

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1105790

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05062035
Registered	2004-09-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Merseyside Play Action Council 1-27 Bridport Street Liverpool L3 5QF
Phone	01513456266
Email	info@collective-encounters.org.uk
Website	www.collective-encounters.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE, MAINTAIN, IMPROVE AND ADVANCE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION, APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARTS, AND PARTICULARLY THE ART OF THEATRE IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, BY THE PRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF THEATRICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY BASED PERFORMANCES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON NEW WORKS PRODUCED BY THE COMPANY OR COMMISSIONED BY THIRD PARTIES;2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ART OF THEATRE BY THE PROMOTION OF DRAMA TRAINING CLASSES AND/OR WORKSHOPS.

Activities: Collective Encounters is a small professional arts organisation specialising in theatre as a tool for social change.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£287,123	£320,719	-	-
2024-03-31	£283,184	£288,104	-	-
2023-03-31	£277,294	£234,865	-	-
2022-03-31	£271,906	£273,187	-	-
2021-03-31	£292,340	£279,948	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Valeria Guarneros-Meza	Chair	2023-01-12
Anya Winful		2021-09-23
Catherine Ellen Foley		2025-07-10
Fabio Negro		2023-01-12
Johanna Marie Schweier		2025-07-10
Kate Rose Elder Fuller		2025-07-10

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1105790

Accounts

Registered number: 05062035

Charity number: 1105790

Collective Encounters

INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

Prepared By:

Harvey Guinan LLP
Chartered Certified Accountants
Unit 17 Mersey House
Matchworks Estate, 140 Speke Road
Liverpool
Merseyside
L19 2PH

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

TRUSTEES

Kelly Bewers
Valeria Guarneros-Meza (resigned 1 July 2024; reappointed 1 March 2025)
Fabio Negro
Anya Winful
Catherine Foley (appointed 10 July 2025)
Kate Fuller (appointed 10 July 2025)
Johanna Schweier (appointed 10 July 2025)
Jamie Beddard (resigned 10 July 2025)
Teresa Heldt (resigned 11 March 2025)
June Hudson (resigned 11 March 2025)
Dr. Madeleine Irwin (resigned 1 October 2024)

SECRETARY

Tessa Buddle (appointed 11 March 2025)

REGISTERED OFFICE

MPAC
1-27 Bridport Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 5QF

COMPANY NUMBER

05062035

CHARITY NUMBER

1105790

BANKERS

The Co-operative Bank; Charities Aid Foundation

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Julie Guinan FCCA

Harvey Guinan LLP
Chartered Certified Accountants
Unit 17 Mersey House

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

Matchworks Estate, 140 Speke Road
Liverpool
Merseyside
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Collective Encounters

**ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31/03/2025 .

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and 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).

The Trustees intend that this report also serves as the Statutory Directors' Report.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated 3 March 2004 and registered as a Charity on 8 September 2004. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established objects and powers of the charity and it is governed under its Articles of Association.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Collective Encounters is governed by a Board of Trustees, who are also the Directors for the purpose of company law. The trustees who served in the year and up to the date of the signature of the financial statements were:

- J Beddard (resigned 10 July 2025)
- V Guarneros-Meza (resigned 1 July 2024; re-appointed 1 March 2025)
- A Winful
- F Negro
- K L Bowers
- J M Schweier (appointed 10 July 2025)
- K R E Fuller (appointed 10 July 2025)
- C E Foley (appointed 10 July 2025)
- M J Irwin (resigned 1 October 2024)
- J Hudson (resigned 11 March 2025)
- T M Heldt (resigned 11 March 2025)

Company Secretary is Tessa Buddle (appointed 11 March 2025).

The trustees appoint the senior officers to lead the organisation and carry out its mission. A new Executive Director was appointed in January 2025, working alongside three Co-Artistic Directors.

The senior leadership team work collaboratively, with each person having responsibility for specific aspects of the charity's operations and programme. The programme and activity of the charity is driven by an Artistic Steering Group made up of the Co-Artistic Directors and Associate Lead Artists, while operations are overseen via five governance pillars (People, Finance, Fundraising, Data and Resources, Communications) each of which includes at least one trustee, one member of the Artistic Steering Group, and one senior administrative staff member.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

In addition, the charity has a Participant Advisory Group open to all current participants, which meets monthly and attends meetings of the board.

The Board meets with the senior leadership team at least four times a year, with additional pillar meetings and sub group meetings happening in addition to this.

SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Trustees are recruited through both open calls and direct invitations to individuals with the requisite values, skills, and support for the charity's mission. New appointments are confirmed by board approval. The trustees aim to maintain a good balance of skills and experience, including the importance of lived experience and of the need to be representative of the communities Collective Encounters supports. Current and previous participants are supported to develop their leadership skills and to express an interest in trustee positions when they arise.

New trustees are inducted over a 6-month period, when they are paired with an existing trustee to introduce them to the systems and processes, and provided with external training in the roles and responsibilities of a charity trustee.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Collective Encounters continues to monitor risk to all aspects of the charity quarterly through a risk management process. Identified risks are discussed with the Trustees and contingency measures are put in place.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and Applicable Law).

Under Company Law the trustees must not approve the financial statements until they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the situation of the charity and of the net incoming or outgoing resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing the 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.
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the charity in the year under review was specialising in theatre as a tool for social change .

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the charity are:

(i) To promote, maintain, improve and advance public education, appreciation and understanding of the arts, and particularly the art of theatre in all its aspects, by the production and presentation of theatrical, educational and community based performances, with particular emphasis on new works produced by the Company or commissioned by third parties.

(ii) To advance the education of the public in the art of theatre by the promotion of drama training classes and/or workshops.

The Charity has the wider aim of using theatre to explore pressing social and political issues with the aim of engaging directly with the processes of democracy and change.

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the commission's guidance of public benefit and, in particular, the guidance on charities for the advancement of public education which we achieve through the objects set out above.

Collective Encounters' mission is to use creativity to build power within people and communities who are directly affected by poverty and inequality, and who experience barriers to inclusion, predominantly in Liverpool City Region. The charity co-creates participatory theatre and research to bring people together, tell stories that are often ignored, and provoke action towards positive change, whilst strengthening professional practice through a local and national training and development programme for artists, activists and academics.

COMPANY INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Collective Encounters was established in north Liverpool in 2004 and now operates across the Liverpool City Region. An arts charity using theatre for social change, Collective Encounters has transformed the lives of many people within the region, making work that tackles difficult social issues, always pushing the boundaries, highlighting the impacts of growing inequality and of neoliberal policies on the most marginalised and disenfranchised communities.

Collective Encounters is renowned for working alongside communities whose stories are seldom heard in the mainstream media and whose experiences are absent from public policy. This work fosters personal growth, boosting participants' skills, confidence, and networks. It triggers social and political transformations such as local policy change and local service improvements, and empowers individuals and groups to take action through strengthened communities.

Since 2004 more than 25,000 people have taken part in a Collective Encounters workshop, training events or have seen a Collective Encounters performance. Many of these people have no or very limited access to arts and culture and their lives have been deeply affected by trauma and inequality such as those with experience of homelessness, mental ill health, migration, domestic violence, prison and probation, the care system or racism.

Collective Encounters thrives on collaboration, working collectively with regional, national and international partners to ensure the work is relevant, draws on best practice and achieves transformation and change. Most projects bring together partners from public sector services, social justice groups, academia, the arts and the cultural sector to work towards specific change agendas.

Collective Encounters has a highly skilled and committed workforce with considerable experience in grassroots arts for social change practice, research, theatre making, community development, children and young people, digital technologies, social justice and social change. Bridging the gap between academic theory, social agendas, and applied arts practice, our work has resulted in more diverse cross-sector collaborations, and new thinking on the role applied artists have in society.

Collective Encounters' Creative Development strand has a reach that crosses arts, culture, academic and activist boundaries. Established in 2020, the programme provides an inclusive national learning and networking space for professionals to discuss approaches to ethical collaborations with communities while using arts as a tool for change and social justice. Since 2020, the Creative Development programme has connected thousands from diverse fields to share practices and build connections.

An emerging Research Arm has gathered significant momentum since 2023, connecting marginalised communities with cutting edge research via ethical creative participatory methodologies that centre lived experience.

Collective Encounters' work rarely takes place in theatre buildings. Activities normally happen in community centres, healthcare buildings, libraries, sports centres, on the street and online. Creating an inclusive environment, where everyone feels safe and able to fully contribute and participate is a key feature of a Collective Encounters event. Our participation and performance is free at the point of use, and no one is excluded from attending Creative Development activities because they can't afford it.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This report consolidates the activities of Collective Encounters over the period April 2024 - March 2025, highlighting the work across various programmes including the youth programme, adult programmes and research initiatives. In total, 357 workshops were delivered in the year, reaching 1,339 participants and there were 17 performances and events reaching 911 audience members.

THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

- Care Experienced Young People's Arts Adventures

The Arts Adventure programme became well consolidated this year, delivering activities in the Easter, Summer and Winter school holidays as part of HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) initiative. Targeted at young people with experience of the care system, the programme provides high quality arts activities that build confidence, skills, and wellbeing, along with nutritious food, and signposting to a range of creative, culinary, and further educational opportunities. Young people produced songs, poems, dances and artworks that were shared with their care teams in a theatre performance event at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts in the summer, and young people's zines and songs were shared as part of the Community Chronicles tour in the autumn. The work expressed their hopes and needs, and enabled them to speak directly to Children's Services about changes and improvements they would like to see. Young people and carers also worked with professional artists to produce 'Listen to Us', a theatre performance combining animation, poetry and movement, contributing to the 'Families in Action' project (more below).

- Adult Theatre for Social Change

The Adult Theatre for Social Change group continued to meet twice a month in person and regularly on zoom. With declining attendance online, zoom sessions moved from weekly to monthly, but this continues to be an important digital participation space for those who need it. The group co-created a Social Change cabaret to coincide with May Day, worked towards a touring theatre performance in the autumn, and performed an online cabaret as part of the charity's fundraising efforts.

The Community Chronicles tour continued to develop an innovative participatory performance format, that presents performative provocations to the audience and invites discussion and creative exploration around tables, over the course of three themed chapters. The 2024 performance themes were based on issues identified by local people through the outreach sessions undertaken throughout the year and were: 'Us and Them'; 'Divide and Rule'; and 'Equity and Equality'. Community Chronicles toured to Toxteth TV (Liverpool), MYA Space (Bootle), and Bloom Building (Birkenhead).

Creative outreach workshops for adults were delivered in partnership with St Leonard's Youth and Community Centre, Make it Happen, Netherton Park Community Centre, Crosby Library, and Everton in the Community Veterans Group.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

- Women in Action

The core Women in Action group took part in a new accredited course, co-created with an advisory group of participants and artists, called 'Drama Skills for Social Change'. The course developed skills in performance, improvisation, devising, and arts leadership, leading to a Level Two qualification from Open Awards.

Group members developed exciting new theatre performances including a piece of street theatre exploring gender identity for Access Pride, and a satirical sketch for Unity Theatre's Christmas cabaret. The group established a new home at Unity Theatre, where they meet for their weekly sessions.

Outreach projects included working with Sefton Council's ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) follow-on group to co-produce a series of animations to form part of a training resource for professionals; and the continued development of our partnership with charity PSS and their parent-baby service. Meeting monthly, the parent-baby co-production group provides a space for parents of 0-2 year olds to build skills and confidence, and to develop creative advocacy around maternity and parenting services in Liverpool.

- Families in Action

Families in Action was an engagement project commissioned as part of the roll out of Family Hubs in Liverpool. We worked with Sanctuary Family Support, PSS, and the care experienced families who are involved in our Arts Adventures programme, to involve seldom heard voices in identifying how to make family services more inclusive. The project produced a number of artworks and public performances and workshops, leading to a co-produced report that made key recommendations and was shared with the Family Hubs team.

- More Than

This creative art therapy project supports ethnic minority women with experience of the criminal justice system, aiming to build confidence, facilitate personal growth, and improve long-term outcomes for participants. This was the first full year of delivery on the project, with participants benefiting from one-to-one therapy sessions, mentoring, contributing to creative group projects, and getting involved in other Collective Encounters projects and events.

- Poets Park

This partnership with Regenerus, St Leonard's Community Centre, and Kindfulness Coffee Club, aims to improve the green space and enrich creativity in the Poets Streets area of Bootle. Collective Encounters' role was to engage with individuals in the community, run creative workshops, and make poetry with users of the community pantry and food bank, leading to performances and events in the park and surrounding streets.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

ARTS-BASED RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

- Soundwalks for Social Change

This research project in partnership with the University of Liverpool English department aimed to transform understandings of Liverpool's heritage and provoke debate on identity, migration, and environment. This year the finished Sound Journey - titled 'Voices on the Streets' - was released on the Echoes App and launched with a series of events and workshops.

- Black Maternal Health project

Winner of the LJMU Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Public Engagement. In partnership with LJMU (Liverpool John Moore's University), International Slavery Museum and Liverpool Women's Hospital, this project addressed severe inequalities in reproductive healthcare for Black women by exploring historical and contemporary issues through participatory theatre and research. This year, the initial project concluded with the production of a report, a leaflet produced by and for Black women in the maternal health care system, and an installation that has been brought into the collection of the International Slavery Museum. Planning and fundraising is underway to evolve the project and its impact further.

- ReCite

A major co-produced research project using creative expression to positively impact health equity, involving several institutions and community organisations. Collective Encounters' Aidan Jolly is part of the advocacy team who have been involved in reviewing evidence gathered from communities across the region about the pressing need for health equity, and planning the delivery phase due to begin next year.

- Radical Retrospectives

A community-centred research project for Collective Encounters' 20th anniversary, focusing on the organisation's work in the context of changing political and cultural agendas. This project aims to create a comprehensive historical narrative of the organisation's impact and inform future strategic planning. A group of voluntary researchers undertook training in research methods and worked with branding and web development specialists to co-design a new digital platform that will archive two decades of Collective Encounters' work.

- Theatre Informed Policy Making/Liverpool School of Law and Social Justice

This project aims to involve people with lived experience in co-creating Liverpool City Council's first access to advice strategy. This initiative seeks to address structural issues and educate the public on their rights and access to free advice on everyday legal issues such as housing, benefits, and education. This year the project got underway with the formation of a Policy Ranger Forum - a group of people with decision making power from Liverpool City Council and the Liverpool Access to Advice Network, and the delivery of street interviews and creative research sessions engaging members of the public in identifying the current barriers people face in accessing advice.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

- Radical Researchers/ Theatre of Political Economy

This project is part of Research Lead Aidan Jolly's PhD exploring a theatre making process termed Theatre of Political Economy. With a group of voluntary Radical Researchers, Jolly has been investigating how theatre can help people become more active citizens, using creative methods to connect with economic and political issues.

- Voter Registration/ Edge Hill University partnership

Winner of the Citizens UK Voter Registration Champion award. This project brought together members of Collective Encounters Adult Theatre for Social Change group with Edge Hill University students and staff, to deliver creative engagement activities in Skelmersdale Shopping Centre prior to the 2024 General Election. The project promoted democracy by exploring the reasons people do and do not vote, producing a range of dramatic characters and poems to engage people in conversation.

- Mental Health Research and Innovation Centre Partnership

This forum theatre project worked with people with direct lived experience of mental health services (via MerseyCare NHS Trust) to co-create a new model of health research known as 'Count Me In', which connects researchers directly with participants.

DEVELOPING THE ARTS SECTOR

- Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre

Within the year our team delivered online training in Trauma Informed Practice for Participatory Artists; Creative Evaluation; Creative Projects with Care Experienced Young People; and Making Theatre from Lived Experience.

Our Centre for Excellence programme has been developed to reflect the diversity and richness of our participatory programme and share knowledge and skills we have gained on a grassroots level with our peers across the sector. Through these training sessions we have been able to share the expertise of Collective Encounters' artists and producers with a network of artists, academics and other professionals in the arts and culture industry.

Our Arts for Social Change Showcase provided an online platform for 12 contributors to share their practice and network. We had a wide range of speakers exploring practices which varied from stand up comedy to sculpture to sound art using recycled materials and much much more.

In addition, we hosted an online Open Space event exploring Creativity as a Research Tool, provoking debate and shared learning around a topic that has become central to Collective Encounters' work. We also trialled online reading groups for participatory artists to discuss pertinent issues in arts for social change.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

In total our online creative development events under the Centre for Excellence reached 167 people. Our reach widened even further with a training commission from Curious Minds; in November 2024 we delivered a bespoke training session on Trauma Informed Practice for staff and artists working on their Rhyme and Reason project.

- Raven

As part of our ongoing creative mentoring for emerging artist Abigail McKenzie, we provided support for the community engagement element of this new writing production, contributing to McKenzie's Developing Your Creative Practice (DYCP) project funded by Arts Council England.

- Mentoring and Placements

We continued to provide an annual marketing placement for the University of Liverpool's School of the Arts Student placement programme. The placement student gained an insight into our marketing operations and completed a personal project that documented and promoted one of our creative programmes, receiving advice and mentoring from staff across the organisation.

IMPACT

Collective Encounters measures change at 3 levels: personal, social and political/structural.

Personal changes include reduced isolation and increased confidence, self-esteem and skills among the people who take part in our workshops, performances and training events. Surveys conducted during the year revealed that, among those attending 3 or more sessions, 95% reported an increase in confidence and 79% said they improved their social network and/or made new friends as a result of being involved. 95% reported the development of new skills including communication, group work, and a range of creative skills most commonly improvisation, acting, and creative writing. Across our projects, 82% of participants said they felt heard and more able to have a say over the decisions that affect their lives.

Social changes are indicated by changed perspectives, increased understanding about other people's struggles, and increased awareness about the issues facing people in the Liverpool City Region. During the year, our performances and events platformed a range of issues and experiences, such as those facing women and non-binary people, new parents, Black mothers, disabled people, mental health service users, and care experienced young people. 68% of participants and audience members said they learned something new about the challenges people face, with many pledging to take action to support people in their community. We also reached over 1,000 professionals working in health and social care, who heard from people with direct lived experience and pledged to incorporate what they learned into their practice.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

At the structural level, changes include the creation of new networks and structures that enable people to work together and challenge the current systems, as well as local and national policy being influenced (and ideally led) by the people it affects. Within the year, Collective Encounters sustained 4 regular arts for social change groups, and provided creative methods for engaging people with systems of change via 258 outreach workshops across the Liverpool City Region. People with lived experience were supported to influence policy change and service delivery, with some concrete outcomes and longer term structures being put in place to strengthen community-led power, such as:

- Hey Mama leaflet produced by Black mothers for Black mothers, distributed to maternity hubs and health centres; and plans are underway for an ongoing peer support and co-production group using creative advocacy to improve Black Maternal Health
- Liverpool City Council began its roll out of Family Hubs, taking on recommendations from our co-produced Families in Action report, and inviting us to contribute to its conference and ongoing community engagement
- Theatre Informed Policy Making is being used to co-create Liverpool's first Access to Advice policy, and the model is being developed for use in other contexts such as involving communities in addressing health inequality

Structural change is also measured at the level of our own organisation and the industries we work within. By providing accessible training, development, and progression routes for artists and cultural workers, we aim to break down barriers and address inequity within our sector. Within the year, 211 artists benefitted as paid workers and/or as participants within our Creative Development programme. 16 bursaries provided free places on our training and development sessions to those who needed it. Individual mentoring supported 4 community participants to make the move to emerging arts professional, accessing professional training, creative practice development, and paid work within the arts sector.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year and the charity's position at 31 March 2025 are shown in the attached financial statements. Total incoming resources were £287,123 (2024 £283,184) and total resources expended were £320,719 (2024 £288,104) resulting in net outgoing resources for the year of £33,596 (2024 net outgoing resources £4,920), being net outgoing resources on the unrestricted funds of £6,916 (2024 net outgoing resources £22,606) and net outgoing resources on the restricted funds of £26,680 (2024 net incoming resources £17,686). At 31 March 2025 total unrestricted funds on the Balance Sheet were £80,221 (2024 £87,137) and restricted funds were £13,536 (2024 £40,216), giving total resources on the balance sheet of £93,757 (2024 £127,353).

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have agreed to build up an adequate reserves fund to protect the organisation in the event of declining income, or in the event that the organisation will need to wind up its affairs.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees recognize the commitment the organisation has to many of its vulnerable beneficiaries and that time would need to be taken to signpost participants to other services and provision. The Trustees also recognize the commitment it has in terms of employment law and redundancy provisions. Reserves are reviewed on a quarterly basis, and in the event of an increase in service provision and/or staffing levels.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The independent examiner Julie Guinan on behalf of Harvey Guinan has indicated her willingness to remain in office and a resolution will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

APPROVAL

The report was prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 17/12/2025



Valeria Guameros-Meza (resigned 1 July 2024; reappointed 1 March 2025)
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

I report to the Charity's Trustees on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31/03/2025 .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

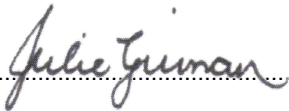
As the Charity's Trustees of the company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act). Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company 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 EXAMINERS STATEMENT

The company's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ACCA.

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 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.

.....Independent Examiner Julie Guinan FCCA

Date: 17/12/2025

Harvey Guinan LLP
Chartered Certified Accountants
Unit 17 Mersey House
Matchworks Estate, 140 Speke Road
Liverpool

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

Merseyside
L19 2PH
0151 709 7797

Collective Encounters

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31/03/2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Income from generated funds				
Income from Investments	138	-	138	-
Income from charitable activities	67,584	218,212	285,796	283,184
Other Income	1,189	-	1,189	-
Total Income	68,911	218,212	287,123	283,184
Expenses				
Costs of generating funds				
Expenditure on Charitable activities	75,827	244,892	320,719	288,104
Total Expenses	75,827	244,892	320,719	288,104
Net Income	(6,916)	(26,680)	(33,596)	(4,920)
Net movement in funds:				
Net income for the year	(6,916)	(26,680)	(33,596)	(4,920)
Total funds brought forward	87,137	40,216	127,353	132,273
Net funds carried forward	80,221	13,536	93,757	127,353

This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

Collective Encounters

BALANCE SHEET AT 31/03/2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	659	879
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors (amounts falling due within one year)	6	47,273	17,698
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>54,815</u>	<u>116,639</u>
		102,088	134,337
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>8,990</u>	<u>7,863</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>93,098</u>	<u>126,474</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>93,757</u>	<u>127,353</u>
RESERVES			
Unrestricted funds	9		
General fund		80,221	87,137
Restricted funds	10	<u>13,536</u>	<u>40,216</u>
		<u>93,757</u>	<u>127,353</u>

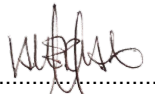
For the year ending 31/03/2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the board of trustees on 17/12/2025 and signed on their behalf by



.....
Valeria Guameros-Meza (resigned 1 July 2024; reappointed 1 March 2025)
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a. Basis Of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

1b. 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.

1c. Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost 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.

1d. Allocation And Apportionment Of Costs

All costs relate to the single activity of the charitable company and are recognised accordingly.

1e. 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.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for the specific future purposes or projects.

1f. Depreciation

Fixed assets are shown at historical cost.

Depreciation is provided, after taking account of any grants receivable, at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Equipment	reducing balance 25 %
-----------	-----------------------

1g. Pension Costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

1h. Turnover

Turnover represents all incoming resources and comprises revenue project grants, donations, bank interest and earned income from performances and workshops. The Charity is not registered for value added tax.

1i. Debtors Policy

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discount due.

1j. Policy For Income Recognition

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following are met:

(1) The charity has entitlement to the funds; (2) Any performance conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity; (3) There is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable and (4) The amount can be measured reliably.

1k. Cash At Bank And In Hand Policy

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1l. Creditors And Provisions Policy

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement value amount after allowing for any discount due.

1m. Financial Instruments Policy

The charity has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1n. Policy For Preparing The Accounts

The directors believe that the company is experiencing good levels of income growth and that it is well placed to manage its business risks successfully. Accordingly they have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

2. DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES

Particulars of employees (including directors) are shown below:

Employee costs during the year amounted to:	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	97,681	111,217
Social security costs	3,256	8,297
Pension costs	3,416	2,982
	<u>104,353</u>	<u>122,496</u>

No Trustee received remuneration for their services as a Trustee.

Collective Encounters

3. EMPLOYEES

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	No.	No.
Average number of employees	6	-
No Trustee received remuneration for their services as a Trustee.		

4. PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
Pension contributions	<u>3,416</u>	<u>2,982</u>
	<u><u>3,416</u></u>	<u><u>2,982</u></u>

Collective Encounters

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 01/04/2024	9,503	9,503
At 31/03/2025	<u>9,503</u>	<u>9,503</u>
Depreciation		
At 01/04/2024	8,624	8,624
For the year	220	220
At 31/03/2025	<u>8,844</u>	<u>8,844</u>
Net Book Amounts		
At 31/03/2025	<u>659</u>	<u>659</u>
At 31/03/2024	<u>879</u>	<u>879</u>

6. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	18,449	17,655
Other debtors	<u>28,824</u>	<u>43</u>
	<u>47,273</u>	<u>17,698</u>

Collective Encounters

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,250	7,795
Other creditors	6,740	68
	<u>8,990</u>	<u>7,863</u>

Other creditors comprise accrued costs of £6,740 (2024 £68).

8. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Each member gives a guarantee to contribute a sum not exceeding £5, to the company should it be wound up. At 31/03/2025 there were 4 members.

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	87,137	68,911	(75,827)	-	80,221
	<u>87,137</u>	<u>68,911</u>	<u>(75,827)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,221</u>

Collective Encounters

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) - Reaching Communities	-	42,747	(42,747)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)	24,382	-	(22,986)	-	1,396
Cash For Kids	-	3,140	-	-	3,140
PH Holt Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)	-	14,498	(14,498)	-	-
Feeding Britain	-	1,600	(1,600)	-	-
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	-	4,800	(4,800)	-	-
Access to Work	-	2,951	(2,951)	-	-
Arts Council England (ACE)	11,688	49,750	(61,438)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) - Awards for All	-	18,050	(9,050)	-	9,000
BBC Children in Need	3,300	14,675	(17,975)	-	-
Liverpool City Council (LCC)	1,320	16,500	(17,820)	-	-
His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)	(2,974)	39,501	(36,527)	-	-
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
	<u>40,216</u>	<u>218,212</u>	<u>(244,892)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,536</u>

National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) - Reaching Communities

Funds to support core costs & deliver the Women in Action programme.

National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

Funds to deliver the Radical Retrospectives programme.

Cash For Kids

Funds to deliver holiday programmes for care experienced young people.

PH Holt Foundation

Funds to support core costs and deliver the Community Chronicles Project.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Funds to deliver holiday programmes with creative activities & food provisions for young people.

Feeding Britain

Funds to deliver holiday programmes with creative activities & food provisions for young people.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Funds to support fund raising consultancy service costs.

Access to Work

Funds to support the access needs of core staff.

Arts Council England (ACE)

Funds to deliver the community chronicles theatre programme and associated outreach and development.

National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) - Awards for All

Funds to deliver outreach activities and theatre programmes for adults.

BBC Children in Need

Funds to provide creative engagement opportunities for young people in the care system.

Liverpool City Council (LCC)

Funds to support core costs & deliver theatre programmes.

His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)

Funds to deliver theatre programmes achieving rehabilitation outcomes.

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Funds to provide creative engagement with adults with Adverse Childhood Experiences.

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the charity had no related party transactions to disclose.

The aggregate remuneration of key personnel, including pension contributions and employer's national insurance, was £104,353 (2024 £122,496). No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in either year.

Collective Encounters

12. INCOMING RESOURCES

	2025	2024
Charitable Activities		
Commissions	36,148	40,150
Events	4,127	5,631
Restricted Grants (note 10 to the accounts)	218,212	237,403
Theatre Relief Claims	27,309	-
Voluntary income		
Donations	893	-
Other income		
Bank Interest	138	-
Sundry Income	296	-
Total incoming resources	<u>287,123</u>	<u>283,184</u>

Collective Encounters

13. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	2025	2024
Direct Charitable Expenditure		
Delivery of programmes, projects & productions	157,617	128,090
Salaries & staff costs	104,353	122,496
Administration & overheads	41,127	27,169
Marketing	11,542	7,479
Finance	220	353
Accountancy	2,860	2,517
Governance		
Independent Examination	3,000	-
Total resources expended	<u>320,719</u>	<u>288,104</u>

14. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Tangible Fixed Assets	659	-	659
Net Current Assets	79,562	13,536	93,098
	<u>80,221</u>	<u>13,536</u>	<u>93,757</u>

15. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the company's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. There are no critical accounting estimates or judgements in these accounts.

16. GENERAL INFORMATION

Collective Encounters (Company Number: 05062035; Registered Charity Number: 1105790) is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. Its registered office is MPAC, 1-27 Bridport Street, Liverpool, L3 5QF. The accounts are stated in sterling, the functional currency of the company.

17. TAX STATUS

Collective Encounters is a registered charity and all the activity is in furtherance of our charitable objects therefore we claim exemption from corporation tax. The charity intends to make a claim for theatre relief and has accrued the expected income in the accounts.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1105790

Accounts

Charity registration number 1105790

Company registration number 5062035 (England and Wales)

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Beddard J Hudson A Winful T M Heldt F Negro V Guarneros-Meza K L Bewers M J Irwin
Charity number	1105790
Company number	5062035
Registered office	Mpac Building 1-27 Bridport Street Merseyside L3 5QF
Independent examiner	Whitnalls Trident House 105 Derby Road Liverpool L20 8LZ

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

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Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the financial statements	12 - 19

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "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).

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charity as laid in the Memorandum of Association are:

To promote, maintain, improve and advance public education, appreciation and understanding of the arts and particularly the art of theatre in all its aspects, by the production and presentation of theatrical, educational and community based performances, with particular emphasis on new works produced by the Company or commissioned by third parties.

To advance the education of the public in the art of theatre, by the promotion of drama training classes and/or workshops.

The Charity has the wider aim of using theatre to explore pressing social and political issues with the aim of engaging directly with the processes of democracy and change.

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the commission's guidance of public benefit and, in particular, the guidance on charities for the advancement of public education which we achieve through the objects set out above.

Collective Encounters' mission is to provide high- quality theatre experiences to individuals and communities who don't normally access the arts. We achieve this by partnership working with the voluntary sector and statutory services and delivering most of our work outside of theatre buildings: GP surgeries, hostels, care settings for looked after young people, care homes for older people, outdoors, libraries.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Collective Encounters was established in north Liverpool in 2004 and now operates across the Liverpool City Region. An arts charity using theatre for social change, Collective Encounters has transformed the lives of many people within the region, making work that tackles difficult social issues, always pushing the boundaries, highlighting the impacts of growing inequality and of neoliberal policies on the most marginalised and disenfranchised communities.

Collective Encounters is renowned for working alongside communities whose stories are seldom heard in the mainstream media and whose experiences are absent from public policy. This work fosters personal growth, boosting participants' skills, confidence, and networks. It also triggers social and political transformations such as local policy change and local service improvements. Collective Encounters has a long history of working with social care, healthcare, housing and homelessness and children's and families services in the Liverpool City Region to improve day-to-day practices.

Since 2004 more than 25,000 people have taken part in a Collective Encounters workshop, training events or have seen a Collective Encounters performance. Many of these people have no or very limited access to arts and culture and their lives have been deeply affected by trauma and inequality such as those with experience of homelessness, mental ill health, migration, domestic violence, prison and probation, the care system or racism.

Collective Encounters thrives on collaboration, working collectively with regional, national and international partners to ensure the work is relevant, draws on best practice and achieves transformation and change. Most projects bring together partners from public sector services, social justice groups, academia, the arts and the cultural sector to work towards specific change agendas.

Collective Encounters has a highly skilled and committed workforce with considerable experience in grassroots arts for social practice, research, theatre making, community development, children and young people, digital technologies, social justice and social change. Bridging the gap between academic theory, social agendas, and applied arts practice, our work has resulted in more diverse cross-sector collaborations, and new thinking on the role applied artists have in society.

Collective Encounters' flagship project, the Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre has a reach that crosses arts, culture, academic and activist boundaries. Established in 2020, the Centre provides a rare inclusive national learning and networking space for professionals to discuss approaches to ethical collaborations with communities while using arts as a tool for change and social justice. Since 2020, the Centre has connected thousands from diverse fields to share practices and build connections.

Collective Encounters' work rarely takes place in theatre buildings. Activities normally happen in community centres, healthcare buildings, libraries, sports centres, on the street and online. Creating an inclusive environment, where everyone feels safe and able to fully contribute and participate is a key feature of a Collective Encounters event. Our participation and performance is free at the point of use, and no one is excluded from attending Centre for Excellence activities because they can't afford it.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

This report consolidates the activities of Collective Encounters over the period April 2023 - March 2024, highlighting the work across various programmes including the youth programme, adult programmes and research initiatives.

Theatre for Social Change

Looked After Children (LAC) Summer Arts Adventures

Throughout early 2023, the youth programme focused on the preparation and recruitment for the LAC Summer Arts Project. This included commissioning lead and support artists, engaging specialist guest artists and organising day trips. The team and commissioned artists collaborated to organise the overall facilitation of the programme.

'Where You're At'

In October, a 4-day arts project funded by Liverpool City Council's Black History Month commission was conducted. This project engaged young refugees and asylum seekers through creative activities including music, visual arts, drama, and cooking. The project celebrated newly arrived communities, nurtured creativity, and provided a supportive environment for young people who have experienced trauma. The participants, primarily Sudanese, Kurdish, and West African, worked with exceptional arts facilitators like Michelle Richards, Malik Lidgett, and Abraham Ojapah. Outputs included an illustrated scrapbook and recorded song, contributing to the 'Liverpool Sound Walk' in collaboration with the University of Liverpool. This initiative provided taster activities and introduced newly arrived young people to opportunities for creative development and expression, celebrating their cultural and environmental contributions and enhancing intercultural understanding.

Winter Arts Adventure

In January, the youth programme organised an arts adventure holiday project in partnership with Children's Services. Young participants engaged in drama, art, crafts, and cooking, with highlights including designing shoeboxes reflecting their aspirations for the year ahead. The project culminated in a trip to the Everyman Theatre's Rock and Roll Cinderella Pantomime, where the young people enjoyed a night of music and dance. This project nurtured new skills and fostered a sense of community and creativity among the participants. Plans are underway for a Spring arts adventure at LIPA, continuing the momentum of this successful initiative.

Women in Action

The Women in Action core group has been highly active. They revisited, redeveloped and performed 'Auntie', a performance piece that emerged from the BBC Archive project, with new characters, sketches, and opportunities for audience participation. The performance took place in March 2024, at Toxteth TV. The group also contributed to the 'Songs for Change' event and redefined its focus to support women facing social and emotional barriers, rather than labeling them as 'disadvantaged women'. Thirteen women completed the 'Confidence through Creativity' course, leading to targeted follow-up sessions on specific topics and one-to-one support for next steps. The 'Best for Baby Too' initiative is fostering facilitation skills among parents, with plans for a community event in the following year. The outreach project is now underway, with sessions being delivered to parents and babies/toddlers in partnership with PSS Parent & Baby service. These sessions use creativity to build confidence, explore parenting questions, and improve services for parents and babies.

New outreach projects started with Sefton Council's ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) follow-on group and Venus Centre's Step Together group. Both groups aim to produce issue-based performances to share their experiences with professionals and improve service delivery. Although the Step Together sessions have been temporarily put on hold due to cancellations, the work with the ACEs group is progressing, with the creation of a training resource for professionals on better identifying and supporting ACEs.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Community Chronicles and Shared Voices

The Adult Theatre for Social Change core group participated in Eurovision events and co-created songs for the 'Songs for Change' event. Liferooms sessions, involving a series of workshops ending with performances, have been successful, recruiting new members and expanding the group's outreach. Shared Voices workshops commenced at Make it Happen and Kindfulness Coffee Club, with training sessions scheduled for a later date. The Prescot workshops started in October, with a different structure planned for the Knowsley training element. Publicity for the Connect and Create project in Netherton Library was distributed, and sessions started in late October. The Poet Street project, a mini initiative in collaboration with Regenerous, St Leonards, and KCC, was successful with potential for expansion based on pilot results.

Networking efforts have been robust, with Abi presenting at COP networking meetings and being involved in multiple boards and steering committees. This networking has facilitated the growth and outreach of various projects, including the Community Chronicles group, which has seen increased participation. The group has worked on the Sound Walk project and is beginning to explore ideas for a performance at FACT in March.

More Than

A Ministry of Justice-funded project using creative art therapy to support black ethnic minority women on probation. This project aims to build confidence, facilitate personal growth, and improve long-term outcomes for participants.

Arts-Based Research for Social Change

Soundwalks for Social Change

Starting in July, the Soundwalks for Social Change project engaged communities in Liverpool with experiences of migration and poverty. Workshops and 'walkshops' explored Liverpool's heritage through arts-based activities, producing a soundwalk that promoted intercultural awareness. Led by Michelle Richards and Abi Horsfield, with creative mentoring by Tessa Buddle, the project aimed to transform understandings of Liverpool's heritage and provoke debate on identity, migration, and environment. Participants included various community groups, and the soundwalk was promoted to the general public. Outputs included audio recordings of poems and a masterclass in sound installation.

British Academy)/Liverpool John Moores University/International Slavery Museum Partnership

This partnership project addressed severe inequalities in reproductive healthcare for black women by exploring historical and contemporary issues through participatory theatre and research. Planning sessions and workshops were delivered to influence midwifery curricula and public awareness. The project identified links between historical and present-day inequalities and advocated for better maternal health outcomes for black women. Workshops involved local women and artists, with outputs including performances and contributions to the redevelopment of the International Slavery Museum.

ReCite

A major co-produced research project investigating storytelling's impact on health equity, involving several institutions and community organisations. This project has received significant attention and funding, with Aidan Jolly as a named co-investigator. The project aims to develop creative methodologies to enhance community trust in health services.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Radical Retrospectives

A community-centred research project for Collective Encounters' 20th anniversary, focusing on the organisation's work in the context of changing political and cultural agendas. This project aims to create a comprehensive historical narrative of the organisation's impact and inform future strategic planning.

Reset

This Arts Council England-funded project maps and researches youth theatre practices, focusing on inclusive practices. The project has produced valuable data on youth theatre in Liverpool City Region, which will inform future practice and policy recommendations.

Legislative Theatre/Liverpool School of Law and Social Justice

A project in incubation aiming to involve people with lived experience in informing Liverpool's City Council's provision of advice. This initiative seeks to address structural issues and educate the public on their rights and access to free advice.

Heseltine Institute at Liverpool University

This incubation project focuses on ethical creative participatory research methods. Outputs include a podcast and presentations to Applied Theatre students, with plans for broader dissemination of findings.

Publications

Several papers and articles based on Collective Encounters' projects have been published or are in preparation, including studies on Radical Makers and Researchers and creative methods in poverty research. Aidan Jolly has been actively involved in these publications, contributing to academic journals and conference proceedings. The team is also preparing a co-authored chapter for a book on Care Aesthetics.

Developing the Arts Sector

Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre

The Centre for Excellence offered a number of Trauma Informed Practice training and other participatory theatre events across the financial year. Highlights included quarterly training sessions and hybrid participatory theatre workshops. The Centre also developed a three-year plan, guided by evaluation data, to inform future applications and programming. Notable training sessions included collaborations with Artes Mundi, Penguin Random House, and Evolve Music. The Centre's activities have focused on creating equitable and responsive learning spaces through digital interfaces and trauma-informed practices.

Financial review

Income totalling in the year was £283,184 (2023: £277,294) of which £237,403 (2023: £132,708) related to restricted income.

Total expenditure in the year was £289,033 (2023: £234,865), leaving a deficit for the year of £5,849 (2023: Surplus £42,429)

At 31 March 2024 the charity reserves are £126,424 (2023: £132,273) of which £40,216 (2023: £22,530) represent restricted funds.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have agreed to build up an adequate reserves fund to protect the organisation in the event of declining income, or the event that the organisation will need to wind up its affairs. The Trustees recognize the commitment the organisation has to many of its vulnerable beneficiaries and that time would need to be taken to signpost participants to other services and provision. The Trustees also recognize the commitment it has in terms of employment law and redundancy provisions. Reserves are reviewed on a quarterly basis, and in the event of an increase in service provision and/or staffing levels.

Major risks

Risk Management

Collective Encounters continues to monitor risk to all aspects of the charity quarterly through a risk management process. Identified risks are discussed with the Trustees and contingency measures are put in place.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £5 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J Beddard

J Hudson

A Winful

T M Heldt

F Negro

V Guarneros-Meza

K L Bewers

M J Irwin

G S Boxer

(Resigned 2 December 2023)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

New trustees are recruited by board agreement. Within the year, a skills audit and targeted recruitment drive was undertaken to ensure the Trustee team was ethnically diverse, representative of the community it serves and had the prerequisite set of skills to lead the organisation in a challenging external environment.

New Trustees were provided with written information regarding their legal obligations under charity law, the charity's constitution, information pertaining to the charity's mission and programme objectives and training provided by **Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy**. They were also welcomed through a series of informal 'getting to know you' sessions with the executive and delivery team.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational structure

Trustees meet with the Executive Director, Programme Manager and Artistic Steering Group quarterly to discuss activities, agree future plans, update policies and review the Charity's financial position and income generation plans. Sub-committees of the board may meet more regularly when undertaking specific transformation projects.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Jamie Beddard

.....
J Beddard

Trustee

Date: 15/10/2024

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors of Collective Encounters for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; 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 adequate 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Collective Encounters (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 FCCA, 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Paul Flynn FCCA

Whitnalls

Chartered Certified Accountants

Trident House

105 Derby Road

Liverpool

L20 8LZ

Dated: 05/09/2024

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	45,781	237,403	283,184	144,586	132,708	277,294
Total income		45,781	237,403	283,184	144,586	132,708	277,294
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	155,969	132,135	288,104	120,660	114,205	234,865
Total expenditure		155,969	132,135	288,104	120,660	114,205	234,865
Net income/(expenditure)		(110,188)	105,268	(4,920)	23,926	18,503	42,429
Transfers between funds		87,582	(87,582)	-	18,058	(18,058)	-
Net movement in funds	6	(22,606)	17,686	(4,920)	41,984	445	42,429
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		109,743	22,530	132,273	67,759	22,085	89,844
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		87,137	40,216	127,353	109,743	22,530	132,273

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		879		1,232
Current assets					
Debtors	11	17,698		5,544	
Cash at bank and in hand		116,639		129,268	
		<u>134,337</u>		<u>134,812</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(7,863)</u>		<u>(3,771)</u>	
Net current assets			126,474		131,041
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>127,353</u>		<u>132,273</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		40,216		22,530
Unrestricted funds			87,137		109,743
			<u>127,353</u>		<u>132,273</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15/10/2024...

Jamie Beddard

.....
J Beddard
Trustee

Company registration number 5062035

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Collective Encounters is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Mpac Building, 1-27 Bridport Street, Merseyside, L3 5QF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers	25% Straight line
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1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Financial liabilities classified as other financial liabilities are stated at fair value with any gains or losses arising on remeasurement recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Charitable activities

	Charitable Income 2024 £	Charitable Income 2023 £
Income from charitable activities	283,184	277,294
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	45,781	144,586
Restricted funds	237,403	132,708
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	283,184	277,294
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable expenditure 2024 £	Charitable expenditure 2023 £
Direct costs		
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Support	132,135	130,598
Governance	155,969	104,267
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	288,104	234,865
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	155,969	120,660
Restricted funds	132,135	114,205
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	288,104	234,865
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	Support costs	Governance costs	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	122,496	122,496	-	81,903	81,903
Depreciation	-	353	353	-	411	411
Staff Training	-	1,863	1,863	-	2,057	2,057
Telephone and fax	-	2,113	2,113	-	3,068	3,068
IT and maintenance cost	-	4,765	4,765	-	1,202	1,202
Printing, postage and stationery	-	3,122	3,122	-	2,401	2,401
Sundry expenses	-	1,739	1,739	-	-	-
Travel and subsistence	-	2,022	2,022	5,421	3,293	8,714
Advertising	-	7,479	7,479	-	1,381	1,381
Production costs	128,090	-	128,090	121,634	-	121,634
Insurance	1,325	-	1,325	1,275	-	1,275
Rent and Rates	2,720	-	2,720	2,268	-	2,268
Accountancy fees	-	2,517	2,517	-	2,591	2,591
Legal and professional	-	7,500	7,500	-	5,960	5,960
	<u>132,135</u>	<u>155,969</u>	<u>288,104</u>	<u>130,598</u>	<u>104,267</u>	<u>234,865</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>132,135</u>	<u>155,969</u>	<u>288,104</u>	<u>130,598</u>	<u>104,267</u>	<u>234,865</u>

6 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,517	2,591
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	353	411
	<u>2,870</u>	<u>3,002</u>

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Staff	8	5

Employment costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	111,217	78,319
Social security costs	8,297	1,451
Other pension costs	2,982	2,133
	<u>122,496</u>	<u>81,903</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	9,503
At 31 March 2024	<u>9,503</u>
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2023	8,271
Depreciation charged in the year	353
At 31 March 2024	<u>8,624</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	879
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,232</u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11 Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	17,655	5,544
Other debtors	43	-
	<u>17,698</u>	<u>5,544</u>
	<u><u>17,698</u></u>	<u><u>5,544</u></u>
12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	-	1,858
Trade creditors	7,795	112
Other creditors	68	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	1,801
	<u>7,863</u>	<u>3,771</u>
	<u><u>7,863</u></u>	<u><u>3,771</u></u>
13 Retirement benefit schemes	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,982	2,133
	<u>2,982</u>	<u>2,133</u>
	<u><u>2,982</u></u>	<u><u>2,133</u></u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	9,530	-	(9,530)	-	-
National Heritage Lottery	-	24,382	-	-	24,382
LCVS	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
P H Holt	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
Rathbone Trust	3,000	-	(3,000)	-	-
Big Lottery Fund (Women in Action)	-	35,000	(16,000)	(19,000)	-
Sutton Croft	-	19,000	(19,000)	-	-
Sefton CVS	-	1,220	(1,220)	-	-
Arts Council of England	-	97,287	(46,776)	(38,823)	11,688
Sons for Change	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Children in need	-	14,150	(10,850)	-	3,300
Liverpool City Council	-	31,079	-	(29,759)	1,320
Granada Foundation	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
HMPPS	-	4,785	(7,759)	-	(2,974)
Sefton Council	-	3,500	(1,000)	-	2,500
	<u>22,530</u>	<u>237,403</u>	<u>(132,135)</u>	<u>(87,582)</u>	<u>40,216</u>
	<u><u>22,530</u></u>	<u><u>237,403</u></u>	<u><u>(132,135)</u></u>	<u><u>(87,582)</u></u>	<u><u>40,216</u></u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	-	9,530	-	-	9,530
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	6,000	21,750	(27,750)	-	-
Heritage Lottery	-	2,930	(2,930)	-	-
LCVS	2,800	1,500	(4,300)	-	-
Our Liverpool	2,800	-	(2,800)	-	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	59,000	(42,467)	(16,533)	-
P H Holt	8,985	10,000	(8,985)	-	10,000
Public Health 2021	1,500	-	(1,500)	-	-
Rathbone Trust	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Big Lottery Fund (Women in Action)	-	17,500	(17,500)	-	-
Sutton Croft	-	7,498	(5,973)	(1,525)	-
	<u>22,085</u>	<u>132,708</u>	<u>(114,205)</u>	<u>(18,058)</u>	<u>22,530</u>
	<u><u>22,085</u></u>	<u><u>132,708</u></u>	<u><u>(114,205)</u></u>	<u><u>(18,058)</u></u>	<u><u>22,530</u></u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	109,743	45,781	(155,969)	87,582	87,137
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	67,759	144,586	(120,660)	18,058	109,743
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	879	-	879
Current assets/(liabilities)	86,258	40,216	126,474
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	87,137	40,216	127,353
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023:			
Tangible assets	1,232	-	1,232
Current assets/(liabilities)	108,511	22,530	131,041
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	109,743	22,530	132,273
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1105790

Accounts

Charity registration number 1105790

Company registration number 5062035 (England and Wales)

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Beddard J Hudson A Winful T M Heldt F Negro V Guarneros-Meza K L Bewers M J Irwin G S Boxer	(Appointed 12 January 2023) (Appointed 12 January 2023) (Appointed 12 January 2023) (Appointed 12 January 2023) (Appointed 12 January 2023)
Secretary	A Burghes	
Charity number	1105790	
Company number	5062035	
Registered office	Mpac Building 1-27 Bridport Street Merseyside L3 5QF	
Independent examiner	Whitnalls Trident House 105 Derby Road Liverpool L20 8LZ	

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

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Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 17

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "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).

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charity as laid in the Memorandum of Association are:

To promote, maintain, improve and advance public education, appreciation and understanding of the arts and particularly the art of theatre in all its aspects, by the production and presentation of theatrical, educational and community based performances, with particular emphasis on new works produced by the Company or commissioned by third parties.

To advance the education of the public in the art of theatre, by the promotion of drama training classes and/or workshops. The Charity has the wider aim of using theatre to explore pressing social and political issues with the aim of engaging directly with the processes of democracy and change.

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the commission's guidance of public benefit and, in particular, the guidance on charities for the advancement of public education which we achieve through the objects set out above.

Collective Encounters' mission is to provide high- quality theatre experiences to individuals and communities who don't normally access the arts. We achieve this by partnership working with the voluntary sector and statutory services and delivering most of our work outside of theatre buildings: GP surgeries, hostels, care settings for looked after young people, care homes for older people, outdoors, libraries.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Achievements and performance

Within the year Collective Encounters delivered a Theatre for Social Change programme in the Liverpool City Region with:

- Young people: **Arts Adventures** creative holiday programmes for young people in the care system happened in the summer, half term, Christmas and Easter education breaks. These programmes involved partnership working with Children's Services, Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, Squash Nutrition and the Liverpool Everyman Playhouse Theatre, Merseyside Play Action Council and the Holiday Activities and Food Scheme.
- Adults: a regular theatre for social change group of adults from across the Liverpool City Region met regularly to develop their skills and to use drama to explore social and political issues. Through this work the group were able to produce a **Cost of Living Cabaret** that was showcased at the annual The World Transformed festival. This platform led to a new partnership with the Living Wage Foundation for an Autumn event at the Bolton Octagon Theatre and a local event, **Community Chronicles** that happened in March.
- Women: two of Collective Encounters' project models are designed to meet the needs of women, in particular women who are experiencing or have experienced a vulnerability or life challenge. **Women in Action** is an intergenerational group of women who meet regularly (usually weekly) to research and perform new creative works. Throughout the year these women worked with the University of Loughborough and the BBC Archives as part of the BBC Centenary celebrations. Through this process, they conceived **Auntie [Working Title]** an hour long interactive multi-media performance highlighting social attitudes prevalent in the 1950's – 1970's and explored how, and if, these attitudes had progressed in 21st Century society. **Confidence Through Creativity** is a highly successful thirteen week training programme for women that uses drama exercises to develop confidence and creative and digital skills.
- People living with dementia and their carers: within the year the Charity published and toured an updated training package and publication **The Everyday Guide Creativity for People Living with Dementia** to care homes in Halton.
- People accessing health services in Walton, Lee Valley, Southport and Bootle: within the year the **Life Rooms Creative Residencies** began and will continue until 2023-2024 and involve creative workshops with people accessing support through the NHS Life Rooms services.
- Young people with experience of migration continued to engage with the organisation through the **Where You're At** project.

The Charity's flagship **Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre** provided networking and learning events and new resources for over 800 artists, activists and academics, and within the year themes explored included Hybrid Participatory Theatre; Trauma-Informed Practice; Democracy; Civic Agency & Participation; Designing and Managing Arts Projects with a Social Impact Training; Anti-Racism and Participatory Arts Practice.

The Collective Encounters' team also mentored 9 emerging artists from diverse backgrounds facilitating a step-change in their careers or organisations with positive outcomes for the mentees including the securing of Developing Your Own Creative Practice grants, Big Lottery Reaching Community Awards and organisational development support.

Strategic focus and planning was also given to Collective Encounters' **Creative Participatory Research** approach which looks to build on commissions and partnerships with Culture Liverpool, Liverpool's Homeless Strategy Unit, Public Health Liverpool and Liverpool City Region Theatre Network. A mapping document exploring youth theatre provision within the Liverpool City Region was published by Collective Encounters in November 2022.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Developing the Organisation

Restructure: In 2022/2023 Collective Encounters undertook a consultation process with the core artistic and delivery team with a view to moving to a more egalitarian and democratic structure. During the year the foundations were laid to adopt this new structure which will see the organization being led by a team of 4 co-artistic directors at the beginning of the new financial year. Annette Burghes will continue to lead the organisation as Executive Director.

Rebranding: Liverpool based design agency, Nonconform, worked with trustees, participants and the delivery team to reposition the charity's digital branding and value proposition. Outputs included logo design, website design and digital content workshops with the creative team to ensure digital channels can be used effectively as a tool for engaging audiences.

Funders: Within the year multi-year funding was secured from the Big Lottery Reaching Communities programme and Children in Need. The Charity also received a 105% increase in funding from Liverpool City Council and new core funding from PH Holt Foundation. Despite the loss of National Portfolio status with Arts Council England (which had an annual value of £80,000 approximately 24% of the Charity's turnover), Arts Council England have agreed to invest £147,000 for organisation and programme development in 2023/2024.

Public benefit

The Charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The trustees consider that the strategies employed to achieve the Charity's objectives for 2022/2023 and the principal areas in which the Charity operates both locally nationally and internationally, provide benefit to the public.

The Charity has continued to deliver youth, adult and sector development programmes principally online continuing to protect all parties to achieve its objectives.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Financial review

Income totalling in the year was £277,294 (2022: £283,455) of which £132,708 (2022: £64,965) related to restricted income.

Total expenditure in the year was £234,865 (2022: £284,736), leaving a surplus for the year of £42,429 (2022: Deficit £1,281)

At 31 March 2023 the charity reserves are £132,273 (2022: £89,844) of which £22,530 (2022: £22,085) represent restricted funds.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have agreed to build up an adequate reserves fund to protect the organisation in the event of declining income, or the event that the organisation will need to wind up its affairs. The Trustees recognize the commitment the organisation has to many of its vulnerable beneficiaries and that time would need to be taken to signpost participants to other services and provision. The Trustees also recognize the commitment it has in terms of employment law and redundancy provisions. Reserves are reviewed on a quarterly basis, and in the event of an increase in service provision and/or staffing levels.

Risk Management

Collective Encounters continues to monitor risk to all aspects of the charity quarterly through a risk management process. Identified risks are discussed with the Trustees and contingency measures are put in place.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £5 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J Beddard	
J Hudson	
A Winful	
T M Heldt	(Appointed 12 January 2023)
F Negro	(Appointed 12 January 2023)
V Guarneros-Meza	(Appointed 12 January 2023)
K L Bewers	(Appointed 12 January 2023)
M J Irwin	(Appointed 12 January 2023)
G Whitham	(Resigned 30 September 2022)
G S Boxer	
I Forel	(Resigned 12 January 2023)
J Johnson	(Resigned 12 January 2023)
A Jones	(Resigned 12 January 2023)
A Scott	(Resigned 30 September 2022)

New trustees are recruited by board agreement. Within the year, a skills audit and targeted recruitment drive was undertaken to ensure the Trustee team was ethnically diverse, representative of the community it serves and had the prerequisite set of skills to lead the organisation in a challenging external environment.

New Trustees were provided with written information regarding their legal obligations under charity law, the charity's constitution, information pertaining to the charity's mission and programme objectives and training provided by **Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy**. They were also welcomed through a series of informal 'getting to know you' sessions with the executive and delivery team.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Trustees meet with the Executive Director, Programme Manager and Artistic Steering Group quarterly to discuss activities, agree future plans, update policies and review the Charity's financial position and income generation plans. Sub-committees of the board may meet more regularly when undertaking specific transformation projects.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

J Beddard
Trustee

Date:

24th Oct 2023

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors of Collective Encounters for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law 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 the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; 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 adequate 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Collective Encounters (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 FCCA, 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 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.


Paul Flynn FCCA

Whitnalls

Chartered Certified Accountants

Trident House
105 Derby Road
Liverpool
L20 8LZ

Dated: 31/11/23

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	144,586	132,708	277,294	218,490	64,965	283,455
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	120,660	114,205	234,865	213,194	71,542	284,736
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		23,926	18,503	42,429	5,296	(6,577)	(1,281)
Gross transfers between funds		18,058	(18,058)	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		41,984	445	42,429	5,296	(6,577)	(1,281)
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		67,759	22,085	89,844	62,463	28,662	91,125
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		109,743	22,530	132,273	67,759	22,085	89,844

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		1,232		1,643
Current assets					
Debtors	10	5,544		1,120	
Cash at bank and in hand		129,268		90,115	
		<u>134,812</u>		<u>91,235</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(3,771)</u>		<u>(3,034)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>131,041</u>		<u>88,201</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u><u>132,273</u></u>		<u><u>89,844</u></u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	12		22,530		22,085
Unrestricted funds			109,743		67,759
			<u>132,273</u>		<u>89,844</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

24th Oct 2023

J Beppard
Trustee

Company registration number 5062035

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Collective Encounters is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Mpac Building, 1-27 Bridport Street, Merseyside, L3 5QF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers	25% Straight line
-----------	-------------------

1.7 Financial Instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Financial liabilities classified as other financial liabilities are stated at fair value with any gains or losses arising on remeasurement recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make Judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Charitable activities

	Charitable Income 2023 £	Charitable Income 2022 £
Income from charitable activities	277,294	283,455
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	144,586	218,490
Restricted funds	132,708	64,965
	<u>277,294</u>	<u>283,455</u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4 Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2023 £	Charitable Expenditure 2022 £
Share of support costs (see note 5)	130,598	176,100
Share of governance costs (see note 5)	104,267	108,636
	<u>234,865</u>	<u>284,736</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	120,660	213,194
Restricted funds	114,205	71,542
	<u>234,865</u>	<u>284,736</u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5	Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
	Staff costs	-	81,903	81,903	-	77,911	77,911
	Depreciation	-	411	411	-	548	548
	Staff Training	-	2,057	2,057	-	5,955	5,955
	Telephone and fax	-	3,068	3,068	-	2,896	2,896
	IT and maintenance cost	-	1,202	1,202	-	1,894	1,894
	Printing, postage and stationery	-	2,401	2,401	-	3,671	3,671
	Sundry expenses	-	-	-	-	48	48
	Travel and subsistence	5,421	3,293	8,714	-	4,483	4,483
	Advertising	-	1,381	1,381	416	-	416
	Production costs	121,634	-	121,634	172,386	-	172,386
	Insurance	1,275	-	1,275	1,030	-	1,030
	Rent and Rates	2,268	-	2,268	2,268	-	2,268
	Accountancy fees	-	2,591	2,591	-	2,191	2,191
	Legal and professional	-	5,960	5,960	-	9,003	9,003
	Bank charges	-	-	-	-	36	36
		<u>130,598</u>	<u>104,267</u>	<u>234,865</u>	<u>176,100</u>	<u>108,636</u>	<u>284,736</u>
	Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>130,598</u>	<u>104,267</u>	<u>234,865</u>	<u>176,100</u>	<u>108,636</u>	<u>284,736</u>

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Staff	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7	Employees	(Continued)	
		2023	2022
	Employment costs	£	£
	Wages and salaries	78,319	63,621
	Social security costs	1,451	9,378
	Other pension costs	2,133	4,912
		<u>81,903</u>	<u>77,911</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

8 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.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2022	<u>9,503</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>9,503</u>
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2022	7,860
Depreciation charged in the year	411
At 31 March 2023	<u>8,271</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,232</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,643</u>

10 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	<u>5,544</u>	<u>1,120</u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	1,858	1,224
Trade creditors	112	-
Other creditors	-	9
Accruals and deferred income	1,801	1,801
	<u>3,771</u>	<u>3,034</u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	9,530	-	-	9,530
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	33,000	(27,000)	6,000	21,750	(27,750)	-	-
Heritage Lottery	7,162	11,720	(18,882)	-	2,930	(2,930)	-	-
LCVS	-	6,960	(4,160)	2,800	1,500	(4,300)	-	-
Our Liverpool	-	2,800	-	2,800	-	(2,800)	-	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	11,500	-	(11,500)	-	59,000	(42,467)	(16,533)	-
P H Holt	5,000	8,985	(5,000)	8,985	10,000	(8,985)	-	10,000
Public Health 2021	-	1,500	-	1,500	-	(1,500)	-	-
Rathbone Trust	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Big Lottery Fund (Women in Action)	-	-	-	-	17,500	(17,500)	-	-
Sutton Croft	-	-	-	-	7,498	(5,973)	(1,525)	-
	<u>28,662</u>	<u>64,965</u>	<u>(71,542)</u>	<u>22,085</u>	<u>132,708</u>	<u>(114,205)</u>	<u>(18,058)</u>	<u>22,530</u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	1,232	-	1,232	1,643	-	1,643
Current assets/(liabilities)	108,511	22,530	131,041	66,116	22,085	88,201
	<u>109,743</u>	<u>22,530</u>	<u>132,273</u>	<u>67,759</u>	<u>22,085</u>	<u>89,844</u>

14 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1105790

Accounts

Company registration number: 5062035

Charity registration number: 1105790

Collective Encounters

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Whitnalls

Chartered Certified Accountants

Trident House

105 Derby Road

Liverpool

L20 8LZ

Collective Encounters

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Collective Encounters

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Secretary	S Thornton
Principal Office	MPAC Building 1-27 Bridport Street Merseyside L3 5QF
Company Registration Number	5062035
Charity Registration Number	1105790
Independent Examiner	Whitnalls Chartered Certified Accountants Trident House 105 Derby Road Liverpool L20 8LZ

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees

M W Eccles (resigned 9 March 2022)

G Whitham

G S Boxer

E P Weitz (resigned 9 March 2022)

J B Johnson

J Beddard

A Jones

A Scott

A Prashar (resigned 30 July 2021)

A Winful (appointed 17 June 2021)

I Forel (appointed 23 September 2021)

J Hudson (appointed 30 July 2021)

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The objects of the Charity as laid out in the Memorandum of Association are:

To promote, maintain, improve and advance public education, appreciation and understanding of the arts and particularly the art of theatre in all its aspects, by the production and presentation of theatrical, educational and community based performances, with particular emphasis on new works produced by the Company or commissioned by third parties.

To advance the education of the public in the art of theatre, by the promotion of drama training classes and/or workshops.

The Charity has the wider aim of using theatre to explore pressing social and political issues with the aim of engaging directly with the processes of democracy and change.

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the guidance on charities for the advancement of public education which we achieve through the objects set out above.

Collective Encounters' mission is to provide high- quality theatre experiences to individuals and communities who don't normally access the arts. We achieve this by partnership working with the voluntary sector and statutory services and delivering most of our work outside of theatre buildings: GP surgeries, hostels, care settings for looked after young people, care homes for older people, outdoors, libraries.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Operations

Board, Diversity & Development: This year the charity said goodbye and thank-you to long term trustees who had collectively given 20+ years of service. Efforts to diversify Collective Encounters continue and within the year Ithalia Forel , Anya Winful and June Hudson were co-opted onto the board. Diversity of the board is continuously monitored. In 2022/2023 it is envisaged the trustee team will grow in numbers and diversity.

New trustees are recruited by board agreement following an annual board skills audit and equality monitoring statistics. New trustees are provided with written information regarding their legal obligations under charity and company law. Alongside this they are given copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Business Plan. The charity also organises board development sessions: these sessions allow for more in depth discussion about the strategic direction of the charity.

Staffing: Trustees meet with the Executive Director quarterly to discuss activities, agree future plans, update policies and review the charity's financial position and income generation plans. Sub-committees meet more regularly when undertaking specific projects, and within the year this included supporting the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation application.

Collective Encounters core team is made up of an Executive Director, Programme Coordinator, Radical Makers Director and lead artists for both the Above & Beyond and Women in Action strands. Freelance contract workers are engaged to deliver large aspects of the charity's work.

During 2021-2022 Collective Encounters benefited from three six month-long paid work placements, increasing capacity within marketing and administration. The charity also hosted a number of undergraduate and postgraduate work placements hosting students from Warwick University, Goldsmiths University, University of Chester and University of Liverpool. Volunteers and work placements are ambassadors for the organisation and are an invaluable support, in particular they support the delivery of events and tours. All volunteers are supported to undertake professional development activities.

Office: Merseyside Play Action Centre remains Collective Encounters' registered offices although no activities took place there in the year due to the challenges of COVID security.

Fundraising Disclosures

During the year new funds were raised from European Social Fund, PH Holt, National Lottery Fund, Liverpool Council for the Voluntary Sector, Henby Charitable Trust Department of Work and Pension (Kickstarter), Big Lottery Reaching Communities programme. Multi-year funding agreements with Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Esmeé Fairbairn Foundation continued.

Public benefit

The Charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The trustees consider that the strategies employed to achieve the Charity's objectives for 2021/2022 and the principal areas in which the Charity operates both locally and nationally and internationally, provide benefit to the public.

The charity has continued, throughout the pandemic to deliver youth, adult and sector development programmes principally online continuing to protect all parties to achieve its objects.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and Performance

Throughout the year Collective Encounters continued to deliver theatre for social change activities online ; in the room (when social distancing restrictions allowed and it was safe to do so and hybrid) and synchronously in the room and online via digital interfaces.

Young People

Collective Encounters continued to run a regular youth theatre group and a range of Trinity Arts Awards accredited theatre for social programmes in outreach settings. In 2021 and 2022 achievements included:

Some youth theatre members progressed onto the National Youth Theatre summer school programme within the year, and worked towards their Gold and Silver Arts Award.

Demo Tapes: a ten-week project that focussed on creating original protest music inspired by or sampling recordings from the North West Sound Heritage archive.

Looked After Children Summer School: a 2-week, face to face summer programme for children and young people looked hosted by the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.

Wirral Hospital School: a 10-session outreach project looking at writing for performance was delivered with young people attending this health provision.

Adults

The Legend of the Mernix was launched at a series of online events. Local people in Bootle and Birkenhead were able to take part in this digital quest and walking tour over the course of the year.

A recruitment drive for the final cohort of Radical Makers reached a diverse team of 16 associate artists, who in September started to develop their community theatre practice.

Women in Action: throughout the year an intergenerational group of local women worked collectively to create The Ballad of 18 Women which told the stories of local activists across the generations. The Ballad of 18 Women was launched at an International Women's Day event hosted at the Museum of Liverpool.

Confidence Through Creativity: Three iterations of this 12 week course for women looking to develop their confidence took place throughout the year.

Covid-19 Youth Insights: Twelve young people were trained in research practices by Collective Encounters in order to capture data on attitudes to Covid -19 social distancing rules.

Ethnic Minority Communities in Liverpool: twenty-five conversations with community leaders in Liverpool led to the publication of this report outlining the challenges experienced when accessing public services by members of ethnic minority communities in Liverpool.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Developing practice within the participatory theatre sector

Over 1000 members of the arts and cultural sector workforce took place in training and networking event throughout the year. Themes this year included:

- Keeping Well
- Strategies for Participatory Artist Wellbeing
- Putting Anti Racism into Practice
- The Future of Participatory Theatre
- Shared Decision Making and Power Sharing
- Arts for Social Change Showcase
- Trauma Informed Practice
- Creativity and Climate Justice
- Co-creating Political Theatre with Communities
- Theatre from Lived Experience
- Designing Arts Projects with Social Impact

Advocacy

Within the year strategic partnerships were formed or maintained with:

- ArtWorks Alliance
- Creative Organisations of Liverpool (COoL)
- Edge Hill University
- March for the Arts
- SHIFT, a sustainability network for cultural organisations in the Liverpool Region
- PSS
- Good Business Festival
- Sefton Council for the Voluntary Sector
- Liverpool Public Health
- Merseycare
- Liverpool City Region Theatre Network

Financial review

At 31 March 2022 unrestricted funds stood at £ 67,759 (2021 - £ 62,463) whilst restricted funds appropriate for specific projects stood at £ 22,085 (2021 - £ 28,662).

Policy on Reserves

The Trustees have agreed to build up an adequate reserves fund to protect the organisation in the event of declining income, or the event that the organisation will need to wind up its affairs. The Trustees recognise the commitment the organisation has to many of its vulnerable beneficiaries and that time would need to be taken to signpost participants to other services and provision. The Trustees also recognize the commitment it has in terms of employment law and redundancy provisions. Reserves are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Plans for the Future

The financial years 20/21 and 21/22 have been the busiest in the charity's history and in many ways Collective Encounters has pioneered new forms of and processes for making theatre for social change, and through the Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre shared this learning with the sector. The company in 2022/2023 is committed to maintaining its core charitable outputs through the young people's programme, adult programme and sector development activities. At the same time Collective Encounters will be undertaking an organisational review to ensure all aspect of resourcing are fit for purpose in light of the digital and hybrid practices that have become integral to the programme.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The report which follows and the attached documents are in the format required by SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice), agreed between the accountancy profession and the Charity Commission, under the provisions of the Charities Act 1993 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995. The charity was incorporated on 3rd March 1994.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association the Board of Directors (the Trustees) shall consist of not 'less than two or more than twelve' at any one time, and the Chair of the Trustees is nominated by Collective Encounters Board. The trustees have the power to co-opt additional members to fill vacancies, where necessary. Co-opted members have full voting rights.

When considering co-opting trustees, the Board will analyse what skills are needed for current and future company developments.

Induction and training of trustees

Management Structure

Trustees meet with the Executive Director, Artistic Director & General Manager quarterly to discuss activities, agree future plans, update policies and review the Charity's financial position and income generation plans. Sub-committees of the board may meet more regularly when undertaking specific projects.

Trustee Recruitment & Training Policy

New trustees are recruited by board agreement. Strategies are in place to ensure the board is diverse and representative of the communities it serves.

New Trustees are provided with written information regarding their legal obligations under charity and company law. Alongside this they are given copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Strategic Business Plan. Trustee Skills Audits are completed regularly and opportunities for areas of training and development are identified. The charity also organises board development sessions: these sessions are facilitated and allow for more in-depth discussion about the strategic direction of the charity.

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2021 - nil).

The charity trustees were not paid or recovered any salary or benefits from employment with the charity. No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity,

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Organisational structure

A senior management team made up for an Executive Director, Artistic Director and General Manager lead Collective Encounters. An Outreach Director and four further project managers/lead artists, support the work. Freelance contract workers are engaged to deliver large aspects of the company's work. Volunteers and ambassadors of the organisation are an invaluable support, in particular support the delivery of events and tours. All workers and volunteers are supported to undertake professional development activities.

Major risks and management of those risks

Collective Encounters continues to monitor risk to all aspects of the charity quarterly through a risk management process. Identified risks are discussed with the Trustees and contingency measures are put in place.

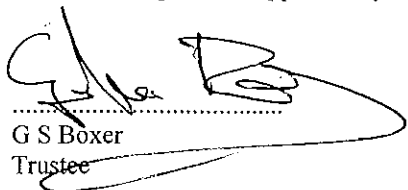
The trustees (who are also the directors of Collective Encounters for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 27.9.22 and signed on its behalf by:


G S Boxer
Trustee

Collective Encounters

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Collective Encounters for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 17 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of FCCA.

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

- examine the 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 report

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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

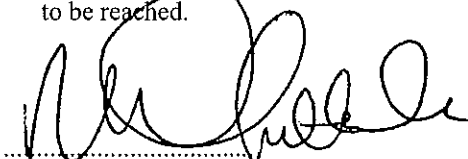
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me a reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

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



.....
Roger Whittaker FCCA
Whitnalls
Chartered Certified Accountants
Trident House
105 Derby Road
Liverpool
L20 8LZ

Date:..... 12/12/22

Collective Encounters

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	4	218,490	64,965	283,455
Total Income		<u>218,490</u>	<u>64,965</u>	<u>283,455</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(213,194)	(71,542)	(284,736)
Total Expenditure		<u>(213,194)</u>	<u>(71,542)</u>	<u>(284,736)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>5,296</u>	<u>(6,577)</u>	<u>(1,281)</u>
Net movement in funds		5,296	(6,577)	(1,281)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>62,463</u>	<u>28,662</u>	<u>91,125</u>
Total funds carried forward	10	<u>67,759</u>	<u>22,085</u>	<u>89,844</u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	2,842	-	2,842
Charitable activities	4	204,736	76,372	281,108
Total Income		<u>207,578</u>	<u>76,372</u>	<u>283,950</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		(109)	-	(109)
Charitable activities	5	(202,126)	(69,323)	(271,449)
Total Expenditure		<u>(202,235)</u>	<u>(69,323)</u>	<u>(271,558)</u>
Net income		<u>5,343</u>	<u>7,049</u>	<u>12,392</u>
Net movement in funds		5,343	7,049	12,392
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>57,120</u>	<u>21,613</u>	<u>78,733</u>
Total funds carried forward	10	<u>62,463</u>	<u>28,662</u>	<u>91,125</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Collective Encounters
(Registration number: 5062035)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	1,643	2,191
Current assets			
Debtors	8	1,120	5,740
Cash at bank and in hand		90,114	86,176
		91,234	91,916
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(3,033)	(2,982)
Net current assets		88,201	88,934
Net assets		89,844	91,125
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		22,085	28,662
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		67,759	62,463
Total funds	10	89,844	91,125

Collective Encounters
(Registration number: 5062035)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

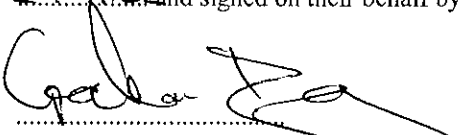
For the financial year ending 31 March 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

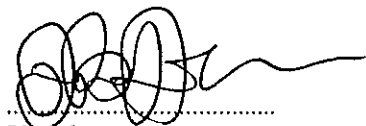
Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 9 to 17 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ~~27.9.22~~ and signed on their behalf by:


.....
G S Boxer
Trustee


.....
J B Johnson
Trustee

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

1 Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £5 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Collective Encounters meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

All donations receivable are included in the statement of financial activities and are applied to either restricted or unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Grants, including capital grants;		
Government grants	-	2,842
	-	2,842

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	General £	£		
ACE NPO	81,847	-	81,847	81,487
Liverpool City Council	8,625	-	8,625	18,782
Children in Need	35,420	-	35,420	31,916
Our Liverpool	-	2,800	2,800	9,020
Second Public Health	2,869	-	2,869	-
Masterclass	-	-	-	1,491
Kickstarter	2,507	-	2,507	-
LCVS	-	6,960	6,960	1,950
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	10,110
Henby Trust	-	1,500	1,500	-
PH Holt	-	8,985	8,985	7,565
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	40,000	-	40,000	59,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	33,000	33,000	49,025
Heirtage Lottery	-	11,720	11,720	-
ESF	17,222	-	17,222	10,762
ACE Project Grants	30,000	-	30,000	-
	218,490	64,965	283,455	281,108

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Note	General £	£	£	£
Allocated support costs	6	104,558	71,542	176,100	186,606
Governance costs	6	108,636	-	108,636	84,843
		<u>213,194</u>	<u>71,542</u>	<u>284,736</u>	<u>271,449</u>
			Activity undertaken directly £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Production costs			172,386	172,386	178,224
Rent			2,268	2,268	7,452
Insurance			1,030	1,030	930
Advertisements			416	416	-
			<u>176,100</u>	<u>176,100</u>	<u>186,606</u>

£104,558 (2021 - £117,283) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £71,542 (2021 - £69,323) to restricted funds.

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

Basis of allocation	Unrestricted funds		Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	General £	Restricted funds £		
Production costs	100,844	71,542	172,386	178,224
Rent	2,268	-	2,268	7,452
Insurance	1,030	-	1,030	930
Advertising	416	-	416	-
	<u>104,558</u>	<u>71,542</u>	<u>176,100</u>	<u>186,606</u>

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds		Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	General £			
Staff costs				
Wages and salaries		63,621	63,621	61,143
Social security costs		9,378	9,378	1,325
Pension costs		4,912	4,912	1,752
Other staff costs		5,956	5,956	4,290
Audit fees				
Other fees paid to auditors		2,191	2,191	2,230
Legal fees		9,004	9,004	-
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		548	548	730
Other governance costs		13,026	13,026	13,373
		<u>108,636</u>	<u>108,636</u>	<u>84,843</u>

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2021	<u>9,503</u>	<u>9,503</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>9,503</u>	<u>9,503</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2021	7,312	7,312
Charge for the year	<u>548</u>	<u>548</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>7,860</u>	<u>7,860</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,643</u>	<u>1,643</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,191</u>	<u>2,191</u>

8 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	<u>1,120</u>	<u>5,740</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors	1,232	1,226
Accruals	<u>1,801</u>	<u>1,756</u>
	<u>3,033</u>	<u>2,982</u>

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

10 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted	62,463	218,661	(213,365)	67,759
Restricted funds				
Paul Hamlyn foundation	11,500	-	(11,500)	-
P H Holt	5,000	8,985	(5,000)	8,985
Public Health 2021	-	1,500	-	1,500
LCVS	-	6,960	(4,160)	2,800
Big Lottery	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Heritage Lottery	7,162	-	(7,162)	-
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	33,000	(27,000)	6,000
Our Liverpool	-	2,800	-	2,800
Total restricted funds	<u>28,662</u>	<u>53,245</u>	<u>(59,822)</u>	<u>22,085</u>
Total funds	<u>91,125</u>	<u>271,906</u>	<u>(273,187)</u>	<u>89,844</u>

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds £
	General £	£		
Tangible fixed assets	1,643	-	-	1,643
Current assets	69,140	22,085	-	91,225
Current liabilities	(3,024)	-	-	(3,024)
Total net assets	<u>67,759</u>	<u>22,085</u>	<u>22,085</u>	<u>89,844</u>

12 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Cash flow £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	86,176	3,938	90,114
Net debt	<u>86,176</u>	<u>3,938</u>	<u>90,114</u>

COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1105790

Accounts

Company registration number: 5062035

Charity registration number: 1105790

Collective Encounters

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Whitnalls

Chartered Certified Accountants

44a Liverpool Road

Lydiate

Liverpool

Merseyside

L31 2LZ

Collective Encounters

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Collective Encounters

Reference and Administrative Details for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees	R Hankin (resigned 1 June 2021) M W Eccles G S Boxer E P Weitz J B Johnson J Beddard A Jones A Scott J Pratt A Prashar (appointed 25 June 2020) A Winful (appointed 17 June 2021)
Secretary	S O'Hare
Principal Office	MPAC Building 1-27 Bridport Street Merseyside L3 5QF
Company Registration Number	5062035
Charity Registration Number	1105790
Independent Examiner	Whitnalls Chartered Certified Accountants 44a Liverpool Road Lydiate Liverpool Merseyside L31 2LZ

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees

R Hankin (resigned 1 June 2021)

M W Eccles

G S Boxer

E P Weitz

J B Johnson

J Beppard

A Jones

A Scott

J Pratt

A Prashar (appointed 25 June 2020)

A Winful (appointed 17 June 2021)

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

The objects of the Charity as laid out in the Memorandum of Association are:

To promote, maintain, improve and advance public education, appreciation and understanding of the arts and particularly the art of theatre in all its aspects, by the production and presentation of theatrical, educational and community based performances, with particular emphasis on new works produced by the Company or commissioned by third parties.

To advance the education of the public in the art of theatre, by the promotion of drama training classes and/or workshops.

The Charity has the wider aim of using theatre to explore pressing social and political issues with the aim of engaging directly with the processes of democracy and change.

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the commission's guidance of public benefit and, in particular, the guidance on charities for the advancement of public education which we achieve through the objects set out above.

Collective Encounters' mission is to provide high- quality theatre experiences to individuals and communities who don't normally access the arts. We achieve this by partnership working with the voluntary sector and statutory services and delivering most of our work outside of theatre buildings: GP surgeries, hostels, care settings for looked after young people, care homes for older people, outdoors, libraries.

Operations

Board, Diversity & Development: This year we said goodbye and thank you to long term trustee and previous youth theatre member Rachael Hankin, and to Arti Prashar. Collective Encounters' board team will be more diverse in 2021/22 as we welcome Anya Winful and Ithalia Forel to the trustee team. Collective Encounters strives to have a diverse board that is representative of the communities it serves and this includes theatre makers, an arts and cultural worker, an academic, a local voluntary sector worker, a Liverpool City Council local authority planner and three long term participants. The trustee team monitor diversity across the whole organisation producing a report each year in order to identify suitable targets and areas for development.

Staffing: At the beginning of the year Collective Encounters welcomed two new team members to lead Women in Action and Confidence Through Creativity, and during the year Marianne Matusz joined the team to lead on the Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre programme. In April 2021, we began recruitment for 6 new part-time roles in a drive to extend employment opportunities to those affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Just one staff member was furloughed during 2020-2021.

Office: Merseyside Play Action remain Collective Encounters' registered offices although no activities took place there in the year due to the challenges of COVID security.

Fundraising Disclosures

Due to the pandemic fundraising efforts were stalled at key times, however funds were raised from Arts Council England, European Social Fund, Children in Need, Liverpool City Council COVID Recovery Fund, PH Holt, National Lottery Fund, Liverpool Council for the Voluntary Sector, Department of Work and Pension (Kickstarter) during the year.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Public benefit

The Charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The trustees consider that the strategies employed to achieve the Charity's objectives for 2020/2021 and the principal areas in which the Charity operates both locally and nationally and internationally, provide benefit to the public.

The charity has continued, throughout the pandemic , to deliver youth, adult and sector development programmes principally online continuing to protect all parties to achieve it's objects.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Achievements and Performance

In March 2020 we made the decision to cease all public-facing activities, about two weeks prior to the UK lockdown, in order to safeguard our participants, audience and workforce. Very quickly the programme pivoted online, and we delivered youth, adult, and sector development programmes (through the Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre) throughout 2020-2021.

In the 2018 - 2022 Strategic Business Plan we stated our key drivers were to:

- Increase the impact of the participatory programme & the reach of touring productions.
- Find new ways to enable people to connect to the cultural life of the city they live.
- Develop the Theatre for Social Change sector through training & research
- Widely advocate for the benefits of Theatre for Social Change
- Be ethical, sustainable & resilient

These drivers will continue to underpin our work in 2020- 2021 but we cannot ignore the unique challenges COVID-19 will bring to vulnerable individuals and communities. We believe organisations like Collective Encounters have an important role to play now more than ever. In 2020-2021 our programme aims were to:

- Use creativity to improve the lives of deprived people and communities
- Document the experiences of people during a period of significant social change
- Explore what might emerge once we have come through the pandemic.

Young People

Youth Theatre: In early April a collaboration was established with the London based Company Three which enabled our young people to work on the Coronavirus Time Capsule Project during the first UK lockdown. Also, in April, three young people were commissioned to create two new digital pieces about their experiences of lockdown. Over the summer, Summer Samplers enabled young people to develop specific performance related skills such as voice, physical theatre and spoken word through workshops led by guest artists who included: Jennifer John, Keisha Thompson, Emilie Lahouel and Chris Thorpe. Throughout autumn and winter young people explored racial justice, migration, identity and nationalism in a programme which included guest workshops from Vanessa Kisuule and Dermot Daly. This was followed by a series of sessions structured around 'making theatre' which has continued into 2021/2022.

Youth Outreach: In addition, Arts Award accredited outreach courses took place with voluntary sector partners including Barnardo's and PSS for young carers; British Red Cross and City of Liverpool College for newly arrived young people; Princess Trust and two further open access courses delivered online. The #iWill Project funded project 'Fight for the Future' used digital media to make a new short film on young people from The Wirral's concerns on the climate emergency.

Adults

Above & Beyond: This four year Paul Hamlyn Foundation programme enabled marginalised adults in Bootle & Birkenhead to work together throughout the year online to co-create a new piece of digital participatory theatre, The Legend of the Mernix, with digital participatory theatre consultant Caitlin Strongarm.

During the year Above & Beyond worked in partnership with voluntary sector groups including Involve North West, Make it Happen, Spider Project, St. James' Centre, Tomorrows Women, Wirral Change, Wirral Hospital Schools, Wirral Refugee Action Kindfulness Coffee Club, Life Rooms Bootle, North Park Community Gardens, Orrell Trust, Sefton OPERA, Strand By Me and Swan Women's Centre.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The first lockdown early in the year saw Above & Beyond also given ten micro-commissions in order to A) continue to generate new material alongside the project's themes and B) provide economic opportunities to the local cultural sector.

Radical Makers: is a four-year community theatre training programme for adults (over 25) who have not previously been able access arts training and learning. In the year, the Radical Makers programme has successfully pivoted to online delivery after the first cohort completed their learning in July 2020, a second cohort of 13 local people was successfully recruited. Life During Lockdown was broadcast on YouTube in June. For a few participants, maintaining engagement while also coping with a tough lockdown winter was very challenging and two participants decided not to continue. In both cases they had significant mental ill health and needed to prioritize basic wellness. They were both supported to step back well.

Women in Action: Women in Action is a two-year intergenerational National Heritage Lottery funded project designed to document and present the stories of women involved in community organising and activism in post-war Liverpool. The project successfully brought together older women online in June and they worked together throughout the year to undertake training in oral history techniques, deliver online 'story circles' and create a short audio piece which is a 'rough and ready' experiment with verbatim aesthetics, which will be developed further as the project progress towards a final radio ballad in October 2021. A partnership has been confirmed with the Museum of Liverpool, who will archive the recorded interviews so that they have a life beyond their use in our project, and composer Beth Hopkins has been commissioned to work co-create this final piece.

Confidence Through Creativity: This European Social Funded project was launched in June 2020 and was delivered wholly online. Confidence Through Creativity takes the form of a 13-session long Arts Award accredited course for women with life-limiting conditions and who are not in employment or education. Women could sign up to the project directly with Collective Encounters or could be referred from support agencies such as women's centre and prison and probation services.

Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre: This online centre for information, training and resources for the participatory movement has had its busiest year. Alongside formal training events in themes such as 'Managing Participatory Arts Projects', 'Working with Looked After Children and Young People', 'Political Engagement in Youth Arts Practice' and "Creative Ageing", the Centre also delivered a series of online events and published a number of resources to support the participatory arts movement to transition to online and to hybrid delivery practices.

A series of 4 events, Delivering Participatory Theatre During Social Distancing: What's Working? were very quickly set up in May in order to respond to the demands within the arts movement for conversation, sharing of practice, ideas, challenges and opportunities. Over 330 people attended the events and their content was put together in a new 32-page report organised into themes which included digital inclusion, workshop practice, presenting theatre and safeguarding online.

Following these Collective Encounters commissioned a series of filmed essays and case studies called 'Making Digital Participatory Theatre' from Maya Chowdhry, a digital participatory theatre expert who had been working in the field for some time.

Throughout the Autumn, we created a series of events called Open Playgrounds which provided a space for practitioners to test out new ideas working across a range of participatory arts techniques.

Advocacy

Senior management spoke about Collective Encounters' work and ethos, contributing thinking and practice on the arts as a tool for social change through:

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Curious Minds
Royal Literature Society
University Network for European Capitals of Culture
Theatre and Uncertainty Conference
Arts Marketing Association
Centre for Cultural Value
University of Liverpool
Small Charities Coalition
ArtWorks Alliance
Creative Organisations of Liverpool
Civic Role of the Arts During COVID
University of Bolton
Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts
Centre for Urban Research on Austerity
Liverpool Hope University
ArtsChain
Liverpool Homeless Stakeholders Forum
Voluntary Arts England

Financial review

At 31st March 2021, unrestricted funds stood at £ 62,463 (2020 - £57,120), restricted funds appropriate for specific projects stood at £ £28,662 (2020 - £21,613).

Policy on Reserves

The Trustees have agreed to build up an adequate reserves fund to protect the organisation in the event of declining income, or the event that the organisation will need to wind up its affairs. The Trustees recognise the commitment the organisation has to many of its vulnerable beneficiaries and that time would need to be taken to signpost participants to other services and provision. The Trustees also recognize the commitment it has in terms of employment law and redundancy provisions. Reserves are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Plans for the Future

The programme and ambitions for 2021/2022 will build upon the achievements and digital shift undertaken during the first year of the pandemic.

Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre: We have built a diverse community of participatory theatre makers, at all stages of their career, through training, networking and professional development events and the publishing of resources via our online Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre. In 2021/2022 we will:

- Host at least 12 events that enable at least 600 participatory theatre makers to develop their practice. Themes for events will be derived from consultation with the sector, and are likely to cover aspects of delivering participatory theatre online and hybrid (online and offline) workshops and performances.
- Established an online portal for participatory theatre makers to connect with each other, sharing news and opportunities and advice and support from peers.
- Deliver bi-monthly Artist Development workshops for at least 10 Collective Encounters' artistic associates.
- Play key roles in participatory arts and local networks including: ArtsChain, ArtWorks Alliance, Creative Organisations of Liverpool, Northern Culture All Party Parliamentary Group.
- Be responsive to dissemination, networking and development opportunities as and when they arise throughout the year.

Local Community Power: We are committed to co-producing all that we do with those that the work aims to serve. Over the last two years we have been testing and evaluating power-sharing and co-creation within our strategic management, project design and delivery models, and within commissioned research. In 2021/2022 we will:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Project Advisory Group model for designing, evaluating and delivering place-based multi-year participatory programmes, and share these findings with the wider participatory arts sector, academic networks and the Creative People & Places network.
- Continue to increase diverse representation on the Board, enabling people from black and ethnic minority communities, that have been stakeholders of Collective Encounters, to join up.
- Host at least 5 open events for the voluntary sector and public service partners in the Liverpool City Region to enable us to continue to identify and meet the evolving and changing needs of the local community.
- Update our Quality Indicators & Evaluation Framework enacting recommendations made by the Independent Evaluator & Board.
- Continue to play roles in non-arts networks such as the Homeless Stakeholders Forum (Liverpool City Region), Council for the Voluntary Sector in Sefton, Wirral, Liverpool & Knowsley.

Programme: In 2021/2022 we will deliver:

- Above & Beyond: We will engage a diverse group of adults from Knowsley, Sefton and Birkenhead (either online or face to face) in theatre for social change activities that will develop local people's capacity to set up and deliver community led arts and cultural projects. We will also create one new piece of digital participatory theatre articulating the experiences of these communities.
- Women in Action: This project documents and celebrates the role local women play in making changes in their local community through activism and community organising. This year the project will continue to deliver regular 'women only intergenerational workshops', archive the stories and testimonies from these workshops with the British Library and National Museums Liverpool and commission a professional creative team to co-produce a radio ballad with participants which will be shared with local and national audience at three events, and online.
- Radical Makers: This emerging artist training programme runs in four year long cycles, in parallel to the wider Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre initiatives. A new diverse cohort of fourteen trainees will be recruited in September 2021 and will undertake six modules in themes such as being creative online; delivering theatre with different groups; live performance and working as a professional artist and facilitator.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

- **Confidence Through Creativity:** This short course, made up of twenty-six accredited sessions, was launched last year supporting twenty-two women with life-limiting conditions (such as long term unemployment, mental ill health, physical disabilities) to grow their personal confidence by getting creative online. Building on the success of this a further iteration of this course will be launched in 2021-2022.
- **Youth Theatre:** The Collective Encounters' youth theatre for 14 - 19 year olds will continue to meet weekly to learn new creative skills, and use theatre to explore pertinent social and political issues.
- **Where You're At:** This programme for young people who are newly arrived to the UK will be delivered over the summer, and will engage artists from a broad range of disciplines to create a new piece of work to be shared with other newly arrive people and communities through Art Reach's Journey's Festival in Manchester, Southampton and Portsmouth,
- **Young Homotopia:** We will work in partnership with Homotopia to set up and deliver theatre for social change activities for the young LGBTQ+ community.
- **Looked After Children & Young People Summer School:** For two weeks over the summer we will deliver a summer school for children and young people who are looked after by Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral and Knowsley Children's Services.
- **Arts based research:** The focus for this year will be to undertake research that will explore the ethics and practicalities of arts-based research methodologies and share these findings (March 2022) through academic and sector networks and events.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The report which follows and the attached documents are in the format required by SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice), agreed between the accountancy profession and the Charity Commission, under the provisions of the Charities Act 1993 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995. The charity was incorporated on 3rd March 1994.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association the Board of Directors (the Trustees) shall consist of not 'less than two or more than twelve' at any one time, and the Chair of the Trustees is nominated by Collective Encounters Board. The trustees have the power to co-opt additional members to fill vacancies, where necessary. Co-opted members have full voting rights.

When considering co-opting trustees, the Board will analyse what skills are needed for current and future company developments.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Induction and training of trustees

Management Structure

Trustees meet with the Executive Director, Artistic Director & General Manager quarterly to discuss activities, agree future plans, update policies and review the Charity's financial position and income generation plans. Sub-committees of the board may meet more regularly when undertaking specific projects.

Trustee Recruitment & Training Policy

New trustees are recruited by board agreement. Strategies are in place to ensure the board is diverse and representative of the communities it serves.

New Trustees are provided with written information regarding their legal obligations under charity and company law. Alongside this they are given copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Strategic Business Plan. Trustee Skills Audits are completed regularly and opportunities for areas of training and development are identified. The charity also organises board development sessions: these sessions are facilitated and allow for more in-depth discussion about the strategic direction of the charity.

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2020 - nil).

The charity trustees were not paid or recovered any salary or benefits from employment with the charity. No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity,

Organisational structure

A senior management team made up for an Executive Director, Artistic Director and General Manager lead Collective Encounters. An Outreach Director and four further project managers/lead artists, support the work. Freelance contract workers are engaged to deliver large aspects of the company's work. Volunteers and ambassadors of the organisation are an invaluable support, in particular support the delivery of events and tours. All workers and volunteers are supported to undertake professional development activities.

Collective Encounters

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Major risks and management of those risks

Collective Encounters continues to monitor risk to all aspects of the charity quarterly through a risk management process. Identified risks are discussed with the Trustees and contingency measures are put in place.

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

R Hankin (resigned 1 June 2021)
M W Eccles
G S Boxer
E P Weitz
J B Johnson
J Beddard
A Jones
A Scott
J Pratt
A Prashar (appointed 25 June 2020)
A Winful (appointed 17 June 2021)

Secretary S O'Hare

Principal Office MPAC Building
1-27 Bridport Street
Merseyside
L3 5QF

Company Registration Number 5062035

Charity Registration Number 1105790

The trustees (who are also the directors of Collective Encounters for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

Collective Encounters

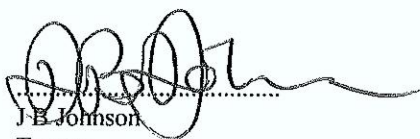
Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on ~~20.11.21~~ and signed on its behalf by:


J-B Johnson
Trustee

Collective Encounters

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Collective Encounters for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 14 to 23 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of FCCA.

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

- examine the 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 report

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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

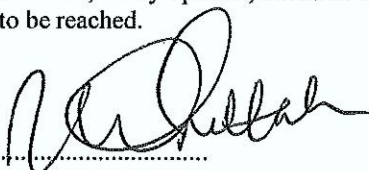
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me a reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

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



.....
Roger Whittaker FCCA
Whitnalls
Chartered Certified Accountants
44a Liverpool Road
Lydiate
Liverpool
Merseyside
L31 2LZ

Date:.....22.11.21.....

Collective Encounters

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2021 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	2,842	-	2,842
Charitable activities	4	<u>204,736</u>	<u>76,372</u>	<u>281,108</u>
Total Income		<u>207,578</u>	<u>76,372</u>	<u>283,950</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		(109)	-	(109)
Charitable activities	5	<u>(202,126)</u>	<u>(69,323)</u>	<u>(271,449)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(202,235)</u>	<u>(69,323)</u>	<u>(271,558)</u>
Net income		<u>5,343</u>	<u>7,049</u>	<u>12,392</u>
Net movement in funds		5,343	7,049	12,392
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>57,120</u>	<u>21,613</u>	<u>78,733</u>
Total funds carried forward	11	<u>62,463</u>	<u>28,662</u>	<u>91,125</u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	4	<u>143,834</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>204,834</u>
Total Income		<u>143,834</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>204,834</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(129,281)</u>	<u>(86,470)</u>	<u>(215,751)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(129,281)</u>	<u>(86,470)</u>	<u>(215,751)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>14,553</u>	<u>(25,470)</u>	<u>(10,917)</u>
Net movement in funds		14,553	(25,470)	(10,917)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>42,567</u>	<u>47,083</u>	<u>89,650</u>
Total funds carried forward	11	<u>57,120</u>	<u>21,613</u>	<u>78,733</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2021 is shown in note 11.

Collective Encounters
(Registration number: 5062035)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	2,191	3,032
Current assets			
Debtors	9	5,740	11,379
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>86,176</u>	<u>68,202</u>
		91,916	79,581
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(2,982)</u>	<u>(3,880)</u>
Net current assets		<u>88,934</u>	<u>75,701</u>
Net assets		<u>91,125</u>	<u>78,733</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		28,662	21,613
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>62,463</u>	<u>57,120</u>
Total funds	11	<u>91,125</u>	<u>78,733</u>

Collective Encounters

(Registration number: 5062035)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

For the financial year ending 31 March 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

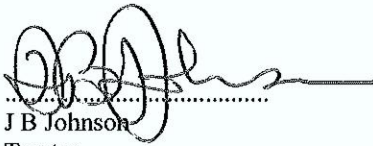
- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 22.11.21, and signed on their behalf by:



M W Eccles
Trustee



J B Johnson
Trustee

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

1 Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £5 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Collective Encounters meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

All donations receivable are included in the statement of financial activities and are applied to either restricted or unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	
	General £	Total 2021 £
Grants, including capital grants;		
Government grants	<u>2,842</u>	<u>2,842</u>
	<u>2,842</u>	<u>2,842</u>

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	General £	Restricted funds £		
ACE FRO	81,487	-	81,487	80,015
Liverpool City Council	18,782	-	18,782	11,667
Children in Need	31,916	-	31,916	35,420
Big Lottery Fund	-	9,020	9,020	-
Masterclass	1,491	-	1,491	2,457
LIPA	-	-	-	854
LCVS	1,950	-	1,950	2,000
Miscellaneous Income	10,110	-	10,110	971
Henby Trust	-	-	-	1,000
#IWill Fund	-	-	-	4,790
PH Holt	-	7,565	7,565	-
Case Fellowship	-	-	-	522
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	59,000	-	59,000	-
Arts Council: Catalyst	-	-	-	3,000
Esmee Fairbairn	-	49,025	49,025	32,450
Heitage Lottery	-	-	-	14,650
Rough Sleeper Accomodation	-	-	-	10,950
ESF	-	10,762	10,762	3,588
Unity Theatre	-	-	-	500
	<u>204,736</u>	<u>76,372</u>	<u>281,108</u>	<u>204,834</u>

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
		General £	Restricted funds £		
Allocated support costs	6	117,283	69,323	186,606	124,853
Governance costs	6	84,843	-	84,843	90,898
		<u>202,126</u>	<u>69,323</u>	<u>271,449</u>	<u>215,751</u>
			Activity undertaken directly £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Production costs			178,224	178,224	109,587
Rent			7,452	7,452	12,000
Insurance			930	930	916
Advertisements			-	-	2,350
			<u>186,606</u>	<u>186,606</u>	<u>124,853</u>

£116,549 (2020 - £129,281) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £69,324 (2020 - £86,470) to restricted funds.

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

Basis of allocation	Unrestricted funds		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	General £	Restricted funds £		
Production costs	108,900	69,324	178,224	109,587
Rent	7,452	-	7,452	12,000
Insurance	930	-	930	916
Advertising	-	-	-	2,350
	<u>117,282</u>	<u>69,324</u>	<u>186,606</u>	<u>124,853</u>

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	General £	Restricted funds £		
Staff costs				
Wages and salaries		61,143	61,143	63,637
Social security costs		1,325	1,325	2,054
Pension costs		1,752	1,752	1,875
Other staff costs		4,290	4,290	2,829
Audit fees				
Other fees paid to auditors		2,230	2,230	1,886
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		730	730	1,011
Other governance costs		13,373	13,373	17,606
		<u>84,843</u>	<u>84,843</u>	<u>90,898</u>

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	2021 £	2020 £
Loss on disposal of fixed assets held for the charity's own use	109	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>730</u>	<u>1,011</u>

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2020	14,098	14,098
Disposals	<u>(4,595)</u>	<u>(4,595)</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>9,503</u>	<u>9,503</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2020	11,066	11,066
Charge for the year	731	731
Eliminated on disposals	<u>(4,485)</u>	<u>(4,485)</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>7,312</u>	<u>7,312</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,191</u>	<u>2,191</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>3,032</u>	<u>3,032</u>

9 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	<u>5,740</u>	<u>11,379</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	-	750
Other creditors	1,226	1,678
Accruals	<u>1,756</u>	<u>1,452</u>
	<u>2,982</u>	<u>3,880</u>

Collective Encounters

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

11 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted	57,120	123,101	(117,758)	62,463
Restricted funds				
Children in Need	-	31,916	(31,916)	-
I will fund	2,596	-	(2,596)	-
Paul Hamlyn foundation	-	59,000	(47,500)	11,500
P H Holt	-	7,565	(2,565)	5,000
Case Fellowship	522	-	(522)	-
LCVS	2,000	1,950	(3,950)	-
Big Lottery	-	9,020	(4,020)	5,000
Heritage Lottery	13,650	-	(6,488)	7,162
Esmee Fairburn	-	49,025	(49,025)	-
ESF	2,845	10,763	(13,608)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>21,613</u>	<u>169,239</u>	<u>(162,190)</u>	<u>28,662</u>
Total funds	<u><u>78,733</u></u>	<u><u>292,340</u></u>	<u><u>(279,948)</u></u>	<u><u>91,125</u></u>

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	2,191	2,191
Current assets	91,916	91,916
Current liabilities	(2,982)	(2,982)
Total net assets	<u><u>91,125</u></u>	<u><u>91,125</u></u>

13 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Cash flow £	At 31 March 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	68,202	17,974	86,176
Net debt	<u>68,202</u>	<u>17,974</u>	<u>86,176</u>