

# UK Storyhouse Limited

England & Wales · Charity number 1121007

## Details

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Other names	CHESTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE LIMITED, UK Storyhouse Ltd
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">05541255</a>
Registered	2007-09-28
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Storyhouse Hunter Street Chester CH1 2AR
Phone	01244409113
Email	<a href="mailto:info@storyhouse.com">info@storyhouse.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.storyhouse.com">www.storyhouse.com</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** To promote the presentation and development of arts and culture in Chester District and the surrounding area.

**Activities:** UK Storyhouse Limited (trades as Storyhouse) is an educational arts based charity promoting the development of the performing arts in and around Chester.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN THE CHESTER DISTRICT AND SURROUNDING AREA.
- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West & Chester

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£7,554,960	£7,490,675	£1,179,725	147
2024-03-31	£7,101,170	£7,493,818	£1,115,440	140
2023-03-31	£6,863,001	£7,514,185	£1,508,090	142
2022-03-31	£6,438,554	£5,670,924	£2,159,273	121
2021-03-31	£4,438,415	£3,526,644	£1,391,643	97

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>David Jnr Watson</b>	Chair	2022-11-18
John William Grout Gr		2022-11-18
Kirsty Lowe		2023-11-21
Leroy Burnett		2020-08-07
Maria Perny		2022-11-18
Michaela Leighanne Dalton		2022-11-18
Richard Watts		2023-11-21
Ryan Guest		2024-03-19
Sioned Mererid Jones		2022-11-18
Vidya Venugopal		2022-11-18
William Andrew Fergus		2022-11-18

**UK Storyhouse Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1121007

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# Accounts

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Company registration number 05541255  
Charity registration number 1121007

**UK Storyhouse Limited**  
**Trustees' Report and Consolidated**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

# STORYHOUSE

**CHAMPION ACCOUNTANTS LLP**  
Statutory Auditors  
2nd Floor  
Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
CHESTER  
CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Contents of the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Trustees Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)	2 - 8
Independent Auditor's Report	9-11
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)	12
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet	13
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	14
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	15 - 27

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# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Trustees Reference and Administrative Details For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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The Trustees, who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	UK Storyhouse Limited
<b>Charity Registration Number:</b>	1121007
<b>Company Registration Number:</b>	05541255
<b>Trustees</b> (in the period and at the date of approval):	D Watson (Chair) M Perny (Vice Chair) (appointed VC 21/11/2023) N M Adamu (resigned 20/12/24) E Boekesteijn (resigned 5/12/24) L A Burnett M L Dalton W A Fergus (resigned 10/8/25) J W Grout S M Jones V Venugopal K Lowe R D Watts A Tonkin (resigned 20/1/25) R E Guest
<b>Principal and Registered Office:</b>	Storyhouse Hunter Street Chester Cheshire CH1 2AR

The Charity's professional advisors are as follows:

<b>Auditors:</b>	Champion Accountants LLP 2nd Floor Refuge House 33-37 Watergate Row Chester CH1 2LE
<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds Bank plc 8 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1XP  NatWest Bank plc 33 Eastgate Street Chester CH1 1LG

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Group and Charity for 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Governing Document**

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee whose constitution is set out in a deed of trust, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Board of Trustees**

The Board at 31 March 2025 is made up of 11 non-executive unpaid Trustees, chaired by David Watson. Board membership includes two dedicated positions for Trustees under the age of 25, one of which was vacant from Dec 2024.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for ensuring Storyhouse's mission and aims are achieved. It is responsible for forward strategy and direction, approving the annual business plan and budget, and monitoring performance and delivery, supporting the Chief Executive and her team. Board Trustees have a diverse range of skills, experience and backgrounds, bringing a range of perspectives to discussions and strategic decisions.

#### **Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

New appointments to the Board are advertised and ratified by the full Board. This process is led by a Nominations Committee. New Trustees have a full induction process and take part in the year-round trustee training programme. Trustees are appointed on a fixed term basis and are subject to a maximum six-year term.

#### **Decision Making**

The Board retains full control and approves all major strategic decisions and has ultimate responsibility for the company's conduct and financial stability. Leadership and management of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive has support from five Directors (Creative, Development, Marketing, Finance and Operations) together comprising the organisation's Senior Leadership Team.

The Board meets four times a year and is supported by a number of committees and advisory groups, which include:

Committees:

- Finance & Resources
- Risk
- Access & Inclusion
- Remuneration
- Nominations
- Artistic Impact & Evaluation
- Development

This structure provides the Board with the assurance that detailed attention and scrutiny are being afforded to important strategic issues.

Each of the committees and advisory groups are governed by terms of reference, which set out key decisions which must be approved by the Board and those delegated to the standing committees.

The governance structure and the terms of reference of committees are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with the Charity's governing document and to make sure they remain fit for purpose.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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The affairs of the company are subject to external scrutiny by Arts Council England, who are entitled to attend Board meetings as observers. The company has a substantial contract for services with Cheshire West & Chester Council, who undertake an annual review and are also invited to attend Board meetings as observers.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries, Storyhouse Production Company Limited and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the Charity are to promote the presentation and development of the performing arts in Chester and the surrounding area.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Storyhouse is an independent arts centre and creative hub. Every pound we make goes back into Storyhouse, to keep our space free and open, and change lives in our communities.

Our home incorporates two theatres, a cinema, a library and a restaurant.

During 2024/25, the business plan was developed from a one year to a four year plan, covering the period up to March 2028.

It has provided renewed focus for the organisation at a time of leadership change and financial challenge, communicating our ambition and setting out a clear timescale for returning to a positive trading position.

It set out the following:

Vision: Here, culture is owned by everyone.

Mission: We work every day to be a creative home for our communities.

Values:

- Listen closely – true empathy takes effort. So we work hard to understand different points of view.
- Look around – opportunities can be spotted by anyone, anywhere, at anytime. So we always have our eyes, ears and minds wide open.
- Speak up – not everyone's stories have been told. So we use our voices to amplify those that haven't been heard.
- Stand up – debate and discussion make things better for us all. So we don't shy away from a challenge.
- Reach out – diverse perspectives solve the hardest problems and make the best decisions. So we seek them out, and invite them in.

Strategic objectives:

- Create outstanding artistic opportunities
- Tell everyone Storyhouse is a charity
- Show why we're vital
- Make people feel welcome here
- Unlock the full Storyhouse offer

The Business Plan is used by the Leadership Team to inform and steer progress against our mission and objectives. The Board of Trustees monitors delivery of the Business Plan at its quarterly meetings.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### Achievements and Performance

Last year we welcomed more than 912,000 people through our doors. Storyhouse continues to play an essential role as a free, warm, open space in the heart of the city. We know from feedback that customers from many different communities – communities of place, interest, identity, need and action – feel safe here.

From that position, we are able to build meaningful engagement with a range of creative and cultural activities, including with communities that have traditionally been under-served by the cultural sector. Our engagement continues to grow, with a 14% increase in attendances at participatory activities in 2024/25 compared to the previous year.

- 187,913 tickets sold for performances, films and activities
- 69,560 attendances at participatory activities, including 52,284 for young people's activities
- 67% of our engagement activities were free to access
- 2,202 hours of community-led activity
- 161,253 books borrowed

### Highlights from 2024/25

Our in-house productions, Storyhouse Originals, included a major production of *Kinky Boots*; a version of *The Tempest* which toured to schools before returning to Storyhouse; and our Christmas show, *Sleeping Beauty*. We also made three new shows for the Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Gangs of New York* and, and for younger audiences, *The Wizard of Oz*, which attracted more than 21,000 people. For the first time, we partnered with Scenario Two to co-produce *The Parent Agency*, a new family musical written by David Baddiel, which premiered at Storyhouse.

We continued to complement these productions with a wide range of touring work, across both the main theatre and Garret studio. This included theatre, musicals, music, dance and comedy as well as an extensive programme of work for families, with more than 77,000 tickets sold.

Our support for Fallen Angels Dance Theatre as an Associate Company saw the continuation of the work with people in recovery from addiction.

Throughout the year we work with our communities to co-curate a series of festivals, working with steering groups of people with lived experience of the issues explored, to create events ranging from two days to two weeks in length. Our 2024/25 festivals included Storyhouse Queer for LGBTQIA+ communities, Storyhouse Women, Kaleidoscope Festival celebrating and platforming the creative talents of the learning-disabled community, Storyhouse Childless and Storyhouse Elders. These festivals engaged nearly 4,000 people as participants, audience members, speakers and artists. We also run Chester Literature Festival, which featured authors including George the Poet, Simon Reeve and Lucy Worsley, and Wayword, designed to inspire a love of stories and reading in children aged 3-11.

In addition to our co-curated festivals, Storyhouse also supports local communities to stage their own events and activities. In 2024/25 52 community groups accessed free space at Storyhouse, amounting to more than 2,200 hours of activity, ranging from domestic abuse support services, bereavement support, chatter and natter, LGBTQ+ reading groups, board game groups and much more.

Our film programme continued to offer a wider range of world cinema, British independent film, documentary, classics, new releases, family features, outdoor screenings, curated seasons and festivals, alongside some live broadcast screenings, attracting audiences of more than 32,000.

Young Storyhouse encompasses our many programmes for young people, which delivered more than 780 sessions across the year with attendance of 9,800+. In 2024/25 these included:

- Youth Theatre (8 different groups, split up by age) for young people aged 5-17
- Storyhouse Young Company (SYC) for young people aged 18-25 interested in a career in performing
- Young Leaders for young people who are referred to us by partner organisations to join a sustained creative work experience programme
- The Agency, a creative entrepreneurship programme for young people aged 15-25 from Lache to develop projects for their community
- Young Programmers, offering cinema and festival take-over opportunities for aspiring producers and programmers aged 14-25
- Young Readers, for graduates of the Young Leaders programme to discuss books and themes

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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- Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) winter, spring and summer clubs for children in receipt of free school meals, often including a visit to a Storyhouse Original production
- Work Experience Week, for 16 young people in years 10-13 to gain a taste of working at Storyhouse

Our library continued to attract international recognition, due to its integration with the rest of the building alongside the longest opening hours of any UK public library. Activities included twice-weekly Rhymetime sessions for early years, which saw more than 11,000 attendances, storytelling, craft and digital support sessions.

### **Financial Position**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2025, Storyhouse reported a surplus of £64k. This compares to a deficit of £393k in March 2024, showing a positive step forward as we move past a break even position, enabling us to start rebuilding our reserves.

The budget for the year ended 31 March 2025 was a deficit of £265K. The turnaround from deficit to surplus was mainly due to favourable performance against target for box office income, particularly for touring shows and cost control across the board.

### **Raising Funds**

Total income for March 2025 was £7.555m, an increase of £454k compared to the prior year (£7.101m in March 2024). Further detail is provided in notes 3-7 of the accounts.

There were increases in most areas of fundraising: Membership and private giving at £318k (£234k in 2024); Sponsorship income at £95k (£80k in 2024); and Trusts and Foundations at £234k (£194k in 2024). Project Funding was lower at £67k (£97k in 2024).

Grants received from Arts Council England and Cheshire West and Chester Council were £1.33m in 2025, the same as 2024.

### **Catering Company**

Income from the trading subsidiary, Storyhouse Catering Company, was £3.38m (from £3.6m in March 2024).

The Catering Company continued to operate The Kitchen at Storyhouse, open daily from 8am to 11pm, serving a diverse range of visitors, including students, community groups, home workers, and library users. With a casual dining menu with flavours inspired by Levantine cuisine and a comprehensive coffee shop offer, it provides an accessible and inviting space that complements our wide range of activities.

The Kitchen actively supports local suppliers such as Kookaburra Bakery, Peckforton Farm Dairy, David Joinson, and Lost Barn Coffee.

The overall contribution from the Catering Company was a surplus of £944k (£744k in March 2024). As well as this significant contribution to Storyhouse's overall revenue, The Kitchen creates essential employment opportunities in hospitality and food and drink.

### **Production Company**

Storyhouse's own productions, Storyhouse Originals, continue to be developed through the Storyhouse Production Company. Income for 2025 was £796k, down from £932k in March 2024 due to the timing of productions.

Theatre Tax Relief increased to £290k (from £223k in March 2024), following a review of what can be claimed across the various projects.

### **Assets**

Net current assets were £840k as at March 2025 (£815k in March 2024). Net group assets were £1,180k as at March 2025 (£1,115k March 2024).

Overall cash at bank and cash in hand balance was £1,638k (£1,650k in March 2024).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### Risk Management and Principal Risks

The Trustees monitor performance against the Charity's business plan and budget and have risk management processes in place. There is a comprehensive review annually to examine major strategic, business and operational risks which the Charity faces, and the Audit & Risk committee leads on this process.

A risk register is maintained and is reviewed regularly to confirm that systems have been established to mitigate and lessen these risks.

The Trustees have a Risk Management Strategy which comprises:

- A quarterly review of the risks the Charity may face and the likelihood of these risks occurring. Particular attention is given to major risks that would prevent the organisation from achieving its objectives.
- The Senior Leadership Team reports any changes in status of these risks, including any new risks and any actions taken to the Risk Committee and the main Board.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks are identified in the reviews.
- Procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity are implemented should these risks materialise.

The risk register identified that the highest risk is our reserve levels. Reserves have previously been used to support the post Covid recovery period, which was exacerbated by high inflation and the cost of living crisis. As progress to date shows, the planned turnaround to a break even position has been achievable in 2024/25 and the organisation is committed to rebuilding its reserves back to target as the business and external environment allows.

The other top risks identified are:

- IT

The organisation identified IT as a risk due to challenges around recruiting appropriate staff and ageing equipment. An external audit was undertaken to identify priority works, and a new IT Manager was recruited in April 2024. Significant progress against priorities has already been made and this risk will be further reduced by March 2026.

- Inflationary issues pressures

Although the rate of inflation is reducing, resources are still being stretched following the recent period of high inflation, particularly in terms of its impact on building costs and salaries and wages. It is anticipated that the rate of expected growth vs inflationary pressure on costs will narrow and relieve some of this pressure going forward.

- Dependency on income sources

It is important that we maintain a healthy balance across our revenue grants, earned income and other contributed income, to avoid dependency on any single source. The Business Plan identifies areas for growth, particularly in terms of earned income.

- Failure to comply with safeguarding legislation and guidance

Storyhouse has very robust safeguarding training, checks, policies and procedures in place, that are understood across the organisation. However, due to the number of adults and children at risk that we are engaging with, the risk of failing to comply has been noted in order to ensure it is carefully monitored.

### Going Concern

Your attention is drawn to the going concern note included within the Accounting Policies notes to the Financial Statements on page 15.

The reserves position of the Charity is set out below. The Board considers that the Charity has adequate financial resources for ongoing operations and our business planning process, which includes financial projections, has taken into account the current economic climate, likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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The Board have reviewed and considered all relevant information and it has been determined that they do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Charity has a 22-year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three-year funding cycle agreed over that period. The original 25 year lease granted in 2017 was extended by 10 years in 2024, demonstrating the Council's commitment to Storyhouse. The financial settlement for this is now confirmed until March 2028.

In November 2022, Arts Council England awarded Storyhouse continued National Portfolio grant funding until 2026, which offers further financial stability to the Charity. In autumn 2024, this was extended to March 2027.

The view of the Board is that the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

With secured income and based on its business plan for the forthcoming year, the Trustees have concluded that the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities, as they fall due, for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements.

After consideration of all factors, the accounts have therefore been prepared on the basis that the Charity is a going concern.

### **Reserves**

At the end of March 2025, total funds carried forward are £1.18m (£1.11m in March 2024), of this £59k relates to designated funds and £86k in funds restricted in nature.

The Board aims to maintain an appropriate level of reserves to support its work and programme of activities.

The recommended reserves levels have been determined in accordance with Charity Commission's best practice guidance. The guidance highlights that the setting of a reserves policy is not a task which can be taken in isolation, but is a product of a charity's strategic planning, budgeting and risk management process.

The reserves policy should protect the continuity of the Charity's work and provide appropriate cover against risks to which it is exposed. The Reserves Policy takes into account the following risk factors:

- Risks associated with income, including funding and sponsorship, being different or lower from that budgeted.
- Risks associated with expenditure, being different or higher from that budgeted.
- Planned activity level having identified potential threats and opportunities.
- The charity's contractual commitments.
- The potential costs associated with having to wind down the organisation in an emergency situation.

Overall, the Board believes that the determined target level of £927k of available 'free' reserves (defined as unrestricted funds not already invested in fixed assets, held as designated funds or irrevocably committed for other purposes) to be appropriate based on their review.

The Board considers the total requirement of reserves (equivalent to just under 3 months total expenditure) provides sufficient flexibility in the context of operational requirement and is in line with other similar charities they have benchmarked.

At the end of March 2025, the balance held as unrestricted reserves was £1.1m (£1.0m March 2024) of which £695k were regarded as free reserves (£695k March 2024).

### **Plans for Future Periods**

As mentioned earlier, the Business Plan for 2024/25 has been extended to cover the next three years, ending in March 2028. This revised plan will outline activities that support the vision, mission, and strategic objectives. It will also continue progress to achieve a consistent break-even position and begin rebuilding reserves by the end of this period. This approach ensures that the strategic objectives remain at the forefront while allowing for responsive changes as new opportunities or challenges emerge.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### Trustees Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 judgements and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information, of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report we also approve the Director's Report, included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

Signed by order of the Trustees by:

D Watson  
Chair

Date: 30/04/2025

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Storyhouse Limited (the 'charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated and charity balance sheet, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the group and the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

### **Extent to which the audit is considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

The responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities, including fraud, lies with the trustees and with those charged with governance. The objectives of our audit in respect of irregularities and fraud are to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient, appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

### **Audit procedures**

We determine significant applicable laws and regulations through discussion with those charged with governance and our own knowledge of the industry and design audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with those laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We consider the applicable laws and regulations to be the financial reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006), Charity Law, the relevant tax regulations in the UK, employment law and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Safeguarding legislation.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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We consider the control environment and the procedures in place to address identified risks, including management override, non-compliance with laws and regulations and to prevent and detect fraud or irregularity. Our procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement or error and include: enquiries of management and of staff in key compliance functions; review of reports from regulators; review of minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; review and testing of manual journals, relevant nominals and significant transactions outside the normal course of business; review of financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performance of analytical procedures.

We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and due to the inherent limitations of an audit, as described above, the audit cannot be relied upon to detect all instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities> . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Susan Harris MA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Champion Accountants LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

.....  
2nd Floor Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
Chester  
CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	1,855,803	189,191	2,044,994	1,936,102
Charitable activities	4	1,048,598	-	1,048,598	406,057
Other trading activities	5	4,171,787	-	4,171,787	4,536,112
Other	7	289,581	-	289,581	222,899
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>7,365,769</b>	<b>189,191</b>	<b>7,554,960</b>	<b>7,101,169</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	8	3,517,844	-	3,517,844	4,015,081
Charitable activities	9	3,750,218	222,613	3,972,831	3,478,737
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>7,268,062</b>	<b>222,613</b>	<b>7,490,675</b>	<b>7,493,818</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>97,707</b>	<b>(33,422)</b>	<b>64,285</b>	<b>(392,649)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
- Total funds brought forward		995,768	119,672	1,115,440	1,508,089
- Total funds carried forward	23	1,093,475	86,250	1,179,725	1,115,440

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year. All Income and Expenditure derive from continuing activities.

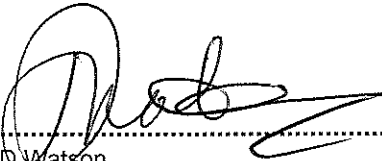
The notes on pages 15 - 27 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2025	2024	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14	339,214	300,506	339,214	300,506
Investments	15	-	-	2	2
		<u>339,214</u>	<u>300,506</u>	<u>339,216</u>	<u>300,508</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	16	30,616	24,788	-	-
Debtors	17	1,047,300	936,345	469,757	268,461
Cash at bank and in hand		1,638,162	1,650,907	1,625,447	1,616,040
		<u>2,716,078</u>	<u>2,612,039</u>	<u>2,095,204</u>	<u>1,884,502</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,875,566)	(1,797,105)	(1,254,696)	(1,069,568)
		<u>840,512</u>	<u>814,935</u>	<u>840,508</u>	<u>814,933</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>					
		<u>1,179,725</u>	<u>1,115,441</u>	<u>1,179,724</u>	<u>1,115,441</u>
<b>Net assets</b>					
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	20	86,250	119,672	86,250	119,672
Unrestricted funds:					
- General fund	21	1,034,104	995,768	1,034,103	995,767
- Designated fund	22	59,371	-	59,371	-
		<u>1,179,725</u>	<u>1,115,440</u>	<u>1,179,724</u>	<u>1,115,439</u>

The consolidated financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ and were signed on their behalf by:

  
.....  
D Watson

Company Number: 05541255

The notes on pages 15 - 27 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated Cash Flow Statement For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Net Cashflow from operating activities</b>	25	(164,951)	(607,891)
Tax received		289,581	222,899
<b>Cashflow from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	14	(137,374)	(205,393)
<b>Net Cashflow from investing activities</b>		(137,374)	(205,393)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		(12,745)	(590,385)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,650,907	2,241,292
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,638,163	1,650,907
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consist of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		1,638,162	1,650,907
Short term deposits		-	-
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year		1,638,162	1,650,907

The notes on pages 15 - 27 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### General Information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Storyhouse, Hunter Street, Chester, Cheshire CH1 2AR.

#### Accounting convention

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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2019 – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note below.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest pound.

UK Storyhouse Limited is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### Basis of consolidation

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited, made up to 31 March 2024. There are uniform policies across the group and intra group transactions are eliminated on consolidation. Consolidation is on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charity has not been presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Going Concern

As part of their going concern assessment, the trustees have considered the events and conditions that the Charity may face, including the continued impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the financial uncertainty in the UK economy.

In light of the economic uncertainty, the management team regularly assess what impacts events and conditions might have on its operations and forecast cash flows, ensuring it has sufficient liquidity to continue to meet its obligations as they fall due.

The Charity has a 22-year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three-year funding cycle which is confirmed until March 2028. A National Portfolio grant from Arts Council England has also been confirmed until March 2027.

Financial and other risks are addressed through regular monitoring by the Finance Committee, Risk Committee and full board, with the overall budget receiving a full re-appraisal on a regular basis. The business planning process includes financial projections taking into account the current economic climate and likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year.

After reporting a surplus for 2024-25, the current budget anticipates a deficit for the financial year 2025-26, largely due to the Government's recent increases in minimum wage and employer's national insurance. Existing reserves will be used to fund the deficit in the short term. The medium-term financial plan projects the Charity returning to a surplus.

The view of the Trustees is that, whilst they acknowledge the significant disruption that the cost-of-living crisis, changes in minimum wage and national insurance have brought and may continue to bring, the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees have concluded the Charity will be able to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements. In reaching their conclusion, the trustees have reviewed and considered relevant information, including the annual budget and future cash flows.

After consideration of all factors, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

#### The funds of the charity

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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charged against these funds. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the Financial Statements.

### **Incoming resources**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grant income that is revenue in nature is recognised in full in the year of entitlement where the performance conditions have been met.

The point of entitlement to ticket income is regarded as the completion of the ticketed performance. As such, ticket income is recognised upon completion of the performance that the ticket has been issued for. Amounts received for future performances are included in current liabilities.

The other sources of income are received at the point of delivery of the goods or services and are therefore recognised upon receipt.

### **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating voluntary income are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost
Computer equipment	25% on cost

Where it has been identified that the recoverable amount of a fixed asset is below its net book value the asset is written down to its recoverable amount and the impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

### **Stocks**

Stocks consist of purchased goods for resale and consumables. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

### **Debtors**

Debtors receivable within one year are recognised at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash held on deposit with a short maturity of three months or less.

### **Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Deferred income includes:

- Income received for events and performances taking place after the balance sheet date

### **Financial instruments**

The charity only 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 with the exception of fixed asset investments which are subsequently measured at fair value where this can be reliably measured.

### **Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### Taxation

As a registered charity, the company benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Capital Gains Tax, but not Value Added Tax.

### Volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

## 2 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited. The summary financial performance of the charity alone is:-

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
Income	2,804,011	2,119,259
Theatre Tax Relief	289,581	222,899
Gift aid from Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	943,524	743,929
Gift aid from Storyhouse Production Company Limited	-	-
	<u>4,037,116</u>	<u>3,086,088</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>3,972,831</u>	<u>3,478,737</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u>64,285</u>	<u>(392,649)</u>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<u>1,115,439</u>	<u>1,508,088</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>1,179,724</u></u>	<u><u>1,115,439</u></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Unrestricted funds	1,093,474	995,767
Restricted funds	86,250	119,672
	<u><u>1,179,724</u></u>	<u><u>1,115,439</u></u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Funding</b>				
Members & Private Giving	317,657	-	317,657	234,295
Sponsorship Income	95,062	-	95,062	79,700
Trusts and Foundations	45,218	189,191	234,409	194,482
Project Funding	67,241	-	67,241	97,000
<b>Grants receivable</b>				
Arts Council England	228,015	-	228,015	228,015
Cheshire West and Chester Council	1,102,610	-	1,102,610	1,102,610
Government Grants	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,855,803</u>	<u>189,191</u>	<u>2,044,994</u>	<u>1,936,102</u>

Of the income from donations and legacies received in 2025, £1,855,803 (2024: £1,727,681) was unrestricted and £189,191 (2024: £208,421) was restricted.

### 4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Library operation	25,359	25,359	25,876
Engagement	60,560	60,560	37,355
Ticketing	903,074	903,074	277,283
Other income	59,605	59,605	65,543
	<u>1,048,598</u>	<u>1,048,598</u>	<u>406,057</u>

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	795,949	795,949	932,552
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	3,375,838	3,375,838	3,603,560
	<u>4,171,787</u>	<u>4,171,787</u>	<u>4,536,112</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### 6 Net income from trading activity of subsidiary companies

The charity owned 100% of the share capital of Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited at 31 March 2025. Both subsidiaries are registered in England and Wales. The principal activity of each subsidiary is detailed below together with their trading results for the year.

#### Storyhouse Catering Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of catering, cinema and receiving touring theatre at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709991.

	<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
	£	£
Turnover	3,375,838	3,603,560
Cost of sales	2,393,203	2,798,163
Administration expenses	39,111	61,467
	<u>943,524</u>	<u>743,930</u>
<b>(Loss)/Profit before taxation and for the financial year</b>	<b>943,524</b>	<b>743,930</b>
Amount gift aided to the charity	<u>943,524</u>	<u>743,930</u>
<b>Retained earnings brought forward and carried forward</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets	1,064,458	684,901
Current liabilities	<u>1,064,457</u>	<u>684,900</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### Storyhouse Production Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of theatre company production at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709994.

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
Turnover	795,949	932,552
Cost of sales	1,087,280	1,133,709
Administration expenses	(1,750)	21,742
<b>Loss before taxation</b>	<u>(289,581)</u>	<u>(222,899)</u>
Corporation tax credit (Theatre tax relief)	<u>289,581</u>	<u>222,899</u>
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets	524,958	670,652
Current liabilities	<u>524,957</u>	<u>670,651</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	1	1
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

### 7 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Theatre tax relief	<u>289,581</u>	<u>289,581</u>	<u>222,899</u>
	<u>289,581</u>	<u>289,581</u>	<u>222,899</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 8 Costs of raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	1,085,530	1,085,530	1,155,451
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	2,432,314	2,432,314	2,859,630
	<u>3,517,844</u>	<u>3,517,844</u>	<u>4,015,081</u>

### 9 Costs of Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable activities	2,739,674	-	-	2,739,674	2,304,082
Management	-	951,767	-	951,767	911,081
Finance	-	103,565	15,600	119,165	116,931
Building overheads	-	162,225	-	162,225	146,643
	<u>2,739,674</u>	<u>1,217,557</u>	<u>15,600</u>	<u>3,972,831</u>	<u>3,478,737</u>

Costs of charitable activities were £3,750,218 (2024: £3,478,737) of which £3,972,831 (2024: £3,321,866) was unrestricted and £222,613 (2024: £156,871) was restricted.

### 10 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>This is stated after charging:</b>		
Depreciation	98,666	91,745
Auditors remuneration		
- Audit of the financial statements	15,600	15,000
- Accountancy services	-	-
Operating lease costs:		
- Land and buildings	60,292	24,792
- Motor vehicle	4,558	4,558
- Copier	2,692	2,692

### 11 Trustees' Remuneration

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or benefits in kind in respect of their duties as a trustee. Expenses were paid to Trustees during the year in amount of £NIL (2024: £961).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 12 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

Total staff costs were as follows

	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Wages and salaries	2,583,601	1,994,941	2,352,554	1,486,165
Social security costs	214,460	192,178	201,588	176,954
Pension costs	87,976	75,171	84,414	72,422
	<u>2,886,037</u>	<u>2,262,290</u>	<u>2,638,556</u>	<u>1,735,541</u>

Key management comprises the executive team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £269,118 (2024: £320,631).

### 13 Particulars of employees

The average number of staff employed during the year was 145, analysed by function as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Project	12	12
Head office	22	19
Kitchen	4	4
Marketing	5	5
Production	14	11
Cinema	2	4
Touring	1	2
Trading	2	1
Casual staff	85	87
	<u>147</u>	<u>145</u>

During the year the number of employees who earned more than £60,000 was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	3	2
£70,000 - £80,000	1	1
£80,000 - £90,000	-	-
£90,000 - £100,000	-	-

There were no disclosable termination payments made in the current or prior year.

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and an equity pension scheme for self employed actors. The sum of £87,976 (2024: £84,414) represents the pension cost to the charity for the period. The full cost has been charged against unrestricted funds.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 14 Tangible Fixed Assets Group and Charity

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2024	1,110,241	14,328	239,255	1,363,824
Additions	47,947	-	89,427	137,374
Disposals	-	-	(84,780)	(84,780)
At 31 March 2025	1,158,188	14,328	243,902	1,416,418
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2024	846,265	14,328	202,725	1,063,318
Charge for year	81,204	-	17,462	98,666
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(84,780)	(84,780)
At 31 March 2025	927,469	14,328	135,407	1,077,204
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2025	230,719	-	108,495	339,214
At 31 March 2024	263,976	-	36,530	300,506

### 15 Investments

	Group		Charity	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Investments in subsidiaries	-	-	2	2

### 16 Stocks

	Group		Charity	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Stock	30,618	24,788	-	-

### 17 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	-	16,312
Income tax recoverable	658,828	550,562	189,185	-
Trade debtors	64,463	73,385	40,533	56,234
Other debtors	96,649	146,660	96,649	146,660
Prepayments and accrued income	227,360	165,738	143,390	49,256
	1,047,300	936,345	469,757	268,461

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 18 Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	113,977	211,477	90,960	186,690
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	481,761	-
PAYE and Social Security	49,827	49,253	49,827	49,253
VAT	14,651	73,026	21,346	73,026
Other creditors	235,359	148,427	227,385	140,452
Accruals and deferred income	1,461,752	1,314,922	383,417	620,147
	<u>1,875,566</u>	<u>1,797,105</u>	<u>1,254,696</u>	<u>1,069,568</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>	£			
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	1,080,336			
Utilised in year	(1,080,336)			
Received in year	<u>1,117,941</u>			
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	<u>1,117,941</u>			

### 19 Operating Lease Commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	70,947	70,892
Between one and five years	101,769	178,794
	<u>172,716</u>	<u>249,686</u>

### 20 Restricted Funds Group and Charity

	Balance at			Balance at
	1 April 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Youth Projects	119,672	189,191	222,613	86,250
Community Festival Funding	-	-	-	-
	<u>119,672</u>	<u>189,191</u>	<u>222,613</u>	<u>86,250</u>

All restricted funds are included in the Charity accounts

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Group and Charity	Balance at	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at
	1 April 2023	Resources	Resources	31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Youth projects	68,122	193,221	141,671	119,672
Festival funding	-	15,200	15,200	-
	<u>68,122</u>	<u>208,421</u>	<u>156,871</u>	<u>119,672</u>

### 21 Unrestricted Funds - General

	Group General Funds £	Charity General Funds £
As at 1 April 2024	995,768	995,767
Incoming resources	7,306,398	3,788,554
Outgoing resources	(7,268,062)	(3,750,218)
Transfer to designated funds	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	<u>1,034,104</u>	<u>1,034,103</u>

	Group General Funds £	Charity General Funds £
As at 1 April 2023	1,439,968	1,255,023
Incoming resources	6,892,748	2,877,667
Outgoing resources	(7,336,947)	(3,136,923)
Transfer to designated funds	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	<u>995,768</u>	<u>995,767</u>

### 22 Unrestricted Funds - Designated

	Group Designated Funds £	Charity Designated Funds £
As at 1 April 2024	-	-
Incoming resources	59,371	59,371
Outgoing resources	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	<u>59,371</u>	<u>59,371</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Group Designated Funds £	Charity Designated Funds £
As at 1 April 2023	184,943	184,943
Incoming resources	-	-
Outgoing resources	(184,943)	(184,943)
As at 31 March 2024	-	-

During the year, the trustees designated £59,371 from unrestricted funds for capital projects comprising the construction of a new bar in the main auditorium and the extension of the solar panel array. Of this, £49,371 was committed expenditure as at 31 March 2025.

### 23 Analysis of Group Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 31 March 2025 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	86,250	86,250
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	339,214	694,890	1,034,104
Designated Funds	-	59,371	59,371
Total Funds	339,214	840,511	1,179,725

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	119,672	119,672
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	300,506	695,263	995,768
Designated Funds	-	-	-
Total Funds	300,506	814,935	1,115,440

### 24 Capital Commitments

As at 31 March 2025, the charity had capital commitments of £49,371 (2024: £Nil).

### 25 Related Party Transactions

Transactions with subsidiary companies are disclosed in Note 6.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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### 26 Reconciliation of group net income resources to net cash inflow from group operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net incoming resources	64,285	(392,649)
Theatre tax relief	(289,581)	(222,899)
Depreciation of fixed assets	98,666	91,745
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(5,828)	(8,478)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(110,955)	64,675
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	78,462	(140,285)
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<b>(164,951)</b>	<b>(607,891)</b>

### 27 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 April 2024 £	Cash Flows £	31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,650,907</u>	<u>(12,745)</u>	<u>1,638,162</u>

### 28 Guarantee

The Charitable Company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The members' liability is restricted to £1 each in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles.

### 29 Fundraising standards information

The charity raises charitable funds in-house and does not engage a professional fund-raiser or commercial participator to carry out these activities. The charity has not bound itself to a voluntary scheme for regulating fund-raising and has not received any complaints with respect to its fund-raising. The charity avoids unreasonable intrusion into a person's privacy, unreasonable persistent approaches and undue pressure on persons in connection with fund-raising.



**UK Storyhouse Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1121007

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# Accounts

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Company registration number 05541255  
Charity registration number 1121007

**UK Storyhouse Limited**  
**Trustees' Report and Consolidated**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

# STORYHOUSE

**CHAMPION ACCOUNTANTS LLP**  
Statutory Auditors  
2nd Floor  
Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
CHESTER  
CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Contents of the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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### Contents

	Page
Trustees Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)	2 - 8
Independent Auditor's Report	9-11
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)	14
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet	15
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	16
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	15 - 28

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# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Trustees Reference and Administrative Details For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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The Trustees, who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	UK Storyhouse Limited
<b>Charity Registration Number:</b>	1121007
<b>Company Registration Number:</b>	05541255
<b>Trustees</b> (in the period and at the date of approval):	D Watson (Chair) C J Hyndman (Vice Chair) (resigned 21/11/2023) M Perny (Vice Chair) (appointed VC 21/11/2023) N M Adamu E Boekesteijn L A Burnett M L Dalton W A Fergus J W Grout J C Howard (resigned 21/11/2023) A L Jones (resigned 21/11/2023) S M Jones H S Lin (resigned 21/11/2023) R A Matchett (resigned 21/11/2023) V Venugopal K Lowe (appointed 21/11/2023) R D Watts (appointed 21/11/2023) A Tonkin (appointed 19/03/2024) R E Guest (appointed 19/03/2024)
<b>Principal and Registered Office:</b>	Storyhouse Hunter Street Chester Cheshire CH1 2AR
The Charity's professional advisors are as follows:	
<b>Auditors:</b>	Champion Accountants LLP 2nd Floor Refuge House 33-37 Watergate Row Chester CH1 2LE
<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds Bank plc 8 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1XP  NatWest Bank plc 33 Eastgate Street Chester CH1 1LG

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Group and Charity for 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Governing Document**

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee whose constitution is set out in a deed of trust, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Board of Trustees**

The Board at 31st March 2024 is made up of 14 non-executive unpaid Trustees, chaired by David Watson. Board membership includes two dedicated positions for Trustees under the age of 25, which were successfully recruited this year.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring Storyhouse's mission and aims are achieved. It is responsible for forward strategy and direction, approving the annual business plan and budget, and monitoring performance and delivery, supporting the Chief Executive and her team. Board Trustees have a diverse range of skills, experience and backgrounds, bringing a range of perspectives to discussions and strategic decisions.

#### **Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

New appointments to the Board are advertised and ratified by the full Board. This process is led by a Nominations Committee. New Trustees have a full induction process and take part in the year-round trustee training programme. Trustees are appointed on a fixed term basis and are subject to a maximum six-year term.

#### **Decision Making**

The Board retains full control and approves all major strategic decisions and has ultimate responsibility for the company's conduct and financial stability. Leadership and management of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive has support from four Directors (Creative, Development, Finance and Operations) together comprising the organisation's Senior Leadership Team.

The Board meets four times a year and is supported by a number of committees and advisory groups, which include:

#### Committees:

- Finance & Resources
- Audit & Risk
- Access & Inclusion
- Remuneration
- Nominations

#### Advisory Groups:

- Artistic Impact & Evaluation
- Development
- Commercial

This structure provides the Board with the assurance that detailed attention and scrutiny are being afforded to important strategic issues.

Each of the committees and advisory groups are governed by terms of reference, which set out key decisions which must be approved by the Board and those delegated to the standing committees.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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The governance structure and the terms of reference of committees are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with the Charity's governing document and to make sure they remain fit for purpose.

The affairs of the company are subject to external scrutiny by Arts Council England, who are entitled to attend Board meetings as observers. The company has a substantial contract for services with Cheshire West & Chester Council, who undertake an annual review and are also invited to attend Board meetings as observers.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries, Storyhouse Production Company Limited and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the Charity are to promote the presentation and development of the performing arts in Chester and the surrounding area.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Storyhouse is an independent arts centre and creative hub. Every pound we make goes back into Storyhouse, to keep our space free and open, and change lives in our communities.

Our home incorporates two theatres, a cinema and library.

During 2023/24, a new Business Plan for 2024/25 was developed. This was Storyhouse's first Business Plan since the COVID pandemic, and follows a number of changes within the organisation, including the appointment of a new CEO, Annabel Turpin, who joined in Nov 2023.

It is intended to provide renewed focus for the organisation at a time of financial challenge, communicating our ambition and setting out a clear timescale for returning to a positive trading position.

Initially focussed on 2024/25, the plan will be expanded later in 2024 to cover the following three years.

It set out the following:

Vision: Here, culture is owned by everyone.

Mission: We work every day to be a creative home for our communities.

Values:

- Listen closely – true empathy takes effort. So we work hard to understand different points of view,
- Look around – opportunities can be spotted by anyone, anywhere, at anytime. So we always have our eyes, ears and minds wide open.
- Speak up – not everyone's stories have been told. So we use our voices to amplify those that haven't been heard.
- Stand up – debate and discussion make things better for us all. So we don't shy away from a challenge.
- Reach out – diverse perspectives solve the hardest problems and make the best decisions. So we seek them out, and invite them in.

Strategic objectives:

- Create outstanding artistic opportunities
- Tell everyone Storyhouse is a charity
- Show why we're vital

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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- Make people feel welcome here
- Unlock the full Storyhouse offer

The Business Plan is used by the Leadership Team to inform and steer progress against our mission and objectives. The Board of Trustees monitors delivery of the Business Plan at its quarterly meetings.

### Achievements and Performance

Last year we welcomed more than 888,000 people through our doors. Storyhouse continues to play an essential role as a free, warm, open space in the heart of the city. We know from feedback that customers from many different communities – communities of place, interest, identity, need and action – feel safe here.

From that position, we are able to build meaningful engagement with a range of creative and cultural activities, including with communities that have traditionally been under-served by the cultural sector. Our engagement continues to grow, with a 9% increase in tickets sold and a 32% increase in attendances at participatory activities in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.

- 193,866 tickets sold for performances, films and activities
- 60,668 attendances at participatory activities, including 46,987 for young people's activities
- 2,280 hours of community-led activity
- 163,961 books borrowed

### Highlights from 2023/24

Our in-house productions, Storyhouse Originals, included *Worth*, a co-production with New Earth Theatre; a version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which toured to schools before returning to Storyhouse; and *Cinderella*, which outsold previous years and was rated by many as our best Christmas show yet. We also made three new shows for the Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Great Gatsby*, and for younger audiences, *The Wind in the Willows*, which attracted more than 22,500 people.

We continued to complement these productions with a wide range of touring work, across both the main theatre and Garret studio. This included theatre, musicals, music, dance and comedy as well as an extensive programme of work for families, with more than 73,500 tickets sold.

Our support for Fallen Angels Dance Theatre as an Associate Company led to the presentation of *Traces through Time*, a new production in association with the world's first recovery orchestra, New Note Orchestra, alongside their ongoing participatory work for people in recovery from addiction.

Throughout the year we work with our communities to co-curate a series of festivals, working with steering groups of people with lived experience of the issues explored, to create events ranging from two days to two weeks in length. Our 2023/24 festivals included Storyhouse Queer for LGBTQIA+ communities, Storyhouse Women, Kaleidoscope Festival celebrating and platforming the creative talents of the learning-disabled community, Storyhouse Childless and Storyhouse Elders. We also run Chester Literature Festival, which featured authors including David Olusuga, Monty Don and Candice Braithwaite in 2023/24, and Wayword, designed to inspire a love of stories and reading in children aged 3-11.

In addition to our co-curated festivals, Storyhouse also supports local communities to stage their own events and activities. In 2023/24 55 community groups accessed free space at Storyhouse, amounting to more than 2,200 hours of activity, ranging from domestic abuse support services, bereavement support, chatter and natter, LGBTQ+ reading groups, board game groups and much more.

Our film programme continued to offer a wider range of world cinema, British independent film, documentary, classics, new releases, family features, outdoor screenings, curated seasons and festivals, alongside some live broadcast screenings, attracting audiences of more than 48,000.

Young Storyhouse encompasses our many programmes for young people, which delivered more than 480 sessions across the year. In 2023/24 these included:

- Youth Theatre (8 different groups, split up by age) for young people aged 5-17
- Storyhouse Young Company (SYC) for young people aged 18-25 interested in a career in performing

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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- Young Leaders for young people who are referred to us by partner organisations to join a sustained creative work experience programme
- The Agency, a creative entrepreneurship programme for young people aged 15-25 from Lache to develop projects for their community
- Young Programmers, offering cinema and festival take-over opportunities for aspiring producers and programmers aged 14-25
- Young Readers, for graduates of the Young Leaders programme to discuss books and themes
- Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) winter, spring and summer clubs for children in receipt of free school meals, often including a visit to a Storyhouse Original production
- Work Experience Week, for 16 young people in years 10-13 to gain a taste of working at Storyhouse

Our library continued to attract international recognition, due to its integration with the rest of the building alongside the longest opening hours of any UK public library. Activities included twice-weekly Rhymetime sessions for early years, which saw more than 9,000 attendances, storytelling, craft and digital support sessions.

### **Financial Position**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2024, Storyhouse reported a deficit of £393k. This compares to a deficit of £651k in March 2023, showing a positive step forward as we move towards returning to a break even position and rebuilding our reserves.

The budget for the year ended 31 March 2024 was a deficit of £435K. The actual deficit was lower than budgeted, mainly due to favourable performance in the trading company.

### **Raising Funds**

Total income for March 2024 was £7.101m, an increase of £238k compared to the prior year (£6.863m in March 2023). Further detail is provided in notes 3-7 of the accounts.

Membership and private giving was slightly down at £234k (£262k in 2023). Sponsorship income was also lower at £80k (£97k in 2023). However Trusts and Foundations were higher at £194k (£160k in 2023) and Project Funding was higher at £97k (£45k in 2023).

Grants received from Arts Council England and Cheshire West and Chester Council were £1.33m in 2024, the same amount as 2023.

### **Catering Company**

Income from the trading subsidiary, Storyhouse Catering Company, was £3.6m (from £3.07m in March 2023).

The Catering Company continued to operate The Kitchen at Storyhouse, open daily from 8am to 11pm, serving a diverse range of visitors, including students, community groups, home workers, and library users. With a casual dining menu with flavours inspired by Levantine cuisine and a comprehensive coffee shop offer, it provides an accessible and inviting space that complements our wide range of activities.

The Kitchen actively supports local suppliers such as Kookaburra Bakery, Peckforton Farm Dairy, David Joinson, and Lost Barn Coffee.

The overall contribution from the Catering Company was a surplus of £744k (£504k in March 2023). As well as this significant contribution to Storyhouse's overall revenue, The Kitchen creates essential employment opportunities in hospitality and food and drink.

### **Production Company**

Storyhouse's own productions, Storyhouse Originals, continue to be developed through the Storyhouse Production Company. Income for 2024 was £933k, down from £1.252m in March 2023 due to the timing of productions.

Theatre Tax Relief decreased to £223k (from £328k in March 2023), in line with the shift in timing of eligible productions.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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### Assets

Net current assets were £815k as at March 2024 (£1,321k in March 2023). Net group assets were £1,115k as at March 2024 (£1,508k March 2023).

Overall cash at bank and cash in hand balance was £1,650k (£2,241k in March 2023).

### Risk Management and Principal Risks

The Trustees monitor performance against the Charity's business plan and budget and have risk management processes in place. There is a comprehensive review annually to examine major strategic, business and operational risks which the Charity faces, and the Audit & Risk committee leads on this process.

A risk register is maintained and is reviewed regularly to confirm that systems have been established to mitigate and lessen these risks.

The Trustees have a Risk Management Strategy which comprises:

- An annual review of the risks the Charity may face and the likelihood of these risks occurring. Particular attention is given to major risks that would prevent the organisation from achieving its objectives.
- The Senior Leadership Team reports any changes in status of these risks, including any new risks and any actions taken to the Audit & Risk Committee and the main Board.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks are identified in the annual review.
- Procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity are implemented should these risks materialise.

The risk register identified that there are three risks categorised as high:

- Reserve levels

Reserves are currently being used to support the post Covid recovery period, which was exacerbated by high inflation and the cost of living crisis. As progress to date shows, the planned turnaround to a break even position is underway and the organisation is committed to rebuilding its reserves back to target as the business and external environment allows.

- IT

The organisation identified IT as a risk due to challenges around recruiting appropriate staff and ageing equipment. An external audit was undertaken to identify priority works, and a new IT Manager is now in post. Significant progress against priorities has already been made and this risk will be further reduced by March 2025.

- Inflationary issues pressures

Although the rate of inflation is reducing, resources are still being stretched following the recent period of very high inflation, particularly in terms of its impact on building costs and salaries and wages. It is anticipated that the rate of expected growth vs inflationary pressure on costs will narrow and relieve some of this pressure going forward.

### Going Concern

Your attention is drawn to the going concern note included within the Accounting Policies notes to the Financial Statements on page 15.

The reserves position of the Charity is set out below. The Board considers that the Charity has adequate financial resources for ongoing operations and our business planning process, which includes financial projections, has taken into account the current economic climate, likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year.

The Board have reviewed and considered all relevant information and it has been determined that they do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Charity has a 20-year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three-year funding cycle agreed over that period. The financial settlement for this is now confirmed until March 2028.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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In November 2022, Arts Council England awarded Storyhouse continued National Portfolio grant funding until 2026, which offers further financial stability to the Charity. In autumn 2024, this is due to be extended to March 2027.

The view of the Board is that the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

With secured income and based on its business plan for the forthcoming year, the Trustees have concluded that the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities, as they fall due, for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements.

After consideration of all factors, the accounts have therefore been prepared on the basis that the Charity is a going concern.

### Reserves

At the end of March 2024, total funds carried forward are £1.1m (£1.5m in March 2023), of this £0 relates to designated funds and £120k in funds restricted in nature.

The Board aims to maintain an appropriate level of reserves to support its work and programme of activities.

The recommended reserves levels have been determined in accordance with Charity Commission's best practice guidance. The guidance highlights that the setting of a reserves policy is not a task which can be taken in isolation, but is a product of a charity's strategic planning, budgeting and risk management process.

The reserves policy should protect the continuity of the Charity's work and provide appropriate cover against risks to which it is exposed. The Reserves Policy takes into account the following risk factors:

- Risks associated with income, including funding and sponsorship, being different or lower from that budgeted.
- Risks associated with expenditure, being different or higher from that budgeted.
- Planned activity level having identified potential threats and opportunities.
- The charity's contractual commitments.
- The potential costs associated with having to wind down the organisation in an emergency situation.

Overall, the Board believes that the determined target level of £826k of available reserves (defined as unrestricted funds not already invested in fixed assets or irrevocably committed for other purposes) to be appropriate based on their review.

The Board considers the total requirement of reserves (equivalent to just under 3 months total expenditure) provides sufficient flexibility in the context of operational requirement and is in line with other similar charities they have benchmarked.

At the end of March 2024, the balance held as unrestricted reserves was £996k (£1,440k March 2023) of which £695k were regarded as free reserves (£1,068k March 2023).

### Plans for Future Periods

As noted above, the current Business Plan for 2024/25 is being developed to cover the next three years, running to March 2028. This will identify activities in support of the vision, mission and strategic objectives outlined above, and continue progress to return to a break-even position and start to rebuild reserves by the end of this period.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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### Trustees Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 judgements and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information, of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report we also approve the Director's Report, included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

Signed by order of the Trustees by:



D Watson  
Chair

Date: 5 September 2024

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Storyhouse Limited (the 'charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated and charity balance sheet, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the group and the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

### **Extent to which the audit is considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

The responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities, including fraud, lies with the trustees and with those charged with governance. The objectives of our audit in respect of irregularities and fraud are to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient, appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

### **Audit procedures**

We determine significant applicable laws and regulations through discussion with those charged with governance and our own knowledge of the industry and design audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with those laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We consider the applicable laws and regulations to be the financial reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006), Charity Law, the relevant tax regulations in the UK, employment law and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Safeguarding legislation.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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We consider the control environment and the procedures in place to address identified risks, including management override, non-compliance with laws and regulations and to prevent and detect fraud or irregularity. Our procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement or error and include: enquiries of management and of staff in key compliance functions; review of reports from regulators; review of minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; review and testing of manual journals, relevant nominals and significant transactions outside the normal course of business; review of financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performance of analytical procedures.

We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and due to the inherent limitations of an audit, as described above, the audit cannot be relied upon to detect all instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Champion Accountants LLP*

**Susan Harris MA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Champion Accountants LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

*16 September 2024*  
.....

2nd Floor Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
Chester  
CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	1,727,681	208,421	1,936,102	1,895,693
Charitable activities	4	406,057	-	406,057	320,391
Other trading activities	5	4,536,112	-	4,536,112	4,318,484
Other	7	222,899	-	222,899	328,433
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>6,892,748</b>	<b>208,421</b>	<b>7,101,169</b>	<b>6,863,001</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	8	4,015,081	-	4,015,081	4,142,219
Charitable activities	9	3,321,866	156,871	3,478,737	3,371,966
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>7,336,947</b>	<b>156,871</b>	<b>7,493,818</b>	<b>7,514,185</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(444,199)</b>	<b>51,550</b>	<b>(392,649)</b>	<b>(651,184)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
- Total funds brought forward		1,439,967	68,122	1,508,089	2,159,273
- Total funds carried forward	23	995,768	119,672	1,115,440	1,508,089

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year. All Income and Expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 - 28 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

		Group		Charity	
		2024	2023	2024	2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14	300,506	186,858	300,506	186,858
Investments	15	-	-	2	2
		<u>300,506</u>	<u>186,858</u>	<u>300,508</u>	<u>186,860</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	16	24,788	16,310	-	-
Debtors	17	936,345	1,001,020	268,461	419,395
Cash at bank and in hand		1,650,907	2,241,292	1,616,040	2,227,545
		<u>2,612,039</u>	<u>3,258,622</u>	<u>1,884,502</u>	<u>2,646,940</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,797,105)	(1,937,390)	(1,069,568)	(1,325,712)
<b>Net current assets</b>					
		<u>814,935</u>	<u>1,321,232</u>	<u>814,933</u>	<u>1,321,228</u>
<b>Net assets</b>					
		<u><u>1,115,441</u></u>	<u><u>1,508,090</u></u>	<u><u>1,115,441</u></u>	<u><u>1,508,088</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	20	119,672	68,122	119,672	68,122
Unrestricted funds:					
- General fund	21	995,768	1,255,025	995,767	1,255,023
- Designated fund	22	-	184,943	-	184,943
<b>Total funds</b>					
	23	<u><u>1,115,440</u></u>	<u><u>1,508,090</u></u>	<u><u>1,115,439</u></u>	<u><u>1,508,088</u></u>

The consolidated financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 2024 and were signed on their behalf by:

*J. Sefton*

*D. Watson*

.....  
D Watson

Company Number: 05541255

The notes on pages 15 - 28 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated Cash Flow Statement For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Net Cashflow from operating activities</b>	25	(607,891)	(1,362,315)
Tax received		222,899	328,434
<b>Cashflow from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	14	(205,393)	(51,845)
<b>Net Cashflow from investing activities</b>		(205,393)	(51,845)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		(590,385)	(1,085,726)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		2,241,292	3,327,018
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,650,907	2,241,292
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consist of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		1,650,907	2,241,292
Short term deposits		-	-
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year		1,650,907	2,241,292

The notes on pages 15 - 28 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### General Information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Storyhouse, Hunter Street, Chester, Cheshire CH1 2AR.

#### Accounting convention

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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2019 – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note below.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest pound.

UK Storyhouse Limited is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### Basis of consolidation

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited, made up to 31 March 2024. There are uniform policies across the group and intra group transactions are eliminated on consolidation. Consolidation is on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charity has not been presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Going Concern

As part of their going concern assessment, the trustees have considered the possible outcomes of events and conditions that the Charity may face, namely the continued impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the financial uncertainty in the UK economy.

The Charity has a 20-year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three-year funding cycle, the financial settlement for which is confirmed until March 2028. National Portfolio grant from Arts Council England has also been confirmed until March 2026, and is due to be extended in the autumn to March 2027.

In light of the economic uncertainty, the management team regularly assess what impacts the events and conditions have on its operations and forecast cash flows, ensuring it has sufficient liquidity to continue to meet its obligations as they fall due.

Financial risks are addressed through regular monitoring by the Finance & Resources Committee and full board, with the overall budget receiving a full re-appraisal on a regular basis. As such, the trustees consider that the Charity has adequate financial resources for ongoing operations and its business planning process, which includes financial projections, has taken into account the current economic climate and likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year.

Current budgets anticipate in the year deficits for the financial year 2024-25. Existing reserves will be used to fund the deficit in the short term. The expected deficit in 2024-25 is lower than 2023-24, which was lower than 2022-23, so we are seeing the planned turn around. The medium-term financial plan is anticipated to see the Charity return to a surplus position in the next few years.

The view of the Trustees is that, whilst they acknowledge the significant disruption that the cost-of-living crisis has brought and may continue to bring, the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees have concluded the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements. In reaching their conclusion, the trustees have reviewed and considered relevant information, including the annual budget and future cash flows.

After consideration of all factors, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

#### The funds of the charity

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against these funds. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the Financial Statements.

### **Incoming resources**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grant income that is revenue in nature is recognised in full in the year of entitlement where the performance conditions have been met.

The point of entitlement to ticket income is regarded as the completion of the ticketed performance. As such, ticket income is recognised upon completion of the performance that the ticket has been issued for. Amounts received for future performances are included in current liabilities.

The other sources of income are received at the point of delivery of the goods or services and are therefore recognised upon receipt.

### **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating voluntary income are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost
Computer equipment	25% on cost

Where it has been identified that the recoverable amount of a fixed asset is below its net book value the asset is written down to its recoverable amount and the impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

### **Stocks**

Stocks consist of purchased goods for resale and consumables. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

### **Debtors**

Debtors receivable within one year are recognised at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash held on deposit with a short maturity of three months or less.

### **Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Deferred income includes:

- Income received for events and performances taking place after the balance sheet date

### **Financial instruments**

The charity only 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 with the exception of fixed asset investments which are subsequently measured at fair value where this can be reliably measured.

### **Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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### **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the company benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Capital Gains Tax, but not Value Added Tax.

### **Volunteers**

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 2 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited. The summary financial performance of the charity alone is:-

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£	£
Income	2,119,259	1,887,651
Theatre Tax Relief	222,899	328,433
Gift aid from Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	743,929	504,698
Gift aid from Storyhouse Production Company Limited	-	-
	<u>3,086,088</u>	<u>2,720,782</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>3,478,737</u>	<u>3,371,966</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u>(392,649)</u>	<u>(651,184)</u>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<u>1,508,088</u>	<u>2,159,272</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>1,115,439</u>	<u>1,508,088</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Unrestricted funds	995,767	1,439,966
Restricted funds	119,672	68,122
	<u>1,115,439</u>	<u>1,508,088</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Funding</b>				
Members & Private Giving	234,295	-	234,295	262,267
Sponsorship Income	79,700	-	79,700	97,500
Trusts and Foundations	1,261	193,221	194,482	160,650
Project Funding	81,800	15,200	97,000	44,651
<b>Grants receivable</b>				
Arts Council England	228,015		228,015	228,015
Cheshire West and Chester Council	1,102,610		1,102,610	1,102,610
Government Grants	-		-	-
	<u>1,727,681</u>	<u>208,421</u>	<u>1,936,102</u>	<u>1,895,693</u>

Of the income from donations and legacies received in 2024, £1,727,681 (2023: £1,751,122) was unrestricted and £208,421 (2023: £144,571) was restricted.

### 4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

		Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Library operation	Project	25,876	25,876	23,852
Engagement	Project	37,355	37,355	81,376
Ticketing	Project	221,207	221,207	100,780
Other income	Funding and administration	121,619	121,619	114,384
		<u>406,057</u>	<u>406,057</u>	<u>320,392</u>

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	932,552	932,552	1,252,096
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	3,603,560	3,603,560	3,066,388
	<u>4,536,112</u>	<u>4,536,112</u>	<u>4,318,484</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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### 6 Net income from trading activity of subsidiary companies

The charity owned 100% of the share capital of Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited at 31 March 2024. Both subsidiaries are registered in England and Wales. The principal activity of each subsidiary is detailed below together with their trading results for the year.

#### Storyhouse Catering Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of catering, cinema and receiving touring theatre at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709991.

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Turnover	3,603,560	3,066,388
Cost of sales	2,798,163	2,512,672
Administration expenses	61,467	49,018
	<u>743,930</u>	<u>504,698</u>
<b>(Loss)/Profit before taxation and for the financial year</b>	<b>743,930</b>	<b>504,698</b>
Amount gift aided to the charity	<u>743,930</u>	<u>504,698</u>
<b>Retained earnings brought forward and carried forward</b>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Current assets	684,901	847,422
Current liabilities	<u>684,900</u>	<u>847,421</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	1	1
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>1</u></u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### Storyhouse Production Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of theatre company production at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709994.

	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2023 £
Turnover	932,552	1,252,096
Cost of sales	1,133,709	1,560,990
Administration expenses	21,742	19,539
<b>Loss before taxation</b>	<u>(222,899)</u>	<u>(328,433)</u>
Corporation tax credit (Theatre tax relief)	<u>222,899</u>	<u>328,433</u>
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets	670,652	562,470
Current liabilities	<u>670,651</u>	<u>562,469</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	1	1
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

### 7 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Theatre tax relief	222,899	222,899	328,433
	<u>222,899</u>	<u>222,899</u>	<u>328,433</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 8 Costs of raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	1,155,451	1,155,451	1,580,529
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	2,859,630	2,859,630	2,561,690
	4,015,081	4,015,081	4,142,219
	4,015,081	4,015,081	4,142,219

### 9 Costs of Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable activities	2,304,082	-	-	2,304,082	2,329,180
Management	-	911,081	-	911,081	814,521
Finance	-	101,931	15,000	116,931	109,352
Building overheads	-	146,643	-	146,643	118,914
	2,304,082	1,159,655	15,000	3,478,737	3,371,967
	2,304,082	1,159,655	15,000	3,478,737	3,371,967

Costs of charitable activities were £3,473,902 (2023: £3,371,966) of which £3,317,031 (2023: £3,215,192) was unrestricted and £156,871 (2023: £156,774) was restricted.

### 10 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>This is stated after charging:</b>		
Depreciation	91,745	73,148
Auditors remuneration		
- Audit of the financial statements	15,000	14,300
- Accountancy services	-	-
Operating lease costs:		
- Land and buildings	24,792	36,900
- Motor vehicle	4,558	3,660
- Copier	2,692	2,692
	91,745	73,148
	91,745	73,148

### 11 Trustees' Remuneration

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or benefits in kind in respect of their duties as a trustee. Expenses were paid to Trustees during the year in amount of £961 (2023: £3,744).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 12 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

Total staff costs were as follows

	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Charity 2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,352,554	1,486,165	2,271,932	1,405,841
Social security costs	201,588	176,954	195,730	165,663
Pension costs	84,414	72,422	74,099	61,265
	<u>2,638,556</u>	<u>1,735,541</u>	<u>2,541,761</u>	<u>1,632,769</u>

Key management comprises the executive team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £320,631 (2023: £323,471).

### 13 Particulars of employees

The average number of staff employed during the year was 145, analysed by function as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Project	12	8
Head office	19	17
Kitchen	4	6
Marketing	5	7
Production	11	9
Cinema	4	4
Touring	2	2
Trading	1	1
Casual staff	87	88
	<u>145</u>	<u>142</u>

During the year the number of employees who earned more than £60,000 was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	2	-
£70,000 - £80,000	1	-
£80,000 - £90,000	-	-
£90,000 - £100,000	-	1

There were no disclosable termination payments made in the year. (2023: A termination payment was made under the terms of a legal agreement which prevented disclosure of further information).

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and an equity pension scheme for self employed actors. The sum of £84,414 (2023: £74,100) represents the pension cost to the charity for the period. The full cost has been charged against unrestricted funds.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 14 Tangible Fixed Assets

#### Group and Charity

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	940,409	14,328	203,694	1,158,431
Additions	169,832	-	35,561	205,393
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,110,241</u>	<u>14,328</u>	<u>239,255</u>	<u>1,363,824</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	764,417	14,328	192,828	971,573
Charge for year	81,848	-	9,897	91,745
At 31 March 2024	<u>846,265</u>	<u>14,328</u>	<u>202,725</u>	<u>1,063,318</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>263,976</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,530</u>	<u>300,506</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>175,992</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,866</u>	<u>186,858</u>

### 15 Investments

	Group		Charity	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Investments in subsidiaries	-	-	2	2

### 16 Stocks

	Group		Charity	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Stock	24,788	16,310	-	-

### 17 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	16,312	-
Income tax recoverable	550,562	494,219	-	-
Trade debtors	73,385	257,791	56,234	250,446
Other debtors	146,660	32,958	146,660	32,958
Prepayments and accrued income	165,738	216,052	49,256	135,991
	<u>936,345</u>	<u>1,001,020</u>	<u>268,461</u>	<u>419,395</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 18 Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	211,477	198,779	186,690	171,272
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	274,679
PAYE and Social Security	49,253	40,390	49,253	40,390
VAT	73,026	111,518	73,026	111,518
Other creditors	148,427	81,147	140,452	80,910
Accruals and deferred income	1,314,922	1,505,556	620,147	646,943
	<u>1,797,105</u>	<u>1,937,390</u>	<u>1,069,568</u>	<u>1,325,712</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>	£			
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	355,571			
Utilised in year	(355,571)			
Received in year	<u>1,080,336</u>			
Deferred income at 31 March 2024	<u>1,080,336</u>			

### 19 Operating Lease Commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	70,892	30,980
Between one and five years	178,794	32,403
	<u>249,686</u>	<u>63,383</u>

### 20 Restricted Funds Group and Charity

	Balance at			Balance at
	1 April 2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	
	£	£	£	£
Youth Projects	68,122	193,221	141,671	119,672
Community Festival Funding	-	15,200	15,200	-
	<u>68,122</u>	<u>208,421</u>	<u>156,871</u>	<u>119,672</u>

All restricted funds are included in the Charity accounts

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Group and Charity	Balance at	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at
	1 April 2022	Resources	Resources	31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Youth projects	80,325	133,900	146,103	68,122
Festival funding	-	10,671	10,671	-
	<u>80,325</u>	<u>144,571</u>	<u>156,774</u>	<u>68,122</u>

### 21 Unrestricted Funds - General

	Group General Funds £	Charity General Funds £
As at 1 April 2023	1,255,025	1,255,023
Incoming resources	6,892,748	2,877,667
Outgoing resources	(7,152,004)	(3,136,923)
Transfer to designated funds	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	<u>995,768</u>	<u>995,767</u>

	Group General Funds £	Charity General Funds £
As at 1 April 2022	1,545,703	1,545,702
Incoming resources	6,718,430	2,576,211
Outgoing resources	(7,009,108)	(2,866,890)
Transfer to designated funds	-	-
As at 31 March 2023	<u>1,255,025</u>	<u>1,255,023</u>

### 22 Unrestricted Funds - Designated

	Group Designated Funds £	Charity Designated Funds £
As at 1 April 2023	184,943	184,943
Incoming resources	-	-
Outgoing resources	(184,943)	(184,943)
As at 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	<b>Group Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Charity Designated Funds £</b>
As at 1 April 2022	533,245	533,245
Incoming resources	-	-
Outgoing resources	(348,302)	(348,302)
As at 31 March 2023	<u>184,943</u>	<u>184,943</u>

The value of Designated Funds brought forward relates to general funds received from the Arts Council England Culturally Recovery Fund (£119k) and funds generated through the charity's activities in the previous year (£65k).

The funds were designated by the board of trustees for the purpose of developing the Charity's digital capability (£15k), investing in programming and production (£35k), purchase of equipment necessary to delivery new programmes (£69k) and building and access improvements (£65k). These have all been utilised in the year.

### 23 Analysis of Group Net Assets Between Funds

	<b>Tangible Fixed Assets £</b>	<b>Net Current Assets £</b>	<b>Total 31 March 2024 £</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	119,672	119,672
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	300,506	695,263	995,768
Designated Funds	-	-	-
Total Funds	<u>300,506</u>	<u>814,935</u>	<u>1,115,440</u>
	<b>Tangible Fixed Assets £</b>	<b>Net Current Assets £</b>	<b>Total 31 March 2023 £</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	68,122	68,122
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	186,858	1,068,167	1,255,025
Designated Funds	-	184,943	184,943
Total Funds	<u>186,858</u>	<u>1,321,232</u>	<u>1,508,090</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### 24 Related Party Transactions

Transactions with subsidiary companies are disclosed in Note 6.

During the year, there were no transactions with related parties (2023: £Nil). At 31 March 2024, there was £Nil due to trustees (2023: £Nil).

### 25 Reconciliation of group net income resources to net cash inflow from group operations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net incoming resources	(392,649)	(651,184)
Theatre tax relief	(222,899)	(328,433)
Depreciation of fixed assets	91,745	73,148
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(8,478)	(3,540)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	64,675	(598,638)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(140,285)	146,332
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<u>(607,891)</u>	<u>(1,362,315)</u>

### 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 April 2023	Cash Flows	31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>2,241,292</u>	<u>(590,385)</u>	<u>1,650,907</u>

### 27 Guarantee

The Charitable Company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The members' liability is restricted to £1 each in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles.

### 28 Fundraising standards information

The charity raises charitable funds in-house and does not engage a professional fund-raiser or commercial participator to carry out these activities. The charity has not bound itself to a voluntary scheme for regulating fund-raising and has not received any complaints with respect to its fund-raising. The charity avoids unreasonable intrusion into a person's privacy, unreasonable persistent approaches and undue pressure on persons in connection with fund-raising.

**UK Storyhouse Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1121007

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# Accounts

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Company registration number 05541255  
Charity registration number 1121007

**UK Storyhouse Limited**  
**Trustees' Report and Consolidated**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

# STORYHOUSE

**CHAMPION ACCOUNTANTS LLP**  
Statutory Auditors  
2nd Floor  
Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
CHESTER  
CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Contents of the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### Contents

	Page
Trustees Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)	2 - 12
Independent Auditor's Report	13 - 15
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)	16
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet	17
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	18
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	19 - 31

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# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Trustees Reference and Administrative Details For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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The Trustees, who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	UK Storyhouse Limited
<b>Charity Registration Number:</b>	1121007
<b>Company Registration Number:</b>	05541255
<b>Trustees</b> (in the period and at the date of approval):	P M Mearns (Chair) (resigned 18/11/2022) D Watson (Chair) (appointed 18/11/2022) S M Leech (Vice Chair) (resigned 18/11/2022) C J Hyndman (Vice Chair) N M Adamu E Boekesteijn L A Burnett G A Clifton (resigned 18/11/2022) M L Dalton (appointed 18/11/2022) W A Fergus (appointed 18/11/2022) J W Grout (appointed 18/11/2022) J C Howard A L Jones S M Jones (appointed 18/11/2022) K Kerr (resigned 10/03/2023) H S Lin R A Matchett A A Owens (resigned 18/11/2022) M Perny (appointed 18/11/2022) L C Towers (resigned 18/11/2022) V Venugopal (appointed 18/11/2022)
<b>Principal and Registered Office:</b>	Storyhouse Hunter Street Chester Cheshire CH1 2AR
The Charity's professional advisors are as follows:	
<b>Auditors:</b>	Champion Accountants LLP 2nd Floor Refuge House 33-37 Watergate Row Chester CH1 2LE
<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds Bank plc 8 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1XP  NatWest Bank plc 33 Eastgate Street Chester CH1 1LG

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# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Charity are to promote the presentation and development of the performing arts in Chester and the surrounding area.

Storyhouse is a creative community. A diverse cultural organisation, our home is one of the country's most successful cultural buildings housing a cinema, theatres and a library. Last year we welcomed 816,619 people through our doors. We are a community hub and combined arts producer.

Our library attracts international recognition, known for seamless integration with the rest of the building and boasts the longest opening hours of any UK public library.

In 2022-23, we supported 5,768 young people to participate in creative activities, ran 180 free rhyme time sessions, created 423 magical performances indoors and outdoors, sold 108,298 theatre tickets and had 1618 cinema screenings.

We enjoyed the support of over 14k volunteer hours and 233 different individuals were involved in making our work. Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, which we founded in 2010, is the UK's largest regional open-air theatre, welcoming over 25,000 every summer.

We aim to be part of the fabric of Chester, playing a key role for our communities as a safe space where everywhere is welcome. We provide free space for over 40 different community groups who use us as a base for their activities delivering 126 hours of activity each month. Community groups including LGBTQIA+ groups, domestic abuse support services, mental health services, disability groups and groups combatting social exclusion by age meet regularly in our spaces. We work extensively with children and young people and provide a wide range of programmes including our youth theatre, young company, young leaders programme, schools and education programmes, young programmers, The Agency, BFI academy and many more working alongside local partners to ensure we are reaching the people that have the least opportunity to participate.

Throughout the year we work with our communities to co-create a series of festivals, working with steering groups of people with lived experience of the issues explored, to create events from two days to two weeks in length. Our 2022-23 festivals included Storyhouse Queer for LGBTQIA+ communities, Storyhouse Women, Kaleidoscope Festival celebrating and platforming the creative talents of the learning-disabled community, Storyhouse Childless and Storyhouse Elders.

### Achievements & Performance

#### Highlights from the Year

Between April 22 and March 23, Storyhouse had

- 816,619 customer visits
- 166,331 tickets bought
- 181,597 books borrowed
- 45,319 taking part in community activities
- 4,729 new borrowers signed up to the library

Building on the success of our Kaleidoscope Festival in 2019, we held our second ever Chester Disability Pride Parade to launch our festival for 2022, one of only two Disability Pride Parades in the country, which saw hundreds of disabled people and allies marching through the city centre down to Grosvenor Park. We also launched our Kaleidoscope monthly club night providing a safe inclusive club night for the adult learning-disabled community. We continued to run our hugely successful twice monthly Kaleidoscope Open Mic events.

We secured funding to begin our brand-new Kaleidoscope Theatre Company in partnership with local theatre company RAWD who began working towards creating a performance for the next festival.

Our inaugural Storyhouse Queer Festival was held after running a series of artist and community consultation sessions in 2022 the first festival was delivered across the building with great success in February 2023 during Queer History Month.

We also launched Storyhouse Elders, a new festival celebrating ageing creatively aimed at connecting with our older community and combatting social isolation. A steering group of older people from 55 – 85 worked together to plan the first ever festival. Following the success of the festival we launched a monthly Storyhouse Elders event to continue the momentum and provide regular activities for the community.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### Storyhouse Originals

During 2022-23 we continued to produce exciting theatre for our stages including a brand-new musical by Tim Firth, *Now is Good*, written especially for Storyhouse, celebrating the power of community and connections across generations. *Now is Good* was well received, with great reviews and a nomination for the UK Theatre Award for best new musical.

At Grosvenor Park Open Air theatre, we continued to further our ambitions to make theatre accessible for all audiences and build on the learning from our production of *Antigone* in 2021 with *Stig of the Dump*. *Stig of the Dump* was a fully accessible family show with integrated BSL (British Sign Language) and audio description. We also produced *Romeo and Juliet* and *Little Women*.

In Autumn 2022 we created an abridged version of *Romeo & Juliet* for primary school children with the purpose of giving many children, particularly those in our most underserved communities, their first experience of live theatre as well as of Shakespeare.

The production formed a key part of our Wayword Festival during the October 2022 half term holiday as well as touring successfully to schools across the region with the support of external funding.

Our Christmas show was *The Snow Queen*, directed by Hannah Noon. In February we produced an ambitious version of *Faustus that Damned Woman* by Chris Bush, directed by Francesca Goodrich with Paul Bayes Kitcher, Artistic Director of our resident company *Fallen Angels* as choreographer.

### Literature

The Chester Literature Festival returned for the first time since the pandemic to strong audiences with events across the building.

We revived our Wayword Children's Literature Festival which we had not produced since the building reopened after the Covid-19 pandemic. The week-long festival brought children's authors including Jacqueline Wilson, Benjamin Zephaniah, Jullian Clary and many others to Storyhouse. The festival included author events, workshops, performances and arts and craft activities.

### Young Storyhouse

Young Storyhouse supports young people to connect, create, gain skills and build confidence across our variety of programmes.

#### Young Leaders

Young Leaders is for young people aged 14-25 with limited opportunities to connect with others, discover their passion and gain work skills. We work extensively with young people to find out what they want and need, and as part of the programme they receive mentoring, training and are given practical opportunities to help them develop, create and grow both professionally and personally.

#### Storyhouse Young Company

In November 2022 we launched Storyhouse Young Company (SYC) a brand-new actor training company for young people aged 18-25 who are interested in pursuing a career in performance. The programme is free to access and provides an alternative route to actor training for young people who cannot afford or cannot access more traditional routes of drama schools or paid for acting classes. SYC graduates are encouraged to audition for paid trainee actor roles on Storyhouse Original shows.

#### Youth Theatre

Youth Theatre uses drama techniques with 5-17 year olds to build social skills, confidence and teamwork through weekly workshops and annual theatre show performances.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### Young Programmers

Our young programmers programmed events across the year culminating in a film festival of films about women in sport as part of the Storyhouse Women festival.

### Staff and Volunteers

Storyhouse operates with a dedicated and stable management team with considerable operational knowledge. The organisation enjoys the support of an extended family of paid staff, volunteers, artists, freelance staff and community partners, and to all these we extend our warmest thanks for their hard work and efforts during the last year.

### Volunteers

Volunteers at Storyhouse work alongside us in every part of the business from shows, to helping in the library, to storytelling, to working with young people and serving customers. They are integral to our organisation.

Our volunteer programme continues to be successful, and we have a superb group of volunteers. As of March 23, we had 170 volunteers, all having contributed a total of 14,677 hours to Storyhouse.

### Looking ahead

Storyhouse is about to enter an exciting new phase in its evolution as we look to develop our programmes, based on a new strategic plan, to deliver world class arts and meet community needs.

**Our Vision:** Here at Storyhouse, culture is owned by everyone.

**Our Mission:** We work every day to be a creative home for our communities.

#### **Our Values:**

#### **LISTEN CLOSELY.**

True empathy takes effort. So, we work hard to understand different points of view.

#### **LOOK AROUND.**

Opportunities can be spotted by anyone, anywhere, at anytime. So, we always have our eyes, ears and minds wide open.

#### **SPEAK UP.**

Not everyone's stories have been told. So, we use our voices to amplify those that haven't been heard.

#### **STAND UP.**

Debate and discussion make things better for us all. So, we don't shy away from a challenge.

#### **REACH OUT.**

Diverse perspectives solve the hardest problems and make the best decisions. So, we seek them out, and invite them in.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### VALUES

LISTEN CLOSELY  
LOOK AROUND  
SPEAK UP  
STAND UP  
REACH OUT

### MARKET POSITION

Storyhouse is the multi-  
purposed charity that  
gives world-class arts  
and culture a home.

### VISION

Here, culture is  
owned by everyone.

### MISSION

We work every day to  
be a creative home for  
our communities.

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

### Financial Position

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, Storyhouse reported a deficit of £651k. This compares to an outturn of £767k in March 2022, where Storyhouse generated a surplus from successful fundraising, including £674k from the Arts Council England's Cultural Recovery Fund received for the purpose of reflatting reserves and investing in future programme delivery.

The budget for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 was a deficit of £210k. Despite strong financial management, adverse variances of £441k occurred mainly due to failure to realise income targets for Storyhouse Productions (£259k), increased costs of staffing (including recruitment, retention, absence) (£133k), increased costs of utilities and buildings (£89k), and exceptional costs (£117k).

### Raising Funds

Total income for March 2023 was £6.86m, an increase of £425k compared to the prior year (£6.43m in March 2022). Further detail is provided in notes 3-7 of the accounts.

We continued to receive support from our community through direct donations (£23k), membership (£239k), volunteering and buying tickets.

We secured sponsorships from commercial partners (£97k) and project funding from trusts and foundations (£204k) which allowed us to deliver Young Storyhouse activity and community festivals and activity throughout the year.

Funds from Cheshire West and Chester Council and Arts Council England totalled £1,330k. Government grant funding fell to £0 from £775k in the previous year (which included £674k of funds from Arts Council Cultural Recovery Fund and £101k from the Job Retention Scheme).

### Catering Company

Income from the trading subsidiary, Storyhouse Catering Company, was £3.06m (from £2.1m in March 2022). This amount includes revenue from touring and cinema productions, as well as income from The Kitchen.

With no further Covid-19 restrictions, activity was able to resume at full capacity and we saw recovery of hospitality and audience numbers in the stage and cinema programme, though these are still below 2019 numbers.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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Throughout the summer, we continued to operate Moonlight Flicks, screening films outdoors at Chester Cathedral, Claremont Farm, Snugburys and the Carriage Shed.

The overall contribution from the Catering Company was a surplus of £504k (£280k in March 2022).

### Production Company

Box office income in Storyhouse Production Company was £1.016m (from £1.175m in March 2022).

Despite a busy programme of produced work, increased competition and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis meant that box office revenue for home produced theatre was down against prior year.

Theatre Tax Relief claimed increased to £328k (from £88k in March 2022), in line with the expenditure and increased rate of relief available from production from October 2021 onwards.

The overall deficit from the Production Company was £236k (£258k contribution in March 2022).

### Assets

Net current assets were £1,321k as at March 2023 (£1,951k in March 2022). Net group assets were £1,508k as at March 2023 (£2,159k March 2022).

Overall cash at bank and cash in hand balance was £2,241k (£3,327k in March 2022).

### Risk Management and Principal Risks

The trustees monitor performance against the Charity's business plan and budget and have risk management processes in place. Risks are reviewed regularly to manage major strategic, business and operational risks which the Charity faces, and the Audit & Risk committee leads on this process.

A risk register is maintained and is reviewed regularly to confirm that systems have been established to mitigate and lessen these risks.

The trustees have a Risk Management Strategy which comprises:

- An regular review of the risks the Charity may face and the likelihood of these risks occurring. Particular attention is given to major risks that would prevent the organisation from achieving its objectives.
- The Senior Leadership Team reports any changes in status of these risks, including any new risks and any actions taken to the Audit & Risk Committee and the main Board.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks are identified in the annual review.
- Procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity are implemented should these risks materialise.

The risk register identified that there are three risks categorised as high:

- Cost of living crisis

Demand for free services have increased, community need is on the rise, and this is likely to continue as the cost-of-living crisis does.

- Risk to income

Funding and revenue remain down across the sector. Giving and discretionary spending on arts and leisure are falling, as individuals struggle with their own financial situation.

- Inflationary pressures

Ongoing inflationary pressures and high energy prices mean that the value of the Charity's resources are being eroded.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### Going Concern

Your attention is drawn to the going concern note included within the Accounting Policies notes to the Financial Statements on page 17.

The reserves position of the Charity is set out below. Our business planning process, which includes financial projections, has taken into account the current economic climate, likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year. The board considers that the Charity has adequate financial resources for ongoing operations.

The board has reviewed and considered all relevant information and it has been determined that the risks do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Charity has a 20-year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three-year funding cycle agreed over that period. The financial settlement for this is now confirmed until March 2025.

In November 2022, Arts Council England awarded Storyhouse continued National Portfolio grant funding until 2026, which offers further financial stability to the Charity.

The view of the board is that the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

With secured income and based on its business plan for the forthcoming year, the trustees have concluded that the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities, as they fall due, for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements.

After consideration of all factors, the accounts have therefore been prepared on the basis that the Charity is a going concern.

### Reserves

At the end of March 2023, total funds carried forward are £1.5m (£2.15m in March 2022), including £184k of designated funds and a further £68k in funds restricted in nature.

The board aims to maintain an appropriate level of reserves to support its work and programme of activities.

The recommended reserves levels have been determined in accordance with charities commission best practice guidance. The guidance highlights that the setting of a reserves policy is not a task which can be taken in isolation, but is a product of a charity's strategic planning, budgeting and risk management process.

The reserves policy should protect the continuity of the Charity's work and provide appropriate cover against risks to which it is exposed. The Reserves Policy takes into account the following risk factors:

- Risks associated with income, including funding and sponsorship, being different or lower from that budgeted.
- Risks associated with expenditure, being different or higher from that budgeted.
- Planned activity level having identified potential threats and opportunities.
- The charity's contractual commitments.
- The potential costs associated with having to wind down the organisation in an emergency situation.

Overall, the board believes that the determined level of £970k of available reserves (defined as unrestricted funds not already invested in fixed assets or irrevocably committed for other purposes) to be appropriate based on their review.

The board considers the total requirement of reserves (equivalent to just under 3 months core expenditure) provides sufficient flexibility in the context of operational requirements and is in line with other similar charities they have benchmarked.

At the end of March 2023, the balance held as unrestricted reserves was £1,255k (£1,545k March 2022) of which £1,068k were regarded as free reserves (£1,337k March 2022), the Charity's net current assets/liabilities held within general Unrestricted Funds, as shown in note 23.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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The Charity holds £184k in designated funds (£533k March 2022). Of this, £119k relates to funds received from the Arts Council Cultural Recovery Fund and Continuity Fund, which has been committed to fund staff, digital projects and equipment in the next financial period.

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Governing Document

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee whose constitution is set out in a deed of trust, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

#### Board of Trustees

The board at 31st March 2023 is made up of 15 non-executive unpaid trustees. In 2022-23 there was a significant number of trustees whose fixed terms came to an end, which led to a large number of new trustees being appointed.

The board is chaired by David Watson who was appointed in November 2022. Outgoing Chair Peter Mearns stood down after eleven years on the board.

Board numbers include a dedicated position for a Young Trustee, currently held by Jack Howard. The board of trustees has a diverse range of skills and backgrounds, bringing a range of perspectives to discussions and strategic decisions.

#### Governance

In 2022-23 the governance arrangements of the Charity were reviewed by the governance working group, comprised of Trustees and members of the Executive.

The group used the Charity Governance Code as a framework for review and each of its 7 Principles to assess performance and aid continuous improvement. The scope of the review was not only to audit governing documents and policies, but also the board's own performance and effectiveness. As is best practice, the board sought external evaluation and expertise to support this review.

Going forward, the review of governance matters will fall under the remit of the Nominations Committee.

#### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New appointments to the board are advertised and ratified by the full board, this process is led by the nominations committee. New trustees have a full induction process and take part in the year-round trustee training programme. Trustees are appointed on a fixed term basis and are subject to a maximum six-year term.

#### Decision Making

The board retains full control and approves all major strategic decisions and has ultimate responsibility for the company's conduct and financial stability. Leadership and management of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive.

In January 2023, the organisation's Chief Executive, Andrew Bentley, stepped down from his role. Following a robust recruitment process, the board appointed Annabel Turpin to the role and she started in October 2023. She joins Storyhouse after a highly successful 15-year stint at ARC Stockton Arts Centre one of the North East's largest arts venues. She is also Co-Director of Future Arts Centres, a national network of 130+ arts centres, committed to championing their artistic and social contribution to the cultural and civic life of UK towns and cities.

The Chief Executive has support from four Directors (creative, development, finance and operations) together comprising the organisation's Leadership Team.

The board meets at least four times a year and is supported by a number of committees and advisory groups. Within the governance structure, each committee or group is placed in one of three streams: Governance, Operational or Advisory.

- Governance committees – audit and risk, nominations, remuneration
- Operational committees – access and inclusion, finance and resources
- Advisory groups – commercial, development, programmatic

## **UK Storyhouse Limited**

### **Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

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Though the board collectively retains ultimate responsibility for all decisions taken, this structure provides the board with the assurance that detailed attention and scrutiny is being afforded to important strategic issues.

Each of the committees and advisory groups are governed by terms of reference, which set out key decisions which must be approved by the board and those delegated to the standing committees.

The governance structure and the terms of reference of committees are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with the Charity's governing document and to make sure they remain fit for purpose.

The affairs of the company are subject to external scrutiny by Arts Council England, which is entitled to attend board meetings as observer. The company has a substantial contract for services with Cheshire West & Chester Council, which undertakes an annual contractual review but which is not otherwise involved with the Charity's governance or board.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries, Storyhouse Production Company Limited and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### Trustees Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 judgements and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

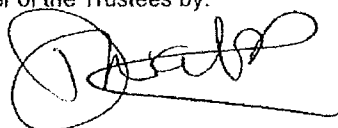
- there is no relevant audit information, of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report we also approve the Director's Report, included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

Signed by order of the Trustees by:

D Watson  
Chair



Date: 21 Nov 2023

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Storyhouse Limited (the 'charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated and charity balance sheet, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the group and the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## UK Storyhouse Limited

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

#### **Extent to which the audit is considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

The responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities, including fraud, lies with the trustees and with those charged with governance. The objectives of our audit in respect of irregularities and fraud are to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient, appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

#### **Audit procedures**

We determine significant applicable laws and regulations through discussion with those charged with governance and our own knowledge of the industry and design audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with those laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We consider the applicable laws and regulations to be the financial reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006), Charity Law, the relevant tax regulations in the UK, employment law and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Safeguarding legislation.

We consider the control environment and the procedures in place to address identified risks, including management override, non-compliance with laws and regulations and to prevent and detect fraud or irregularity. Our procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement or error and include: enquiries of management and of staff in key compliance functions; review of reports from regulators; review of minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; review and testing of manual journals, relevant nominals and

## UK Storyhouse Limited

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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significant transactions outside the normal course of business; review of financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performance of analytical procedures.

We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and due to the inherent limitations of an audit, as described above, the audit cannot be relied upon to detect all instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Susan Harris MA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Champion Accountants LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor

14 December 2023

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2nd Floor Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
Chester  
CH1 2LE

## UK Storyhouse Limited

### Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	1,751,122	144,571	1,895,693	2,750,249
Charitable activities	4	320,391	-	320,391	529,372
Other trading activities	5	4,318,484	-	4,318,484	3,070,469
Other	7	328,433	-	328,433	88,464
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>6,718,430</b>	<b>144,571</b>	<b>6,863,001</b>	<b>6,438,554</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	8	4,142,219	-	4,142,219	2,878,283
Charitable activities	9	3,215,192	156,774	3,371,966	2,792,641
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>7,357,411</b>	<b>156,774</b>	<b>7,514,185</b>	<b>5,670,924</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(638,981)</b>	<b>(12,203)</b>	<b>(651,184)</b>	<b>767,630</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
- Total funds brought forward		2,078,948	80,325	2,159,273	1,391,643
- Total funds carried forward	23	1,439,967	68,122	1,508,089	2,159,273

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year. All Income and Expenditure derive from continuing activities.

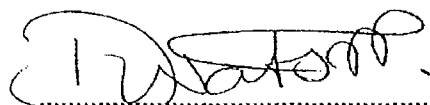
The notes on pages 19 - 31 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2023	2022	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14	186,858	208,161	186,858	208,161
Investments	15	-	-	2	2
		<u>186,858</u>	<u>208,161</u>	<u>186,860</u>	<u>208,163</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	16	16,310	12,770	-	-
Debtors	17	1,001,020	402,382	419,395	194,123
Cash at bank and in hand		2,241,292	3,327,018	2,227,545	3,301,483
		<u>3,258,622</u>	<u>3,742,170</u>	<u>2,646,940</u>	<u>3,495,606</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,937,390)	(1,791,058)	(1,325,712)	(1,544,497)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,321,232</u>	<u>1,951,112</u>	<u>1,321,228</u>	<u>1,951,109</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>1,508,090</u>	<u>2,159,273</u>	<u>1,508,088</u>	<u>2,159,272</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	20	68,122	80,325	68,122	80,325
Unrestricted funds:					
- General fund	21	1,255,025	1,545,703	1,255,023	1,545,702
- Designated fund	22	184,943	533,245	184,943	533,245
<b>Total funds</b>	23	<u>1,508,090</u>	<u>2,159,273</u>	<u>1,508,088</u>	<u>2,159,272</u>

The consolidated financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 21/11/23 2023 and were signed on their behalf by:



D Watson

Company Number: 05541255

The notes on pages 17 - 30 form part of these financial statements

## UK Storyhouse Limited

### Consolidated Cash Flow Statement For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Net Cashflow from operating activities</b>	25	(1,362,315)	1,232,318
Tax received		328,434	222,005
<b>Cashflow from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	14	(51,845)	(33,214)
<b>Net Cashflow from investing activities</b>		(51,845)	(33,214)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		(1,085,726)	1,421,109
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		3,327,018	1,905,909
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		2,241,292	3,327,018
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consist of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		2,241,292	3,327,018
Short term deposits		-	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year</b>		2,241,292	3,327,018

The notes on pages 17 - 30 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### General Information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Storyhouse, Hunter Street, Chester, Cheshire CH1 2AR.

#### Accounting convention

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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2019 – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note below.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest pound.

UK Storyhouse Limited is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### Basis of consolidation

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited, made up to 31 March 2023. There are uniform policies across the group and intra group transactions are eliminated on consolidation. Consolidation is on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charity has not been presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Going Concern

As part of their going concern assessment, the trustees have considered the possible outcomes of events and conditions that the Charity may face, namely the continued impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the financial uncertainty in the UK economy.

The Charity has a 20-year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three-year funding cycle, the financial settlement for which is confirmed until March 2025. National Portfolio grant from Arts Council England has also been confirmed until March 2026, which provides further secured income for the forthcoming year.

In light of the economic uncertainty, the management team regularly assess what impacts the events and conditions have on its operations and forecast cash flows, ensuring it has sufficient liquidity to continue to meet its obligations as they fall due.

Financial risks are addressed through regular monitoring by the Finance & Resource Committee and full board, with the overall budget receiving a full re-appraisal on a regular basis. As such, the trustees consider that the Charity has adequate financial resources for ongoing operations and its business planning process, which includes financial projections, has taken into account the current economic climate and likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year.

Current budgets anticipate in year deficits for the financial year 2023-24. Existing reserves will be used to fund the deficit in the short term. The medium-term financial plan is anticipated to see the Charity return to a surplus position in future years.

The view of the trustees is that, whilst they acknowledge the significant disruption that the cost-of-living crisis has brought and may continue to bring, the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees have concluded the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements. In reaching their conclusion, the trustees have reviewed and considered relevant information, including the annual budget and future cash flows.

After consideration of all factors, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

#### The funds of the charity

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against these funds. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the Financial Statements.

### **Incoming resources**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grant income that is revenue in nature is recognised in full in the year of entitlement where the performance conditions have been met.

The point of entitlement to ticket income is regarded as the completion of the ticketed performance. As such, ticket income is recognised upon completion of the performance that the ticket has been issued for. Amounts received for future performances are included in current liabilities.

The other sources of income are received at the point of delivery of the goods or services and are therefore recognised upon receipt.

### **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating voluntary income are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost
Computer equipment	25% on cost

Where it has been identified that the recoverable amount of a fixed asset is below its net book value the asset is written down to its recoverable amount and the impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

### **Stocks**

Stocks consist of purchased goods for resale and consumables. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

### **Debtors**

Debtors receivable within one year are recognised at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash held on deposit with a short maturity of three months or less.

### **Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Deferred income includes:

- Income received for events taking place after the balance sheet date

### **Financial instruments**

The charity only 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 with the exception of fixed asset investments which are subsequently measured at fair value where this can be reliably measured.

### **Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the company benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Capital Gains Tax, but not Value Added Tax.

### **Volunteers**

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

## UK Storyhouse Limited

### Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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#### 2 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited. The summary financial performance of the charity alone is:-

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£	£
Income	1,887,651	3,191,157
Theatre Tax Relief	328,433	88,464
Gift aid from Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	504,698	244,097
Gift aid from Storyhouse Production Company Limited	-	-
	<u>2,720,782</u>	<u>3,523,718</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>3,371,966</u>	<u>2,792,640</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(651,184)</u>	<u>731,078</u>
Total funds brought forward	<u>2,159,272</u>	<u>1,428,194</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>1,508,088</u>	<u>2,159,272</u>
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	1,439,966	2,078,947
Restricted funds	68,122	80,325
	<u>1,508,088</u>	<u>2,159,272</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Funding</b>				
Members & Private Giving	262,267		262,267	236,905
Sponsorship Income	97,500		97,500	77,500
Trusts and Foundations	26,750	133,900	160,650	190,900
Project Funding	33,980	10,671	44,651	73,402
<b>Grants receivable</b>				
Arts Council England	228,015		228,015	228,015
Cheshire West and Chester Council	1,102,610		1,102,610	1,167,610
Government Grants	-		-	775,917
	<u>1,751,122</u>	<u>144,571</u>	<u>1,895,693</u>	<u>2,750,249</u>

Of the income from donations and legacies received in 2023, £1,751,122 (2022: £2,584,299) was unrestricted and £144,571 (2022: £165,950) was restricted.

### 4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Library operation	Project	23,852	23,852	17,707
Engagement	Project	81,376	81,376	118,253
Ticketing	Project	100,780	100,780	392,832
Other income	Funding and administration	114,384	114,384	580
		<u>320,391</u>	<u>320,391</u>	<u>529,372</u>

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	1,252,096	1,252,096	916,710
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	3,066,388	3,066,388	2,153,759
	<u>4,318,484</u>	<u>4,318,484</u>	<u>3,070,469</u>

## UK Storyhouse Limited

### Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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#### 6 Net income from trading activity of subsidiary companies

The charity owned 100% of the share capital of Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited at 31 March 2023. Both subsidiaries are registered in England and Wales. The principal activity of each subsidiary is detailed below together with their trading results for the year.

##### Storyhouse Catering Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of catering, cinema and receiving touring theatre at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709991.

	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Turnover	3,066,388	2,153,759
Cost of sales	2,512,672	1,815,330
Administration expenses	49,018	57,779
	<u>504,698</u>	<u>280,650</u>
(Loss)/Profit before taxation and for the financial year		
	<u>504,698</u>	<u>244,097</u>
Amount gift aided to the charity		
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Retained earnings brought forward and carried forward		
	<u>847,422</u>	<u>734,289</u>
Current assets		
Current liabilities	<u>847,421</u>	<u>734,288</u>
Net current assets	1	1
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

### Storyhouse Production Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of theatre company production at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709994.

	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Turnover	1,252,096	916,710
Cost of sales	1,560,990	993,534
Administration expenses	19,539	11,640
<b>Loss before taxation</b>	<b>(328,433)</b>	<b>(88,464)</b>
Corporation tax credit (Theatre tax relief)	328,433	88,464
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Current assets	562,470	196,408
Current liabilities	562,469	196,407
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	1	1

### 7 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Theatre tax relief	328,433	328,433	88,464
	<u>328,433</u>	<u>328,433</u>	<u>88,464</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

### 8 Costs of raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	1,580,529	1,580,529	1,005,174
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	2,561,690	2,561,690	1,873,109
	<u>4,142,219</u>	<u>4,142,219</u>	<u>2,878,283</u>

### 9 Costs of Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Charitable activities	2,329,180	-	-	2,329,180	2,020,973
Management	-	814,521	-	814,521	544,293
Finance	-	95,352	14,000	109,352	91,627
Building overheads	-	118,914	-	118,914	135,748
	<u>2,329,180</u>	<u>1,028,787</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>3,371,966</u>	<u>2,792,641</u>

Costs of charitable activities were £3,371,966 (2022: £2,792,641) of which £3,215,192 (2022: £2,664,595) was unrestricted and £156,774 (2022: £128,046) was restricted.

### 10 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>This is stated after charging:</b>		
Depreciation	73,148	161,256
Auditors remuneration		
- Audit of the financial statements	14,300	13,000
- Accountancy services	-	-
Operating lease costs:		
- Land and buildings	36,900	36,600
- Motor vehicle	3,660	3,660
- Copier	2,692	2,692

### 11 Trustees' Remuneration

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or benefits in kind in respect of their duties as a trustee. Expenses were paid to Trustees during the year in amount of £3,744 (2022: £1,004).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

### 12 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

Total staff costs were as follows

	Group 2023 £	Charity 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Charity 2022 £
Wages and salaries	2,271,932	1,405,841	1,885,684	1,253,907
Social security costs	195,730	165,663	157,773	138,435
Pension costs	74,099	61,265	62,202	52,787
	<u>2,541,761</u>	<u>1,632,769</u>	<u>2,105,659</u>	<u>1,445,129</u>

Key management comprises the executive team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £323,471 (2022: £255,535).

### 13 Particulars of employees

The average number of staff employed during the year was 142, analysed by function as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Project	8	10
Head office	17	14
Kitchen	6	8
Marketing	7	5
Production	9	6
Cinema	4	4
Touring	2	1
Trading	1	-
Casual staff	88	73
	<u>142</u>	<u>121</u>

During the year the number of employees who earned more than £60,000 was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	-	-
£70,000 - £80,000	-	-
£80,000 - £90,000	-	1
£90,000 - £100,000	1	-

A termination payment was made in the year under the terms of a legal agreement which prevents disclosure of further information (2022: £Nil).

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and an equity pension scheme for self employed actors. The sum of £74,100 (2022: £62,202) represents the pension cost to the charity for the period. The full cost has been charged against unrestricted funds.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

### 14 Tangible Fixed Assets

#### Group and Charity

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2022	898,518	14,328	193,740	1,106,586
Additions	41,891	-	9,954	51,845
At 31 March 2023	940,409	14,328	203,694	1,158,431
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2022	694,868	14,328	189,229	898,425
Charge for year	69,549	-	3,599	73,148
At 31 March 2023	764,417	14,328	192,828	971,573
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2023	175,992	-	10,866	186,858
At 31 March 2022	203,650	-	4,511	208,161

### 15 Investments

	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Investments in subsidiaries	-	-	2	2

### 16 Stocks

	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Stock	16,310	12,770	-	-

### 17 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable	494,219	116,484	-	-
Trade debtors	257,791	119,496	250,446	111,780
Other debtors	32,958	40,300	32,958	40,300
Prepayments and accrued income	216,052	126,102	135,991	42,043
	1,001,020	402,382	419,395	194,123

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

### 18 Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	198,779	273,080	171,272	247,062
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	274,679	503,274
PAYE and Social Security	40,390	42,305	40,390	42,305
VAT	111,518	51,684	111,518	51,684
Other creditors	81,147	45,779	80,910	45,779
Accruals and deferred income	1,505,556	1,378,210	646,943	654,393
	<u>1,937,390</u>	<u>1,791,058</u>	<u>1,325,712</u>	<u>1,544,497</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>	£			
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	308,068			
Utilised in year	(308,068)			
Received in year	<u>355,571</u>			
Deferred income at 31 March 2023	<u>355,571</u>			

### 19 Operating Lease Commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	30,980	30,752
Between one and five years	32,403	19,550
	<u>63,383</u>	<u>50,302</u>

### 20 Restricted Funds

Group and Charity	Balance at			Balance at 31 March 2023
	1 April 2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	
	£	£	£	£
Youth Projects	80,325	133,900	146,103	68,122
Community Festival Funding	-	10,671	10,671	-
	<u>80,325</u>	<u>144,571</u>	<u>156,774</u>	<u>68,122</u>

All restricted funds are included in the Charity accounts

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Group and Charity	Balance at	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at
	1 April 2021	Resources	Resources	31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Youth projects	42,421	143,950	106,046	80,325
Festival funding	-	22,000	22,000	-
	<u>42,421</u>	<u>165,950</u>	<u>128,046</u>	<u>80,325</u>

### 21 Unrestricted Funds - General

	Group General Funds £	Charity General Funds £
As at 1 April 2022	1,545,703	1,545,702
Incoming resources	6,718,430	2,576,211
Outgoing resources	(7,009,108)	(2,866,890)
Transfer to designated funds	-	-
As at 31 March 2023	<u>1,255,025</u>	<u>1,255,023</u>

	Group General Funds £	Charity General Funds £
As at 1 April 2021	1,055,250	1,091,801
Incoming resources	6,272,604	3,357,768
Outgoing resources	(5,542,878)	(2,664,594)
Transfer to designated funds	(239,273)	(239,273)
As at 31 March 2022	<u>1,545,703</u>	<u>1,545,702</u>

### 22 Unrestricted Funds - Designated

	Group Designated Funds £	Charity Designated Funds £
As at 1 April 2022	533,245	533,245
Incoming resources	-	-
Outgoing resources	(348,302)	(348,302)
As at 31 March 2023	<u>184,943</u>	<u>184,943</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Group Designated Funds £	Charity Designated Funds £
As at 1 April 2021	293,972	293,972
Incoming resources	319,288	319,288
Outgoing resources	(80,015)	(80,015)
As at 31 March 2022	533,245	533,245

The value of Designated Funds relates to general funds received from the Arts Council England Culturally Recovery Fund (£119k) and funds generated through the charity's activities in the previous year (£65k).

The funds have been designated by the board of trustees for the purpose of developing the Charity's digital capability (£15k), investing in programming and production (£35k), purchase of equipment necessary to delivery new programmes (£69k) and building and access improvements (£65k).

### 23 Analysis of Group Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	68,122	68,122
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	186,858	1,068,167	1,255,025
Designated Funds	-	184,943	184,943
Total Funds	186,858	1,321,232	1,508,090

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 31 March 2022 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	80,325	80,325
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	208,161	1,337,542	1,545,703
Designated Funds	-	533,245	533,245
Total Funds	208,161	1,951,112	2,159,273

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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### 24 Related Party Transactions

Transactions with subsidiary companies are disclosed in Note 6.

During the year, a total of £Nil (2022: £6,834) was paid to trustees for artistic services provided. At the 31 March 2023, £Nil was due to trustees (2022: £Nil).

### 25 Reconciliation of group net income resources to net cash inflow from group operations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net incoming resources	(651,184)	767,630
Theatre tax relief	(328,433)	(88,464)
Depreciation of fixed assets	73,148	161,256
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(3,540)	(3,340)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(598,638)	(125,191)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	146,332	520,427
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<b>(1,362,315)</b>	<b>1,232,318</b>

### 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 April 2022 £	Cash Flows £	31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>3,327,018</u>	<u>(1,085,726)</u>	<u>2,241,292</u>

### 27 Guarantee

The Charitable Company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The members' liability is restricted to £1 each in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles.

### 28 Fundraising standards information

The charity raises charitable funds in-house and does not engage a professional fund-raiser or commercial participator to carry out these activities. The charity has not bound itself to a voluntary scheme for regulating fund-raising and has not received any complaints with respect to its fund-raising. The charity avoids unreasonable intrusion into a person's privacy, unreasonable persistent approaches and undue pressure on persons in connection with fund-raising.

**UK Storyhouse Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1121007

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# Accounts

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Company registration number 05541255  
Charity registration number 1121007

**UK Storyhouse Limited**  
**Trustees' Report and Consolidated**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

# STORYHOUSE

**CHAMPION ACCOUNTANTS LLP**  
Statutory Auditors  
2nd Floor  
Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
CHESTER  
CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Contents of the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### Contents

	Page
Trustees Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)	2 - 12
Independent Auditor's Report	13 - 15
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)	16
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet	17
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	18
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	19 - 31

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# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Trustees Reference and Administrative Details For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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The Trustees, who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	UK Storyhouse Limited
<b>Charity Registration Number:</b>	1121007
<b>Company Registration Number:</b>	05541255
<b>Trustees</b> (in the period and at the date of approval):	PM Mearns (Chair) SM Leech E Boekesteijn GA Clifton CJ Hyndman AL Jones K Kerr RA Matchett AA Owens LC Towers NM Adamu LA Burnett HS Lin JC Howard (appointed 30/11/2021)
<b>Principal and Registered Office:</b>	Storyhouse Hunter Street Chester Cheshire CH1 2AR
<b>Company Secretary:</b>	A Bentley
The Charity's professional advisors are as follows:	
<b>Auditors:</b>	Champion Accountants LLP 2nd Floor Refuge House 33-37 Watergate Row Chester CH1 2LE
<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds Bank plc 8 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1XP  NatWest Bank plc 33 Eastgate Street Chester CH1 1LG

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### Objectives and Activities

Storyhouse is a diverse organisation and building. It is a charity, cultural centre, library, theatre, cinema and restaurant. It is a truly welcoming communal place for people of all ages and backgrounds with over 1,000,000 visitors a year and 128 community groups calling it home.

Storyhouse is essentially four things:

- an important part of the fabric of our local community
- a combined-arts producer and presenter
- a large visitor attraction and community space
- an innovative, commercially-minded stage producer.

Storyhouse also runs the longest opening hours for any UK library. We produce our own theatre as well as welcoming in touring productions and hosting one-night comedy and music. Every summer we run Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, which welcomes 25,000 people.

We have become an important part of the cultural fabric in the region and Storyhouse has grown into a place of safety and support, especially for our younger participants; somewhere where they can build their careers and re-imagine their place in the world.

128 community groups use Storyhouse as a base for regular creative activity each month. These groups include local LGBTQ+ and disability groups, refugee integration and support groups, mental health support groups, groups combating social exclusion by age, creative groups for young people left behind by education and social systems, and foster carers.

We work extensively with young people and children and run a youth theatre, young company, young leaders programme, half term activities, summer holiday clubs and now a new schools partnership scheme. We work with many local partners to ensure we are reaching and working with children and young people that are hardest to reach and are the most disadvantaged in the area.

We measure our success around the difference we make, how well we reach the excluded, how we manage ourselves, how well we support young people, and how we encourage talent.

Between April 21 and March 22, Storyhouse had

- 994,774 (105,703) customer visits
- 136,528 (33,107) tickets bought
- 169,013 (44,951) books borrowed
- 39,672 (16,481) taking part
- 3,989 (940) new borrowers signed up to the library

### Making a Difference

We relish our role at the heart of our local community, and we have been a beacon of hope during the pandemic, offering as much support as we could, to our community.

Storyhouse is the largest cultural employer and organisation in Cheshire and a substantial combined arts producer, staging £2.09m of work directly including £1.1m in freelance artist contracts. We support 215 full time equivalent (fte) jobs including 68fte via direct employment, 147fte in the freelance economy and have an overall economic impact of £21.9m.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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The cultural economy in Cheshire and beyond relies on Storyhouse and we have continued to support our local partners, including resident company Fallen Angels Dance Theatre (supporting addicts in recovery) and Yet Another Carnival (graduates from our young company).

Our physical building incorporates best practice in accessible design in both public and back-of-house areas. The approach to accessibility has considered the needs of all users including people with mobility impairments, people with visual impairments, deaf people, older people and small children.

Recent surveys of our audiences show that 11% of our visitors are living with a disability. We programme accessible performances of all of our produced shows and offer relaxed cinema screenings in our cinema. We work with groups across the borough including Dementia Action Alliance, Age UK, Cheshire Autism Support and Chester Adult Phab Club to ensure users with access needs can use all elements of the building and programme.

We have created a free Access Register: a membership from which users can receive updates about accessible performances, enables them to book free companion tickets online and helps us learn about provisions or facilities we can provide to ensure their visit to Storyhouse is as enjoyable as possible.

### Everyone has a Voice

Storyhouse was built to normalise creativity in its communities, helping to build a more vibrant cultural democracy. We seek to break down barriers between art and wider communities, empowering everyone as an artist and as a cultural citizen.

This is a core component of our organisation and our ambition is to grow this area of work over the next three years. We strive to make our work inclusive and are already an accessible and creative place where people can study, learn and create. Partnership working with local groups and colleges helps us to deliver a joined up and increasingly diverse creative programme.

Diverse communities freely access opportunities to engage with, and participate in, the advancement of the debates we begin on our stages, across the library, cinema, Garret theatre and our restaurant, The Kitchen.

We have established a broad network of 136 local partner organisations, including 15 key partners with whom we have formal agreements to deliver shared objectives, to place marginalised voices in control of our programme.

In 21-22, much of our festival programme was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to a grant from the European Regional Development Fund, Storyhouse launched a new six-month community arts project called Chester, Designed by Nature. The events involved a wide range of existing community groups, and many talented artists in Chester whose opportunity to create work has been affected by the pandemic; enabling new communities, particularly those who feel less represented within the city, to have the opportunity to co-create collective activity or events.

The festival programme for the year included Kaleidoscope, a disability week-long festival, and Storyhouse Languages, a weekend celebrating Chester's international community.

We secured funding to help us to grow our diversity and inclusion work in the community. The funding has enabled us to invest in black led programming as part of our literature festival and to run a community library programme celebrating black narratives.

### A Creative Community

The diversity of stories and voices within our borough needs to be reflected and heard on all our stages.

In April 2021, we staged Amy Ng's very well-received Miss Julie. Its in-person run was cut short as a result of a national lockdown, so we moved to live streaming. Given its international appeal we set show times to reach audiences in Southeast Asia and the Eastern US seaboard, welcoming audiences from New York, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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Storyhouse for the first time. The show later went on tour to York Theatre Royal, Southwark Playhouse and Belgrade Theatre.

In October, we produced *Antigone*; a fully accessible show for the deaf and hard of hearing community by Hollie McNish. To achieve this the whole show was signed in BSL and we used integrated captioning throughout the production. Raffie Julien, a deaf actor, took the lead role of Ismene. This piece attracted new audiences to Storyhouse and highly acclaimed reviews, being called a 'bold and dynamic piece of accessible theatre' by *The Stage*.

Between May to September 2021, we staged 110 performances of home-produced theatre at Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre. *The Jungle Book*, *Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Pride and Prejudice* were watched by over 25,000 people.

A further 14,700 attended performances of *Oliver Twist* staged at Storyhouse in Christmas 2021, though numbers were dampened due to the resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chester Literature Festival included 6 community co-curated events that covered the breadth of the Storyhouse community programme. Successes were the events with the LGBTQ older people community and the Childless Community. Poet, Benjamin Zephaniah took up his residency, and his work has been installed across the building, provoking an emotional response from many of our communities.

This activity took place alongside our busy cinema programme and library operation during the same period.

### Supporting Young Lives

Young Storyhouse is a collective of groups for young people (aged 5-25) at Storyhouse that meet for regular sessions to provide young people with real-life experience in the arts and libraries, as well as supporting them in gaining new skills, building friendships, and achieving qualifications.

We are working to improve access to the cultural sector by training the next generation of cultural leaders through Young Storyhouse.

Storyhouse trains young people to perform in plays, lead reading groups, programme the cinema, run music gigs, market shows, design, budget, programme and deliver their own festivals. We run an extensive and diverse programme of activity for young people, that focuses on creativity, including:

- Young Leaders Programme, working with NEET young people aged 16-25 to train and gain experience working in the cultural sector.
- Young Company, programme for those interested in theatre. In 2022-2023 we will see an expansion to include more production-based learning alongside acting.
- Young programmers, enabling young people to gain real life experience of programming.

We employed 23 trainees in the financial year – 47% of whom live with long-term health conditions / disabilities.

Supporting young people continued to be a priority for us. We are extremely proud of our dynamic and flexible approach to keeping our youth programmes open during the pandemic. But now as we emerge from the pandemic, we need to review and grow to ensure we are continuing to meet the needs of young people. This includes the expansion of our work into hard-to-reach communities. 67% of young people we work with come from targeted areas of social deprivation and 15% live with a disability. We want to further this reach to ensure we work with those least likely to access culture.

Elected representatives check all our work in the Youth Forum. Our Youth Forum is chaired by Storyhouse's Young Trustee, Jack Howard, who also sits on our main board, and includes elected representatives from all Young Storyhouse groups aged 8+.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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15,514 young people took part in creative workshops at Storyhouse during the financial year. 11,098 young people saw shows we produced: 3,585 saw these for free. We ran 18 regular youth groups, a mixture of in-person and online. Through these, 230 young people benefited from 416 creative sessions, 142 young people joined these groups for free.

We worked with 43 young people on our Young Leaders programme, all of whom were not in education, employment or training, or were deemed at risk of being so by their support agencies. One of our graduated young leaders successfully secured a part time job in the library team. Another self-published her own book, which she has put in a local children's shop Weasel and the Bug. Her book has been picked up by a publisher who has asked her to extend the story for publishing.

### Staff and Volunteers

Storyhouse operates with a dedicated and a stable management team with considerable operational knowledge.

The organisation enjoys the support of an extended family of paid staff, volunteers, artists, freelance staff and community partners, and to all these we extend our warmest thanks for their hard work and efforts during the last year.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers at Storyhouse work alongside us in every part of the business from shows, to helping in the library, to storytelling, to working with young people and serving customers. They are integral to our organisation.

Our volunteer programme continues to be successful, and we have a superb group of volunteers. As of March 22, we had 170 volunteers, all having contributed a total of 28,079 (3,528 in prior year) hours to Storyhouse.

### Public Benefit

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

### **Support and stakeholder relations**

Our Storyhouse membership scheme continues to grow and as at March 2022 we had 5,413 members (4,747 March 2021).

We have continued to receive support from our community; through direct donations (£28.3k), membership (£208k), volunteering and buying tickets, lobbying, and helping us deliver services to our most vulnerable communities.

Corporate members continued with their support including Bank of America, Iceland, and Aaron and Partners. MBNA continued with their 3-year sponsorship programme to support Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre.

Our existing funders, The Oglesby Charitable Trust and The Westminster Foundation continued to support our Young Leaders programme.

Additional support for our programme came from Kenneth Russell-Hardy Will Trust which supported our literature festival and Destination Chester, who supported our Designed by Nature community programme.

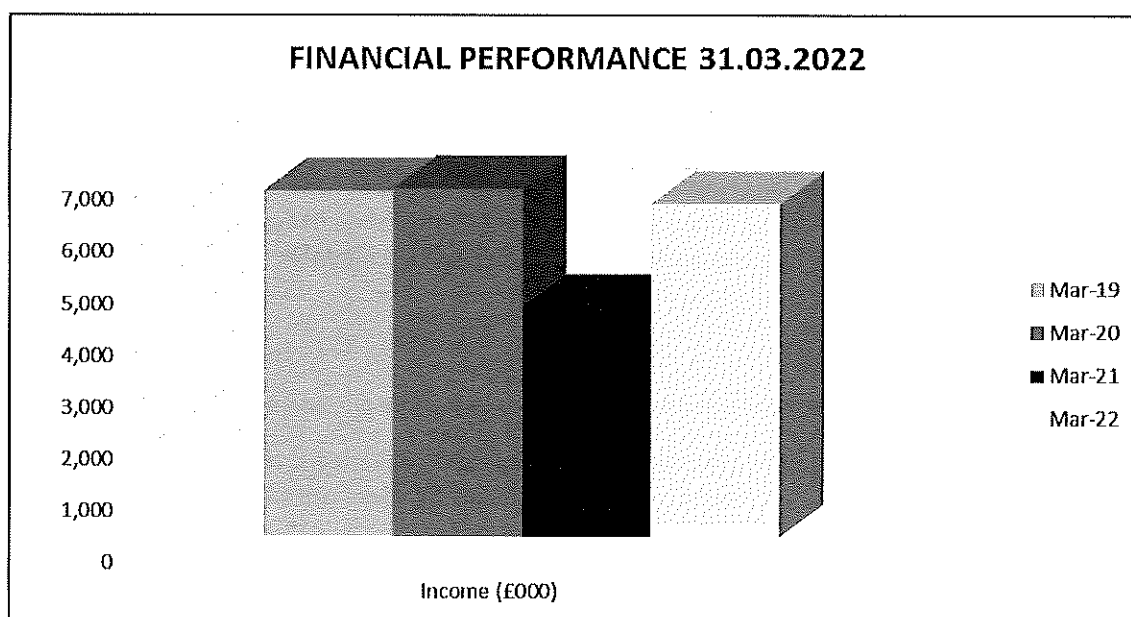
### Financial Performance

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, Storyhouse made an operating surplus of £767k (surplus of £911k in March 2021).

Total income for March 2022 was £6.43m, an increase of £2m compared to the prior year (£4.43m in March 2021).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022



The Covid 19 pandemic continued to have a significant effect on Storyhouse, as it did on all performing arts and cultural venues across the UK.

### Raising Funds

We have continued to receive support from our community; through direct donations (£28.3k), membership (£208k), volunteering and buying tickets.

Successful applications to the Arts Council's Cultural Recovery Fund and its Continuity Fund have provided £674k to support project costs and reflate our reserves.

We have secured sponsorships from commercial partners (£93k) and project funding from trusts and foundations (£195k) which allowed us to deliver Young Storyhouse activity and community festivals and activity throughout the year.

### Storyhouse Originals

Box office income for Storyhouse Originals increased to £1.175m (from £370k in March 2021).

Miss Julie was streamed to audiences in April 21, as Covid-19 restrictions in place meant no live performances could take place. 495 tickets were sold for 11 streamed performances. The show, a co-production with New Earth Theatre, later went on tour to York Theatre Royal, Southwark Playhouse and Belgrade Theatre selling over 1,300 tickets.

Between May to September 2021, we staged 110 performances of home-produced theatre at Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre. The Jungle Book, Merry Wives of Windsor and Pride and Prejudice were watched by over 25,000 people.

A further 14,700 attended performances of Oliver Twist staged at Storyhouse in Christmas 2021, though numbers were dampened due to the resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic, box office income was £402k.

Theatre Tax Relief claimed increased to £88k (from £27k in March 2021), in line with the increase in expenditure on our home-produced work.

The overall contribution from Storyhouse Originals was a surplus of £258k (£1.9k deficit in March 2021).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### Catering Company

Income from the trading subsidiary, Storyhouse Catering Company, was £2.1m (from just £326k in March 2021).

For the early part of the year, the Kitchen (our café & restaurant) and stage programme was still heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Throughout the summer, we continued to operate Moonlight Flicks, screening films outdoors at Chester Cathedral, Claremont Farm, Snugburys and the Carriage Shed.

In the autumn, with the easing of government restrictions, activity was able to resume at full capacity and we saw recovery of hospitality and audience numbers in the stage and cinema programme.

The overall contribution from the Catering Company was a surplus of £280k (£36.5k deficit in March 2021).

### Government Grants

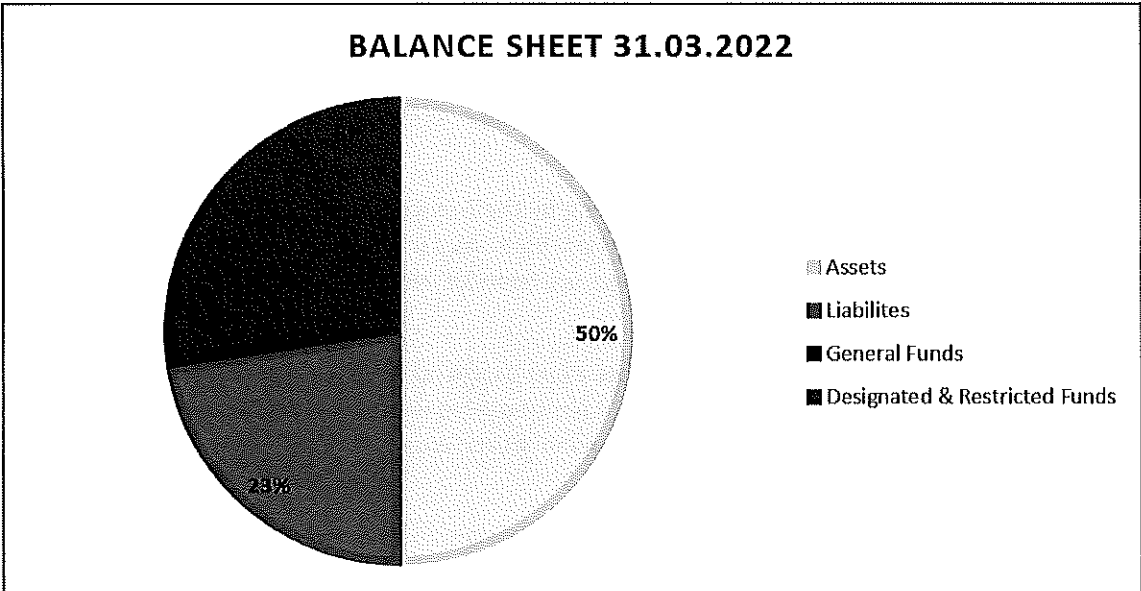
Storyhouse utilised the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to help pay a proportion of wages for employees who had been unable to work any, or all of their usual hours, because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

We were successfully able to close the scheme in July 2021. We received £101k from the Retention Scheme in the financial year.

### Assets

Net current assets were £1,951k as at March 2022 (£1,055k in March 2021). Net group assets were £2,159k as at March 2021 (£1,391k March 2021).

Overall cash at bank and cash in hand balance was £3,327k (£1,905k in March 2021). Of this, £790k relates to advance ticket purchases for future shows, a further £613k relates to designated or restricted funds carried forward to future periods.



# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees examine major strategic, business and operational risks which the Charity faces on an ongoing basis. A risk register is maintained and is reviewed regularly to confirm that systems have been established to mitigate and lessen these risks.

The trustees have a Risk Management Strategy which comprises:

- An annual review of the risks the Charity may face and the likelihood of these risks occurring. Particular attention is given to major risks that would prevent the organisation from achieving its objectives.
- The Finance Director reports any changes in status of these risks, including any new risks and any actions taken to the Finance Committee and the main Board.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks are identified in the annual review.
- Procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity are implemented should these risks materialise.

### Specific risks arising from the Covid-19 pandemic

The risk management strategy identified that the principal risks arising from the Covid-19 pandemic were:

- Financial impact of COVID-19 restrictions

To support with staff costs, we have utilised the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, receiving grants of £101k.

We have also undertaken significant fundraising activity. Successful applications to the Arts Council's Emergency Response Fund and Cultural Recovery Fund, have supported the organisation's core operating costs and the re-inflation of organisational reserves.

- Loss of earned income

Income from our commercial activities: catering, cinema, presented programme and events is essential to the Charity's financial stability. Though this has improved against the prior year £3.7m (£1.19m March 2021), this remains significantly lower than in pre Covid-19 years where earned income accounted for 76% of our total income, at March 2022 this was 57%.

Financial risks are addressed through regular monitoring by the finance committee and full board, with the overall budget receiving a full re-appraisal on at least a quarterly basis. As a result of these measures, though the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a risk, we begin 22-23 in a secure financial position.

- Uncertainty regarding audience numbers

Throughout the course of the Covid-19 pandemic we have sought to keep our users and our communities close, engaging audiences indoors as well as through outdoor performances over the summer. We have found creative ways of operating including online activity, not just for our main artistic programme but also our youth programmes and community activity.

However, this has still resulted in much lower activity levels and therefore, audience numbers than prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, with ticketed events falling from approximately 200k in the previous financial year to 136k in this year (33k March 2021).

- Staff and visitor safety

Ensuring our building remained a safe and welcoming space during the pandemic has been challenging. We have followed government and industry guidance throughout the year and made all necessary adjustments to our building and our operations to ensure a safe space.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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Operational risks are addressed by the management team through comprehensive and regularly reviewed policies in relation to key issues such as health and safety and reported to the board via the risk register.

### Economic Challenges

The risk management strategy identified that the principal economic challenges facing the Charity were:

- Increases to National Living wage and rising cost of living

In April 2022, the National Living Wage (NLW) will rise to £9.50, this represents an increase of 59 pence or 6.6%. Wages for over 21s will increase by 9.8% to £8.91 and over 18's by 4.1% to £6.56.

Prices for everyday goods continue to rise, these inflationary pressures are resulting in demands from employees seeking salary increases to preserve their standard of living and maintain their ability to meet household bills and necessities such as food, clothing and transport costs.

- Changes to national insurance contribution rates and thresholds

In addition to changes in minimum wage legislation, the rates of national insurance (NI) will rise by 1.25% to fund the NHS and social care in the UK. The increases will apply to contributions paid by employees, the self-employed, and employers. Employers NI for 2022-2023 will be 15.05% for all earnings over £170 per week (£8,840).

- Impact of inflation on goods & supplies

Consumer price inflation has risen markedly. This mainly reflects the sharp increases in global energy and tradable goods prices, the latter due to global bottlenecks and the war in the Ukraine UK CPI inflation rose to 5.4% in December 2021, and in the Bank of England's projections show that inflation will remain a challenge for 2022.

- End of Reduced Rate VAT

The VAT rate, which was temporarily reduced by the government as a form of financial support during the Covid-19 pandemic, has been 12.5% since October 2021 and prior to this, was 5%. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, the rate of VAT for hospitality and admissions to cinemas and theatres will revert to 20%.

Given the significance of these challenges, we must be mindful of the need to be more agile and responsive than ever. Our finance strategy for the financial year 2022-2023 is sufficiently robust to withstand temporary reductions in income while having in place a sound infrastructure that will ensure our long-term financial sustainability.

### Going Concern

Your attention is drawn to the going concern note included within the Accounting Policies notes to the Financial Statements on page 19.

The board have considered the ongoing situation with regards to Covid-19 pandemic on future performance, as well as other events and conditions, and it has been determined that they do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The reserves position of the Charity is set out below. The board considers that the Charity has adequate financial resources for ongoing operations and our business planning process, which includes financial projections, has taken into account the current economic climate, likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year.

The Charity has a 20-year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three-year funding cycle agreed over that period. The financial settlement for this is now confirmed until March 2024.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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In October 2020, Arts Council England confirmed an extension of National Portfolio grant funding until 2023, to offer some stability during the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The view of the board is that the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

With secured income and based on its business plan for the forthcoming year, the trustees have concluded that the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities, as they fall due, for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements.

In reaching their conclusion, the board has reviewed the Charity's monthly cash flows, applied sensitivity analyses as appropriate, and considered the various financial support measures that have been announced by the UK government.

After consideration of all factors, the accounts have therefore been prepared on the basis that the Charity is a going concern.

### Reserves

At the end of March 2022, total funds carried forward are £2.15m (£1.39m in March 2021), of this £533k relates to designated funds and a further £80k in funds restricted in nature.

The board closely monitors the level of reserves throughout the year. Through successful programme activity, careful financial management and with the support of Arts Council England (through the Cultural Recovery Fund) and that of other funders and donors, we have been able to reflate our reserves in this financial year to pre-pandemic levels.

The board aims to maintain a level of reserves to provide sufficient working capital that protects the continuity of the Charity's work and provides cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or fluctuation in income levels.

The board reviews the reserves policy with reference to the Charity's strategy and business plan, to determine the target level of reserves required. At March 2022, the policy was designed to provide available financial reserves for the following purposes:

- to absorb potential box office shortfalls
- to absorb reduction in local authority or other funding
- to cover significant unbudgeted costs (e.g., exceptional cost increases relating to rising inflation, costs of organisational change etc).

The business plan for the financial year 2022-2023 aims to balance the economic uncertainty of the coming financial year; whilst we expect growth in our earned income, we must also navigate reductions in our funding, increased competition for trust and grant monies and inflationary pressures resulting in the rising costs of resources and staff.

Overall, the board believes that a figure of £1.25m of available reserves (defined as unrestricted funds not already invested in fixed assets, or irrevocably committed for other purposes) should be sufficient to cover these requirements.

The board considers this target (equivalent of 12 weeks turnover) appropriate and provides sufficient flexibility in the context of operational requirements.

At the end of March 2022, the balance held as unrestricted reserves was £1,545k (£1,055k March 2021) of which £1,337k were regarded as free reserves (£719k March 2021).

The Charity's net current assets/liabilities held within general Unrestricted Funds, as shown in note 23.

We are holding £533k in designated funds (£293k March 2021). Of this, £334k relates to funds received from the Arts Council Cultural Recovery Fund and Continuity Fund, which has been committed to fund staff, digital projects and equipment in the next financial period.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### Structure, Governance and Management

#### **Governing Document**

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee whose constitution is set out in a deed of trust, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Board of Trustees**

The board at 31st March 2022 is made up of 14 non-executive unpaid trustees. Board numbers include a dedicated position for a Young Trustee, currently held by Jack Howard. The current Chair is Peter Mearns.

#### **Governance**

The governance arrangements of the Charity are reviewed on an annual basis. A governance working group, comprised of Trustees and members of the Executive, supports this process.

The group uses the Charity Governance Code as a framework for review, using each of its 7 Principles to assess current performance and to aid continuous improvement. The scope of the review is not only to audit governing documents and policies, but also to review the board's own performance and effectiveness. As is best practice, the board periodically seeks external evaluation and expertise to support a review.

#### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

New appointments to the board are advertised and ratified by the full board. Induction for new trustees is managed by the Chair and Chief Executive. Trustees are appointed on a fixed term basis and are subject to a maximum six-year term.

#### **Decision Making**

The board retains full control and approves all major strategic decisions and has ultimate responsibility for the company's conduct and financial stability. Leadership and management of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive.

The organisation's Chief Executive, Andrew Bentley, has support from four Directors (creative, development, finance and operations) together comprising the organisation's Leadership Team.

The board monitors performance and reviews the quality and effectiveness of all information provided to the board. Review of executive pay is undertaken through the Audit and Remuneration Committee, comprising the Chair Peter Mearns and Vice-Chair Sue Leech.

The board meets six times a year and is supported by three standing committees: Finance, Development and Access and Inclusion. All three are governed by terms of reference, which set out key decisions which must be approved by the board and those delegated to the standing committees.

The affairs of the company are subject to external scrutiny by Arts Council England, who are entitled to attend board meetings as observers. The company has a substantial contract for services with Cheshire West & Chester Council, who undertake an annual review but who are not otherwise involved with the company's governance or board.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries, Storyhouse Production Company Limited and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### Trustees Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 judgements and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and 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.


In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information, of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report we also approve the Director's Report, included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

Signed by order of the Trustees by:



P M Mearns  
Chair

Date: 18/11/22

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Storyhouse Limited (the 'charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated and charity balance sheet, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the group and the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

### **Extent to which the audit is considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

The responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities, including fraud, lies with the trustees and with those charged with governance. The objectives of our audit in respect of irregularities and fraud are to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient, appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

### **Audit procedures**

We determine significant applicable laws and regulations through discussion with those charged with governance and our own knowledge of the industry and design audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with those laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We consider the applicable laws and regulations to be the financial reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006), Charity Law, the relevant tax regulations in the UK, employment law and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Safeguarding legislation.

We consider the control environment and the procedures in place to address identified risks, including management override, non-compliance with laws and regulations and to prevent and detect fraud or irregularity. Our procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement or error and include: enquiries of management and of staff in key compliance functions; review of reports from

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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regulators; review of minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; review and testing of manual journals, relevant nominals and significant transactions outside the normal course of business; review of financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performance of analytical procedures.

We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and due to the inherent limitations of an audit, as described above, the audit cannot be relied upon to detect all instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities> . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Champion Accountants LLP*

**Susan Harris MA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Champion Accountants LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

24 November 2022

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2nd Floor Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
Chester  
CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds	2021 Total Funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	2,584,299	165,950	2,750,249	3,669,895
Charitable activities	4	529,372	-	529,372	41,167
Other trading activities	5	3,070,469	-	3,070,469	699,778
Other	7	88,464	-	88,464	27,575
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>6,272,604</b>	<b>165,950</b>	<b>6,438,554</b>	<b>4,438,415</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	8	2,878,283	-	2,878,283	763,906
Charitable activities	9	2,664,595	128,046	2,792,641	2,762,738
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>5,542,878</b>	<b>128,046</b>	<b>5,670,924</b>	<b>3,526,644</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>729,726</b>	<b>37,904</b>	<b>767,630</b>	<b>911,771</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
- Total funds brought forward		1,391,643	42,421	1,434,064	479,872
- Total funds carried forward	23	2,121,369	80,325	2,201,694	1,391,643

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year. All Income and Expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 19 - 31 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2022	2021	2022	2021
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14	208,161	336,203	208,161	336,203
Investments	15	-	-	2	2
		<u>208,161</u>	<u>336,203</u>	<u>208,163</u>	<u>336,205</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	16	12,770	9,430	-	-
Debtors	17	402,382	410,732	194,123	158,770
Cash at bank and in hand		3,327,018	1,905,909	3,301,483	1,809,721
		<u>3,742,170</u>	<u>2,326,071</u>	<u>3,495,606</u>	<u>1,968,491</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,791,058)	(1,270,631)	(1,544,497)	(876,502)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,951,112</u>	<u>1,055,440</u>	<u>1,951,109</u>	<u>1,092,989</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>2,159,273</u>	<u>1,391,643</u>	<u>2,159,272</u>	<u>1,428,194</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	20	80,325	42,421	80,325	42,421
Unrestricted funds:					
- General fund	21	1,545,703	1,055,250	1,545,702	1,091,801
- Designated fund	22	533,245	293,972	533,245	293,972
<b>Total funds</b>	23	<u>2,159,273</u>	<u>1,391,643</u>	<u>2,159,272</u>	<u>1,428,194</u>

The consolidated financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 18 November 2022 and were signed on their behalf by:

  
 .....  
 PM Mearns

Company Number: 05541255

The notes on pages 19 - 31 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated Cash Flow Statement For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Net Cashflow from operating activities</b>	25	1,232,318	1,171,955
Tax received		222,005	27,575
<b>Cashflow from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	14	(33,214)	(132,252)
<b>Net Cashflow from investing activities</b>		(33,214)	(132,252)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		1,421,109	1,067,278
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,905,909	838,631
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		3,327,018	1,905,909
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consist of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		3,327,018	1,905,909
Short term deposits		-	-
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year		3,327,018	1,905,909

The notes on pages 19 - 31 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### General Information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Storyhouse, Hunter Street, Chester, Cheshire CH1 2AR.

#### Accounting convention

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 (FRS102) effective 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. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note below.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest pound.

UK Storyhouse Limited is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### Basis of consolidation

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited, made up to 31 March 2022. There are uniform policies across the group and intra group transactions are eliminated on consolidation. Consolidation is on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charity has not been presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Going Concern

As part of their going concern assessment, the trustees have considered the possible outcomes of events and conditions that the Charity may face; namely the on-going situation with regards to COVID-19 and the financial uncertainty in the UK economy.

As a result of our strong financial management, we begin FY22-23 in a secure financial position, with free reserves of £1.338m (up from £0.719m in the prior year) and cash in the bank of £3.3m.

The Charity has a 20 year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three year funding cycle agreed over that period, the financial settlement for which is now confirmed until March 2024. National Portfolio grant from Arts Council England has also been confirmed until 2023, which provides further secured income for the forthcoming year.

In light of the economic uncertainty, the management team regularly assess what impacts the events and conditions have on its operations and forecast cash flows, ensuring it has sufficient liquidity to continue to meet its obligations as they fall due. Financial risks are addressed through regular monitoring by the Finance Committee and full board, with the overall budget receiving a full re-appraisal on at least a quarterly basis.

As such, the trustees consider that the Charity has adequate financial resources for ongoing operations and our business planning process, which includes financial projections, has taken into account the current economic climate and likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year.

The view of the trustees is that, whilst they acknowledge the significant disruption that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought and may continue to bring, the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees have concluded the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements. In reaching their conclusion, the trustees have reviewed the Charity's monthly cash flows and applied sensitivity analyses as appropriate.

After consideration of all factors, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

#### The funds of the charity

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against these funds. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the Financial Statements.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### Incoming resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grant income that is revenue in nature is recognised in full in the year of entitlement where the performance conditions have been met.

The point of entitlement to ticket income is regarded as the completion of the ticketed performance. As such, ticket income is recognised upon completion of the performance that the ticket has been issued for. Amounts received for future performances are included in current liabilities.

The other sources of income are received at the point of delivery of the goods or services and are therefore recognised upon receipt.

### Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating voluntary income are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost
Computer equipment	25% on cost

Where it has been identified that the recoverable amount of a fixed asset is below its net book value the asset is written down to its recoverable amount and the impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

### Stocks

Stocks consist of purchased goods for resale and consumables. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

### Debtors

Debtors receivable within one year are recognised at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash held on deposit with a short maturity of three months or less.

### Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Deferred income includes:

- Income received for events taking place after the balance sheet date

### Financial instruments

The charity only 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 with the exception of fixed asset investments which are subsequently measured at fair value where this can be reliably measured.

### Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

### Taxation

As a registered charity, the company benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Capital Gains Tax, but not Value Added Tax.

### Volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### 2 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited. The summary financial performance of the charity alone is:-

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£	£
Income	3,191,157	3,681,062
Theatre Tax Relief	88,464	27,575
Gift aid from Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	244,097	-
Gift aid from Storyhouse Production Company Limited	-	-
	<u>3,523,718</u>	<u>3,708,637</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>2,792,640</u>	<u>2,760,313</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u>731,078</u>	<u>948,324</u>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<u>1,428,194</u>	<u>479,870</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>2,159,272</u></u>	<u><u>1,428,194</u></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Unrestricted funds	2,078,947	1,385,773
Restricted funds	80,325	42,421
	<u><u>2,159,272</u></u>	<u><u>1,428,194</u></u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>Funding</b>				
Members & Private Giving	236,905		236,905	221,535
Sponsorship Income	77,500		77,500	67,900
Trusts and Foundations	25,000	165,900	190,900	123,990
Project Funding	73,352	50	73,402	10,452
<b>Grants receivable</b>				
Arts Council England	228,015		228,015	228,015
Cheshire West and Chester Council	1,167,610		1,167,610	1,362,610
Government Grants	775,917		775,917	1,655,393
	<u>2,584,299</u>	<u>165,950</u>	<u>2,750,249</u>	<u>3,669,895</u>

Of the income from donations and legacies received in 2022, £2,584,299 (2021: £3,563,025) was unrestricted and £165,950 (2021: £106,870) was restricted.

### 4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

		Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £
Library operation	Project	17,707	17,707	4,532
Engagement	Project	118,253	118,253	33,827
Ticketing	Project	392,832	392,832	2,554
Other income	Funding and administration	580	580	254
		<u>529,372</u>	<u>529,372</u>	<u>41,167</u>

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	916,710	916,710	372,953
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	2,153,759	2,153,759	326,825
	<u>3,070,469</u>	<u>3,070,469</u>	<u>699,778</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

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### 6 Net income from trading activity of subsidiary companies

The charity owned 100% of the share capital of Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited at 31 March 2022. Both subsidiaries are registered in England and Wales. The principal activity of each subsidiary is detailed below together with their trading results for the year.

#### Storyhouse Catering Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of catering, cinema and receiving touring theatre at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709991.

	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
Turnover	2,153,759	326,825
Cost of sales	1,815,330	336,929
Administration expenses	57,779	26,449
	<u>280,650</u>	<u>(36,553)</u>
<b>(Loss)/Profit before taxation and for the financial year</b>		
Amount gift aided to the charity	<u>244,097</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Retained earnings brought forward and carried forward</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>(36,553)</u>
Current assets	734,289	342,503
Current liabilities	<u>734,288</u>	<u>379,055</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	1	(36,552)
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>(36,553)</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>(36,552)</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

### Storyhouse Production Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of theatre company production at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709994.

	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2021 £
Turnover	916,710	372,953
Cost of sales	993,534	396,553
Administration expenses	11,640	3,975
<b>Loss before taxation</b>	<b>(88,464)</b>	<b>(27,575)</b>
Corporation tax credit (Theatre tax relief)	88,464	27,575
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Current assets	196,408	263,786
Current liabilities	196,407	263,785
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	-	-
	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

### 7 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £
Theatre tax relief	88,464	88,464	27,575
	<b>88,464</b>	<b>88,464</b>	<b>27,575</b>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

### 8 Costs of raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	1,005,174	1,005,174	400,528
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	1,873,109	1,873,109	363,378
	<u>2,878,283</u>	<u>2,878,283</u>	<u>763,906</u>

### 9 Costs of Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Charitable activities	2,020,973			2,020,973	2,091,137
Management		544,293		544,293	496,247
Finance		78,627	13,000	91,627	63,872
Building overheads		135,748		135,748	111,482
	<u>2,020,973</u>	<u>758,668</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>2,792,641</u>	<u>2,762,738</u>

Costs of charitable activities were £2,792,641 (2021: £2,762,738) of which £2,664,595 (2021: £2,698,289) was unrestricted and £128,046 (2021: £64,449) was restricted.

### 10 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>This is stated after charging:</b>		
Depreciation	161,256	167,859
Auditors remuneration		
- Audit of the financial statements	13,000	12,360
- Accountancy services	-	-
Operating lease costs:		
- Land and buildings	36,600	22,019
- Motor vehicle	3,660	-
	<u>161,256</u>	<u>167,859</u>

### 11 Trustees' Remuneration

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or benefits in kind in respect of their duties as a trustee. Expenses were paid to Trustees during the year in amount of £1,004 (2021: £132).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

### 12 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

Total staff costs were as follows:

	Group 2022 £	Charity 2022 £	Group 2021 £	Charity 2021 £
Wages and salaries	1,885,684	1,253,907	1,801,025	1,611,117
Social security costs	157,773	138,435	139,875	133,501
Pension costs	62,202	52,787	58,261	55,508
	<u>2,105,659</u>	<u>1,445,129</u>	<u>1,999,161</u>	<u>1,800,126</u>

Key management comprises the executive team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £255,535 (2021: £272,171).

### 13 Particulars of employees

The average number of staff employed during the year was 121, analysed by function as follows:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Project	10	8
Head office	14	13
Kitchen	8	7
Marketing	5	5
Production	6	5
Cinema	4	4
Touring	1	1
Trading	-	1
Casual staff	73	53
	<u>121</u>	<u>97</u>

During the year the number of employees who earned more than £60,000 was as follows:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	-	1
£70,000 - £80,000	-	-
£80,000 - £90,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Total redundancy/termination payments in the year amounted to £Nil (2021: £12,497).

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and an equity pension scheme for self employed actors. The sum of £62,202 (2021: £58,261) represents the pension cost to the charity for the period. The full cost has been charged against unrestricted funds.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

### 14 Tangible Fixed Assets

#### Group and Charity

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2021	865,304	14,328	193,740	1,073,372
Additions	33,214	-	-	33,214
At 31 March 2022	898,518	14,328	193,740	1,106,586
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2021	553,472	13,731	169,966	737,169
Charge for year	141,396	597	19,263	161,256
At 31 March 2022	694,868	14,328	189,229	898,425
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2022	203,650	-	4,511	208,161
At 31 March 2021	311,832	597	23,774	336,203

### 15 Investments

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Investments in subsidiaries	-	-	2	2

### 16 Stocks

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Stock	12,770	9,430	-	-

### 17 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	-	15,073
Income tax recoverable	116,484	250,025	-	-
Trade debtors	119,496	19,131	111,780	19,131
Other debtors	40,300	29,909	40,300	29,909
Prepayments and accrued income	126,102	111,667	42,043	94,657
	402,382	410,732	194,123	158,770

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

### 18 Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	273,080	133,502	247,062	123,104
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	503,274	-
PAYE and Social Security	42,305	36,244	42,305	36,244
VAT	51,684	22,541	51,684	22,542
Other creditors	45,779	25,666	45,779	25,666
Accruals and deferred income	1,378,210	1,052,678	654,393	668,946
	<u>1,791,058</u>	<u>1,270,631</u>	<u>1,544,497</u>	<u>876,502</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>	£			
Deferred income at 1 April 2021	390,885			
Utilised in year	(390,885)			
Received in year	<u>308,068</u>			
Deferred income at 31 March 2022	<u>308,068</u>			

### 19 Operating Lease Commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	30,752	40,260
Between one and five years	<u>19,550</u>	<u>37,515</u>
	<u>50,302</u>	<u>77,775</u>

### 20 Restricted Funds

Group and Charity	Balance at			Balance at
	1 April 2021	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	
	£	£	£	£
Youth Projects	42,421	143,950	106,046	80,325
Community Festival Funding	-	22,000	22,000	-
	<u>42,421</u>	<u>165,950</u>	<u>128,046</u>	<u>80,325</u>

All restricted funds are included in the Charity accounts

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Group and Charity	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Youth projects	-	106,869	64,448	42,421
Festival funding	-	-	-	-
	-	106,869	64,448	42,421

### 21 Unrestricted Funds - General

	Group General Funds £	Charity General Funds £
As at 1 April 2021	1,055,250	1,091,801
Incoming resources	6,272,604	3,357,768
Outgoing resources	(5,542,878)	(2,664,594)
Transfer to designated funds	(239,273)	(239,273)
As at 31 March 2022	1,545,703	1,545,702

	Group General Funds £	Charity General Funds £
As at 1 April 2020	479,872	479,870
Incoming resources	4,331,545	3,601,767
Outgoing resources	(3,462,195)	(2,695,864)
Transfer to designated funds	(293,972)	(293,972)
As at 31 March 2021	1,055,250	1,091,801

### 22 Unrestricted Funds - Designated

	Group Designated Funds £	Charity Designated Funds £
As at 1 April 2021	293,972	293,972
Incoming resources	319,288	319,288
Outgoing resources	(80,015)	(80,015)
As at 31 March 2022	533,245	533,245

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The value of Designated Funds relates to general funds received from the Arts Council England Cultural Recovery Fund (£334k) and funds generated through the charity's activities in the year (£199k).

The funds have been designated by the board of trustees for the purpose of developing the Charity's digital capability (£121k), investing in programming and production (£136k), investing in people to grow & diversify income (£90k), board governance and recruitment (£40k), purchase of equipment necessary to deliver new programmes (£81k) and building and access improvements (£65k).

	Group Designated Funds £	Charity Designated Funds £
As at 1 April 2020	-	-
Incoming resources	293,972	293,972
Outgoing resources	-	-
As at 31 March 2021	<u>293,972</u>	<u>293,972</u>

### 23 Analysis of Group Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 31 March 2022 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		80,325	80,325
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	208,161	1,337,542	1,545,703
Designated Funds		533,245	533,245
Total Funds	<u>208,161</u>	<u>1,951,112</u>	<u>2,159,273</u>

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 31 March 2021 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		42,421	42,421
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	336,203	719,047	1,055,250
Designated Funds	-	293,972	293,972
Total Funds	<u>336,203</u>	<u>1,055,440</u>	<u>1,391,643</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

### 24 Related Party Transactions

Transactions with subsidiary companies are disclosed in Note 6.

During the year, a total of £6,834 (2021: £Nil) was paid to trustees for artistic services provided.  
At the 31 March 2022, £Nil was due to trustees (2021: £3,100).

### 25 Reconciliation of group net income resources to net cash inflow from group operations

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net incoming resources	767,630	911,771
Theatre tax relief	(88,464)	(27,575)
Depreciation of fixed assets	161,256	167,859
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(3,340)	5,845
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(125,191)	181,047
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	520,427	(66,992)
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<b>1,232,318</b>	<b>1,171,955</b>

### 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 April 2021 £	Cash Flows £	31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,905,909</u>	<u>1,421,109</u>	<u>3,327,018</u>

### 27 Guarantee

The Charitable Company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The members' liability is restricted to £1 each in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles.

### 28 Fundraising standards information

The charity raises charitable funds in-house and does not engage a professional fund-raiser or commercial participator to carry out these activities. The charity has not bound itself to a voluntary scheme for regulating fund-raising and has not received any complaints with respect to its fund-raising. The charity avoids unreasonable intrusion into a person's privacy, unreasonable persistent approaches and undue pressure on persons in connection with fund-raising.



**UK Storyhouse Limited**

England & Wales - Charity number 1121007

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# Accounts

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Company registration number 05541255

Charity registration number 1121007

**UK Storyhouse Limited**  
**Trustees' Report and Consolidated**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

# STORYHOUSE

**CHAMPION ACCOUNTANTS LLP**

Statutory Auditors

2nd Floor

Refuge House

33-37 Watergate Row

CHESTER

CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Contents of the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### Contents

	Page
Trustees Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)	2 - 11
Independent Auditor's Report	12 - 14
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)	15
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet	16
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	17
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	18 - 30

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# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Trustees Reference and Administrative Details For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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The Trustees, who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the consolidated financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	UK Storyhouse Limited
<b>Charity Registration Number:</b>	1121007
<b>Company Registration Number:</b>	05541255
<b>Trustees</b> (in the period and at the date of approval):	PM Mearns (Chair) SM Leech E Boekesteijn GA Clifton CJ Hyndman AL Jones K Kerr RA Matchett AA Owens LC Towers NM Adamu (appointed 10/08/2020) LA Burnett (appointed 07/08/2020) HS Lin (appointed 10/08/2020)
<b>Principal and Registered Office:</b>	Storyhouse Hunter Street Chester Cheshire CH1 2AR
<b>Key Management personnel</b> (in the period and at the date of approval):	
<b>Company Secretary:</b>	A Bentley
The Charity's professional advisors are as follows:	
<b>Auditors:</b>	Champion Accountants LLP 2nd Floor Refuge House 33-37 Watergate Row Chester CH1 2LE
<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds Bank plc 8 Foregate Street Chester CH1 1XP  NatWest Bank plc 33 Eastgate Street Chester CH1 1LG

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### Objectives and Activities

Storyhouse is a ground-breaking charity that runs one of the UK's most visited cultural centres incorporating a library, theatre and cinema. It is a truly welcoming communal place for people of all ages and backgrounds with over 1,000,000 visitors in a standard year and 136 community groups calling it home.

Storyhouse runs an internationally respected public library with the longest opening hours in the UK. It is a major theatre and literature producer and welcomes touring productions and music events. Every summer Storyhouse stages the UK's leading regional open-air theatre, Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, selling over 25,000 tickets over 8 weeks.

### Our work during the pandemic

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Storyhouse has been one of the country's most proactive cultural charities, our theatres, and buildings the last to stay open for our communities, and the first open at every opportunity – running soup kitchens, take-away library services and open-air activities. When we were unable to stage performances, our community spaces remained open and have become a home for young people looking to re-build their lives and careers, as we emerged from the pandemic. We redesigned the building's celebrated public spaces, and these have become major co-working and cultural hubs for our community.

We kept our workforce intact and created as much work for our extended freelance and creative communities as we were able. 92% of our workforce have been on furlough at some point during the financial year, although we have provided opportunities to work wherever possible. We offered support to those experiencing hardship, supplementing their earning under the furlough scheme to 100% pay. Also we extended financial support to our wider workforce and creative communities wherever we were able to do so.

In August, Storyhouse staged what was likely the UK's only full-scale theatre production of the summer.

The Comedy of Errors at Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre captured the appetite for returning to safe theatre spaces and its 3-week run sold out in a matter of 2 weeks, when it went on sale in July 2020. We introduced a donation element to tickets for our own productions, asking customers to support Storyhouse when it was subject to risk, staging large-scale theatre in the teeth of the pandemic. We repeated this model for A Christmas Carol – which achieved 4 out of 10 weeks planned over Christmas.

We ran a full season of open-air cinema, which we supplemented with investments in equipment for new drive-in projects, which we then ran into the autumn. Moonlight Flicks ran for 35 shows at Chester Cathedral and across new venues on the Wirral and Cheshire.

Our community programme moved online, with 1480 people attending over 171 sessions, including Digital Buddies, Italian Groups, Young Readers, Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide Support Group, Positive Inner Wellbeing Workshops for Storyhouse Women, Chester Men, Chester Speaking Club and even Quarantine Karaoke.

After the November lockdown, the building reopened on Monday 7th December with our reimagined production of the classic A Christmas Carol on stage, originally planned for 110 performances starting a month earlier. We were forced to close the building again on Boxing Day and pivoted immediately to live performances streamed on date from the building between Boxing Day and New Year.

Amy Ng's new adaptation of Miss Julie was directed for a streamed run by Dadiow Lin in March 21, prior to our first ever tour to London, York and Coventry in July 21, the tour was co-produced with New Earth Theatre.

For 8 months out of the 12 in the financial year, Storyhouse was either open, or rehearsing, or refurbishing, or streaming - creating work for our actors and creative, technical and community teams. Overall, we staged 126 performances of home-made theatre, cinema, and drive-in cinema in person, and a further 29 streamed.

We secured sponsorship from commercial partners, trusts & foundations amounting to £607,000. In all, we raised £2.5m in support from members, trading, fundraising, direct donations, donated tickets, job retention support and support from the Arts Council England Cultural Recovery Fund. The Arts Council awarded Storyhouse £847,000 in direct support during the period, for which we are extremely grateful. Their investment has secured the immediate future of Storyhouse, amongst a number of key cultural organisations, and has given us the confidence and security to act with such determination during this period.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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We measure our success around the difference we make, how well we reach the excluded, how we manage ourselves, how well we support young people, how we encourage talent.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted our ability to deliver these outputs. Between April 20 and March 21,

- 105,703 (1,027,424) customer visits
- 33,107 (193,700) tickets bought
- 44,951 (208,422) books borrowed
- 16,481 (100,760) taking part
- 940 new borrowers signed up to the library

### Making a Difference

We relish our role at the heart of our local community, and we have been a beacon of hope during the pandemic, offering as much support as we could, to our community.

We operated a soup kitchen and take away library service at the beginning of the pandemic before we were forced to close completely. Over 60% of our sizeable engagement programme moved online since March 2020, with some groups gradually returning to the building when restrictions allowed. We ran a total of 1,283 sessions with attendance of 9,227 for the year.

The cultural economy in Cheshire and beyond relies on Storyhouse and we have continued to support our local partners, including Fallen Angels Dance Theatre (supporting addicts in recovery) and Yet Another Carnival (graduates from our young company).

### Everyone has a Voice

Storyhouse is a home for creative expression – we work to ensure all communities can take creative control and make their voices heard. We have established a broad network of 113 local partner organisations, including 14 key partners with whom we have formal agreements to deliver shared objectives, to place marginalised voices in control of our programme.

Although we could not deliver an in-person community festivals programme in 20/21, help was offered to all community groups who wanted to move activity online during lockdown. 53 groups took us up on this offer.

### A Creative Community

Our strategy has been to create work for our staff, also our extended artistic and freelance community, whenever we possibly can. This has reduced reliance on external fundraising but critically has allowed us to keep our workforce intact and support key freelance relationships.

4,950 saw A Comedy of Errors in Grosvenor Park in August 2020 and we also ran an open-air cinema for 60 nights in the same period, along with a new drive-in cinema as well. All this activity took place alongside running Storyhouse as a cinema and community arts venue and library during the same period.

Moonlight Flicks launched at our third new venue, the Carriage Shed for Christmas Flicks. The event at The Carriage Shed was led by the operations team and provided a blueprint of what it is possible to achieve with the right partnerships in place.

6,750 saw A Christmas Carol at Storyhouse and a further 6,200 watched 18 live streams of the same when in lock down, along with registrations from 54 care homes whom we offered special events free of charge for their residents. The show was watched in 15 countries, across 4 continents: the USA, Sweden, France, Belgium, Ireland, Jersey, The Philippines, Reunion, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Spain, Canada, the Netherlands and of course across the UK.

We staged Amy Ng's very well-received Miss Julie in March 21. Its in-person run was not possible as a result of a national lockdown, so we again streamed live in April. Given its international appeal we set show times to reach audiences in Southeast Asia and the Eastern seaboard, welcoming audiences from New York, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to Storyhouse for the first time.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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*"Having attended the first night of The Comedy of Errors in the Grosvenor Park I would just like to say the most enormous thank you to everyone involved in the production. From the Directors to the Actors to the Volunteers. Wow what a show it was absolutely fabulous and so great to get a reasonable taste of normality in these very trying times. My friend and I loved everything about the whole evening. The acting, as always phenomenal considering the short space of time to put the show on. The behind the scenes again tremendous and as always, the volunteers amazingly well organised, kind, calm, friendly and helpful. Thank you all for giving us a brilliant and much needed evening out. May our wonderful Storyhouse continue to go from strength to strength."*

GPOAT Audience Member

### Supporting Young Lives

Storyhouse trains 5–26-year-olds to perform in plays, lead reading groups, programme the cinema, run music gigs, market shows, design, budget, programme and deliver their own festivals. Elected representatives check all our work in the Youth Forum. Amy Jones – our third Young Trustee - chairs this forum and sits on our main board.

Supporting young people continued to be a priority for us, throughout the pandemic. Young Storyhouse, which includes our youth theatre, young company and young leaders programme all had to move online from March-September 2020. The youth team worked hard to adapt, moving the programming online and re-opening in the building with increased safety measures in place for a short time, only to close again in November.

The youth team supported 498 young people in the year, working with the most vulnerable young people to ensure they were still able to participate and engage with their groups.

Our Young Leaders programme is the only alternative provision for young people not engaged in education, employment, or training in Chester, so it was vital that we continued to deliver the programme throughout the year, via online sessions and one-to-one support. In total 48 young people continued on the programme.

We successfully ran a BFI Film Academy for 15 young people aged 16-19, which was delivered via a blended online and in-person programme. In December, they ran their premiere online which has had over 600 views to date.

The 17-25 Young Company group worked on an online project exploring Mental Health in Lockdown. They chose four specific mental health conversations that they felt were important for young people to have, talking to primary school teachers, Network Rail, Ancora House and the Samaritans. They filmed their responses, and these 11 spoken word performances were divided into four videos released online with a total audience of 381.

The Young Programmers created a 5 episode Podcast for young people, exploring the arts and how to get experience, over 100 people have engaged with the series.

*I think what you guys have done to support the young people during this weird time is amazing. To be honest it was often the only social interaction G had with anyone during Lockdown, so it was vital for his mental health. You know G, he is often a reserved character and does not seek out company, but once he is in company, he is comfortable in, he is happy.*

Parent of Young Storyhouse member

6,843 young people took part in creative workshops at Storyhouse last year. 12,459 young people saw shows we produced: 353 saw these for free. We ran 20 regular youth groups, a mixture of in-person and online. Through these, 243 young people benefited from 423 creative sessions, 114 young people joined these groups for free. We worked with 39 young people on our Young Leaders programme, 100% of whom are not in education, employment or training, or are deemed at risk of being so by their support agencies.

### Staff and Volunteers

Storyhouse operates with a dedicated and a stable management team with considerable operational knowledge.

The organisation enjoys the support of an extended family of paid staff, volunteers, artists, freelance staff and community partners, and to all these we extend our warmest thanks for their hard work and efforts during this last year.

The wellbeing of our workforce has been a priority for Storyhouse, supporting those working throughout the pandemic and those unable to work or on furloughed leave. An average of 92% of our 120 staff were on furlough or flexible furlough during the year.

We offered financial support for those staff affected by the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, first with an employee support fund scheme which was opened in April 20, then later with the addition of an employee hardship grant and employee loan scheme. We also extended our support scheme to the freelance staff and community, who were working on projects with us.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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16 individuals were supported through these schemes, some reliant on them every month, others using them intermittently. The total paid out was £14.9K.

### Volunteers

Volunteers at Storyhouse work alongside us in every part of the business from shows, to helping in the library, to storytelling, to working with young people and serving customers. They are integral to our organisation.

Our volunteer recruitment, as part of our support Storyhouse campaign, was very successful. The newest recruits have been a superb addition to the existing pool of volunteers. As of March 21, we had 182 volunteers, with 73 new recruits joining in the year, all having contributed a total of 3,528 (16,082 in prior year) volunteer hours to Storyhouse.

*I'm a new volunteer that started in summer I just wanted to say how much support I've received from all the events the open air theatre moonlight flicks theatre Christmas carol and carriage shed I've really enjoyed my experience the security, Storyhouse, Elliot Donna Mark all team managers supervisors directors and staff and other volunteers who have been working with the Storyhouse longer have made me feel so welcome and they've supported me every step gave me confidence I wouldn't of dreamt to even work for a theatre two years ago I've battled with autism and mental health never felt so welcome before just want to thank you for giving me the experience to do such an amazing role 😊😊 I hope you can pass my message on and merry Christmas happy new year to you all.*

Volunteer

### Public Benefit

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

### Support and stakeholder relations

In June 2020, we launched our New Story campaign, to help save Storyhouse. This campaign of giving included a membership scheme and by the end of 20/21 we had 4747 members.

We have gained massive support from our community, who responded by giving money through direct donation (£104k), donation tickets (£26.1k), membership (£115k), volunteering, buying tickets, lobbying and helping us deliver services to our most vulnerable communities.

Many of our corporate sponsors continued with their support despite not being able to utilise their benefits and MBNA has entered into a brand new 3 year sponsorship programme to support Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre.

Our existing Trust funders continued their support, and some enhanced it with additional support coming in from Granada Foundation, Couch Charitable Trust and a one-off Covid-19 Support Grant of \$75k (£57k) from Bank of America for our diversity and inclusion work.

### Financial Performance

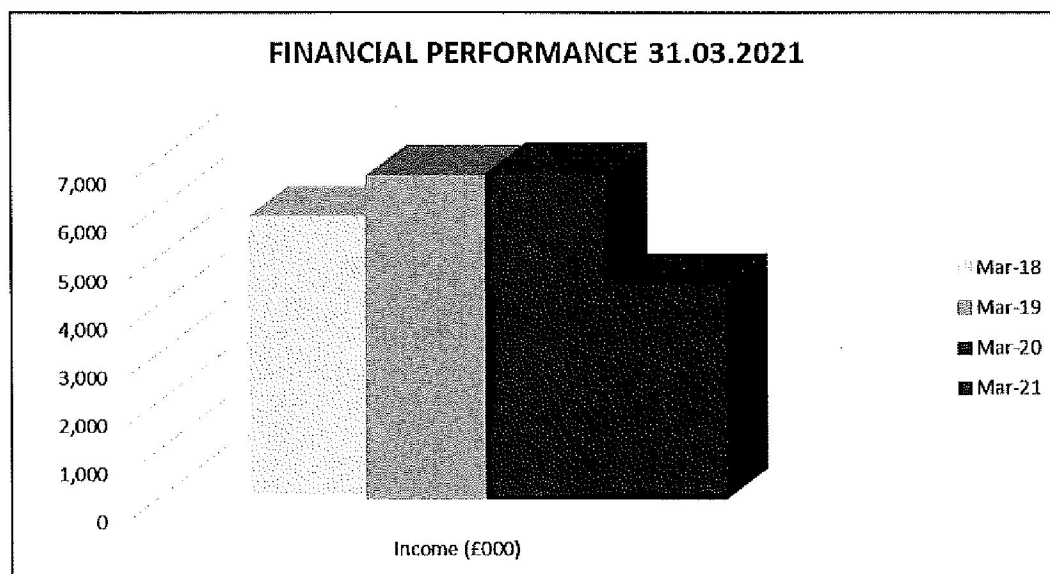
#### Financial Overview

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 21, Storyhouse made an operating surplus of £911k (deficit of £243k in March 20).

Total income for March 21 was £4.438m, a reduction of £2.298m compared to the prior year (£6.736m in March 20).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

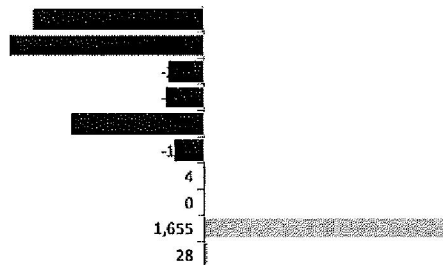
## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021



### Financial Impact of Covid 19

The Covid 19 pandemic had a significant effect on Storyhouse, as it did on all performing arts and cultural venues across the UK. Despite being one of the most active of the UK's cultural charities, our building remained closed for approximately 68% of the year, earned income for the year was just £1.19m, a reduction of £3.95m against the prior year (£5.15 in March 20).

£ Income	Mar-20	Mar-21
Home Produced Theatre (Box Office)	1,501	367
Touring Theatre (Box Office)	1,298	7
Cinema (Box Office)	437	203
Project income	422	171
Catering and other trading	999	117
Theatre tax relief	223	28
Arts Council England NPO Grant	224	228
Cheshire West & Chester Council	1,363	1,363
Covid Grants & Funding	0	1,655
Other charitable income	272	300



### Production Company

In February 20, we made the early decision to cancel all home-produced work for the May Season and Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. This reduced expenditure commitments by over £200k, reducing the cost of these cancellations to £85k.

Despite the challenges of lockdown, following changes to the rules, we were able to stage 67 performances (of 131 on sale) of home-produced theatre across the Summer (Comedy of Errors) and at Christmas (A Christmas Carol) attended by 11,700 theatre goers and a further 6,200 who watched the live streams. Box office turnover in Storyhouse Production Company decreased to £372k from £1.6m in March 20.

We changed the way we staged productions, making them financially viable even when social distancing reduced our capacity. Expenditure decreased to £400k (from £1.87m in March 20).

Theatre Tax Relief claimed fell to £28k, from £222k in March 20, in line with the reduction in expenditure on home-produced work.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### Catering Company

Turnover from our trading subsidiary, Storyhouse Catering Company was just £326k for the year, down 88% from £2.73m in March 20.

For much of the year, the Kitchen (our café & restaurant) was forcibly closed or reduced to a takeaway offer only. All our main stage touring programme was lost, so we made the decision to open a Movie Theatre in the Main Stage, programming family friendly and fun cinema screenings for our customers which could be delivered in a Covid secure way.

We launched a drive-in cinema and have screened over 48 films outdoors, including our Moonlight Flicks events at Chester Cathedral, Claremont Farm and the Carriage Shed.

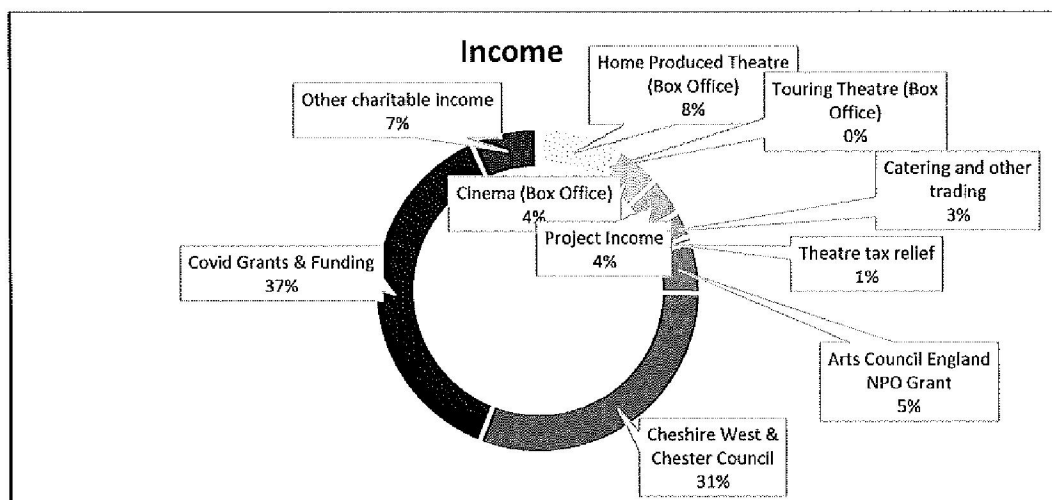
Despite this activity, Storyhouse Trading Company had an operating deficit of £36.5k as at March 21 (£453k contribution in March 20).

### Raising Funds

The severe financial impact of lost income from box office and commercial operations has been offset by raising funds. We have gained massive support from our community, who have responded by giving through direct donations (£77k), membership (£144k), volunteering and buying tickets.

Successful applications to the Arts Council's Emergency Response Fund and Cultural Recovery Fund have supported the Charity's core operating costs, allowed us to make necessary adaptations to respond to the pandemic and reflate our reserves, to their pre-pandemic level.

We have secured sponsorships from commercial partners (£67k) and project funding from trusts and foundations (£133k) which allowed us to deliver Young Storyhouse activity and community activity throughout the year.



### Government Grants

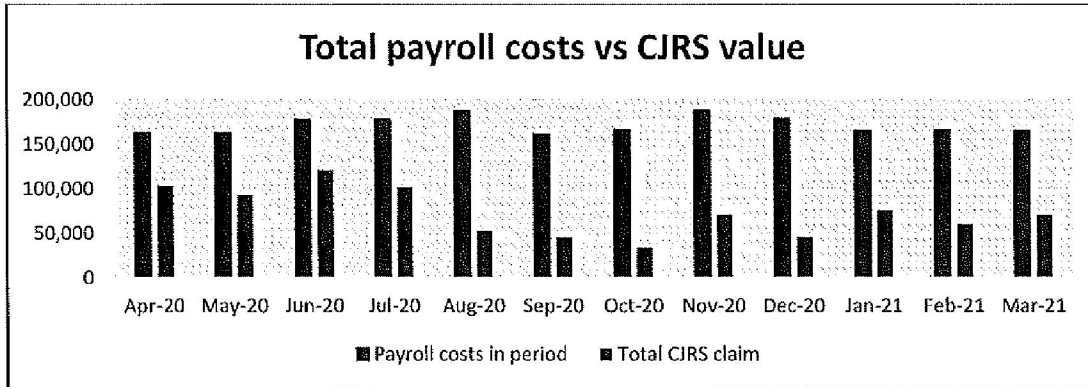
Storyhouse utilised the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to help pay a proportion of wages for employees who have been unable to work any or all of their usual hours, because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

During the first national lockdown, 100 employees (92% of the workforce) were on the furlough scheme. Only 6 employees worked throughout the year, without taking furloughed leave. On average 83% of employees were on full or flexible furlough, with this reducing to 74% over the summer of 2020, when the pop-up version of Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre and Moonlight Flicks events were running.

We received £867k from the Grant Scheme in the financial year.

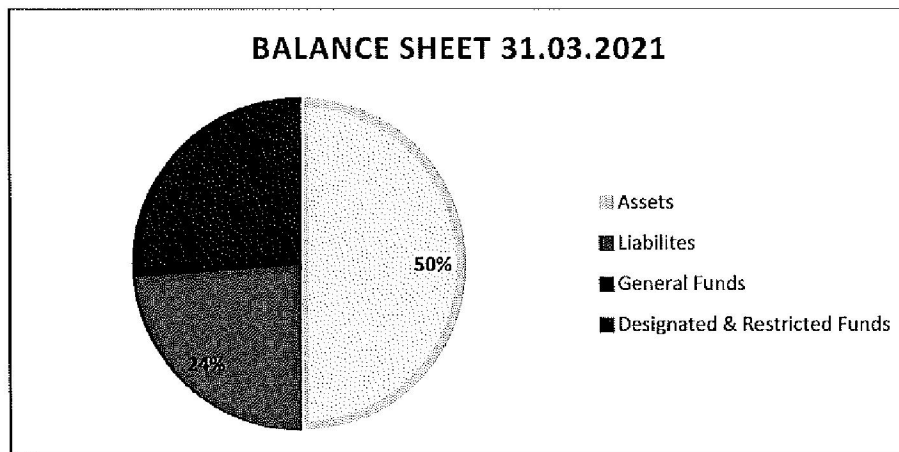
# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021



### Assets

Net current assets were £1,055k as at March 21 (£108k in March 20). Net group assets were £1,391k as at March 21 (£479k March 20) and the cash at bank and in hand balance was £1,905k (£838k in March 20).



### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees examine major strategic, business and operational risks which the Charity faces on an ongoing basis. A risk register is maintained and is reviewed to confirm that systems have been established to mitigate and lessen these risks. The trustees have a Risk Management Strategy which comprises:

- An annual review of the risks the Charity may face and the likelihood of these risks occurring. Particular attention is given to major risks that would prevent the organisation achieving its objectives.
- The CEO reports any changes in status of these risks, including any new risks and any actions taken to the Finance Committee and the main Board.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks are identified in the annual review.
- Procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity are implemented should these risks materialise.

### Risks arising from Covid-19

During the year, the risk management strategy identified that the principal risks arising from the pandemic were:

- Financial impact of COVID-19 restrictions

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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The financial impact on the Charity has been significant, with overall income in the year reducing by £2.298m, to £4.438m in March 21 from £6.736m in the prior year. During the year Storyhouse was forced to close for 250 days due to Covid-19 lockdown measures or local Tier Restrictions. To support with staff costs, we have utilised the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, receiving grants of £867k.

We have also undertaken significant fundraising activity. Successful applications to the Arts Council's Emergency Response Fund and Cultural Recovery Fund, have supported the organisation's core operating costs, adaptations necessary to be COVID-secure and the re-inflation of organisational reserves.

- Loss of earned income

Income from our commercial activities: catering, cinema, presented programme and events is essential to the Charity's financial stability. This has been impacted significantly throughout the year by Covid-19 restrictions; earned income for the year was just £1.19m, a reduction of £3.95m against the prior year (£5.15 in March 20).

Storyhouse has adapted the delivery of activity, where possible, under COVID-19 restrictions and as a result, generated income from outdoor events such as Moonlight Flicks and Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre. In May 2020, we launched a membership scheme. Supporters of the scheme have helped us raise £204k (gross) in the financial year, in membership and donations.

Financial risks are addressed through regular monitoring by the Finance Committee and full board, with the overall budget receiving a full re-appraisal on at least a quarterly basis. As a result of these measures, though the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a risk, we begin 21-22 in a secure financial position.

- Uncertainty regarding audience numbers

Following the reopening of the building in July 2020 we have sought to continue to keep our customers and our communities close, engaging audiences indoors as well as through outdoor performances over the summer. We have invested in digital and streaming equipment, to find creative ways of operating including online activity, not just for our main artistic programme but also our youth programmes and community activity.

However, this has still resulted in much lower activity levels and therefore audience numbers than prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, with ticketed events falling from 193k to just 33k in the year.

Over 95% of the presented programme was unable to go ahead in the year, instead it has been retained and is scheduled to take place in April 21 to March 22. Customer demand for these shows remains strong, as audience members opt to retain their tickets and attend a rescheduled show, giving us some assurance of audience numbers in the future.

- Staff and visitor safety

Ensuring our building remained a safe and welcoming space during the pandemic has been challenging. We have followed Government and industry guidance throughout the year and made all necessary adjustments to our building and our operations to ensure a safe space.

Operational risks are addressed through line management and through comprehensive and regularly reviewed policies in relation to key issues such as health and safety, by the senior management team and reported to the board via the risk register.

### Going Concern

Your attention is drawn to the going concern note included within the Accounting Policies notes to the Financial Statements on page 18.

The board have considered the ongoing situation with regards to Covid-19 pandemic on future performance, as well as other events and conditions, and it has been determined that they do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The reserves position of the Charity is set out below. The board consider that the Charity has adequate financial resources for ongoing operations and our business planning process, which includes financial projections, has taken into account the current economic climate and likely levels of secured income, funding and trading in the forthcoming year.

The Charity has a 20-year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three-year funding cycle agreed over that period. The financial settlement for which is now confirmed until March 2024. In October

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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2020, Arts Council England confirmed an extension of National Portfolio grant funding until 2023, to offer some stability during the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The view of the board is that, whilst they acknowledge the significant disruption that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought and will continue to bring over the coming months, the Charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

With secured income and based on its business plan for the forthcoming year, the trustees have concluded the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements.

In reaching their conclusion, the board has reviewed the Charity's monthly cash flows, applied sensitivity analyses as appropriate, and considered the various financial support measures that have been announced by the UK government. After consideration of all factors, the accounts have therefore been prepared on the basis that the Charity is a going concern.

### Reserves

The board aim to maintain a level of reserves to provide sufficient working capital that protects the continuity of the Charity's work and provides cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or fluctuation in income levels.

The board closely monitors the level of reserves throughout the year. Through successful programme activity, careful financial management and with the support of Arts Council England (through the Culture Recovery Fund) and that of other funders and donors we have been able to reflate our reserves in this financial year to pre-pandemic levels.

At the end of March 2021, the balance held as unrestricted reserves was £1,055k (£479k March 20), of which £719k were regarded as free reserves (£108k March 20) - the Group's net current assets/liabilities held within general Unrestricted Funds, as shown in note 23.

The board review the reserves policy with reference to the Charity's strategy and business plan, to determine the target level of reserves required. At March 2021, the policy was designed to provide available financial reserves for the following purposes:

- to absorb potential box office shortfalls
- to absorb reduction in local authority funding
- to cover significant unbudgeted costs (e.g., one off cost relating to Covid 19, delivery activity in a Covid secure way, costs of organisational change).

Overall, the board believe that a figure of £719k of available reserves (defined as unrestricted funds not already invested in fixed assets, or irrevocably committed for other purposes) should be sufficient to cover these requirements.

The Charity's business plan for FY21-22 seeks to maintain these reserve levels, and through additional funding applications and successful trading activity, to build available reserves up by a further £100k by March 2022.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Governing Document

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee whose constitution is set out in a deed of trust, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

### Board of Trustees

The board at 31st March 2021 is made up of 13 non-executive unpaid trustees, 8 women and 5 men. Board numbers include a dedicated position for a Young Trustee, currently held by Amy Jones. The current Chair is Peter Mearns.

### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New appointments to the board are advertised and ratified by the full board. Induction for new trustees is managed by the Chair and CEO. Trustees are rotated on a three-year basis and are subject to a maximum six-year term.

### Decision Making

The board retains full control and approves all major strategic decisions and has ultimate responsibility for the company's conduct and financial stability. Leadership and management of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive. The organisation's Chief Executive, Andrew Bentley, has support from five Heads of Departments (finance, development, sales & marketing, operations, production) and an HR Manager, together comprising the organisation's Senior Management Team. The board monitors performance and reviews the quality and effectiveness of all information

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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provided to the board. Review of executive pay is undertaken through the Audit and Remuneration Committee, comprising the Chair Peter Mearns and Vice-Chair Sue Leech.

The board meets six times a year and is supported by three standing committees: Finance, Development and Access and Inclusion. All three are governed by terms of reference, which set out key decisions which must be approved by the board and those delegated to the standing committees.

The affairs of the company are subject to external scrutiny by Arts Council England, who are entitled to attend board meetings as observers. The company has a substantial contract for services with Cheshire West & Chester Council, who undertake an annual review but who are not otherwise involved with the company's governance or board.

Storyhouse runs two wholly owned commercial trading subsidiaries, Storyhouse Production Company Limited and Storyhouse Catering Company Limited.

### Trustees Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

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

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 judgements and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information, of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report we also approve the Director's Report, included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

Signed by order of the Trustees by:



P M Mearns  
Chair

Date: 30/11/21

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Storyhouse Limited (the 'charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated and charity balance sheet, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the group and the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report and the strategic report included within the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charity, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

### Extent to which the audit is considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities, including fraud, lies with the trustees and with those charged with governance. The objectives of our audit in respect of irregularities and fraud are to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient, appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

### Audit procedures

We determine significant applicable laws and regulations through discussion with those charged with governance and our own knowledge of the industry and design audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with those laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We consider the applicable laws and regulations to be the financial reporting framework (FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2006), Charity Law, the relevant tax regulations in the UK, employment law and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Safeguarding legislation.

We consider the control environment and the procedures in place to address identified risks, including management override, non-compliance with laws and regulations and to prevent and detect fraud or irregularity. Our procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement or error and include: enquiries of management and of staff in key compliance functions; review of reports from

## **UK Storyhouse Limited**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of UK Storyhouse Limited For the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

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regulators; review of minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; review and testing of manual journals, relevant nominals and significant transactions outside the normal course of business; review of financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation; performance of analytical procedures.

We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and due to the inherent limitations of an audit, as described above, the audit cannot be relied upon to detect all instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities> . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Susan Harris MA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Champion Accountants LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

.....  
2nd Floor Refuge House  
33-37 Watergate Row  
Chester  
CH1 2LE

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total Funds	2020 Total Funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	3,563,025	106,870	3,669,895	1,802,232
Charitable activities	4	41,167	-	41,167	336,000
Other trading activities	5	699,778	-	699,778	4,375,446
Other	7	27,575	-	27,575	222,528
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>4,331,545</b>	<b>106,870</b>	<b>4,438,415</b>	<b>6,736,206</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	8	763,906	-	763,906	4,144,007
Charitable activities	9	2,698,289	64,449	2,762,738	2,835,248
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>3,462,195</b>	<b>64,449</b>	<b>3,526,644</b>	<b>6,979,255</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>869,350</b>	<b>42,421</b>	<b>911,771</b>	<b>(243,049)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
- Total funds brought forward		479,872	-	479,872	722,921
- Total funds carried forward	23	1,349,222	42,421	1,391,643	479,872

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year. All Income and Expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 - 30 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2021	2020	2021	2020
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14	336,203	371,810	336,203	371,810
Investments	15	-	-	2	2
		<u>336,203</u>	<u>371,810</u>	<u>336,205</u>	<u>371,812</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	16	9,430	15,275	-	-
Debtors	17	410,732	591,779	158,770	586,021
Cash at bank and in hand		1,905,909	838,631	1,809,721	774,065
		<u>2,326,071</u>	<u>1,445,685</u>	<u>1,968,491</u>	<u>1,360,086</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,270,631)	(1,337,623)	(876,502)	(1,252,028)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,055,440</u>	<u>108,062</u>	<u>1,091,989</u>	<u>108,058</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>1,391,643</u>	<u>479,872</u>	<u>1,428,194</u>	<u>479,870</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	20	42,421	-	42,421	-
Unrestricted funds:					
- General fund	21	1,055,250	479,872	1,091,801	479,870
- Designated fund	22	293,972	-	293,972	-
<b>Total funds</b>	23	<u>1,391,643</u>	<u>479,872</u>	<u>1,428,194</u>	<u>479,870</u>

The consolidated financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ 2021 and were signed on their behalf by:



.....  
PM Mearns

Company Number: 05541255

The notes on pages 18 - 30 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Consolidated Cash Flow Statement For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Net Cashflow from operating activities</b>	25	1,171,955	(619,784)
Tax received		27,575	222,528
<b>Cashflow from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	14	(132,252)	(81,956)
<b>Net Cashflow from investing activities</b>		(132,252)	(81,956)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		1,067,278	(479,212)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		838,631	1,317,843
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,905,909	838,631
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consist of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		1,905,909	838,631
Short term deposits		-	-
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year		1,905,909	838,631

The notes on pages 18 - 30 form part of these financial statements

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### General Information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Storyhouse, Hunter Street, Chester, Cheshire CH1 2AR.

#### Accounting convention

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 (FRS102) effective 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. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note below.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, rounded to the nearest pound.

UK Storyhouse Limited is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### Basis of consolidation

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited, made up to 31 March 2021. There are uniform policies across the group and intra group transactions are eliminated on consolidation. Consolidation is on a line by line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charity has not been presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Going Concern

The trustees have considered the on-going situation with regard to COVID-19 as part of their going concern assessment. The view of the trustees is that, whilst they acknowledge the significant disruption that the pandemic has brought and may continue to bring in the coming year, it does not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Charity has a 20 year lease and service contract with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with a rolling three year funding cycle agreed over that period, the financial settlement for which is now confirmed until March 2024. NPO grant funding from Arts Council England has also been confirmed until 2023, which offers further stability during the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

With secured income and based on its business plan for the forthcoming year, the trustees have concluded the Charity will be in a position to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from signing these financial statements.

In reaching their conclusion, the trustees have reviewed the charity's monthly cash flows, applied sensitivity analyses as appropriate, and considered the various financial support measures that have been announced by the UK government.

After consideration of all factors, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

#### The funds of the charity

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against these funds. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the Financial Statements.

#### Incoming resources

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grant income that is revenue in nature is recognised in full in the year of entitlement where the performance conditions have been met.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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The point of entitlement to ticket income is regarded as the completion of the ticketed performance. As such, ticket income is recognised upon completion of the performance that the ticket has been issued for. Amounts received for future performances are included in current liabilities.

The other sources of income are received at the point of delivery of the goods or services and are therefore recognised upon receipt.

### Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating voluntary income are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost and 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% on cost
Computer equipment	25% on cost

Where it has been identified that the recoverable amount of a fixed asset is below its net book value the asset is written down to its recoverable amount and the impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

### Stocks

Stocks consist of purchased goods for resale and consumables. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

### Debtors

Debtors receivable within one year are recognised at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash held on deposit with a short maturity of three months or less.

### Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Deferred income includes:

- Income received for events taking place after the balance sheet date

### Financial instruments

The charity only 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 with the exception of fixed asset investments which are subsequently measured at fair value where this can be reliably measured.

### Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

### Taxation

As a registered charity, the company benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Capital Gains Tax, but not Value Added Tax.

### Volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### 2 Financial performance of the charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the charity's wholly owned subsidiaries, Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited. The summary financial performance of the charity alone is:-

	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£
Income	3,681,062	1,915,704
Theatre Tax Relief	27,575	222,528
Gift aid from Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	-	453,967
Gift aid from Storyhouse Production Company Limited	-	-
	<u>3,708,637</u>	<u>2,592,199</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>2,760,313</u>	<u>2,835,252</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u>948,324</u>	<u>(243,053)</u>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<u>479,870</u>	<u>722,923</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>1,428,194</u>	<u>479,870</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Unrestricted funds	1,091,801	479,870
Restricted funds	42,421	-
	<u>1,134,222</u>	<u>479,870</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
<b>Funding</b>				
Members & Private Giving	221,535		221,535	16,428
Sponsorship Income	67,900		67,900	46,000
Trusts and Foundations	27,572	96,418	123,990	57,160
Project Funding	-	10,452	10,452	74,023
<b>Grants receivable</b>				
Arts Council England	228,015		228,015	223,895
Cheshire West and Chester Council	1,362,610		1,362,610	1,362,610
Government Grants	1,655,393		1,655,393	22,116
	<u>3,563,025</u>	<u>106,870</u>	<u>3,669,895</u>	<u>1,802,232</u>

Of the income from donations and legacies received in 2020, £1,696,049 was unrestricted and £106,183 was restricted.

### 4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

		Unrestricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2020
		£	£	£
Library operation	Project	4,532	4,532	33,704
Engagement	Project	33,827	33,827	94,397
Ticketing	Project	2,554	2,554	196,573
Other income	Funding and administration	254	254	11,326
		<u>41,167</u>	<u>41,167</u>	<u>336,000</u>

### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	372,953	372,953	1,642,584
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	326,825	326,825	2,732,862
	<u>699,778</u>	<u>699,778</u>	<u>4,375,446</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### 6 Net income from trading activity of subsidiary companies

The charity owned 100% of the share capital of Storyhouse Catering Company Limited and Storyhouse Production Company Limited at 31 March 2021. Both subsidiaries are registered in England and Wales. The principal activity of each subsidiary is detailed below together with their trading results for the year.

#### Storyhouse Catering Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of catering, cinema and receiving touring theatre at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709991.

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Turnover	326,825	2,732,862
Cost of sales	336,929	2,236,895
Administration expenses	26,449	42,000
<b>(Loss)/Profit before taxation and for the financial year</b>	<u>(36,553)</u>	<u>453,967</u>
Amount gift aided to the charity	-	453,967
<b>Retained earnings brought forward and carried forward</b>	<u>(36,553)</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets	342,503	476,377
Current liabilities	379,055	476,376
<b>Net current assets</b>	(36,552)	1
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	(36,553)	-
	<u>(36,552)</u>	<u>1</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### Storyhouse Production Company Limited

The principal activity of the company was that of theatre company production at Storyhouse, Chester. The company registration number is 10709994.

	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
Turnover	372,953	1,642,584
Cost of sales	396,553	1,839,384
Administration expenses	3,975	25,728
<b>Loss before taxation</b>	<u>(27,575)</u>	<u>(222,528)</u>
Corporation tax credit (Theatre tax relief)	<u>27,575</u>	<u>222,528</u>
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets	263,786	455,411
Current liabilities	<u>263,785</u>	<u>455,410</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	1	1
Called up share capital	1	1
Retained earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

### 7 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £
Theatre tax relief	<u>27,575</u>	<u>27,575</u>	<u>222,528</u>
	<u>27,575</u>	<u>27,575</u>	<u>222,528</u>

### 8 Costs of raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Storyhouse Production Company Limited	400,528	400,528	1,865,112
Storyhouse Catering Company Limited	363,378	363,378	2,278,895
	<u>763,906</u>	<u>763,906</u>	<u>4,144,007</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 9 Costs of Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Governance Costs	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	2,091,137			2,091,137	1,973,125
Management		496,247		496,247	660,020
Finance		51,872	12,000	63,872	84,566
Building overheads		111,482		111,482	117,537
	<u>2,091,137</u>	<u>659,601</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>2,762,738</u>	<u>2,835,248</u>

Costs of charitable activities were £2,762,738 (2020: £2,835,248) of which £2,698,289 (2020: £2,729,069) was unrestricted and £64,449 (2020: £106,183) was restricted.

### 10 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>This is stated after charging:</b>		
Depreciation	167,859	160,759
Auditors remuneration		
- Audit of the financial statements	12,360	12,000
- Accountancy services	-	-
Operating lease costs:		
- Land and buildings	22,019	18,178
	<u>22,019</u>	<u>18,178</u>

### 11 Trustees' Remuneration

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or benefits in kind in respect of their duties as a trustee. Expenses were paid to Trustees during the year in amount of £132 (2020: £3,418).

### 12 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

Total staff costs were as follows:

	Group 2021 £	Charity 2021 £	Group 2020 £	Charity 2020 £
Wages and salaries	1,801,025	1,611,117	1,948,760	1,026,635
Social security costs	139,875	133,501	157,413	133,204
Pension costs	58,261	55,508	67,688	53,642
	<u>1,999,161</u>	<u>1,800,126</u>	<u>2,173,861</u>	<u>1,213,481</u>

Key management comprises the executive team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £272,171 (2020: £272,736).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 13 Particulars of employees

The average number of staff employed during the year was 97, analysed by function as follows:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Project	8	6
Head office	13	12
Kitchen	7	9
Marketing	5	6
Production	5	5
Cinema	4	2
Touring	1	2
Trading	1	3
Casual staff	53	71
	97	116

During the year the number of employees who earned more than £60,000 was as follows:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1
£70,000 - £80,000	-	-
£80,000 - £90,000	1	1

Total redundancy/termination payments in the year amounted to £12,497 (2020: £Nil).

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and an equity pension scheme for self employed actors. The sum of £58,261 (2020: £67,688) represents the pension cost to the charity for the period. The full cost has been charged against unrestricted funds.

### 14 Tangible Fixed Assets

#### Group and Charity

	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2020	733,052	14,328	193,740	941,120
Additions	132,252	-	-	132,252
At 31 March 2021	865,304	14,328	193,740	1,073,372
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2020	429,088	10,149	130,073	569,310
Charge for year	124,384	3,582	39,893	167,859
At 31 March 2021	553,472	13,731	169,966	737,169
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2021	311,832	597	23,774	336,203
At 31 March 2020	303,964	4,179	63,667	371,810

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 15 Investments

	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Investments in subsidiaries	-	-	2	2

### 16 Stocks

	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Stock	9,430	15,275	-	-

### 17 Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	15,073	453,967
Income tax recoverable	250,025	386,838	-	-
Trade debtors	19,131	53,382	19,131	53,328
Other debtors	29,909	13,202	29,909	13,202
Prepayments and accrued income	111,667	138,357	94,657	65,524
	<u>410,732</u>	<u>591,779</u>	<u>158,770</u>	<u>586,021</u>

### 18 Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	133,502	128,918	123,104	124,000
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	-	405,523
PAYE and Social Security	36,244	43,598	36,244	43,598
VAT	22,541	79,473	22,542	79,473
Other creditors	25,666	103,313	25,666	103,313
Accruals and deferred income	1,052,878	982,321	668,946	496,121
	<u>1,270,631</u>	<u>1,337,623</u>	<u>876,502</u>	<u>1,252,028</u>
<b>Deferred income</b>	£			
Deferred income at 1 April 2020	325,283			
Utilised in year	(325,283)			
Received in year	390,885			
Deferred income at 31 March 2021	<u>390,885</u>			

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 19 Operating Lease Commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	40,260	22,019
Between one and five years	37,515	-
	<u>77,775</u>	<u>22,019</u>

### 20 Restricted Funds

#### Group and Charity

	Balance at	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at
	1 April	Resources	Resources	31 March
	2020	£	£	2021
	£	£	£	£
Youth projects	-	106,870	64,449	42,421
Festival funding	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>106,870</u>	<u>64,449</u>	<u>42,421</u>

All restricted funds are included in the Charity accounts

#### Group and Charity

	Balance at	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at
	1 April	Resources	Resources	31 March
	2019	£	£	2020
	£	£	£	£
Youth projects	-	93,683	93,683	-
Festival funding	-	12,500	12,500	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>106,183</u>	<u>106,183</u>	<u>-</u>

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 21 Unrestricted Funds - General

	<b>Group General Funds £</b>	<b>Charity General Funds £</b>
As at 1 April 2020	479,872	479,870
Incoming resources	4,331,545	3,601,767
Outgoing resources	(3,462,195)	(2,695,864)
Transfer to designated funds	(293,972)	(293,972)
As at 31 March 2021	<u>1,055,250</u>	<u>1,091,801</u>

	<b>Group General Funds £</b>	<b>Charity General Funds £</b>
As at 1 April 2019	722,921	722,923
Incoming resources	6,630,023	2,486,016
Outgoing resources	(6,873,072)	(2,729,069)
As at 31 March 2020	<u>479,872</u>	<u>479,870</u>

### 22 Unrestricted Funds - Designated

	<b>Group Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Charity Designated Funds £</b>
As at 1 April 2020	-	-
Incoming resources	293,972	293,972
Outgoing resources	-	-
As at 31 March 2021	<u>293,972</u>	<u>293,972</u>

The value of Designated Funds relates to general funds received from the Arts Council England Culturally Recovery Fund, which have been designated by the board of trustees for the purpose of developing the Charity's streaming capability (£130k), investing in freelance support for programming and production (£113k) and the purchase of equipment necessary to deliver new programmes (£50k).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Group Designated Funds £	Charity Designated Funds £
As at 1 April 2019	-	-
Incoming resources	-	-
Outgoing resources	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 31 March 2020	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 23 Analysis of Group Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 31 March 2021 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		42,421	42,421
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	336,203	719,047	1,055,250
Designated Funds		293,972	293,972
Total Funds	<hr/> 336,203 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,055,440 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,391,643 <hr/>

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Net Current Assets £	Total 31 March 2020 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	-	-	-
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds	371,810	108,062	479,872
Designated Funds	-	-	-
Total Funds	<hr/> 371,810 <hr/>	<hr/> 108,062 <hr/>	<hr/> 479,872 <hr/>

### 24 Related Party Transactions

Transactions with subsidiary companies are disclosed in Note 6.

At the 31 March 2021, £3,100 was due to a trustee for artistic services provided. (2020: None).

# UK Storyhouse Limited

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### 25 Reconciliation of group net income resources to net cash inflow from group operations

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net incoming resources	911,771	(243,049)
Theatre tax relief	(27,575)	(222,528)
Depreciation of fixed assets	167,859	160,759
Decrease/(increase) in stock	5,845	(2,396)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	181,047	(163,358)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(66,992)	(149,212)
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activities</b>	<b>1,171,955</b>	<b>(619,784)</b>

### 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 April 2020	Cash Flows	31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>838,631</u>	<u>1,067,278</u>	<u>1,905,909</u>

### 27 Guarantee

The Charitable Company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The members' liability is restricted to £1 each in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles.

### 28 Fundraising standards information

The charity raises charitable funds in-house and does not engage a professional fund-raiser or commercial participator to carry out these activities. The charity has not bound itself to a voluntary scheme for regulating fund-raising and has not received any complaints with respect to its fund-raising. The charity avoids unreasonable intrusion into a person's privacy, unreasonable persistent approaches and undue pressure on persons in connection with fund-raising.