

**CREATIVE YOUTH**

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Charity Number 1132314

Company Number 06848384

## **CREATIVE YOUTH**

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## **CREATIVE YOUTH**

### **COMPANY INFORMATION**

PRESIDENT	HRH Prince Edward Duke of Edinburgh KG GCVO ADC
PATRONS	Tom Chambers Matt Lucas Madeleine Worrall Chike Okonkwo Sheridan Smith Angelica Bell Michael Underwood Tom Holland Wayne Eagling
DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES	R Hutchinson (Chairman) B Alderton A Hutchinson J James Taylor – resigned 21 May 2025 A Stevenson P Mayhew-Smith R O’Dowd M Bryher J Piper M M Hanson-Akins G Miles M Cadie Hunte A Brember V A Mather J C Shave
SECRETARY	C Bloxham
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	J Alderton FCCA FCMI
BANKERS	HSBC Bank Plc, Kingston upon Thames Metro Bank, Kingston upon Thames
REGISTERED OFFICE	Suite 9, Millennium House, 21 Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1BL.
COMPANY NUMBER	06848384
CHARITY NUMBER	1132314

## **CREATIVE YOUTH**

### **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) and with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

Creative Youth is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 16 March 2009, as amended on 8 October 2009. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission and from now on the company will be referred to as a charity. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a member trustee of the charity and there are currently 14 members (2024: 15), each of whom guarantee £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

### **Appointment of trustees**

Trustees are appointed by the Board in general meeting. Each trustee so appointed shall retire with effect from the conclusion of the next AGM after their first appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM. One third of the Board, excluding appointments in the year, retires by rotation at the AGM and each trustee may offer themselves for re-election.

### **Trustees' induction and training**

New trustees are provided with the Charity Commission booklet about their legal obligations under charity law and a copy of the Constitution. They are given a copy of the strategic plan which is supported by the relevant current financial forecast and management accounts.

### **Organisation**

The trustees meet to manage the affairs of the charity and oversee its administration. Organisation of the festival and most administration is delegated to the Co-Directors, Festival Director and Finance Manager. The Finance Committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees, monitors the affairs of the charity between full trustee meetings.

### **Related parties**

The charity has close relationships with the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Kingston University, Kingston College, Rose Theatre, Kingston First and The Community Brain CIC.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objectives of the charity are:-

- To promote, maintain, improve and advance education for young people in particular by the encouragement of the arts including drama, mime, opera, ballet, music, singing, dance, literature, sculpture, painting and new media;
- To advance the education of the public in the subject of youth arts;
- To advance in life young people through the provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life, and providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as energetic, enthusiastic, mature and responsible individuals;
- To create an international context to youth arts, supporting and fostering cross cultural appreciation and understanding.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In line with these objectives, the charity's mission and programmes have evolved to reflect new ways of working as outlined in its 2025-2028 Business Plan.

The principal activities of the charity during this year, and going forward, were that of running projects alongside the provision of an annual festival for charitable purposes and the management of FUSEBOX, our new unique venue, for a range of creative activity and public events.

The activities undertaken to achieve the charity's objectives include:-

- Operating a multi-arts venue, FUSEBOX, as a year-round base for the charity's activities related to young people's development, creative activities and community engagement.
- Organising an annual youth arts festival, FUSE International, to ensure that young people from around the world, whatever their skills or background, are involved in high quality arts activities.
- Organising engagement activities across the local area to encourage participation in and attendance at Creative Youth events.
- A talent development and mentoring scheme for young individuals working closely with key partners to provide artistic, business and strategic support.
- A range of volunteering and internship opportunities, for young people to develop skills, confidence and experience within the creative industries.

**Mission**

Creative Youth creates futures through the arts for young people aged 5-30 years. We exist to break down barriers for young artists, providing the space, programmes and opportunities they need to grow, create and lead in the arts – locally and internationally.

Our flagship space, FUSEBOX, is the engine that drives everything we do. It is where ideas are sparked, connections are built, and young people are empowered to turn creative potential into sustainable careers. Through FUSEBOX we deliver innovative and impactful programmes that nurture artistic growth, wellbeing and professional development.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

**Mission (continued)**

Creative Youth's work is structured around three interconnected Programme Streams:-

- Incubators – providing accessible, nurturing environments that support the personal, social and creative development of young people, particularly those facing barriers to participation.
- Springboards – equipping emerging artists with mentoring, resources and career pathways, through initiatives such as our Creative Talent Programme, enabling them to develop sustainable creative practices.
- Platforms – showcasing and celebrating young people's work on regional and global stages through FUSEBOX and FUSE International, ensuring their creativity reaches diverse audiences.

We are a youth-led organisation, embedding youth leadership in our governance, programmes and decision-making. Our Young Creatives panel contributes directly to strategy and project design, ensuring that our work reflects the voices and aspirations of the next generation. As such, a core focus of our work is supporting those aged 16-30 years.

Creative Youth is deeply rooted in South West London but works with partners worldwide. Collaboration is central to how we achieve impact – through partnerships with arts organisations, educational institutions, and corporate supporters, we create pathways for young people to thrive.

We believe in the transformative power of the arts. We are committed to ensuring that all young people, regardless of background, have the opportunity to engage with creativity. By providing a welcoming and supportive environment where young people can explore ideas and take creative risks, we help them build confidence, develop skills and form lifelong connections with the arts.

Through our work we:-

- Nurture creativity, wellbeing and community engagement;
- Equip young people with the skills and networks needed for creative careers;
- Promote emerging talent and celebrate diverse artistic expression;
- Strengthen local and global cultural connections;
- Empower young people to grow as artists, leaders and changemakers.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Introduction & Strategic Review**

This period saw Creative Youth build on the success of launching FUSEBOX in the previous financial year, whilst continuing to deliver our flagship FUSE International festival and Creative Talent Programme. This year also marked a transition from our previous strategic framework based on five Strands of Work, to a new three-stream programme model.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Introduction & Strategic Review (continued)**

Under Co-Directors Archie O'Neill and Daniel Cartlidge, who recently completed their second year in post, the charity undertook a year-long organisational review and staff restructure, culminating in a new Business Plan for 2025–2028, supported by Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy Fundraising Culture Change Programme.

The Business Plan established a framework for impact and sustainability. Our work is now structured around:-

- 3 Core Activities – FUSEBOX, FUSE International, and the Creative Talent Programme (CTP): these deliver our mission by breaking down barriers, providing creative opportunities, and supporting professional development.
- 3 Programme Streams – Incubator, Springboards, and Platforms: these strategically shape our activities, providing young people with clear developmental pathways at every stage.
- 5 Organisational Objectives – Financial growth & sustainability; Audience development; Programme quality & innovation; Strategic partnerships & collaboration; and Organisational strength & team development. These internal priorities guide decision-making.

**FUSEBOX**

Since opening in July 2023, FUSEBOX has become a hub for artistic, community and partnership activities, recognised with the Most Innovative Arts/Community Project award at the 2024 Time & Leisure Food and Culture Awards. A new Seasonal Programme model increased earned income and showcased artists across dance, comedy, music, cabaret and visual arts. The Visual Arts & Heritage project at FUSEBOX, funded by the Foyle Foundation, was completed, with an additional Arts Council England (ACE) grant expanding opportunities for emerging visual artists. Collaborations with Kingston University, Kingston College and Kingston First enhanced activities for public benefit.

The Incubator stream strengthened community involvement through Mindful Art Sessions, the inaugural Community Residence Programme with WOM Collective, and the selection of Kingston International Film Festival (KIFF) as the second community resident. Collaborations with local schools further engaged children through creative workshops and exhibitions.

Operationally, the staff restructure consolidating senior leadership and management roles. Ongoing discussions with venue landlords addressed lift access and anti-social behaviour, to ensure safe and inclusive access. FUSEBOX maintained strong financial performance and growth across multiple income streams.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**FUSEBOX (continued)**

**Key Achievements:-**

- 17,000+ estimated footfall (6,000+ in 2023–24)
- 1,439 tickets sold (983 in 2023–24)
- 199 creative and community events hosted (65+ in 2023–24)
- 9 business and corporate events (6 in 2023–24)
- 16 student projects in collaboration with Kingston College and Kingston University (7 in 2023–24)
- Earned income growth: 65%
- 800+ hours of discounted venue usage for young people and community groups
- 12 new community groups engaged for the first time

**FUSE International**

FUSE International 2024 remained our key Platform for emerging artists from the UK and internationally, presenting theatre, dance, music and visual arts across Kingston venues including the Rose Theatre, Arthur Cotterell Theatre (ACT) at Kingston College, and FUSEBOX. The festival showcased local and international companies from 12 countries, with continued emphasis on artistic quality and cultural exchange.

A highlight was RIVERFEST, funded by Kingston First and supported by local businesses, which animated the riverside with activity, attracted over 3,000 visitors and enhanced FUSEBOX's profile as a creative hub. We also welcomed our President, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to Thames Music Theatre's production of The Roman Invasion of Ramsgate. The visit and future collaboration from The Siheung City Youth Foundation (Republic of Korea) introduced a new international partnership to the festival.

Despite financial pressures from rising production costs and declining funding, the festival upheld creative ambition while streamlining delivery for long-term sustainability. This meant the charity reduced the scale of the festival while maintaining international exchange, artistic quality and a growth in FUSEBOX's festival presence. Post-festival evaluation informed a more efficient, curated programme model for future editions.



**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

FUSE International (continued)

Key Achievements:-

- 47 events (72 in 2023)
- 6 venues (18 in 2023)
- 793 participants (1,065 in 2023)
- 5,000+ estimated free non-ticketed audiences (7,500 in 2023)
- 3,140 ticketed audience members, including 461 school attendees (3,788 in 2023)
- 12 international companies from Canada, China, England, Germany, Nigeria, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, South Korea, Sweden, United States, Wales (14 in 2023)
- 35 volunteer opportunities and internships

Creative Talent Programme (CTP)

The Creative Talent Programme continued to provide professional development, mentorship and opportunities for emerging artists. During the year, Oscar Rodriguez and Joshua Hester (Jozoway) completed their programme with final showcases under the previous ACE grant. In December 2024, a further ACE grant was secured for the FUSEBOX Emerging Visual Artists project, integrating CTP into the Open Call Exhibitions for artists aged 16-30 years.

The Young Creatives panel evolved, with 16 members completing the 2023–2025 cohort and 8 new arts leaders recruited, enabling deeper involvement in creative activities, organisational strategy, and youth leadership.

CTP is now under strategic review, aligning with the 2025-2028 Business Plan. We have begun integrating the Skills Development Programme (SDP) to enhance young peoples' employability and industry readiness, and exploring new artistic initiatives that can contribute to its long-term impact. A redesigned programme is planned for relaunch in 2027.

Key Achievements:-

- 2 artists completed the programme (1 in 2023–24)
- 5 solo visual art exhibitions (2 in 2023–24)
- 24 Young Creatives shaping leadership and creative activities across 2 cohorts (16 in 2023–24)
- 6 Open Call exhibitions for artists aged 16-30 years

AMP Kingston

The AMP Kingston project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, concluded in June 2024. Building on the legacy of Kingston RPM (2017), the project celebrated the borough's rich Art, Music and Pop fashion heritage from the 1960s-1990s.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**AMP Kingston (continued)**

Through exhibitions, creative commissions, and a borough-wide Heritage Trail, AMP Kingston explored stories of local venues, artists and communities that shaped British music heritage. Highlights included the Bowie and Beyond exhibition at Kingston Museum and the co-created community UPCYCLE showcase. Participants developed skills in curation, research and production, with several progressing into paid creative roles. The project's digital archive, podcast, and educational toolkit provide a permanent resource for schools and the community.

**Key Achievements:-**

- 100,000+ total audience reached
- 56 young creatives involved
- 486.5 volunteering hours contributed by young creatives
- 16 individual projects delivered
- 24 oral histories recorded and 6 podcast episodes produced
- 17 site-specific intervention exhibitions presented
- 13 public events hosted
- 2 legacy films created and 2 educational toolkits developed

**Funding and Support**

During the year, our key partners and funders included Arts Council England (ACE), Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy, Canadian & Portland – Riverside Walk, E B M Charitable Trust, Greater London Authority, Kingston College, Kingston First, Kingston University, Linbury Trust, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK), Siheung City Youth Foundation, Arts Society Kingston and The Foyle Foundation. We are particularly grateful for multiyear grant funding from the Jectus Charitable Foundation, to support the continued delivery of creative activity at FUSEBOX.

The charity also thanks the 161 supporters who contributed to our *Help Creative Youth Keep the Arts Alive* Crowdfunder campaign during this period, raising over £15,000 in donations to support our mission.

## **CREATIVE YOUTH**

### **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

##### **Funding and Support (continued)**

We are grateful for the ongoing encouragement and support of all our partners and funders. Other partner organisations, and financial and in-kind funders, included:-

- Achieving for Children CIC
- Aztec Event Services
- Basement Door
- Glenmore House
- Jane Lim
- John Lewis and Partners
- Kingston Artist Open Studios
- Kingston Chamber of Commerce
- Kingston Music Service
- Kingston Rotary Club
- Kingston Voluntary Action
- Korean British Cultural Exchange
- Kristal Digital Imaging Centre
- Mind in Kingston
- My Blu Print Ltd – printers
- Priavo Security
- Richmond Borough Mind
- Riverside Walk - Canadian and Riverside Estates Ltd
- Robbie and Fay Dobbie
- Rose & Rose – Solicitors
- Rose Theatre
- Rowan Bentall Charitable Trust
- Simon Adrians - Tangle Photography
- South London Partnership
- Spy Studio
- Stevensons - Chartered Accountants
- The Cheeky Pea
- The Community Brain CIC
- The Fighting Cocks - public house
- The Lamb Surbiton – public house
- The WOM Collective
- Time & Leisure
- Ticketsolve
- TownSq
- Unilever
- Woody's Bar and Kitchen

##### **Future Plans**

Creative Youth will consolidate recent achievements and deliver against the Business Plan for 2025–2028. Our work on the Fundraising Culture Change Programme will continue through a comprehensive fundraising strategy review.

FUSEBOX remains central, with ambitions for an expanded Seasonal Programme, increased earned income and new community partnerships. Although two major floods in June 2025 forced temporary closure, the venue is expected to reopen in January 2026, supported by Business Interruption cover to stabilise our finances.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)**

**Future Plans (continued)**

FUSE International 2025 adopted a curated format to balance artistic ambition, global exchange and cost efficiency. A three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Siheung City Youth Foundation will deepen international collaboration.

CTP is under active redevelopment, led by eight Young Creatives, with pilot initiatives testing new approaches ahead of a full relaunch in 2027.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW AND GOING CONCERN**

The results for the year are set out in the annexed Statement of Financial Activities. Total incoming resources have reduced from £666,284 to £534,496, principally due to the lack of funding income for projects and other financial support.

However, trading income from our new venue space, FUSEBOX, is steadily increasing (this year by 65%), but it is recognised that it will take some time to promote awareness of the venue and its subsequent use and hire.

The challenges facing our organisation are largely sector-wide concerns. These challenges include a reduction in Core Costs support from Trusts and Foundations, as well as shifting priorities from funding bodies such as Arts Council England, which has moved funding away from the Greater London Area. This is further compounded by a decade long decrease in central and local government funding for the arts, and challenges within the wider economy—such as COVID-19 and the “Cost of Living” crisis—which has led to increased overheads for many organisations. This has placed additional pressure on our organisation to develop new income streams such as earned income, public donations, and corporate sponsorship—areas in which FUSEBOX presents the greatest potential for success. Two large applications, where indications of success were high, were however not successful. These significant difficulties have resulted in a deficit for the year.

In response, our Trustees and Executive Team approved the use of reserves to invest in artistic development and expand operations in FUSEBOX. This decision was based on anticipated return on investment, including new earned income opportunities and increased visibility with both existing and new funding as well as in-kind partners.

For the 2024-25 year, the uncertain economic outlook and the rebuilding of our audience for the festival and the hiring out of the new FUSEBOX space is still difficult following the pandemic and the economic environment and there is a significant area of financial uncertainty which the trustees and team are trying to mitigate. The finance sub-committee meet monthly and at each meeting consider any going concern issues. The trustees remain in regular contact with key strategic partners such as the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and Kingston University to secure ongoing financial support where necessary. The charity is awaiting results of bid applications and further funding bid applications are about to be submitted this month and in early January, as well as fundraising activities being planned in order to secure sufficient funding for the next 12 months so that the charity continues to be a going concern.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW AND GOING CONCERN (continued)**

In a prior period the trustees arranged for loan notes to be issued to support the charity's balance sheet. These currently total £5,000 (2024: £5,000) and repayment has been deferred until at least 31 January 2027 unless financial circumstances permit earlier repayment. In September 2024 further loans totalling £12,000 were arranged with repayment due in April 2026.

In June 2020 the charity arranged a loan under the Government's Bounce Back Loan Scheme. The balance as at 31 March 2025 was £5,465 (2024: £6,983). The charity took advantage of a 6-month repayment break and paid only interest for 6 months of the current year. The loan will be repaid by December 2026.

After the year end a staff review and restructure took place so as to be more efficient, our business plan for the next 3 years was formulated, which include growing our audience and increasing the usage and hiring of the new venue space, FUSEBOX.

In September 2024 we launched a public Crowdfunder, received the support of over 150 people and exceeded our £15,000 target.

In June 2025 our premises, FUSEBOX, suffered a significant flood and the premises are not expected to re-open until January 2026. Insurance claims have been submitted by the charity, the landlord and the head landlord. Reliance is being placed on the insurance and other claims pending.

The trustees consider the state of affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2025 to be fiscally challenging.

By taking these actions the trustees believe, while material uncertainty exists which may cause some doubt, there will be sufficient funds for the going concern basis to be appropriate for the preparation of these financial statements.

**Investment powers and policy**

Under the constitution, the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit.

**Reserves policy**

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and expenditure.

The adequacy of the reserves policy is reviewed annually. The unrestricted reserves as at 31 March 2025 were negative £33,131 (2024: positive £34,043) but after making allowances for those resources designated for fixed assets that are not realisable, the free reserves of the charity were negative £69,331 (2024: positive £1,643). It is our intention to restore the reserves to a positive balance before starting to re-build our free reserves to cover at least three months' running costs.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

**TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are required by charity law to prepare financial statements 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 for that period. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. The trustees confirm that suitable accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, applicable accounting standards including the Charities SORP, have been followed, and reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made. The trustees are required to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

**Small company rules**

The report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Date: 12 November 2025

R Hutchinson (Chairman)

## CREATIVE YOUTH

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CREATIVE YOUTH

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 24.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

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

1. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
3. State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiners statement

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

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material aspect, the trustees have not met the requirements:
  - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - b. To prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Alderton FCCA FCMI

40 Northmoor Way, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4SJ.

Date: 17 December 2025

**CREATIVE YOUTH**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Year ended 31 Mar 2025			Year ended 31 Mar 2024
		Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £	Total £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Income from generated activities:					
Donations and financial support	3	-	87,347	<b>87,347</b>	40,612
Activities for generating funds:					
Fundraising events income		-	15,109	<b>15,109</b>	49,112
Income from charitable activities:					
FUSEBOX income	4	1,717	189,582	<b>191,299</b>	177,398
Festival income	4	-	211,530	<b>211,530</b>	219,582
Projects and commissions income	4	29,182	29	<b>29,211</b>	179,580
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>30,899</b>	<b>503,597</b>	<b>534,496</b>	<b>666,284</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Fundraising events costs		-	2,493	<b>2,493</b>	16,552
Fundraising costs of grants and donations		-	12,375	<b>12,375</b>	9,578
Costs of charitable activities:					
FUSEBOX costs	5	86,680	162,427	<b>249,107</b>	212,176
Festival costs	5	-	264,762	<b>264,762</b>	235,632
Projects and commissions costs	5	24,704	-	<b>24,704</b>	133,713
Support costs	5	4,478	125,190	<b>129,668</b>	139,300
Loan interest and finance costs		-	1,657	<b>1,657</b>	387
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>115,862</b>	<b>568,904</b>	<b>684,766</b>	<b>747,338</b>
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(84,963)</b>	<b>(65,307)</b>	<b>(150,270)</b>	<b>(81,054)</b>
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		618,443	34,043	<b>652,486</b>	733,540
Transfers between funds		1,867	(1,867)	-	-
Total Funds carried forward	13	<b>535,347</b>	<b>(33,131)</b>	<b>502,216</b>	<b>652,486</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.



**CREATIVE YOUTH**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	<b>31 March 2025</b>		<b>31 March 2024</b>	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible and intangible assets	8		<b>563,548</b>		650,844
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stock			<b>276</b>		606
Debtors	9		<b>23,854</b>		72,742
Cash at bank and in hand			<b>2,266</b>		16,695
			<b>26,396</b>		90,043
<b>CREDITORS: Falling due within one year</b>	10		<b>(68,356)</b>		(82,936)
<b>NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES) / ASSETS</b>			<b>(41,960)</b>		7,107
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<b>521,588</b>		657,951
<b>CREDITORS: Falling due after more than one year</b>	12		<b>(19,372)</b>		(5,465)
			<b>502,216</b>		652,486
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted – general	13		<b>(69,331)</b>		1,643
Unrestricted - designated	13		<b>36,200</b>		32,400
			<b>(33,131)</b>		34,043
Restricted	13		<b>535,347</b>		618,443
			<b>502,216</b>		652,486

The directors are satisfied that the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No member of the company has deposited a notice under section 476 requiring an audit of these financial statements. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

R Hutchinson                      Director                      Formally approved by the Board on 12 November 2025

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31 MARCH 2025**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

**1.1 Basis of preparation**

- a) General: The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities issued in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.
- b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis: There was a deficit for the year of £150,270 which reduces the unrestricted reserves to negative £33,131. At the Balance Sheet date there were net current liabilities of £41,960 (2024: net assets £7,107).

The uncertain economic outlook; the willingness of the public to purchase tickets for performances; the changing priorities of funding bodies related to our location, young people and the arts; the shortage of available finance from local authorities and educational establishments; all create a significant area of financial uncertainty which the trustees and executive team are constantly trying to mitigate by, for example, reviewing the business plan; a staff restructure to be more efficient; aiming to grow our audience and the market for hiring our new space. The charity is awaiting significant sums from insurers and from other claims in respect of the major flood in our FUSEBOX venue in June 2025, which are not recognised in these accounts as it is a post-balance sheet event.

These uncertainties cause some concern in respect of going concern. A forecast has been prepared covering a period of at least 12 months from the signing of these accounts which show sufficient funding to continue, however the company remains reliant on projected funding from 2 or 3 key stakeholders; heavily relies on the success of funding bids made and being made to trusts and foundations; relies on forecast income from the new venue, FUSEBOX; and relies on successful insurance and other claims in respect of the flood. This new venue presents a huge potential for earned income, with multiple revenue streams which the trustees believe will secure the future financial stability of the company. Key stakeholders have confirmed their support. Based on the above the trustees consider that the going concern basis of preparation of the accounts is still appropriate.

**1.2 Incoming resources recognition**

- a) Charitable trading activities: Income from admission fees and registration fees is included in incoming resources in the period in which the relevant show took place. Deposits taken for the hire of FUSEBOX are recognised when they are received unless they are refundable.
- b) Donations and grants: Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.

## CREATIVE YOUTH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31 MARCH 2025

#### **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

##### 1.2 Incoming resources recognition (continued)

- c) Income from government and other grants: Whether "capital" grants or "revenue" grants, income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance-related conditions attached to the grants have been met or contractual obligations have been fulfilled. Where the conditions have not been met or fulfilled then the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions have been met.

##### 1.3 Volunteers and donated services

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements as it is difficult to quantify their value.

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity. Donated services and facilities relating to Support Costs are included as Donations and Financial Support in Note 3 to the financial statements. Donated services and facilities relating to Festival Costs have this year been included as Donated Services and Facilities in Note 4 to the financial statements. The directors consider the new policy to better reflect charitable income (Note 4) compared to charitable expenditure (Note 5). The change has been applied retrospectively and comparative information has been restated.

##### 1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when a liability is incurred, and is inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

**Charitable activities** include expenditure associated with the objectives and include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.

**Governance costs** include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**Support costs** include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor area, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent, and other costs by their usage.

##### 1.5 Tangible & intangible fixed assets

Depreciation has been provided at rates calculated to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. The principal annual rates in use are:

- Equipment, furniture and fittings - 20% on cost.
- New websites – 10% on cost from date of first use.
- Leasehold property improvements – over the period of the lease from the date of first use.

## **CREATIVE YOUTH**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31 MARCH 2025**

#### **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

##### **1.6 Fund accounting**

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.
- Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees at their discretion out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.
- Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

##### **1.7 Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and estimated net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving items.

##### **1.8 Pension costs**

The costs of contributions are written off against profits in the period they are payable.

##### **1.9 Interest receivable**

Interest is included when receivable by the charity.

#### **2 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE CHARITY**

A summary of the financial performance of the charity is set out below:

	<b>Year ended 31 Mar 2025</b>	<b>Year ended 31 Mar 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross incoming resources	534,496	666,284
Total expenditure on charitable activities (Note 5)	(668,241)	(720,821)
Fundraising event costs	(2,493)	(16,552)
Fundraising costs of grants and donations	(12,375)	(9,578)
Loan interest and finance costs	(1,657)	(387)
Net (outgoing) resources	(150,270)	(81,054)
Total funds brought forward	652,486	733,540
Total funds carried forward	502,216	652,486
Represented by:		
Unrestricted income funds	(69,331)	1,643
Unrestricted capital funds	36,200	32,400
Restricted funds	535,347	618,443
	502,216	652,486

## CREATIVE YOUTH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31 MARCH 2025

#### 3 DONATIONS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

	Year ended 31 Mar 2025	Year ended 31 Mar 2024
	£	£
Donations	68,316	21,431
Donated services and facilities – valuation	19,031	19,110
Friends’ memberships	-	71
	<u>87,347</u>	<u>40,612</u>

The charity is very grateful to all those who have provided support during the year whether financial or in offering their time and skills.

The charity is indebted to landlords for the free use of the offices for the year, valued at £14,025 (2024: £14,025) and to Microsoft for software licences valued at £5,006 (2024: £5,085). The income equivalent has been recognised within incoming resources as donated services and an equivalent charge included within support costs.

#### 4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Year ended 31 Mar 2025	Year ended 31 Mar 2024
	£            £	£            £
FUSEBOX income:		
Sponsors, local authorities and grants	126,325	114,764
Venue hire, bar and commission income	55,257	33,475
	<u>181,582</u>	<u>148,239</u>
Capital grant to refurbish space	1,717	29,159
Capital grant for equipment	8,000	-
	191,299	177,398
Festival income:		
Sponsors, local authorities and grants	38,106	42,094
Donated services and facilities	132,914	132,914
Box office sales and other income	40,510	44,574
	211,530	219,582
Projects and commissions income:		
Sponsors, local authorities and grants	29,182	172,145
Grants used to purchase fixed assets	-	6,972
Box office sales	29	463
	<u>29,211</u>	<u>179,580</u>
	<u>432,040</u>	<u>576,560</u>

## CREATIVE YOUTH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31 MARCH 2025

#### **4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)**

The charity is very grateful to all those who have provided support during the year. It wishes to acknowledge the Arts Council England, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Kingston University, Kingston First, National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Lottery Community Fund, Jectus Charitable Foundation, Canadian & Riverside Estates, Kingston College, Linbury Trust, EBM and Arts Society Kingston for their financial support.

The charity is indebted to the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames for the available use of the Rose Theatre venue under the “New Deal” agreement and to Kingston College for the use of their venues. The value placed on these contributions is £132,914 for this year (2024: £132,914). The income equivalent has been recognised within incoming resources as festival income and an equivalent charge included within festival costs.

#### **5 ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE**

	<b>Year ended 31 Mar 2025</b>		<b>Year ended 31 Mar 2024</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
FUSEBOX costs:				
FUSEBOX costs	162,427		125,981	
Depreciation	86,680		86,195	
		249,107		212,176
Festival costs:				
Festival costs	131,848		102,718	
Donated facilities – rent of venues	132,914		132,914	
		264,762		235,632
Projects and commissions costs		24,704		133,713
Support costs:				
Administration expenses	106,437		115,990	
Depreciation	4,200		4,200	
Donated services and facilities	19,031		19,110	
		129,668		139,300
		<u>668,241</u>		<u>720,821</u>

#### **6 STAFF COSTS**

	<b>Year ended 31 Mar 2025</b>	<b>Year ended 31 Mar 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs were as follows:		
Staff salaries	160,335	102,801
Employers pension costs	4,116	4,964
Employers National Insurance costs	9,593	3,708
	<u>174,044</u>	<u>111,473</u>

**CREATIVE YOUTH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31 MARCH 2025**

**6 STAFF COSTS (continued)**

During the year ended 31 March 2025 the trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses. No pension benefits were accruing to any trustee. The average monthly number of employees during the year was 7 (2024: 4).

We previously reported that staff costs were £33,614 for the year ended 31 March 2024, with the average number of employees as 2. This was incorrect and only represented the administration staff. The comparative has been restated.

**7 TAXATION**

No charge arises due to the charitable status of the company.

**8 TANGIBLE & INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Leasehold Property Improvements</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>COST</b>				
At 31 March 2024	84,215	42,000	667,981	794,196
Additions in the year	-	-	3,584	3,584
At 31 March 2025	<u>84,215</u>	<u>42,000</u>	<u>671,565</u>	<u>797,780</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 31 March 2024	44,795	9,600	88,957	143,352
Charge for the year	9,855	4,200	76,825	90,880
At 31 March 2025	<u>54,650</u>	<u>13,800</u>	<u>165,782</u>	<u>234,232</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 March 2025	<u>29,565</u>	<u>28,200</u>	<u>505,783</u>	<u>563,548</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>39,420</u>	<u>32,400</u>	<u>579,024</u>	<u>650,844</u>

Loan notes issued totalling £5,000 (2024: £5,000) are secured on the equipment.

**9 DEBTORS**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	231	6,273
Accrued income	7,482	40,329
Prepayments	14,141	24,140
Deposit with landlord – refundable	2,000	2,000
	<u>23,854</u>	<u>72,742</u>

**CREATIVE YOUTH**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31 MARCH 2025**

**10 CREDITORS: Falling due within one year**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	16,988	8,438
Accrued expenses	3,995	9,018
Deferred income (Note 11)	24,028	50,098
Amounts due to HMRC, including VAT	19,658	7,537
Other sundry creditors	594	1,327
	<u>65,263</u>	<u>76,418</u>
Short-term loans (Note 12)	3,093	6,518
	<u>68,356</u>	<u>82,936</u>

**11 DEFERRED INCOME**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance b/f	50,098	115,848
Released to income	(43,498)	(114,131)
Amount deferred in year	17,428	48,381
Balance c/f	<u>24,028</u>	<u>50,098</u>

During the year the charity received monies from National Lottery Community Fund and Arts Council England, parts of which are deferred to the following year until performance conditions have been met, mainly for activities which were to take place after the balance sheet date.

**12 LOANS AND OVERDRAFTS**

The aggregate amount of loans and overdrafts was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Falling due within one year:-		
Bounce Back bank loan	3,093	1,518
Loan notes	-	5,000
	<u>3,093</u>	<u>6,518</u>
Falling due after more than one year:-		
Bounce Back bank loan	2,372	5,465
Loan notes	17,000	-
	<u>19,372</u>	<u>5,465</u>

The Bounce Back bank loan which totals £5,465 was originally repayable by June 2026 by 60 monthly instalments of £266 which commenced in June 2021. The rate of interest on the loan is 2.5% per annum. From August 2024 until January 2025 the charity took advantage of a 6-month repayment break and paid only the interest amount for those 6 months. The normal repayments then re-started and therefore the loan will be repaid by December 2026.



## CREATIVE YOUTH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 31 MARCH 2025

#### 12 LOANS AND OVERDRAFTS (continued)

Analysis of borrowings falling due:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Due within 5 years:		
Within 1 year as above	3,093	6,518
Between 1 and 2 years	19,372	3,093
Between 2 and 5 years	-	2,372
Total loans and overdrafts	<u>22,465</u>	<u>11,983</u>

#### 13 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	<u>At 1 Apr 2024</u>	<u>Incoming Resources</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Outgoing Resources</u>	<u>At 31 Mar 2025</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Unrestricted funds:-					
General unrestricted funds	1,643	495,597	(1,867)	(564,704)	(69,331)
Designated website capital fund	32,400	-	-	(4,200)	28,200
Designated equipment capital fund	-	8,000	-	-	8,000
	<u>34,043</u>	<u>503,597</u>	<u>(1,867)</u>	<u>(568,904)</u>	<u>(33,131)</u>
Restricted funds:-					
General restricted funds	-	29,182	-	(29,182)	-
FUSEBOX capital fund	618,443	1,717	1,867	(86,680)	535,347
	<u>618,443</u>	<u>30,899</u>	<u>1,867</u>	<u>(115,862)</u>	<u>535,347</u>
Total funds	<u>652,486</u>	<u>534,496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(684,766)</u>	<u>502,216</u>

Unrestricted general fund – This represents the “free reserves” after allowing for all unrestricted designated funds.

Unrestricted designated website fund – Represents grants to cover the cost of the new website that went live in October 2021. The balance will reduce as the website is depreciated.

Unrestricted designated equipment fund – Represents grants to cover the cost of new equipment to be purchased for FUSEBOX.

Restricted general funds – Represents grants for specific purposes, all used within the year.

Restricted FUSEBOX capital fund – This represents grants for the leasehold improvement works to refurbish FUSEBOX. The fund will reduce over the period of the lease by way of depreciation.

#### **14 TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES AND TRUSTEES**

During the year the charity received funds from parties that the charity has a close relationship with. Details are set out in the Trustees' Report and in Notes 3 and 4 to the financial statements. No monies were owed by related parties at the year-end (2024: £nil).

R O'Dowd, a trustee, is a director of the Kingston Theatre Trust (KTT) & Rose Theatre Enterprises Ltd which operates the Rose Theatre, a venue used for the FUSE International festival. R O'Dowd is also the vice-chair of Kingston First, a key partner. P Mayhew-Smith, a trustee, is the principal of South Thames Colleges Group, a key partner with the charity, and is a director of Kingston First. G Miles, a trustee, is co-chair of Kingston First. R Hutchinson, a trustee, is a director of the Community Brain CIC, a key partner.

The trustees provide their time and expertise without remuneration for the benefit of the charity. No payments have been made to trustees during this year.

Loans totalling £14,000 were made to the charity in a prior period by trustees and officers of the charity. The loans were made by way of loan notes secured on the fixed assets of the company. Interest is payable at the rate of 1.5% above the bank base rate per annum. This rate has now been amended to Bank Base rate. Interest for the year amounted to £247 (2024: £171), however the lenders agreed to waive the interest due and treat it as an effective donation. The amounts owed at the year-end were £5,000 (2024: £5,000). The loan notes were repayable on demand on 1 April 2015, however owners of the loan notes have agreed not to seek repayment until January 2027 or unless financial circumstances permit earlier repayment.

New loans totalling £12,000 were made to the charity in August 2024 by trustees and officers of the charity. Interest is payable at the bank base rate Interest paid during the year amounted to £343, however the lenders agreed to waive the interest due and treat it as an effective donation. The amounts owed at the year-end were £12,000. The loan notes were repayable on demand on 1 April 2025, however owners of these loan notes have agreed not to seek repayment until April 2026 or unless financial circumstances permit earlier repayment.

#### **15 CONTROLLING PARTY AND LEGAL STATUS**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is limited to £1. No one member controls the company.