Draw-Along](#) event, an online live webinar in which we demonstrated drawing activities to be shown across schools and other educational spaces. An AccessArt record-breaking 1,150 participants took part, drawing along with us, with each participant joined by a cohort of pupils-estimating a total of 22,500 participants. Then in September, we welcomed 167 participants to our *Primary Art Curriculum Celebration*, featuring CPD by Sarah Mackenzie, demonstrating the far reaching impact and enthusiasm for these resources.

By March 2025, our Facebook community had grown to over 6,000 members — a vibrant and supportive space where educators and artists connect, exchange ideas, and share their practice. Our Instagram presence also saw significant growth, engaging a community of 4,100 followers by year-end. Over the year, we posted nearly 600 pieces of content, resulting in a 552% increase in reach and a 100% increase in audience interactions, highlighting the platform's importance in extending our visibility and fostering meaningful engagement.

Members of the team visited two schools in London to explore how AccessArt is being used in practice. These visits helped us understand both the impact of our resources and the areas where educators might benefit from further support.

We introduced an option for artist educators to join the [AccessArt Map](#) - helping them raise their profile while enabling teachers to connect with local creatives.

Equity and Inclusion

We have been committed to growing and expanding our audience range to support as many educational settings as possible, in and outside of mainstream education. We expanded our offering to hospital education and a free membership option to hospices to acknowledge the benefits of art and wellbeing in vulnerable settings. We also created offering pages for home educators and SEND, as well as Trusts and trainee teachers in ITT (Initial Teacher Training), ensuring that we give new teachers the best opportunities to build their understanding of art, and its place in the National Curriculum. Alongside this, we collated a page of [Art and Wellbeing](#) resources to highlight the importance of art as a tool to express and process, which will be an area of focus for the future.

We continued to develop and highlight our [core values](#), working with illustrators to bring them to life.

Advocacy and Partnerships

AccessArt continued working as an active member of the Council for Subject Associations as one of the two Subject Associations for Art. We promoted the value of visual arts in education and society

through advocacy campaigns, partnerships with cultural and educational organisations, and our continued presence in national conversations about arts education. Our CEO was active in responding to a change in government and the impact this may have on art education. We built a space on the website [Art Education: Moving Forward with Confidence and Vision](#) to share our vision for the future with our audience and demonstrate how, as a subject association, we are advocating for the arts. Our CEO was immediately instrumental in coming forward with [recommendations](#) advocating for our members.

AccessArt joined forces with the National Education Union in May 2024, acting as a leading coalition organisation in the NEU *Arts Apocalypse*, which later became the [Arts & Minds Campaign](#). Members of the AccessArt team attended the launch of *the Arts and Minds Campaign* in February 2025. We worked with NEU to provide feedback surrounding the launch to ensure that the aims of the group are met, including greater collaboration, enabling ideas and greater inclusivity.

AccessArt contributed a thoughtful response to the DfE Curriculum and Assessments Review. You can find our response to the Interim Report here (link to <https://www.accessart.org.uk/accessart-response-curriculum-review-interim-report/>).

We initiated an [open letter](#) to Bridget Phillipson, Lisa Nandy, and Keir Starmer, which gathered over 1,400 signatures from our supporters and members. To strengthen our advocacy with data, we launched a national survey to better understand school arts budgets. Our CEO attended key sector events, including the *All Party Parliamentary Group for Art, Craft and Design Education* and the *Council for Subject Associations Conference* in June. In December, we presented our vision at the *APPG for Art, Craft & Design Education*. That presentation - *When We Hold Art Education in Our Hands* - can be viewed [here](#).

We are committed to sharing our advocacy with our audience in real time, helping them to understand how we are representing them through the evidence brought to light from campaigning and [providing our solutions](#).

AccessArt looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with arts and cultural organisations and umbrella bodies, recognising that we have a wealth of experience and vision to offer, and that we are stronger together.

Plans for Future Periods In 2025-2026

In 2025-2026, AccessArt will focus on four key strategic priorities: advocacy and representation, curriculum development, audience engagement, and digital infrastructure. These priorities build on our 25-year legacy and respond to the urgent needs of educators, artists, and learners in a shifting educational and cultural landscape.

Advocacy and Representation. We will continue to be a strong voice for the value of visual arts in education and society by:

- Sharing timely, accessible updates with our members so they can understand, engage with, and benefit from our advocacy work.
- Responding robustly to the *Curriculum and Assessment Review*, continuing to represent the needs of teachers, artists, and learners across formal and informal settings.
- Sustaining our active involvement in the *Arts & Minds Campaign*, contributing to its strategy, delivery, and visibility at a national level.

- Building new partnerships with other cultural and educational organisations to amplify shared messages and ensure broad-based representation.

Curriculum and Resource Development. Developing inclusive, high-quality creative learning resources remains central to our mission. In 2025–2026, we will continue to strengthen and expand our curriculum and resource offer by:

- Continuing our work on expanding our *Enquiry-Based Learning* offer for learners aged 11–14 (Key Stage 3), ensuring older pupils have access to thoughtful, high-quality creative education materials that value process, voice, and experimentation.
- Helping to better connect all stages of arts education through identifying transferable pedagogical skills and opportunities, and continue to be instrumental in developing and sharing our vision for art education for all.
- Supporting educators through the development of new, inclusive, and practical resources that align with AccessArt's pedagogy and values.

Audience Growth and Engagement. To ensure our work reaches and supports the broadest possible range of learners and educators, we will:

- Continue to develop our awareness and understanding of all sectors, both in the UK and overseas, who might benefit from AccessArt's approach and resources, creating targeted approaches to help welcome these new audiences into our community.
- Launch *AccessArt Treehouse*, a new strand supporting learners and educators in non-traditional and community-based settings - including home educators, EBSA settings, CAMHS services, Nurture Groups, neuroinclusive groups, hospitals, and community art programmes.
- Continue to support artist educators through the AccessArt Artist Educator Network and the opportunities it offers, for example the *AccessArt Map*, peer-learning, and practice-sharing.

Digital Infrastructure and Sustainability. To improve user experience and long-term sustainability, we will:

- Invest in improved systems for managing member and customer data, making our platform more responsive and accessible.
- Enhance the functionality and usability of our website, ensuring easier navigation and access to content for diverse users.

Financial Review

Reserve Policy and Risks

- **Income:** £342,308 (2024:£340,884)
- **Expenditure:** £270,561(2024:243,057)

At 31 March 2025, the charity held total unrestricted reserves of **£403,323** (2024: £331,576). These reserves represent the total unrestricted funds available to the charity to meet its objectives.

Of this total, **£383,898** was held in cash at bank and in hand, and **£28,123** was owed to the charity through outstanding debtors. The trustees recognise that a portion of debtor balances may not be received in full and therefore monitor actual cash reserves closely when making financial decisions.

The charity holds reserves to provide financial stability, manage cash flow, and ensure resilience in the face of potential income fluctuations or unexpected expenditure.

The trustees undertook a full review of their reserve policy in 2024 and the policy is subsequently reviewed annually. The level of target free reserves can be broken down into four components:

- A 'liquid' reserve to cover variance to plan and to provide a buffer to allow contingency actions to be effected.
- A 'liability' reserve which covers our requirement to cover deferred income in the accounts.
- A 'security' reserve, providing an additional buffer to the liquid reserve for more radical action (e.g. restructuring) in the event of a more serious or more sustained variance than anticipated.
- An 'underwriting' reserve, to allow the organisation to progress with projects which require a funding match.

The charity remains financially stable, with careful budgeting and monitoring throughout the year. No significant risks to financial sustainability were identified. As of 31 March 2025, the charity held cash reserves approximately £83,000 above the current target reserve of £300,000. While these additional funds have not been formally designated, the trustees recognise that this surplus presents an opportunity to reinvest in the organisation's long-term development. Over the coming years, this may include strategic investments such as the implementation of a new CRM system and other infrastructure improvements that support the charity's operational effectiveness and sustainability.

Trustees and Team

Trustees

A very special thanks to all our trustees who worked hard to support the organisation: Susan Coles, Chris Owen and Anne Morten. We were pleased to welcome new trustee Kate Williams in July 2024.

Team

In the Year 2024/25 AccessArt was directed and supported by Paula Briggs, CEO and Creative Director. Paula is the only member of the team who works full time, directing and managing the organisation, as well as working directly on projects, resources and CPD.

The average head count of employees during this period was 7.

Legal

London based solicitors, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP (Formally Olswang), continue to advise AccessArt on a pro-bono basis on contracts, IPR, GDPR and permissions.

Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AF, United Kingdom.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Status

The company is registered as a charity in the UK, Charity Number 1105049.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf.

Approval

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 7 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Chris Owen
Trustee

Independent Examiners report

Report to the Trustees/Directors of AccessArt on accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Charity Number: 1105049

Company Number: 05110197

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 9 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of AccessArt for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

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

The company's gross income exceeded £250,000, but did not exceed £1 million. Its gross assets (fixed assets plus current assets) did not exceed £3.26m. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that :

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102)

I have no concerns and have come across no other matter 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.

Lydia Kilner ACMA CGMA

Missieki Martin Limited
Chartered Management Accountants
10 Parkway
Crosby
Liverpool
L23 0ST

Dated 7 August 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
Incoming Resources from generated funds:					
- Voluntary Income	2	193	0	193	13
- Investment income	2	1,788	0	1,788	1,261
Incoming resources from Charitable Activities	3	340,327	0	340,327	339,610
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		342,308	0	342,308	340,884
<u>Resources expended</u>					
Cost of charitable activities	4	259,095	0	259,095	233,026
Governance costs	5	11,466	0	11,466	10,031
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		270,561	0	270,561	243,057
Net incoming/(outgoing)resources before transfers		71,747	0	71,747	97,826
Total transfers		0	0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		71,747	0	71,747	97,826
Fund Balances brought forward		331,576	0	331,576	233,750
Fund balances carried forward		403,323	0	403,323	331,576

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	28,123	46,667
Cash at bank and in hand	1	383,898	291,498
NET CURRENT ASSETS		412,021	338,165
Creditors	7	(8,698)	(6,588)
Net current assets		403,323	331,577
TOTAL NET ASSETS		403,323	331,577
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds		403,323	331,576
Designated funds		0	0
Restricted funds		0	0
TOTAL FUNDS		403,323	331,576
Average number of employees		7	8

Registered Company number 05110197

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of directors/trustees:

(a) The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, however, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the financial statements have been examined by an independent examiner whose report appears on page 7.

(b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 7 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Chris Owen
Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Status of the company

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

The liability of members is limited to £10 per member

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005).

Cash flow statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement on the grounds that the charity is small.

Funds

General accumulated funds are unrestricted funds available for general purposes and include funds designated for a particular purpose; the use of such funds remains at the discretion of the trustees.

Incoming resources and charitable expenditure

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company has entitlement, there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Interest receivable

Bank interest is shown on the basis of amounts received in the year

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at a rate calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Recording and office equipment - 4 years

Computer equipment - 3 years

Fixed assets are capitalised depending on their value at the discretion of the trustees.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the expense heading to which it relates in accordance with standard accounting practice.

Taxation

As a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES - Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£		£	£
Other income	0		0	0
Donation	193		193	13
Investment income	1,788		1,788	1,261
TOTAL	1,981	0	1,981	1,274

3 INCOMING RESOURCES - Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£		£	£
Monthly Revenue	76,950		76,950	80,304
Online CPD	4,084		4,084	9,940
Annual Subscriptions	257,767		257,767	248,413
Inset & CPD	648		648	0
Student Membership	782		782	888
Workshop	96		96	65
TOTAL	340,327	0	340,327	339,610

4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITY COSTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£		£	£
Artists, Educators and consultants fees	13,143		13,143	22,355
Cost of materials	475		475	200
Salaries	215,643		215,643	182,274
Event costs	172		172	0
Software and internet costs	9,201		9,201	14,717
Marketing	2,555		2,555	2,866
Travel Expenses	2,107		2,107	3,194
Insurance, office and studio costs	9,746		9,746	1,136
Legal fees	47		47	824
Miscellaneous	6,006		6,006	5,461
	259,095	0	259,095	233,026

5 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Accountancy fees	1,384	1,216
Independent examiners fee	150	150
Book-keeping fees	9,932	8,665
TOTAL	11,466	10,031

6 Debtors

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Income receivable	28,123	46,667
TOTAL	28,123	46,667

7 Creditors

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,698	6,588
TOTAL	8,698	6,588

8 Controlling Interests

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and is controlled by the Trustees, who are also directors of AccessArt for the purposes of company law. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10.

Signed By

CHRIS OWEN

Date Signed	2025-08-20 16:14:08
Email	chris.owen@aru.ac.uk
Printed Name	Chris Owen
IP Address	90.214.128.79
Browser User Agent	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:141.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/141.0
Name of signatory	Christopher Owen