

# LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL

England & Wales · Charity number 1136384

## Details

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**Other names** LIVERPOOL ARABIC ARTS FESTIVAL

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [07184925](#)

**Registered** 2010-06-16

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** The Bluecoat  
School Lane  
L1 3BX

**Phone** 01517027764

**Email** [admin@arabicartsfestival.co.uk](mailto:admin@arabicartsfestival.co.uk)

**Website** [www.arabicartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.arabicartsfestival.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN ARABIC ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY THE PROMOTION AND STAGING OF REGULAR ARABIC ARTS FESTIVALS AND EVENTS IN LIVERPOOL. THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE THROUGH THE SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT AND SHOWCASING OF ARABIC ARTISTS AND ARTISANS

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## Classification

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- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** LIVERPOOL.
- Liverpool City

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£229,515	£252,426	-	-
2024-03-31	£317,432	£251,018	-	-
2023-03-31	£175,368	£186,168	-	-
2022-03-31	£234,398	£248,740	-	-
2021-03-31	£163,538	£123,773	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
AFRAH QASSIM	Chair	2011-11-08
Hamdan Dammag		2021-11-16
Sarah Scally		2021-05-27
Taher Qassim		

**LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136384

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# Accounts

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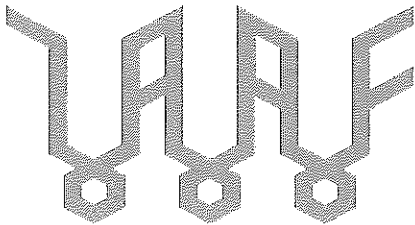
# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2025**



# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**gmcas**

Greater Merseyside Community  
Accountancy Service

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' Annual Report	2 to 11
Independent Examiner's Report	12
Statement of financial activities	13
Balance sheet	14
Statement of Cash Flows	15
Notes to the accounts	16 to 21

**Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

### **Review of progress and achievements**

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival (LAAF) was founded in 1998 by Taher Qassim and members of Liverpool's Yemeni community. Their aim was to increase awareness and appreciation of Arab arts and culture through participatory workshops introducing authentic music, language and dress to young people.

LAAF has since grown into a leading UK Arab arts organisation still driven by this ethos. In 2025 the organisation celebrated its 27th anniversary and its 23rd festival edition.

### **Objectives and Activities:**

The objectives are:

1. To advance the education of the public in Arab arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool
2. The advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

### **Vision**

To keep Arab arts, culture and heritage alive.

### **Mission**

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival creates a platform that educates, challenges and engages communities in Arab arts, culture and heritage across the UK and internationally.

### **Governance and Development**

Our Board of Trustees brings extensive skills and experience from the arts and cultural industries, the charitable sector, media, public health, and business development. They utilise their diverse local, national, and international networks to advocate for LAAF. All trustees have lived experience with Arab cultures and have established strong connections with communities and networks in Liverpool and beyond. The Board has undertaken and continues to pursue a range of training to support its oversight of the organisation.

Trustees are regularly updated through Board papers on specific areas of management responsibility, governance, and topics related to our charitable activities. The Board of Trustees meets quarterly to administer the charity and delegates policy and operational duties to the Director and staff team. Additionally, dedicated Board members and key staff lead themed subgroup meetings to advance the organisation's risk management, strategic planning, and operational development.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

This year, Board members and staff have met to review and plan the LAAF's strategic and operational priorities for 2025–2028. Board members have taken the lead in embedding Culture Liverpool's priorities and the Arts Council Investment Principles of Ambition and Quality, Environmental Responsibility, Dynamism, and Inclusivity and Relevance. In addition, the board away day explored and agreed upon a framework for organisation succession, a process vital to ensuring LAAF has a clear direction for moving forward.

### **Notable Achievements**

#### **Cultural Education Programme**

This year's cultural education project was delivered by local Yemeni Scouse Poet, Amina Atiq who engages students in a four to six week programme exploring the rich history of Yemen and Liverpool's Yemeni community and their valuable contribution to the city. Students created poems and short stories as a creative medium to share their learning in their schools.

During the past 12 months Amina has delivered eleven sessions in three secondary schools with an average attendance of 25 students per session.

We are committed to increasing paid work opportunities for Arab creatives who are underrepresented in the arts and cultural industries, raises awareness of Arab arts and cultures, contributing to antiracism by increasing understanding and appreciation of Arab people. This programme was funded by QFI and Arts Council England.

#### **Community Participation**

Culture Liverpool CAIP funding and Arts Council England support, enabled us to engage local people of Arab heritage in various workshops and activities before and during LAAF's annual festival.

We recorded attendances of 1,792 children and parents attending our Arabic storytelling and cultural crafts workshops, delivered both during and outside of the festival.

We were also proud to partner with "At The Library" to offer an Arabic family film programme at Crosby Plaza. Our Palestinian Tatreez Workshops, also held in partnership with "At The Library," were among our most popular community programmes.

Additionally, we continued to deliver authentic Yemeni folk dance workshops as part of our Men's Health and Wellbeing activities, in partnership with the Liverpool Arabic Centre. These workshops have been instrumental in reducing isolation and loneliness, fostering cultural pride, and improving physical well-being among participants.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### 2025 Festival

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival (LAAF) 2025 took place from 11 to 20 July 2025 across multiple venues throughout the city.

In a year still marked by geopolitical tensions and socio-political challenges across the Arab region, LAAF 2025 demonstrated solidarity with artists and communities affected by conflict and displacement. It remains a vital platform for Arab artists to present their creativity and resilience through diverse artistic forms to mainstream UK audiences.

Under the theme 'Nostalgia,' the festival explored memory, heritage, identity, and resilience across the Arab world and its diaspora through an ambitious and diverse programme. The 2025 edition brought highlighted narratives from several countries, including Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, and Yemen, meant to reinforce its mission to amplify Arab voices, showcase rich cultural heritage, and foster cross-cultural understanding.

This year, the board played an active role in supporting the programme, contributing to Arabic translation and event planning and mediation (notably for *The Book of Sanaa*). This demonstrates how board engagement extended beyond governance, in directly supporting the programme and helping to make it more accessible and culturally authentic.

### Festival launch event

The festival launch took place at the Unity Theatre on Friday 11 July, attended by around 92 special guests. Speeches were delivered by Afrah Qassim, the Lord Mayoress and Sam Kalubowila (Senior Relationship Manager at Arts Council England). The event was well received, drawing more than double the audience of last year, and was followed by a performance of Penguin.

### Visual Identity:

**Salt & Sister's** renewed design for LAAF 2025 offered a visual polish for the theme and the emotions it contains. Through the interplay of texture, colour, and cultural motifs, the branding transformed the abstract concept of nostalgia into a felt and lived experience.

The **One Fell Swoop** team once again played a pivotal role in the successful management of both marketing and events support for LAAF 2025. Their expertise ensured that festival communications were clear, consistent, and responsive, helping to amplify audience reach across both digital and print platforms.

Operationally, their contribution was particularly crucial for increasing capacity for wide range of events, including large-scale events such as Family Day (including and not limited to: logistics, technical, venue and artist coordination, and audience experience). The team's long-standing relationship with LAAF meant they were able to anticipate needs and act as trusted partners, balancing creative vision with practical delivery.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

### **Festival Overview**

In 2025, the festival delivered 32 events showcasing 68 artists, compared with 76 artists in 2024, and reached a total audience of 45,851- almost double the 24,622 recorded the previous year. This increase was partly driven by free, public, and highly visible venues such as the World Museum and the Walker Art Gallery, made possible through the Biennial partnership and its visual arts programme running from June to September (see further details in the section 'Observation'). Furthermore, the programme was wide-ranging, encompassing exhibitions, performances, workshops, talks, film screenings, and community gatherings. Artistic representation brought together local, national, and international voices across theatre, music, visual arts, literature, film, craft, and food culture, reflecting the festival's commitment to diversity and cross-disciplinary exchange.

The 2025 artist highlights featured a mix of UK-based, national, and international names, reflecting LAAF's ongoing commitment to supporting diasporic artists alongside regional practitioners. While the overall number of artists was slightly lower this year, the total number of artist days showcased was higher, thanks to three distinct visual arts events, compared to just one in 2024 (Port Cities). In addition, the programme offered a greater number of standout highlights (see details in the section below), which strengthened both the quality and consistency of audience engagement.

In terms of partnerships, this year's festival featured strong collaborations across Liverpool cultural institutions and international bodies. The key partners still included Liverpool Biennial, Bluecoat, Liverpool Philharmonic, Sefton Park Palm House, FACT, and various community-led organisations such as Liverpool Arabic Centre, At The Library, VideOdyssey and The Plaza.

### **Premieres**

The increase in premieres shows LAAF's growing role as a commissioning and presenting platform for new Arab and Arab-diaspora work in the UK. For instance, supporting Nour Bishouty's commission with Liverpool Biennial demonstrates partnership impact, while A Grain of Sand co-production and the Comma Press partnership on two literature launch events shows support for bold engaged works.

Additionally, new works like the family screening Dounia and the Great Snow White or the Archiving Nostalgia film, as well as commissioning local artists (Yamama - short film with cultural cuisine) and Liverpool's university scholar and researcher, Mohamed Gohar, outline how the festival continues to introduce first-time creative projects from local or international artists to the various UK demographics.

### **Bilingual Events**

The continuous showcasing of bilingual events reflects an intentional and community centred strategy to embrace linguistic diversity and mirror the multilingual opportunities of the different communities in Liverpool.

Through bilingual programming, LAAF enhances inclusivity, accessibility, and authenticity, while serving both Arab-speaking diaspora audiences and non-Arabic-speaking local audiences.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Events with Q&As

Q&As are consistently valued by audiences, who seek not just 'cultural consumption' but a deeper dialogue with artists and connection with their works. The fact that feedback explicitly requested more post-show discussions indicates this demand.

### Audience Responses

The 2025 programme received a strong audience response, whether reflected in box office performance or collected feedback.

As showed above, it is crucial to maintain the number of events that incorporate artist talks / conversations. Q&As have always been central to the event programme - including post-performance conversations with the audience and artists. This could also help smaller or niche ticketed events (such as the workshops, literature) by enhancing audience engagement in valuing their interaction and shared opinion.

### Programme Overview

The 2025 programme offered a balanced mix of contemporary performance, visual arts, film, music, community workshops and family activities. Below, each strand is summarised with narrative highlights and contextual insights.

#### Visual arts:

- **Sarah Al-Sarraj - Limbs of the Lunar Disc: Isthmus Ancient River:** This new body of work cross-examined alternative temporalities, ancestry and the long-term impacts of environmental violence. The exhibition invited sustained reflection and dialogue around ecological memory.
- **Mohamed Gohar - The Alexandrian:** Free exhibition and artist talk combined architectural references, heritage reflections and a contemporary visual language to create a layered encounter between Liverpool and Mediterranean urban histories.
- **Noura Bishouty - Tall grasses small bushes 2 (Liverpool Biennial partnership):** A cross-section of practices exploring tourism, spectacle and permission - a useful bridge between Liverpool Biennial audiences and LAAF's thematic concerns.
- **Mohamed Ali Al-Thulaya - Model of the Old City of Sanaa:** 3D installation part of The Book of Sanaa literature event.

#### Performance & Theatre

- **Penguin (Hamzeh):** A moving, humorous and imaginative journey from Syria to Gateshead. The piece was notable for its intimate storytelling and strong audience connection.
- **A Grain of Sand:** A one-woman show centred on Palestinian childhood testimony, blending folklore and lived experience to powerful effect.
- **Sarah Al-Sarraj – Break the Clocks (performative-lecture):** A hybrid lecture-performance that expanded the festival's boundaries into speculative worldbuilding, stimulating conversation on temporality and futures.

#### Music

- **Akram Abdulfattah:** A cross-cultural violin performance merging Middle Eastern modes with jazz and improvisation, underscoring LAAF's commitment to genre-defying musical projects.
- **Family Day performers:** The Egyptian Jazz Project with the Harfoush Jazz Band, London Arab Band, Farah Fersi, Al Awadhel Yemeni Band and DJ Jacques Malchance.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Film / screenings

- **Archiving Nostalgia (Film programme):** A curated selection of contemporary Arab films from Algeria, Lebanon and Tunisia that used nostalgia as a lens to examine memory, displacement and aesthetics across different critical times.
- **Dounia:** A family-friendly double screening presenting Dounia and the Princess of Aleppo (2022) alongside the UK premiere of Dounia – The Great White North (2024). Together, the films trace Dounia's journey from Syria to Canada, offering moving reflections on childhood, displacement, and resilience.
- **The Legend of the Looms:** A dramatic folk-infused play which playfully merged Lancashire folklore with wider migratory histories, offering both humour and historical resonance.

### Literature

- **Palestine Minus One & The Book of Sana'a (Comma Press events):** Literature programmes that anchored the festival in contemporary Middle Eastern writing, offering public readings, critical topic discussions and community engagement.

### Community / Workshops & Family events

- **Tatreez (Palestinian embroidery) workshops:** High-quality practical sessions reconnecting audiences with craft, cultural heritage and storytelling x three workshops, which were increased due to public demand and fast-selling.
- **Hadi Badi Children's Workshop:** Children's programming that foregrounded Arabic-language books, memory and identity, an important strand for intergenerational engagement.
- **LAAF Family Day at Sefton Park Palm House:** A free, flagship communal celebration that drew large footfall and highlighted LAAF's role as a civic cultural connector.

### Food / Cultural experiences

- **Jordanian Food & Cultural Experience with Yamama:** A supper and lunch club series that created intimate cultural exchanges through food and oral -family-history and film, showcasing and sharing the family transmission.

### Volunteers

We valued having the support of 16 festival volunteers who gave their time to contributing to our marketing campaign, collating audience feedback surveys, event stewarding and support and artist and audience liaison. Partners contributing volunteer support include – The Good Gym and Liverpool Arabic Centre.

Once again, LAAF's Board continue to significantly provide their time, expertise, experience and support throughout the year: thank you to Afrah Qassim (Chair), Hamdan Dammag (Vice Chair), Layla Maghribi, Taher Qassim and Sarah Scally.

Our aim is to generate income to increase our teams capacity to offer a year round volunteer programme – this will provide opportunities for people to experience working in the arts and cultural sector and to explore roles they might not have otherwise considered.

### Partnerships

The festival and community participation programme was delivered in close partnership with 33 organisations and partners across the UK and internationally. This support allows us to provide artists with the platform to reach audiences in Liverpool and beyond and provides underrepresented communities access and participation in excellent arts and culture.

## **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

### **Trustees' report continued**

#### **International engagement**

We were excited to see Port Cities Visual Exhibition, first shown in Liverpool 2024, travel to Marrakech for its second iteration "Traces of Elsewhere" 11 April – 30 June 2025

This second part of the project, Port Cities was coordinated by LE 18 (Laila Hida), and DaDa Marrakech, with the support of British Council Morocco. This iteration explored speculative and fictional perspectives, unveiling new layers through a public programme accompanying the exhibition in presence of each of Nadia, Mohamed and Siska too. The exhibition launch was a success and was followed by a busy weekend of public programme.

In June LAAF's creative producer visited two exhibitions in Tunis and in October (supported by British Council) attended D-Caf in Cairo to scope new artist work and to participate in networking and symposia events with arts and cultural organisation from the MENA and beyond.

#### **Out of Festival Events**

LAAF remains dedicated to increasing the visibility of Arab arts and cultures through a year-round programme of events and activities. We achieve this by collaborating with organisations based in Liverpool and across the UK.

This year, we partnered with Leeds International African Festival, funding the participation of one music group and two visual artists. We also collaborated with the University of Liverpool, offering community members the opportunity to engage in workshops focused on authentic Libyan crafts. Additionally, we delivered Arabic storytelling workshops as part of Savera UK's cultural festival.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Kayd, a London-based Somali arts organisation, with upcoming performances in Liverpool in November 2025.

#### **Environmental Responsibility**

We are continually reviewing and updating our environmental policy and action plan as part of Culture Liverpool plan, our Arts Council England Investment Principles and our commitment to reducing our overall environmental impact.

To drive this work forward, a member of LAAF's staff team and a board member both participate in dedicated working groups. These groups are focused on developing our practice and exploring how we can embed new, environmentally conscious ways of operating into our core activities.

Additionally, this year, LAAF has presented three public events specifically designed to increase awareness of the environmental emergency.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Going Forward LAAF Aims to:

- Continue to strengthen our artistic programme by commissioning new cross-artform and co-commissioned works that demonstrate international ambition.
- Generate income to recruit a dedicated community engagement role to increase our communities and volunteer development programme.
- Support artist in touring commissioned work reaching new audiences.
- Continue our support for emerging artist and creatives with training and development programmes and commissioning of new work.
- Increase our work in creating awareness and appreciation of Arab cultures and people with delivery of our Cultural Education Programme in schools across Liverpool City Region and beyond.
- Plan to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> festival edition in July 2027 – with an extended festival and programme of community engagement and participation.

### Statement of Directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial accounts 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 charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP

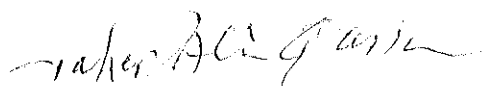
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

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 responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board on 20th November 2025 and signed on behalf of the directors by:



Tahar Qassim  
Trustee

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**Charity number 1136384**

**A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925**

The trustees, who are the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Afrah Qassim	Chair	
Hamdan Dammag	Vice Chair	
T Qassim MBE		
Sarah Scally		
Layla Maghribi		

#### **Method of appointment**

Recruitment of new trustees is open, and focused on creating a diverse and effective Board

#### **Registered address**

The Bluecoat  
School Lane  
Liverpool  
L1 3BX

#### **Bankers**

HSBC  
99-101 Lord Street  
Liverpool  
L2 2AH

#### **Independent examiner**

**Jane Williams MAAT**

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

#### **Governing document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10th March 2010 as Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival and registered as a Charity on 16th June 2010.

The company was renamed Liverpool Arab Arts Festival on 21st February 2013. The governing instruments under which the charitable company operates comprise the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9th February 2010 together with the policies made from time to time by the Trustees.

Trustees provide governance of the organisation as unpaid volunteers. The board of trustees meets quarterly and administers the charity the board approve policy that is then implemented by the Director and the rest of the team. In addition to quarterly meetings LAAF trustees provide voluntary support to the operational team which enables the organisation to fulfil its aims and objectives.

LAAF values volunteer support and ensures the festival offers opportunities for people to gain experience in Volunteers are given the opportunity to gain experience in festival management, events production and marketing. translation, finance and general events administration.

#### **Objects of the organisation**

The objects of the charity are to advance the education of the public in Arabic arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool and;

the advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**Charity number 1136384**

**A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925**

#### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have reviewed cover for operational activities for three months. Based on current commitments LAAF will retain £55,000 in reserve and £10,000 to cover any exceptional cost or circumstances. Remainder of the unrestricted fund balance is allocated to festival and project running cost.

#### **Accountant**

**Jane Williams**

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

Beacon Building

College Street

St Helens

WA10 1TF

#### **Approval**

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, was approved by the trustees on 20th November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

## Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 13 to 21

### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

### Basis of Independent examiner's statement

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

### Independent examiner's statement


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

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

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

have not been met; or

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



Jane Williams  
MAAT  
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service  
Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

20th November 2025

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	(4)	6,555	-	6,555	1,373
Income from charitable activities	(5)	200,912	14,250	215,162	311,135
Other incoming resources	(6)	7,752	-	7,752	4,911
Investment Income	(7)	46	-	46	13
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>215,265</u>	<u>14,250</u>	<u>229,515</u>	<u>317,432</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities	(8)	<u>188,180</u>	<u>64,246</u>	<u>252,426</u>	<u>251,018</u>
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		27,085	(49,996)	(22,911)	66,414
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		27,085	(49,996)	(22,911)	66,414
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds as at 1 April 2024</b>		<u>81,368</u>	<u>61,403</u>	<u>142,771</u>	<u>76,357</u>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2025</b>	(8a)	<u>108,453</u>	<u>11,407</u>	<u>119,860</u>	<u>142,771</u>

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All activities are regarded as continuing.

Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 15.

The Notes on pages 15 to 21 form an integral part of these accounts.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

## Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors and prepayments (11)	6,938	-	6,938	10,095
Cash at bank and in hand (12)	103,904	11,407	115,311	133,027
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>110,842</u>	<u>11,407</u>	<u>122,249</u>	<u>143,122</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Creditors (due within one year) (13)	2,389	-	2,389	351
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>2,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,389</u>	<u>351</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>108,453</u>	<u>11,407</u>	<u>119,860</u>	<u>142,771</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>				
Restricted Funds	-	11,407	11,407	61,403
Unrestricted funds	108,453	-	108,453	81,368
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>108,453</u>	<u>11,407</u>	<u>119,860</u>	<u>142,771</u>

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2025

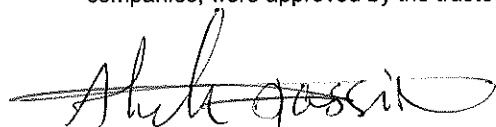
the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and

the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act

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

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, were approved by the trustees on 20th November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Afrah Qassim  
Chair

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025**

	2025	2024
	Total	Total
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA	(22,911)	66,414
Depreciation	-	-
Investment income	(46)	(13)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5) 3,157	(3,396)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,038	(3,875)
	<u>(17,762)</u>	<u>59,130</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Investment income	(6) 46	13
	<u>(17,716)</u>	<u>59,143</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease in cash:</b>	<u>133,027</u>	<u>73,884</u>
<b>Total cash as at 1 April 2024</b>	<u>115,311</u>	<u>133,027</u>
<b>Total cash as at 31 March 2025</b>		

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form an integral part of these accounts.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **1 Basis of preparation**

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,

- 1.1 with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:

- (a) The Charities Act 2011
- (b) The Companies Act 2006
- (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102

(d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2019)

- 1.2 The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102

- 1.3 The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **2 Accounting Policies**

##### **2.1 Fund accounting**

- (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 8a.

##### **2.2 Income**

- (a) Income is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the income; receipt is probable; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (b) Where income has related expenditure (e.g. projects), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) Income, which is subject to conditions that the charity has yet to fulfil, or which is specifically for use in a future accounting period, is treated as deferred income.

##### **2.3 Expenditure and liabilities**

- (a) Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- (b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.
- (c) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **2.4 Tangible Fixed Assets**

(a) Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at their value on receipt.

Rates of depreciation

Building Improvements: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

#### **2.5 Debtors**

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

#### **2.6 Cash**

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### **2.7 Creditors**

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

#### **2.8 Taxation**

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

### **3 Transactions with trustees and related parties**

No trustees received any expenses (note 13) during the accounting period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>4 Donations and legacies</b>	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations	6,555	-	6,555	1,373
	<u>6,555</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,555</u>	<u>1,373</u>
<b>5 Income from charitable activities</b>	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council Funding	200,912	-	200,912	200,912
Culture Liverpool Investment	-	14,250	14,250	14,250
The British Council	-	-	-	68,000
The National Foundation	-	-	-	26,573
LCVS CIF	-	-	-	1,400
Qatar Foundation International	-	-	-	-
	<u>200,912</u>	<u>14,250</u>	<u>215,162</u>	<u>311,135</u>
<b>6 Other Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Other Income	353	-	353	45
Box Office	7,399	-	7,399	4,866
	<u>7,752</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,752</u>	<u>4,911</u>
<b>7 Investment Income</b>	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Received	46	-	46	13
	<u>46</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>13</u>

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

8a Restricted funds summary	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Culture Liverpool Investment	(830)	14,250	12,008	-	1,412
Qatar Fdtn International	8,435	-	8,415	-	20
LCVS CIF	1,400	-	1,400	-	-
The National Fdtn Youth Music	9,836	-	7,271	-	2,565
The British Council	42,562	-	35,152	-	7,410
	<u>61,403</u>	<u>14,250</u>	<u>64,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,407</u>

**Purpose of restricted funds**

Culture Liverpool contribution towards the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival.

Qatar Foundation International provided funding for schools cultural development project.

9 Staff Costs	2025 £	2024 £
Gross Wages and salaries	100,219	98,038
Social security costs	3,821	3,779
Pension contributions	1,350	1,342
	<u>105,391</u>	<u>103,159</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2025	2024
	<u>3.7</u>	<u>3.7</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

<b>10 Debtors and prepayments</b>	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors	6,938	10,095
	<u>6,938</u>	<u>10,095</u>
<b>11 Cash at bank and in hand</b>	2025	2024
	£	£
Current accounts	114,542	131,897
Credit card	32	-
Reserve account	734	721
Cash in hand	3	409
	<u>115,311</u>	<u>133,027</u>
<b>12 Creditors and accruals</b>	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors	2,389	351
	<u>2,389</u>	<u>351</u>
<b>13 Trustee remuneration and expenses</b>	2025	2024
	£	£
Total amount paid	517	418
	<u>517</u>	<u>418</u>

During the period three trustees received out of pocket expenses (2024: 2)

**14 Guarantees**

As at 31st March 2025, 5 members had given a guarantee of £10 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total: £50 (2024: 5 members, £50)

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Comparative Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**16 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Income from donations	6,555	1,373	-	-
Income from charitable activities	200,912	200,912	14,250	110,223
Other incoming resources	7,752	4,911	-	-
Investment income	46	13	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>215,265</b>	<b>207,209</b>	<b>14,250</b>	<b>110,223</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	188,180	186,747	64,246	64,271
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>	<b>27,085</b>	<b>20,462</b>	<b>(49,996)</b>	<b>45,952</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>27,085</b>	<b>20,359</b>	<b>(49,996)</b>	<b>46,055</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
<b>Total funds as at 1 April 2024</b>	<b>81,368</b>	<b>61,009</b>	<b>61,403</b>	<b>15,348</b>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>108,453</b>	<b>81,368</b>	<b>11,407</b>	<b>61,403</b>

**LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136384

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# Accounts

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# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2024**



# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**gmcas**

Greater Merseyside Community  
Accountancy Service

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' Annual Report	2 to 9
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Statement of financial activities	12
Balance sheet	13
Statement of Cash Flows	14
Notes to the accounts	15 to 20

**Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

### **Review of progress and achievements**

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival (LAAF) was founded in 1998 by Taher Qassim and members of Liverpool's Yemeni community. Their aim was to increase awareness and appreciation of Arab arts and culture through participatory workshops introducing authentic music, language and dress to young people.

LAAF has since grown into a leading UK Arab arts organisation still driven by this ethos.

### **Objectives and Activities:**

The objectives are:

1. To advance the education of the public in Arab arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool
2. The advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

### **Vision**

To keep Arab arts, culture and heritage alive.

### **Mission**

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival creates a platform that educates, challenges and engages communities in Arab arts, culture and heritage across the UK and internationally.

### **Governance and Development**

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival's Board of Trustees bring a wealth of skills and experience in the arts and cultural industries, charitable sector, media, public health, digital development, environment, law and business development. They draw on their diverse local, national and international connections to advocate for LAAF. Trustees all have lived experience of Arab culture, having established deep connections to diverse international communities built on trust and respect. The Board have, and continue to undertake a range of training to support them in overseeing the organisation.

Trustees are kept regularly up to date via Board papers on specific areas of Management responsibility, governance or topics related to the nature of the charity's activities. The Board of Trustees meet quarterly and administer the charity and delegate policy and operational duties to the Director and staff team. Additional themed subgroup meetings are led by dedicated Board members and key staff who drive forward organisation strategic and operational development plans.

This year, Board members and staff have met on a regular basis and held subgroup meetings to plan the organisations strategic and operational priorities for 2023 – 2027. Board members have taken responsibility for leading on and embedding Arts Council Investment Principles of Ambition and Quality, Environmental Responsibility, Dynamism and Inclusivity and Relevance.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Notable Achievements

#### MENA Beats

The **Youth Music Trailblazer Grant** and **Culture Liverpool CAIP Funding** allowed us to reach out to young people of Arab / Middle Eastern and North African heritage who are underrepresented in the music industry - providing a platform for them to learn and develop their skills in DJing, mixing and production.

The driving motivation behind the project was to increase young people's access and opportunities to experience, perform and develop a wide range of skills from professional DJs; to curate contemporary music that is representative of them, their artistry, their generation and cultural heritage.

*"The project has helped me show other people who I am through DJing and music."*  
Young person involved in the project.

The initial idea for the project came about through consultation and research with young people who attended Liverpool Arabic Centre and Kaalmo Youth Development two community-based organisations that were instrumental in facilitating young people's participation in the project.

From March 2023 to October 2024, the project engaged 76 young people of Arab heritage and Global Majority, aged 11-24. The participants attended DJ workshops and masterclasses and had no prior music experience.

*"It's been so worth going to DJing sessions, learning and having fun, meeting new people and exploring my cultural heritage, it was worth everything."*  
Young person involved in the project

Twenty-four young people participated in three or more workshops and were mentored by professional DJs who supported them in developing specific technical production skills. We also facilitated visits to some of Liverpool's most iconic music venues.

*"It helped in so many ways, not just with music but also with my self-confidence."*  
Young person involved in the project.

Some of our young people performed at the 2024 Liverpool Arab Arts Festival VIP Launch and Family Day events. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to play their work to a live audience at a large-scale event for the very first time, utilising the skills they learnt from being involved in the project.

#### Community Participation

LCVS Community Impact Fund, Culture Liverpool CAIP funding and Arts Council England, supported the engagement of local people of Arab heritage in a wide range of workshops and activities, leading up to and during LAAF annual festival.

- Ten males participated in authentic Yemeni folk dance workshops as part of our Men's Health and Wellbeing activities, delivered in partnership with Liverpool Arabic Centre. The Men's dance group performed their traditional dance routines as part of LAAF Family Day at the Palm House.
- Over 250 children and parents attended our Arabic storytelling and culture crafts and activities workshops delivered in city centre venues and Sefton Park Palm House.

## Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

### Trustees' report continued

- We were proud to work in partnership with Habibti Liverpool and Liverpool Arabic Centre on our festival cultural food event **Bittersweet Yemen**. LAAFs founder and trustee Taher Qassim lead the project. 24 people participated in a guided food tour of three Yemeni eateries on Lodge Lane to experience the unique culinary flavours from different regions of Yemen. This event was inspired by the book ***Bittersweet: A Journey of Food and Yemen***, which is a photography book celebrating Yemen's vibrant culture and its diverse culinary heritage.

#### 2024 Festival

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival 2024 was held between Friday 12 – Sunday 21 July 2024. This year marked the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the organisation was founded in 1998. It was the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual festival in Liverpool.

The theme for 2024 was **Port Cities**, which featured 77 artists and 29 events across 8 venues in Liverpool and was supported by 33 partners.

#### Festival Events

##### Port Cities

In partnership and funded by **British Council – MENA**, we proudly launch our international visual arts project Port Cities. This exhibition premiere at Space Liverpool features newly commissioned work by artists Mohamed Abdelkarim, Laila Hida, Nadia Kaabi-Linke and Siska.

Situated where land meets sea, global port cities have unique characteristics. Their social, economic, political and cultural heritage is deeply connected to their roles as key centres for trade and migration. The artists visited Liverpool on a research residency in February 2024 to inform the development of new artworks critically exploring the past and future of port cities in both Liverpool and the Arab region.

From reflecting on Liverpool's slave trade legacies to the ecological impact of human activities, this exhibition presents new artistic perspectives on how ports have and continue to shape the character of cities, and how we connect across seas.

After premiering in Liverpool, the Port Cities exhibition will tour internationally to Tripoli, Lebanon; Alexandria, Egypt; Rabat, Morocco; and Tunis, Tunisia throughout 2024/25.

The artists were in Liverpool in February 2024 for a 10-day research residency. This research shaped the ideas and content for the work in the exhibition.

##### Port Cities Symposium

This artist-led event was held at Bluecoat and saw 20 people attending (including the artists and guest facilitator, Sarah James from LJMU). The 1-hour presentation format was well received as the audience was highly engaged in each of the four sessions. These were audio recorded by technicians from Bluecoat and can be archived as a potential source of research to the public.

*Written in 1950, it is, sadly, as relevant today as then, making Port Cities an urgent exhibition for our times.*  
– Mike Pinnington, The Double Negative, review of Port Cities

## Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

### Trustees' report continued

#### Lin Dabbous – ARTIVATOR Fellow

The project included the contribution of Lin Dabbous, ARTIVATOR Fellow in Art Curation. Based in Beirut, Lin was in Liverpool for install, playing a key role in the delivery of the exhibition. Lin stated that the experience was fantastic, with a significant hands-on learning trajectory.

#### Music

After a well-received performance at last year's Family Day, **The Ayoub Sisters** were invited for a sell-out solo performance at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall Music Room. Family Day was again our primary music showcase, featuring three acts and repeating twice.

#### Performance

After a sell-out performance at The Royal Court Studio in 2023, we welcomed back Arts Canteen with their **Arabs Are Not Funny** comedy night. The line-up featured comedians **Prince Abdi, Fatiha El-Ghorri, Janine Harouni** and **Maria Shehata**. It was another sell-out event, demonstrating the continued appetite for accessible events as part of the programme.

All key theatre performances were held at Unity Theatre. **ORANGES AND STONES** was a tour from Shubbak and Tamasha, performed by Ashtar Theatre. It is a play without words, told solely through physical action and original music that conveys a moving image of occupation and settlement in Palestine spanning over 75 years. The performance was sold out with a Q&A after the event.

Written by **Hassan Abdulrazzak**, directed by **Sepy Baghaei** and performed by **Laila Alj**, **Chambers of the Heart** debuted as a staged performance.

Attendance for all performances were excellent, representing a significant improvement on our 2023 performance programme ticket sales and box office income.

#### Film

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival and At The Library presented **Arab Film Night** a special summer evening of Arab film at the Plaza Community Cinema in Waterloo. Chosen films, selected in collaboration with actress, writer, presenter and founder of The Arab Film Club, **Sarah Agha**, and women from *The Colour of Pomegranates* group, were *Salma's Home* (main feature), *Siri Miri* and *Sous Les Soutanes* (short films).

Attendance was excellent, with over 60 attendees at the Plaza Community Cinema. At The Library ran a children's activities in Sefton Library for 12 children during the event, ensuring members of the community could attend. Free ticket offers for locals in Waterloo made the event accessible. There was an appetite for merchandise after the event.

On Monday 15 July we screened **At Home in Gaza and London**, which premiered at The Everyman Theatre during LAAF 2018 and connected Liverpool, London and Gaza. The event included messages from Gazan collaborators and was hosted by co-directors **Julian Maynard Smith** and **Taghrid Choucair-Vizoso**.

## **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

### **Trustees' report continued**

#### **Literature / Poetry**

It was a pleasure to work again with Professor Deryn Rees-Jones, who financially supported Janette Ayachi's event through The Centre for New and International Writing at the University of Liverpool. The event received exceptionally strong feedback. Janette feedback:

*"I had an incredible time at the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival & I was treated so well by the staff & I met some wonderfully inspiring people in the audience afterwards. It was also great to work with Deyrn - so thank you from the bottom of my heart. The event was a success, & one of the founders of LAAF spoke up during the Q & A & said that our event was what they had in mind for the festival when they started! It was very moving."*

#### **Volunteers**

We value having the support of 14 festival volunteers who gave their time to collating audience feedback surveys, event stewarding and support and artist and audience liaison.

Once again, LAAF's Board continue to significantly provide their time, expertise, experience and support throughout the year: thank you to Afrah Qassim (Chair), Hamdan Dammag (Vice Chair), Layla Maghribi, Taher Qassim and Sarah Scally.

#### **Cultural Education Programme**

Funded by QFI and Arts Council England. This year we have commissioned local Yemeni Scouse Poet, Amina Atiq, to develop a four to six week schools project aligned to our festival theme Port Cities. This collaboration has continued our commitment to increasing paid work opportunities for Arab creatives who are underrepresented in the arts and cultural industries, raises awareness of Arab arts and cultural, contributing to antiracism by increasing understanding and appreciation of Arab people.

Our ambition is to deliver our schools programme in locations outside of Liverpool. This year we have partnered with Tamadon to pilot a secondary school project in Sheffield. The five week project engaged 77 students in Arab arts and cultural activities including: calligraphy, authentic Arabic textiles and crafting. We will be exploring opportunities to develop the project to engage more schools and to provide career development opportunities for Arab creatives/artists.

#### **Partnerships**

The festival and community participation programme was delivered in close partnership with 33 organisations and partners across the UK and internationally. This support allows us to provide artists with the platform to reach audiences in Liverpool and beyond and provides underrepresented communities access and participation in excellent arts and culture.

#### **Out of festival programme**

Our ambition is to build on events and activities offered throughout the year. During this period we partnered with Savera UK programming Nawarra Dancer to perform and deliver a dance workshop at the International Women's Day event.

LAAF supported The British-Yemeni Society's AGM in late June 2024, which included a presentation on the book Bittersweet: A Journey of Food and Yemen. The event was a success and well received.

## **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

### **Trustees' report continued**

We were excited to partner with Kayd Somali Arts and Culture and Unity Theatre Liverpool to present Somali women's theatre piece, *Desperate Times*, a sell-out hit by emerging new writer Amal Abdi.

Storytelling from your heritage workshop with Cameroonian-Kuwaiti actor and performance-maker Colette Dalal Tchantcho to explore some foundational tools for using life experience to create performance material.

Algerian Dance Workshops, these interactive dance workshops, explored Algerian Folk dance with Hayet Amar – a specialist in North African traditional dance forms.

#### **International engagement**

LAAF chair and director participated in a 3-day British Council MENA gathering, in Edinburgh, along with 11 other festival directors from the MENA region and 7 UK festival directors, from Friday 9th to Sunday 11th August 2024. This initiative delved into the contemporary landscape of festival making, exploring new dynamics, opportunities, challenges, and avenues for growth and collaboration amidst the current climate in the region. We made strong connections with British Council colleagues, artists and festival leads across the MENA and the UK and have started following up on possible collaborations and initiatives.

#### **Environmental Responsibility**

As part of our Arts Council England Investment Principles plan, we developed a new Environmental Responsibility strand. This will lead the actions of the organisation moving forward, including improvements to policy and procedures.

For an international festival, we were proud that most artist travel in 2024 was made by train within the UK. This was due to working with UK-based artists, partners on tours and ways to limit the carbon emissions related with travel. We continue to prioritise holding meetings on Zoom and phone.

#### **Going Forward LAAF Aims to:**

- Continue to strengthen our artistic programme by commissioning new cross-artform and co-commissioned works that demonstrate international ambition.
- Build upon our community engagement work and create artistic programmes including co-creating projects and activities with and for our communities and young people.
- Support artist in touring commissioned work reaching new audiences.
- Continue our support for emerging artist and creatives with training and development programmes and commissioning of new work.
- Increase our work in creating awareness and appreciation of Arab cultures and people with delivery of our Cultural Education Programme in schools across Liverpool City Region and beyond.
- Build our staff team and capacity and support new and existing staff and board members to access training and development opportunities.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

### **Statement of Directors' responsibilities**

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial accounts 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 charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

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 responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board on 12th December 2024 and signed on behalf of the directors by:

  
Tahar Qassim  
Trustee

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**Charity number 1136384**

**A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925**

The trustees, who are the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Afrah Qassim	Chair	
Hamdan Dammag	Vice Chair	
T Qassim MBE		
Sarah Scally		
Layla Maghribi		

#### **Method of appointment**

Recruitment of new trustees is open, and focused on creating a diverse and effective Board

#### **Registered address**

The Bluecoat  
School Lane  
Liverpool  
L1 3BX

#### **Bankers**

HSBC  
99-101 Lord Street  
Liverpool  
L2 2AH

#### **Independent examiner**

**Jane Williams MAAT**

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

#### **Governing document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10th March 2010 as Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival and registered as a Charity on 16th June 2010.

The company was renamed Liverpool Arab Arts Festival on 21st February 2013. The governing instruments under which the charitable company operates comprise the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9th February 2010 together with the policies made from time to time by the Trustees.

Trustees provide governance of the organisation as unpaid volunteers. The board of trustees meets quarterly and administers the charity the board approve policy that is then implemented by the Director and the rest of the team. In addition to quarterly meetings LAAF trustees provide voluntary support to the operational team which enables the organisation to fulfil its aims and objectives.

LAAF values volunteer support and ensures the festival offers opportunities for people to gain experience in Volunteers are given the opportunity to gain experience in festival management, events production and marketing. translation, finance and general events administration.

#### **Objects of the organisation**

The objects of the charity are to advance the education of the public in Arabic arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool and;

the advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**Charity number 1136384**

**A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925**

#### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have reviewed cover for operational activities for three months. Based on current commitments LAAF will retain £50,000 in reserve and £10,000 to cover any exceptional cost or circumstances. Remainder of the unrestricted fund balance is allocated to festival and project running cost.

#### **Accountant**

**Jane Williams**

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

Beacon Building

College Street

St Helens

WA10 1TF

#### **Approval**

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, was approved by the trustees on 12 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

## **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 12 to 20

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

### **Basis of Independent examiner's statement**

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

have not been met; or

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



Jane Williams  
MAAT  
**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**  
Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

12th December 2024

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024	2024	2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	(4)	1,373	-	1,373	8,462
Income from charitable activities	(5)	200,912	110,223	311,135	163,559
Other incoming resources	(6)	4,911	-	4,911	3,344
Investment Income	(7)	13	-	13	3
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>207,209</u>	<u>110,223</u>	<u>317,432</u>	<u>175,368</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities	(8)	<u>186,747</u>	<u>64,271</u>	<u>251,018</u>	<u>186,168</u>
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		20,462	45,952	66,414	(10,800)
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<u>(103)</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		20,359	46,055	66,414	(10,800)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds as at 1 April 2023</b>		<u>61,009</u>	<u>15,348</u>	<u>76,357</u>	<u>87,157</u>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2024</b>	(8a)	<u>81,368</u>	<u>61,403</u>	<u>142,771</u>	<u>76,357</u>

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.  
All activities are regarded as continuing.  
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 15.  
The Notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Charity number 1136384**  
**A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925**  
**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2024**

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors and prepayments (11)	10,095	-	10,095	6,699
Cash at bank and in hand (12)	71,727	61,300	133,027	73,884
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>81,822</b>	<b>61,300</b>	<b>143,122</b>	<b>80,583</b>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Creditors (due within one year) (13)	351	-	351	4,226
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>4,226</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>81,471</b>	<b>61,300</b>	<b>142,771</b>	<b>76,357</b>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>				
Restricted Funds	-	61,403	61,403	15,348
Unrestricted funds	81,368	-	81,368	61,009
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>81,368</b>	<b>61,403</b>	<b>142,771</b>	<b>76,357</b>

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2024

the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and

the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act

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

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, were approved by the trustees on 12th December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Afrah Qassim  
Chair

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024**

	2024	2023
	Total	Total
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA	66,414	(10,800)
Depreciation	-	-
Investment income	(13)	(3)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5) (3,396)	3,908
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(3,875)	(2,193)
	<u>59,130</u>	<u>(9,088)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Investment income	(6) 13	3
<b>Net increase/(decrease in cash:</b>	59,143	(9,085)
<b>Total cash as at 1 April 2023</b>	<u>73,884</u>	<u>82,969</u>
<b>Total cash as at 31 March 2024</b>	<u>133,027</u>	<u>73,884</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2024**

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#### **1 Basis of preparation**

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,

1.1 with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:

- (a) The Charities Act 2011
- (b) The Companies Act 2006
- (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102

(d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2019)

1.2 The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102

1.3 The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **2 Accounting Policies**

##### **2.1 Fund accounting**

(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

(b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

(c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 8a.

##### **2.2 Income**

(a) Income is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the income; receipt is probable; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) Where income has related expenditure (e.g. projects), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

(c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.

(d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.

(e) Income, which is subject to conditions that the charity has yet to fulfil, or which is specifically for use in a future accounting period, is treated as deferred income.

##### **2.3 Expenditure and liabilities**

(a) Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.

(b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

(c) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.

(d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2024**

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#### **2.4 Tangible Fixed Assets**

(a) Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at their value on receipt.

Rates of depreciation

Building Improvements: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

#### **2.5 Debtors**

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

#### **2.6 Cash**

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### **2.7 Creditors**

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

#### **2.8 Taxation**

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

#### **3 Transactions with trustees and related parties**

No trustees received any expenses (note 13) during the accounting period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

4 Donations and legacies	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations	1,373	-	1,373	8,462
	<u>1,373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,373</u>	<u>8,462</u>
5 Income from charitable activities	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council Funding	200,912	-	200,912	112,024
Culture Liverpool Investment	-	14,250	14,250	14,250
LCRCA: Generations for Change	-	-	-	-
Yemen In Conflict	-	-	-	2,000
Granada Foundation	-	-	-	2,000
The Space CiC	-	-	-	8,618
PH Holt	-	-	-	5,000
The British Council	-	68,000	68,000	-
The National Foundation	-	26,573	26,573	-
LCVS CIF	-	1,400	1,400	-
Qatar Foundation International	-	-	-	19,667
	<u>200,912</u>	<u>110,223</u>	<u>311,135</u>	<u>163,559</u>
6 Other Incoming resources from charitable activities	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Other Income	45	-	45	-
Box Office	4,866	-	4,866	3,344
	<u>4,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,911</u>	<u>3,344</u>
7 Investment Income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Received	13	-	13	3
	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>8a Restricted funds summary</b>	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Culture Liverpool Investment	(812)	14,250	14,268	-	(830)
DCMS: Cultural Recovery Fund	(5)	-	-	5	-
Granada Foundation	53	-	-	(53)	-
Qatar Fdtn International	16,263	-	7,828	-	8,435
LCVS CIF	-	1,400	-	-	1,400
The National Fdtn Youth Music	-	26,573	16,737	-	9,836
The British Council	-	68,000	25,438	-	42,562
The Space CiC	(16)	-	-	16	-
PH Holt	2	-	-	(2)	-
University of Liverpool	(137)	-	-	137	-
	<u>15,348</u>	<u>110,223</u>	<u>64,271</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>61,403</u>

**Purpose of restricted funds**

Culture Liverpool contribution towards the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival.

Granada Foundation provided funding towards cultural workshops in schools.

Qatar Foundation International provided funding for schools cultural development project.

University of Liverpool funded our Yemen in conflict national project.

Arts Council Lottery Project Grants Live and Digital Project.

Department of Digital Culture, Media and Sport, Culture Recovery Fund. Safeguarding LAAF's cultural offer during Covid 19.

<b>9 Staff Costs</b>	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Wages and salaries	98,038	80,792
Social security costs	3,779	1,708
Pension contributions	1,342	1,239
	<u>103,159</u>	<u>83,739</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

2024	2023
<u>3.7</u>	<u>2.7</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

<b>10 Debtors and prepayments</b>	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors	10,095	6,699
	<u>10,095</u>	<u>6,699</u>
<b>11 Cash at bank and in hand</b>	2024	2023
	£	£
Current accounts	131,897	73,196
Credit card	-	-
Reserve account	721	708
Cash in hand	409	(20)
	<u>133,027</u>	<u>73,884</u>
<b>12 Creditors and accruals</b>	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors	351	4,226
	<u>351</u>	<u>4,226</u>
<b>13 Trustee remuneration and expenses</b>	2024	2023
	£	£
Total amount paid	418	2,812
	<u>418</u>	<u>2,812</u>

During the period two trustees received out of pocket expenses (2023: 2)

**14 Guarantees**

As at 31st March 2024, 5 members had given a guarantee of £10 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total: £50 (2023: 6 members, £60)

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Comparative Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**16 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>				
Income from donations	1,373	8,462	-	-
Income from charitable activities	200,912	114,024	110,223	49,535
Other incoming resources	4,911	3,344	-	-
Investment income	13	3	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>207,209</u>	<u>125,833</u>	<u>110,223</u>	<u>49,535</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	<u>186,747</u>	<u>125,916</u>	<u>64,271</u>	<u>60,252</u>
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>	20,462	(83)	45,952	(10,717)
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<u>(103)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	20,359	(83)	46,055	(10,717)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds as at 1 April 2023	<u>61,009</u>	<u>61,122</u>	<u>15,348</u>	<u>26,065</u>
Total funds as at 31 March 2024	<u>81,368</u>	<u>61,039</u>	<u>61,403</u>	<u>15,348</u>

**LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136384

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# Accounts

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# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2023**



# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**gmcas**

**Greater Merseyside Community  
Accountancy Service**

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' Annual Report	2 to 9
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Statement of financial activities	12
Balance sheet	13
Statement of Cash Flows	14
Notes to the accounts	15 to 20

**Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

### **Review of progress and achievements**

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival (LAAF) was founded in 1998 by Taher Qassim and members of Liverpool's Yemeni community. Their aim was to increase awareness and appreciation of Arab arts and culture through participatory workshops introducing authentic music, language and dress to young people.

LAAF has since grown into a leading UK Arab arts organisation still driven by this ethos.

### **Objectives and Activities:**

The objectives are:

1. To advance the education of the public in Arab arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool
2. The advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

### **Governance and Development**

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival's Board of Trustees bring a wealth of skills and experience in the arts and cultural industries, charitable sector, media, public health, digital development, environment, law and business development. They draw on their diverse local, national and international connections to advocate for LAAF. Trustees all have lived experience of Arab culture, having established deep connections to diverse international communities built on trust and respect. The Board have, and continue to undertake a range of training to support them in overseeing the organisation.

Trustees are kept regularly up to date via Board papers on specific areas of Management responsibility, governance or topics related to the nature of the charity's activities. The Board of Trustees meet quarterly and administer the charity and delegate policy and operational duties to the Director and staff team. Additional themed subgroup meetings are led by dedicated Board members and key staff who drive forward organisation strategic and operational development plans.

This year, Board members and staff have met on a regular basis and held subgroup meetings to plan the organisations strategic and operational priorities for 2023 – 2026. Board members have taken responsibility for leading on and embedding Arts Council Investment Principles of Ambition and Quality, Environmental Responsibility, Dynamism and Inclusivity and Relevance. A Board Away Day in September 2023 enabled Trustees to reflect and map out organisational plans for the coming year.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Notable Achievements

- Awarded Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation funding with an uplift to increase festival capacity and new commissions.
- Received continuation funding from Culture Liverpool.
- Secured Youth Music Funding for a new innovative programme for young people.
- Continued LAAF communities and Cultural Education Programme with the support of QFI, Granada Foundation and PH Holt.
- 10-day International festival featuring 112 artists and 31 events
- Increased International profile and new networks with visits to Lebanon and Egypt
- Securing British Council support for 2023-24 Port Cities project
- Conducted staff pay review, structure and recruitment of new posts.
- Board members and Staff participation in training and skills development.

### 2023 Festival

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival 2023 was held between Thursday 6 – Sunday 16 July 2023. This year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the organisation was founded in 1998. It was the 21<sup>st</sup> annual festival in Liverpool.

The theme for 2023 was **حكاوي Hakawati**, which means storyteller, and describes a person who can draw people in with their tale. Storytelling has a strong tradition in Arab culture.

The festival featured 112 artists from across the Arab region and beyond in 31 authentically Arab events, ranging from large family celebrations to intimate artist-led workshops.

We invited Arab artists and those of Arab heritage to explore how their stories have shaped them, how they are crafting their own stories through song, theatre, dance, performance, literature and visual art, and how it relates to modern Arab identity.

### Festival Events

#### Music

The festival formally launched on Friday 7 July with a gig by British-Somali singer-songwriter **Aar Maanta** at Liverpool Philharmonic Music Room. Aar was a headliner at last year's Family Day and was warmly received. The programming built on this, and in dialogue with representatives from Liverpool's Somali community.

Emerging musical talent **Nxdia** was booked to support Aar. Nxdia blends Arabic and English seamlessly in bright but introspective pop tracks. The alternative-pop singer-songwriter from Manchester was born in Egypt, and her early memories growing up in Cairo are of living next to a cinema, an early inspiration for her creativity.

The award-winning Syrian composer and musician, **Maya Youssef** brought her globally acclaimed album, *Finding Home*, to the festival in what was a stunning and intimate performance with the Maya Youssef Ensemble and the Ensemble of St Luke's. The event was sold-out with a highly engaged audience.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Performance

We booked three consecutive nights at Unity Theatre during the second week of the festival.

Writers **Ahmed Masoud** and **Farah Chamma** presented an experimental new performance, presented *Passports, Mo Salah, Jinn and Other Complicated Things* both live and digitally, work exploring Palestinian identity beyond borders at Unity Theatre. Originally pitched as a live performance featuring both artists, Farah Chamma was unfortunately unable to perform due to personal reasons. The performance was redeveloped with audio/visual producer, Liev, to reflect new status.

*Self-Entitlement* by **Mahmoud El Haddad**. Former LAAF Board member and Festival Programmer, Anahid Kassabian, started conversations with Haddad in 2018/19. This performance was a delayed presentation which the LAAF creative team supported over the course of 18-month. The piece was a powerful performance and extremely well-received. During his stay in Liverpool, Haddad also delivered a workshop '*An introduction to Raks Baladl*' at VideOdyssey.

*what the dog said to the harvest* was a groundbreaking call for climate justice drawing on opera, dance, spoken word, immersive sound and film. Featuring **Ilsa Iuxx**, **Jasmin Kent Rodgman** and an ensemble of 13 other creatives, this powerful multimedia performance captivated audience. Presented in association with Shubbak and Bagri Foundation.

While attendance for all events was around 40-50 capacity, each event were extremely well-received with strong positive audience feedback. This demonstrated challenge of midweek programming, but also raised the question regarding budget with key weekend dates.

### Visual art

The highlight of the visual art programme was the launch of *And still, it remains* a newly commissioned film from LAAF by the artist filmmakers Arwa Aburawa and Turab Shah.

Between 1960 and 1966, France tested and detonated a series of nuclear bombs in the Algerian desert. These explosions poisoned the land with radioactive material, inflicting devastating – and permanent – ecological and humanitarian harm. In 2021, radioactive sand from the Sahara was blown from the Algerian desert back to France by sweeping winds. This meteorological event served as a reminder that the environmental legacies of colonialism cannot be forgotten or contained. Filmed in a village in the Algerian Sahara, the work features interviews with residents who are surrounded by ancient rock art and the legacies of these tests. Exploring their own migration to the area, and the impacts of the nuclear tests, Aburawa and Shah's film asks how people live with the afterlife of toxic colonialism? The commission was supported using funds from Arts Council England.

### Comedy

After a hiatus of over 5-years, we featured a comedy night as part of the festival programme. **Arts Canteen** presented a special edition of *Arabs Are Not Funny*, featuring **Esther Manito**, **Fatiha El-Ghorri**, **Farah Sharp** and **Talal Karkouti**. The event packed out the Royal Court Studio with a richly diverse audience and electric atmosphere, highlighting the appetite for comedy events.

## **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

### **Trustees' report continued**

#### **Film**

In partnership with SAFAR Film Festival, we held the UK premiere of **The Last Queen** in Storyhouse in Chester on Sunday 9 July. This was the first festival event held outside of Liverpool, and our first in Chester. Attendance was low for the film, with warm weather potentially impacting walk-ups.

#### **Literature / spoken word**

We held Mona Kareem's poetry event **I Will Not Fold These Maps** at LUSH Liverpool. The event was a touring event with the Poetry Translation Centre in London. 16 highly engaged attendees for a vibrant event. The mix of English and Arabic questions was welcome, but highlighted need for an interpreter to support the speakers as not to place additional burden on the speakers.

Literature events continue to average between an audience between 10-20 during festival periods. However, these events represent an important bridge between English and Arabic languages.

We were also pleased to support the launch event for *Our Dreams of Jasmine* is a multi-lingual publication, and co-produced sound piece, containing a collection of love poems selected by women with experience of migration and written by artist **Jessica El Mal**. The event was in collaboration with sound producer Yasmineen Soudani, musician and vocalist Rita Kamale, co-producers Sohaila Mirzai, Shefaa, Aliya, Ayana, Fatimeh Al Sabty, Reem Alazemi, Fatima Aidarous, Soulaf Al Kort, and literary translator Noussaiba Roussi. An Associate event with At The Library.

#### **The British-Yemeni Society 30th celebration event**

We were honoured to be hosting the first **British-Yemeni Society** meeting outside of London during this year's festival. 2023 marks the 30th anniversary since the British-Yemeni Society was founded. An afternoon of exhibitions by **Oxfam** and **Claire Dunn** and an enlightening talk in celebration of Yemen by **Ianthe Mary MacLagan**, were held at the Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool.

#### **Street performance**

**Taroo** by **Company Zid / Said Mouhssine** is a Parkour and circus comedy show telling stories from streets all over the world. With a fusion of acrobatics, Chinese pole and urban street moves, this show is not all that it seems. The performance took place in front of large crowds at Liverpool ONE, although inclement weather meant the second performance was unable to take place. Presented in association with Crying Out Loud and Shubbak Festival.

#### **Family and Participation**

The first weekend at **World Museum Liverpool** was a successful afternoon. World Museum team were highly supportive from the beginning, resulting a highly successful afternoon. Workshops included: Yalla Nerky: Interactive Storytelling with **Hadl Badi** for children aged 4-8 years, Henna Hands family workshop with **Layla Gibliru**, three Dabke sessions with **Fares Farraj**, a comedy workshop with **Esther Manito**, and MENA Beats taster session DJ workshop.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

We returned to Bluecoat for an afternoon of music, hands-on workshops and storytelling for families. Unfortunately, the day was hit by wet weather conditions, which meant the cancellation of planned outdoor DJ sets in the garden. Dabke with Fares Farraj, storytelling with **LibLib Publishing** and music workshops with **Ahmed Mukhtar** and **Ruba Hillawi**.

Family Day closed the festival on Sunday 16 July at Sefton Park Palm House. Despite unseasonably strong winds and rain resulting in outdoor tents and activities being cancelled, the event was once again a huge success with a fantastic atmosphere. Artists and partners featured included: **The Ayoub Sisters**, **Simo Lagnwal Gnawa London**, **Abdelkader Saddoun**, **Nawarra Dancer**, **Yemeni Band**, **Jacques Malchance**, **Liverpool Arabic Centre**, and presentations for *A Day In the Life* poetry competition in partnership with **Liverpool Hope University**.

### Volunteers

We value having the support of 16 festival volunteers who gave their time to collating audience feedback surveys, event stewarding and support and audience liaison.

Once again, LAAF's Board continue to significantly provide their time, expertise, experience and support throughout the year: thank you to **Afrah Qassim** (Chair), **Hamdan Dammag** (Vice Chair), **Layla Maghribi**, **Taher Qassim** and **Sarah Scally**. Thanks to outgoing Trustee **Zoe Lafferty** for her excellent contribution to the organisation and programme during her time with LAAF.

### Cultural Education Programme

Funded by QFI and Granada Foundation, LAAF Cultural Education Programme continues to contribute to increasing paid work opportunities for Arab creatives who are underrepresented in the arts and cultural industries, raises awareness of Arab arts and cultural, contributing to anti-racism by increasing understanding and appreciation of Arab people and the diaspora and supporting Arab people gain a sense of belonging and cultural pride.

The Cultural Education Programme has worked with 6 artists to develop workshops to be delivered in Primary and Secondary schools in the Liverpool City Region. Artist genres include music, dance, visual art, poetry/spoken word and storytelling.

### New Income and Funding

Our core artistic, community engagement and education programmes were funded by Arts Council England, Culture Liverpool, Liverpool City Council, Granada Foundation, QFI, Al Omar Family and PH Holt Foundation.

We were delighted to be awarded Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation status between 2023-26. This includes a funding uplift to support organisational growth and artistic commissioning in the period.

LAAF's *MENA Beats* project will offer dedicated opportunities for young people aged 12 – 25 to experience the basics of DJing and music production from experts. It aims to provide young people of Arab heritage to develop DJing skills, mixing Western and Arab music to create contemporary sounds that are representative of their generation. Funded by Youth Music, weekly workshops and specialist sessions will be held across 2023 and 2024.

*Port Cities* is a new international visual arts project by Liverpool Arab Arts Festival in partnership with the British Council. We will commission four Arab visual artists to develop new artwork that will explore the future of port cities of Liverpool and within the Middle East and North Africa region. We received £68,000 for this project. It will run from September 2023 – December 2024. This project will be the flagship project for our 2024 festival.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Partnerships

The festival programme was delivered in close partnership with 28 organisations and partners across the UK and internationally. This support allows us to provide artists with the platform to reach audiences in Liverpool and beyond.

In the next year, we are exploring new International partnerships to build on recent visits. Taher Qassim visited Lebanon for the British Council's In Between Festival in November 2022. Head of Programme attended Arab Arts Focus and D-CAF in Cairo in October. Both visits led to new international partnerships and increased visibility for the organisation in the region.

Liverpool Arabic Centre (LAC), our community partners, planned and delivered arts and cultural activities during LAAF family day. We will be working with LAC and Merseyside Somali Association to deliver Youth Music Funded *MENA Beats* Project.

Following the success of last year, we have continued to work in partnership with Liverpool Hope University on a second edition of *A Day In the Life* Poetry competition for aspiring Arab writers.

### Marketing and Digital Reach

UK and International media coverage. Key media platforms included BBC Radio 3 and 6, BBC News, The National.

The festival secured 34 pieces of individual print, online and radio coverage from UK and international media platforms including BBC Radio 3 and 6, BBC News, The National, and Liverpool Echo.

LAAF website received 23,084 individual visits and 32,572 sessions (1 April 2022 – 10 October 2023).

Social media figures continue to increase across all platforms: Facebook Page Followers: 10,464. Instagram Followers: 3,152. Twitter Followers: 3,638. TikTok Followers: 250. YouTube Subscribers: 220

### Environmental Responsibility

We continue to place strong emphasis on developing our commitment to Environmental Responsibility in all strands of our work. For the second year running, our outdoor festival events in our July were impacted by intense and seemingly weather conditions. This is significant and reflects the speed of climate breakdown.

As part of our Arts Council England Investment Principles plan, we developed a new Environmental Responsibility strand. This will lead the actions of the organisation moving forward, including improvements to policy and procedures.

We hosted two climate works as part of our 2023 festival: Arwa Aburawa and Turab Shah's new commission *And still, it remains*, and the performance of *what the dog said to the harvest*. All exhibitions were made using recycled or reusable materials.

For an international festival, we were proud that most artist travel in 2023 was made by train within the UK. This was due to working with UK-based artists, partners on tours and ways to limit the carbon emissions related with travel. We continue to prioritise holding meetings on Zoom and phone.

The data from our 2023 festival will provide the first robust dataset related to audience travel since the Covid-19 pandemic. The analysis of these findings will support us to improve our environmental messaging, venue bookings and reducing the carbon impact of audience travel.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Going Forward LAAF Aims to:

- Strengthen our artistic programme by commissioning new cross-artform works that demonstrate international ambition.
- Support artist in touring commissioned work reaching new audiences.
- Continue our support for emerging artist and creatives with training and development programmes and commissioning of new work.
- Continue to develop our community engagement work and create artistic programmes with and for our communities and young people.
- Take our Cultural Education Programme to schools in Liverpool City Region and beyond.
- Support new team members in settling in the organisation and support new and existing staff and board members to access training and development opportunities.

### Statement of Directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial accounts 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 charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

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 responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board on 14th December 2023 and signed on behalf of the directors by:



Tahar Qassim  
Trustee

## Reference and Administrative Details

### Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

The trustees, who are the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Name	Position	Dates
Afrah Qassim	Chair	
Hamdan Dammag	Vice Chair	
T Qassim MBE		
Ms Zoe Delemere Lafferty		resigned 23rd September 2023
Sarah Scally		
Layla Maghribi		

#### Method of appointment

Recruitment of new trustees is open, and focused on creating a diverse and effective Board

#### Registered address

The Bluecoat  
School Lane  
Liverpool  
L1 3BX

#### Bankers

HSBC  
99-101 Lord Street  
Liverpool  
L2 2AH

#### Independent examiner

Jane Williams MAAT  
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service  
Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

#### Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10th March 2010 as Liverpool Arab Arts Festival and registered as a Charity on 16th June 2010.

The company was renamed Liverpool Arab Arts Festival on 21st February 2013. The governing instruments under which the charitable company operates comprise the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9th February 2010 together with the policies made from time to time by the Trustees.

Trustees provide governance of the organisation as unpaid volunteers. The board of trustees meets quarterly and administers the charity the board approve policy that is then implemented by the Director and the rest of the team. In addition to quarterly meetings LAAF trustees provide voluntary support to the operational team which enables the organisation to fulfil its aims and objectives.

LAAF values volunteer support and ensures the festival offers opportunities for people to gain experience. In Volunteers are given the opportunity to gain experience in festival management, events production and marketing, translation, finance and general events administration.

#### Objects of the organisation

The objects of the charity are to advance the education of the public in Arabic arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool and;

the advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**Charity number 1136384**

**A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925**

#### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have reviewed cover for operational activities for three months. Based on current commitments LAAF will retain £30,000 in reserve and £10,000 to cover any exceptional cost or circumstances. Remainder of the unrestricted fund balance is allocated to festival and project running cost.

#### **Accountant**

**Jane Williams**

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

Beacon Building

College Street

St Helens

WA10 1TF

#### **Approval**

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, was approved by the trustees on 14th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

## **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on pages 12 to 20

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

### **Basis of Independent examiner's statement**

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams  
MAAT  
**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**  
Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

14th December 2023

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	(4)	8,462	-	8,462	500
Income from charitable activities	(5)	114,024	49,535	163,559	231,894
Other incoming resources	(6)	3,344	-	3,344	2,003
Investment income	(7)	3	-	3	1
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>125,833</b>	<b>49,535</b>	<b>175,368</b>	<b>234,398</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities	(8)	125,916	60,252	186,168	248,740
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		<b>(83)</b>	<b>(10,717)</b>	<b>(10,800)</b>	<b>(14,342)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(83)</b>	<b>(10,717)</b>	<b>(10,800)</b>	<b>(14,342)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds as at 1 April 2022</b>		<b>61,122</b>	<b>26,035</b>	<b>87,157</b>	<b>101,499</b>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2023</b>	(8a)	<b>61,039</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>76,357</b>	<b>87,157</b>

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.  
All activities are regarded as continuing.  
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 15.  
The Notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

## Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2023

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors and prepayments	(11) 6,699	-	6,699	10,607
Cash at bank and in hand	(12) 58,566	15,318	73,884	82,969
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>65,265</u>	<u>15,318</u>	<u>80,583</u>	<u>93,576</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Creditors (due within one year)	(13) 4,226	-	4,226	6,419
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>4,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,226</u>	<u>6,419</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>61,039</u>	<u>15,318</u>	<u>76,357</u>	<u>87,157</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>				
Restricted Funds	-	15,318	15,318	26,035
Unrestricted funds	61,039	-	61,039	61,122
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>61,039</u>	<u>15,318</u>	<u>76,357</u>	<u>87,157</u>

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2023

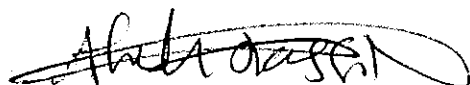
the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and

the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act

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

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, were approved by the trustees on 14th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Afrah Qassim  
Chair

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2023**

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA	(10,800)	(14,342)
Depreciation	-	-
Investment Income	(3)	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5) 3,908	13,510
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(2,193)	1,491
	<u>(9,088)</u>	<u>659</u>
 <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Investment income	(6) 3	-
	<u>(9,085)</u>	<u>659</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease in cash:</b>		
<b>Total cash as at 1 April 2022</b>	<u>82,969</u>	<u>82,310</u>
<b>Total cash as at 31 March 2023</b>	<u>73,884</u>	<u>82,969</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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#### **1 Basis of preparation**

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,

- 1.1 with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:
- (a) The Charities Act 2011
  - (b) The Companies Act 2006
  - (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102
  - (d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2015)
- 1.2 The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102
- 1.3 The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **2 Accounting Policies**

##### **2.1 Fund accounting**

- (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 8a.

##### **2.2 Income**

- (a) Income is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the income; receipt is probable; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (b) Where income has related expenditure (e.g. projects), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) Income, which is subject to conditions that the charity has yet to fulfil, or which is specifically for use in a future accounting period, is treated as deferred income.

##### **2.3 Expenditure and liabilities**

- (a) Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- (b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.
- (c) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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#### **2.4 Tangible Fixed Assets**

(a) Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at their value on receipt.

Rates of depreciation

Building Improvements: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

#### **2.5 Debtors**

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

#### **2.6 Cash**

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### **2.7 Creditors**

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

#### **2.8 Taxation**

The charity is not liable to Income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

### **3 Transactions with trustees and related parties**

No trustees received any expenses (note 13) during the accounting period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>4 Donations and legacies</b>	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Donations	8,462	-	8,462	500
	<u>8,462</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,462</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>5 Income from charitable activities</b>	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Arts Council Funding	112,024	-	112,024	112,024
Culture Liverpool Investment	-	14,250	14,250	14,250
LCRCA: Generations for Change	-	-	-	12,437
Yemen In Conflict	2,000	-	2,000	5,248
Granada Foundation	-	2,000	2,000	-
The Space CIC	-	8,618	8,618	-
PH Holt	-	5,000	5,000	-
DCMS: Cultural Recovery Fund	-	-	-	38,787
Arts Council: Lottery Project Grants	-	-	-	39,148
Qatar Foundation International	-	19,667	19,667	10,000
	<u>114,024</u>	<u>49,535</u>	<u>163,559</u>	<u>231,894</u>
<b>6 Other incoming resources from charitable activities</b>	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Box Office	3,344	-	3,344	2,003
	<u>3,344</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,344</u>	<u>2,003</u>
<b>7 Investment Income</b>	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Bank Interest Received	3	-	3	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

8a Restricted funds summary	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Culture Liverpool Investment	(805)	14,250	14,257	-	(812)
DCMS: Cultural Recovery Fund	(5)	-	-	-	(5)
Granada Foundation	53	2,000	2,000	-	53
LCRCA: Generations for change	7,218	-	7,218	-	-
Qatar Fdtn International	14,234	19,667	17,638	-	16,263
The Space CIC	-	8,618	8,634	-	(16)
PH Holt	-	5,000	4,998	-	2
University of Liverpool	5,340	-	5,507	-	(167)
	<u>26,035</u>	<u>49,535</u>	<u>60,252</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,318</u>

**Purpose of restricted funds**

Culture Liverpool contribution towards the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival.  
Granada Foundation provided funding towards cultural workshops in schools.  
Qatar Foundation International provided funding for schools cultural development project.  
University of Liverpool funded our Yemen in conflict national project.  
Arts Council Lottery Project Grants Live and Digital Project.  
Department of Digital Culture, Media and Sport, Culture Recovery Fund. Safeguarding LAAFs cultural offer during Covid 19.

9 Staff Costs	2023 £	2022 £
Gross Wages and salaries	80,792	104,342
Social security costs	1,708	4,590
Pension contributions	1,239	1,751
	<u>83,739</u>	<u>110,683</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

2023	2022
<u>2.7</u>	<u>2.7</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>10 Debtors and prepayments</b>		
Debtors	6,699	10,607
	<u>6,699</u>	<u>10,607</u>
<b>11 Cash at bank and in hand</b>		
Current accounts	73,196	82,403
Credit card	-	(182)
Reserve account	708	705
Cash in hand	(20)	42
	<u>73,884</u>	<u>82,969</u>
<b>12 Creditors and accruals</b>		
Creditors	4,226	6,419
	<u>4,226</u>	<u>6,419</u>
<b>13 Trustee remuneration and expenses</b>		
Total amount paid	2,812	96
	<u>2,812</u>	<u>96</u>

During the period two trustees received out of pocket expenses (2022: 1)

During the period the board approved for one trustee to receive payment to support the production of a digital project. The project required specialist skills set to complete the project within a tight deadline and this was agreed as the best option.

**14 Guarantees**

As at 31st March 2023, 6 members had given a guarantee of £10 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total: £60 (2022: 6 members, £60)

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Comparative Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**16 Comparative Income and expenditure by fund type**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>				
Income from donations	8,462	500	-	-
Income from charitable activities	114,024	117,272	49,535	114,622
Other incoming resources	3,344	2,003	-	-
Investment income	3	1	-	-
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<b>125,833</b>	<b>119,776</b>	<b>49,535</b>	<b>114,622</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	125,916	115,468	60,252	133,272
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>	<b>(83)</b>	<b>4,308</b>	<b>(10,717)</b>	<b>(18,650)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(83)</b>	<b>4,308</b>	<b>(10,717)</b>	<b>(18,650)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds as at 1 April 2022	61,122	56,766	26,035	44,685
Total funds as at 31 March 2023	61,039	61,074	15,318	26,035

**LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136384

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# Accounts

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# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2022**



**gmcas**

Greater Merseyside Community  
Accountancy Service

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' Annual Report	2 to 9
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the accounts	14 to 19

**Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

### **Review of progress and achievements**

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival (LAAF) was founded in 1998 by Taher Qassim and members of Liverpool's Yemeni community. Their aim was to increase awareness and appreciation of Arab arts and culture through participatory workshops introducing authentic music, language and dress to young people.

LAAF has since grown into a leading UK Arab arts organisation still driven by this ethos.

### **Objectives and Activities:**

The objectives are:

1. To advance the education of the public in Arab arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool
2. The advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support, encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

### **Governance and Development**

We are excited to welcome Layla Maghribi and Sarah Scally to the Board of Trustees, and Hamdan Dammag to the role of Vice Chair. LAAF's Board is both Arab and female-led in representation. Trustees bring a wealth of skills and experience in the arts and cultural industries, charitable sector, media, public health, digital development, environment, law and business development. They draw on their diverse local, national & international connections to advocate for LAAF. Trustees all have lived experience of Arab culture, having established deep connections to diverse international communities built on trust & respect.

During this reporting period LAAF's Board and staff have met on a regular basis and worked closely to review and refresh the organisation business plan and budgets. They have set out priorities and SMART objectives for the next 24 months.

The organisational Mission and Vision was reviewed at the annual board and staff away day. The following new Mission and Vision was agreed capturing the current and future aspirations of the organisation:

## **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

### **Trustees' report continued**

**LAAF's mission is to create a platform that educates, challenges & engages communities in Arab arts & culture across the UK & Internationally.**

**Our vision is to keep Arab arts, heritage & culture alive.**

We achieve this by bringing diverse groups of people together, increasing public knowledge and understanding of Arab culture, changing perceptions.

#### **Achievements**

We support Arab artists from the UK and internationally. LAAF has developed a track record of championing underrepresented Arab creative talent, providing essential early career support & dismantling cultural barriers. We place emphasis on actively connecting audiences & artists, ranging from post-show Q&As to artist residencies. LAAF's artistic and education programmes aim to support UK Arabs in developing a sense of pride, belonging and inclusion, while offering a vital creative platform for a new generation of Arab creatives based outside of London.

#### **Extended 2021 festival**

We have developed a partnership with Liverpool Philharmonic in the programming and presentation of several events (Saeed Slibak's *Songs from Palestine* featured as part of our extended 2021 festival) This included partnering with Africa Oyé to bring high profile Somali group, Dur Dur Band to the Liverpool Philharmonic Music Room. Both events had a full house and so well received by audiences. In the same weekend, we supported FACT to deliver the performance of Larissa Sansour's Palestinian Opera performance at the new Tung Auditorium at the University of Liverpool.

In October we held our third collaboration with OUTPUT Gallery brought Zackereia Bakir's first gallery exhibition, which explores what it means to be a dual Libyan/British national, playfully navigating the tensions and contradictions between two cultural identities. We partnered with Homotopia and Saqi Books to commission three artists who are part of anthology. *This Arab is Queer*. Laura Brown is chairing an associated event during Homotopia Festival.

#### **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival 2022**

Our 2022 festival marked the first 10-day live festival since the Covid-19 pandemic hit in early 2020.

After a 10-day digital festival in 2020 and an extended festival that took place across five months in 2021, this year's festival opened with a festival launch event with N3rdistan on Thursday 7 July. It ended with the return of the popular Family Day event at Sefton Park Palm House on Sunday 17 July.

This year was significant as it marked 20 years since the first Liverpool Arab Arts Festival was held in Liverpool in 2002. For two decades, LAAF has provided a platform for Arab art and culture, celebrating Arab artists across a range of artforms including music, performance, theatre, literature, spoken word, visual art and more.

## Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

### Trustees' report continued

Our festival theme for 2022 was نقطة وصل Nuqtat Wasl – A Point of Connection. The programme looked at the ways that cultures, ideas and heritage connect. A diverse range of events explored this through translation to how the recontextualisation of archives and historical documents can generate new meanings across generations. The theme was well-received by the media in interviews.

The festival was held across Liverpool and online between Thursday 7 – Sunday 17 July. We worked with 86 artists over the festival period. This included artists participating as part of the exhibitions.

The programme included:

Live music performances (N3rdistan, London Syrian Ensemble, Aar Maanta, Gazelleband, TootArd, DJ Sallah, Al Awahdal Band)

Major family event (Family Day)

Live talks (Impressions from an Archive talk)

Online talks (Working with Family Archives from North Africa)

Digital works (ARTISTS / IDEAS / NOW podcasts x3, Melodic Distractions radio shows x4)

Films (Luxor, Talking About Trees)

Visual art exhibitions (Impressions from an Archive, Father Tongue, Yemen in Conflict x5 sites)

Live participatory workshops (Ali Al-Jamri x3, Exploring Al-Idrisi with Jessica El Mal x2; Tarek Mourad printmaking workshop, Arabic Song workshop with Camille Maalaway; A Journey to Yemen)

Online workshops (Working with Family Archives, an Encounter)

Performance event (Curfew)

Literature / spoken word events (A Journey to Yemen, A Lovely Word, Egypt +100)

Books produced (*Tomorrow Will Shine: Stories of Hope from the Yemen in Conflict project*; *Impressions from an Archive catalogue*)

#### **Total individual festival events**

**Total number of newly commissioned works** (Impressions from an Archive x19 prints; Father Tongue; Fatima Zahra Benhamza prints x3; Yemen In Conflict x20 poems displayed visually through posters, banners and vinyl wall mounts; ARTISTS / IDEAS / NOW podcasts x3, Melodic Distraction x4)

**Premieres:** Yemen in Conflict x5; Impressions from an Archive, Father Tongue; Curfew.

**Q&A's:** Impression from an Archive talk; Father Tongue poetry workshop; Working with Family Archives, an Encounter, Tarek Mourad workshop; Ali Al-Jamri workshops x3; A Journey to Yemen.

**Bilingual events** Egypt +100, A Journey to Yemen

## **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

### **Trustees' report continued**

#### **Community and Education Programme**

Reflecting our strong community roots, LAAF's education work is embedded within local and national communities. We deliver specialist workshops and arts programmes that engage often socially and culturally isolated young and people. Our Cultural Education Programme has engaged children with authentic Arab arts and culture – often for the first time.

This programme makes a significant contribution to increasing paid work opportunities for Arab creatives who are underrepresented in the arts and cultural industries, raises awareness of Arab arts and cultural, contributing to antiracism by increasing understanding and appreciation of Arab people and the diaspora and supporting Arab people gain a sense of belonging and cultural pride

The Cultural Education Programme has worked with 6 artists to develop workshops to be delivered in Primary and Secondary schools in the Liverpool City Region. Artist genres include music, dance, visual art, poetry/spoken word and storytelling.

The project has engaged with 1,290 children (57 workshops in 14 schools), all who have been introduced to Arabic language and aspects of Arab culture.

One of the highlights of the 2022 festival was the return of participatory workshops since 2019. The appetite was clear, with most events booking out and excellent feedback. Camille Maalway's Arabic singing workshop was a huge success at Merseyside Yemeni Community Association. Poet Ali Al-Jamari delivered poetry workshops with young people in Manchester and Liverpool Arabic Centre, the work was exhibited and used to inspire young people taking part in workshops during LAAF family day. Elias Mattar joined LAAF for the first time and delivered interactive storytelling sessions for 46 children and young people.

LAAF worked with Liverpool Hope University on a new collaboration *A Day in the Life* Poetry competition for aspiring young Arab writers. Awards were presented at the family day and plans are underway to build on the programme for 2023.

After being delayed in 2020 due to the pandemic, we were finally able to hold the Yemen in Conflict community project exhibition across various sites in Liverpool. Participants who contributed to the project with work they produced as part of their participation in the project, saw their poems exhibited in: Merseyside Yemeni Community Association, Liverpool ONE, Toxteth Library, University of Liverpool, School of Law & Social Justice and News from Nowhere, window display

Poems from the project are now available in a publication *Tomorrow Will Shine: Poems from the "Yemen in Conflict" Project*

#### **Volunteers**

We value the significant contribution volunteers make to LAAF. This year we have had the support of 15 festival volunteers and 4 volunteers supporting work in the community. We were excited to welcome back volunteers who have supported LAAF on an annual basis and newly recruited volunteers who travelled from as far afield as London to be part of LAAF's volunteer delivery team. Our Cultural Education Producer will be working on developing LAAF volunteer programme to offer meaningful opportunities throughout the year.

Members of LAAF's board of Trustees go above and beyond to support the staff team. Taher Qassim, Hamdan Dammag and Zoe Lafferty have volunteered a significant amount of their time to supporting the development and delivery of LAAF community programmes and online digital events.

## **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival Trustees' report continued**

### **Marketing and Digital Reach**

This year's festival attracted media and press coverage that reached UK and global audiences. 4 film pieces featured on BBC Arabic primetime news. 4 interviews live on BBC Merseyside featuring festival team and Board, Print feature on Curfew and the festival in Big Issue North and coverage in Arab press including Middle East Eye and The National and Family Day covered in BBC News.

The festival achieved 64 pieces of coverage: Total number of online, offline and social clips and 93,200,000 Audience: combined total of publication-wide audience figures for all outlets featuring coverage.

We have seen a growth in our social media followers and visits to LAAF website are the highest we have recorded.

LAAF website (1 April - 7 Sept 22) Users 8758 Page views 25,815  
Sessions 13,087

Social Media, Facebook Page Likes: 9,901 Instagram 2,547 followers Twitter 3,493 followers TikTok 92 followers YouTube 168 subscribers 926 views Artists | Ideas | Now Podcast 50 downloads.

### **Partnerships**

We continue to build strong working relationships with local, national and international organisations. This year we have valued being able to deliver our festival and projects with support from partner organisations. Partners contribute in-kind support to LAAF, provide valuable network support and/or host LAAF events and projects.

### **New Income/Funding**

Much of our increased programming and project development has been made possible by the support of existing funders Arts Council England, Culture Liverpool, Granada Foundation, Al Omar Family and QFI and PH Holt Foundation, Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Culture Recovery Fund, Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants.

We forecast an increase in donations with the support of Lush UK choosing LAAF as one of their featured organisations for their charity giving pot scheme. Being back at the Palm House for Family Day provides us with the opportunity of generating donations from local traders and organisations who attend the event for promotional purposes and a valued donation from Unison.

We will be applying to Heritage Lottery Fund to generate the funds to implement a community programme researching and mapping the history of LAAF and funding from SPACE will provide us with the capacity to build an exciting Arab artist-led podcast series exploring climate emergency in Middle East, during COP27 in Egypt.

### **Environmental Responsibility**

We were excited to see work from our 2021 festival feature as a case study by Julie's Bicycle. Our commitment to understanding how we can best manage the impact of our work on the environment is central to our event and programme planning. We have updated our policy to reflect the changes we have made and the processes we are implementing to support artists and to generate conversations and awareness of environmental emergency.

## **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

### **Trustees' report continued**

#### **Going Forward LAAF Aims to:**

- Build upon recent community work to make arts and cultural activities more accessible for local communities.
- Secure multi-year funding/income streams which will enable LAAF to develop its cultural education and community arts and participation work as part of the organisations core provision.
- Continue to support staff and board members in accessing training and development opportunities that will support LAAF dynamism and growth and stability.
- LAAF will continue with its commitment to creating awareness of environmental emergency and will build a library of online resources for artists, audiences and partner organisations.
- Grow our digital capacity for event programming and workshops aimed that are designed to develop creativity, widen geographical reach and make participation more accessible and meaningful.

### **Statement of Directors' responsibilities**

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial accounts 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 charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

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 responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board on 10th November 2022 and signed on behalf of the directors by:



Tahar Qassim  
Trustee

## Reference and Administrative Details

### Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

The trustees, who are the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the Independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Name	Position	Dates
Afrah Qassim	Chair	
Hamdan Dammag	Vice Chair	
T Qassim MBE		
S Sullivan		resigned 1st March 2022
Ms Zoe Dolemere Lafferty		
Sarah Scally		
Layla Maghribi		appointed 15th July 2022

#### Method of appointment

Recruitment of new trustees is open, and focused on creating a diverse and effective Board

#### Registered address

The Bluecoat  
School Lane  
Liverpool  
L1 3BX

#### Bankers

HSBC  
99-101 Lord Street  
Liverpool  
L2 2AH

#### Independent examiner

Jane Williams MAAT

Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

#### Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10th March 2010 as Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival and registered as a Charity on 16th June 2010.

The company was renamed Liverpool Arab Arts Festival on 21st February 2013. The governing instruments under which the charitable company operates comprise the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9th February 2010 together with the policies made from time to time by the Trustees.

Trustees provide governance of the organisation as unpaid volunteers. The board of trustees meets quarterly and administers the charity the board approve policy that is then implemented by the Director and the rest of the team. In addition to quarterly meetings LAAF trustees provide voluntary support to the operational team which enables the organisation to fulfil its aims and objectives.

LAAF values volunteer support and ensures the festival offers opportunities for people to gain experience in Volunteers are given the opportunity to gain experience in festival management, events production and marketing, translation, finance and general events administration.

#### Objects of the organisation

The objects of the charity are to advance the education of the public in Arabic arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool and;

the advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

**Reference and Administrative Details**

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**Charity number 1136384**

**A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925**

**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have reviewed cover for operational activities for three months. Based on current commitments LAAF will retain £30,000 in reserve and £10,000 to cover any exceptional cost or circumstances. Remainder of the unrestricted fund balance is allocated to festival and project running cost.

**Accountant**

**Jane Williams**

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

Beacon Building

College Street

St Helens

WA10 1TF

**Approval**

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, was approved by the trustees on 10th November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

## **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 set out on pages 11 to 19

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

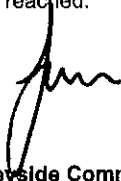
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

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

have not been met; or

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

  
Jane Williams  
MAAT  
**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**  
Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

10th November 2022

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	(4)	500	-	500	684
Income from charitable activities	(5)	117,272	114,622	231,894	161,853
Other incoming resources	(6)	2,003	-	2,003	1,000
Investment Income	(7)	1	-	1	1
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>119,776</u>	<u>114,622</u>	<u>234,398</u>	<u>163,538</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities	(8)	<u>115,468</u>	<u>133,272</u>	<u>248,740</u>	<u>123,773</u>
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		4,308	(18,650)	(14,342)	39,765
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		4,308	(18,650)	(14,342)	39,765
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds as at 1 April 2021</b>		56,766	44,733	101,499	61,734
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2022</b>	(8a)	<u>61,074</u>	<u>26,083</u>	<u>87,157</u>	<u>101,499</u>

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.  
All activities are regarded as continuing.  
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 15.  
The Notes on pages 14 to 19 form an integral part of these accounts.

## Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

### Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2022

	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors and prepayments	(11) 10,607	-	10,607	24,117
Cash at bank and in hand	(12) 56,886	26,083	82,969	82,310
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>67,493</u>	<u>26,083</u>	<u>93,576</u>	<u>106,427</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Creditors (due within one year)	(13) 6,419	-	6,419	4,928
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>6,419</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,419</u>	<u>4,928</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>61,074</u>	<u>26,083</u>	<u>87,157</u>	<u>101,499</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>				
Restricted Funds	-	26,083	26,083	44,733
Unrestricted funds	61,074	-	61,074	56,766
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>61,074</u>	<u>26,083</u>	<u>87,157</u>	<u>101,499</u>

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2022

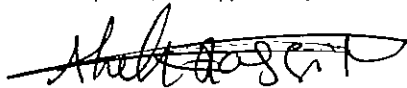
the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and

the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act

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

The notes on pages 14 to 19 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, were approved by the trustees on 10th November 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Afrah Qassim  
Chair

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2022**

	2022	2021
	Total	Total
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA	(14,342)	39,765
Depreciation	-	-
Investment income	(1)	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5) 13,510	(9,803)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,491	2,559
	<u>658</u>	<u>32,521</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Investment income	(6) 1	-
<b>Net increase/(decrease in cash:</b>	659	32,521
<b>Total cash as at 1 April 2021</b>	<u>82,310</u>	<u>49,789</u>
<b>Total cash as at 31 March 2022</b>	<u>82,969</u>	<u>82,310</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 19 form an integral part of these accounts.

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

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**1 Basis of preparation**

- These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,
- 1.1 with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:
- (a) The Charities Act 2011
  - (b) The Companies Act 2006
  - (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102
  - (d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2015)
- 1.2 The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102
- 1.3 The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

**2 Accounting Policies**

**2.1 Fund accounting**

- (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 8a.

**2.2 Income**

- (a) Income is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the income; receipt is probable; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (b) Where income has related expenditure (e.g. projects), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) Income, which is subject to conditions that the charity has yet to fulfil, or which is specifically for use in a future accounting period, is treated as deferred income.

**2.3 Expenditure and liabilities**

- (a) Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- (b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.
- (c) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

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**2.4 Tangible Fixed Assets**

(a) Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at their value on receipt.

Rates of depreciation

Building Improvements: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

**2.5 Debtors**

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

**2.6 Cash**

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**2.7 Creditors**

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

**2.8 Taxation**

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

**3 Transactions with trustees and related parties**

No trustees received any expenses (note 13) during the accounting period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

4 Donations and legacies	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Donations	500	-	500	684
	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>684</u>
5 Income from charitable activities	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Arts Council Funding	112,024	-	112,024	112,024
Culture Liverpool Investment	-	14,250	14,250	14,250
LCRCA: Generations for Change	-	12,437	12,437	16,879
Yeman In Conflict	5,248	-	5,248	2,000
Liverpool City Council: COVID Support Grant	-	-	-	10,000
University of Liverpool	-	-	-	6,700
DCMS: Cultural Recovery Fund	-	38,787	38,787	-
Arts Council: Lottery Project Grants	-	39,148	39,148	-
Qatar Foundation International	-	10,000	10,000	-
	<u>117,272</u>	<u>114,622</u>	<u>231,894</u>	<u>161,853</u>
6 Other incoming resources from charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Box Office	2,003	-	2,003	-
Training	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>2,003</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,003</u>	<u>1,000</u>
7 Investment Income	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Bank Interest Received	1	-	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

<b>8a Restricted funds summary</b>	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Culture Liverpool Investment	2,128	14,250	17,183	-	(805)
Arts Council: Lottery Grant	-	39,148	39,100	-	48
DCMS: Cultural Recovery Fund	-	38,787	38,792	-	(5)
Granada Foundation	1,386	-	1,333	-	53
LCRCA: Generations for change	16,879	12,437	22,098	-	7,218
Qatar Fdtn International	19,000	10,000	14,766	-	14,234
University of Liverpool	5,340	-	-	-	5,340
	<u>44,733</u>	<u>114,622</u>	<u>133,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,083</u>

**Purpose of restricted funds**

Culture Liverpool contribution towards the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival.  
 Granada Foundation provided funding towards cultural workshops in schools.  
 Qatar Foundation International provided funding for schools cultural development project.  
 University of Liverpool funded our Yemen In conflict national project.  
 Arts Council Lottery Project Grants Live and Digital Project.  
 Department of Digital Culture, Media and Sport, Culture Recovery Fund. Safeguarding LAAF's cultural offer during Covid 19.

<b>9 Staff Costs</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross Wages and salaries	104,342	56,073
Social security costs	4,590	1,312
Pension contributions	1,751	414
	<u>110,683</u>	<u>57,799</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

2022	2021
<u>2.7</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

<b>10 Debtors and prepayments</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors	10,607	24,117
	<u>10,607</u>	<u>24,117</u>
<b>11 Cash at bank and in hand</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Current accounts	82,403	82,097
Credit card	(182)	(534)
Reserve account	705	705
Cash in hand	42	42
	<u>82,969</u>	<u>82,310</u>
<b>12 Creditors and accruals</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Creditors	6,419	4,928
	<u>6,419</u>	<u>4,928</u>
<b>13 Trustee remuneration and expenses</b>	2022	2021
	£	£
Total amount paid	96	-
	<u>96</u>	<u>-</u>

During the period one trustee received out of pocket expenses (2021: 0)

**14 Guarantees**

As at 31st March 2022, 6 members had given a guarantee of £10 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total: £60 (2021: 6 members, £60)

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Comparative Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

**16 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Income from:</b>				
Income from donations	500	684	-	-
Income from charitable activities	117,272	124,024	114,622	37,829
Other Incoming resources	2,003	1,000	-	-
Investment Income	1	1	-	-
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>	<b>119,776</b>	<b>125,709</b>	<b>114,622</b>	<b>37,829</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	115,468	105,948	133,272	17,825
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>	<b>4,308</b>	<b>19,761</b>	<b>(18,650)</b>	<b>20,004</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>(5,041)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,041</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(733)</b>	<b>19,761</b>	<b>(13,609)</b>	<b>20,004</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds as at 1 April 2021	56,766	37,036	44,733	24,729
Total funds as at 31 March 2022	56,033	56,797	31,124	44,733

**LIVERPOOL ARAB ARTS FESTIVAL**

England & Wales - Charity number 1136384

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# Accounts

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# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2021**



**gmcas**

Greater Merseyside Community  
Accountancy Service

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' Annual Report	2 to 9
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the accounts	14 to 20

**Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

### Review of progress and achievements

Like many other Arts and Culture organisations LAAF has continued to experience the challenges brought about by Covid 19. The staff and board have drawn on the experience of the last 12 months to manage the organisations Art and cultural offer and to create new ways of working with creatives and engage audiences locally, nationally and internationally. Despite the challenges, we have much to celebrate. Increased funds have provided us with the opportunity to produce and deliver an exciting hybrid festival of in-person and online events. We delivered a rich programme of out-of-festival events and participative workshops, brokered new partnerships and co-delivered a number of innovative pilot projects whilst grown our staff team by recruiting permanent and temporary staff.

### Festival

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival 2021 ran from 16 July – 14 November 2021. This was the first time that the festival moved from its usual 10-day format.

The LAAF Board and festival team agreed to this change due to the implications of Covid-19 pandemic for programming. The UK Government ended Covid-19 restrictions on 19 July 2021, which enabled for live events to resume. Despite this the LAAF team approached this year's festival with caution, prioritising the safety of artists, audiences and staff team. The festival programme was a blend of live and digital events.

The multi-artform programme of live and online events was an artist-led response to the complexities of the climate emergency in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region today.

The dire impact of the climate crisis is already being disproportionately felt in the MENA region, an area which has faced unprecedented climatic events in recent years. Scorching temperatures, rising sea levels and dwindling natural resources increasingly threaten a region already confronting the continuing realities of conflict and colonialism. From performance to visual art, LAAF 2021 provided a platform to express the lived experiences of those often excluded from climate conversations, while addressing interconnected issues such as imperialism, climate justice and capitalism.

### Festival highlights:

LAAF presented its first commissioned work *Eating the Copper Apple* by award-winning queer poet and writer Lisa Luxx at Toxteth TV. Luxx was the recipient of Al-Omar commission and supported by Anahid Kassabian and Mishaal Al-Omar throughout its inception. This powerfully collaborative work by a team of female Arab creatives (Luxx, Nour Sokhon, Tamara Al-Mashouk, Diyan Zora, Alia Alzougbi, Scarlett Saad and Anya Urban) took audiences on a journey from West Yorkshire to the borders of Syria, in a one-woman show exploring identity, culture and displacement. Two sell-out performances at VideOdyssey, Toxteth TV on Saturday 17 and Monday 19 July finished a tour which started at Bradford Literature Festival and featured two performances at Rich Mix, London, for Shubbak. A special digital version of *Eating the Copper Apple* was also released online for audiences impacted by the pandemic.

Jessica El Mal's *Grounds for Concern* was installed outside Open Eye Gallery between 16 July – 16 August, in partnership with Open Eye Gallery and Bluecoat. Two hanging digital collages question the concept of land ownership and the true boundaries that are enforced by human-made borders. An online panel discussion was held featuring Soukaina Aboulaoula, Yasmine Benabdallah, Alice Elliot, Pablo DeSoto and Jessica El Mal.

*What Happened in Baghdad* was a project by Kamel Saeed, an emerging UK-based Iraqi creative. Saeed presented a fascinating audio journey of discovery into the creatives that once called the Iraqi capital home. This new podcast series was exclusively launched at the festival in July.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

## Trustees' report continued

*Songs from Palestine* was held on 26 September at Liverpool Philharmonic's Music Room. Featuring Saied Silbak solo compositions and his quintet ensemble with Palestinian singer Maha, the performance was LAAF's only live music performance of the festival but was a near sell-out.

*ARTISTS / IDEAS / NOW* series returned featuring artist-led conversations exploring some of the biggest issues facing the world today. Led by leading artists, creatives and activists, this series responds to Liverpool Arab Arts Festival's 2021 theme of climate crisis and its impact in the Middle East and North Africa. The series was co-produced with Creative Destruction and consisted of three online discussions: *Imagine Democracy* (15 September), *Our Camp on Fire* (13 October) and *Feminism and the Climate Crisis* (23 November).

Youcef Hadjazi's exhibition *Trauma Then, Trauma Now* was held at the Royal Standard, Liverpool, Thursday 21 – Saturday 30 October. The film work explored collective and transgenerational trauma in post-colonial nations by focusing on the Algerian Civil War. Hadjazi held a well-attended performance workshop on Saturday 23 October to support future development of the project.

*Between Two Islands* explores the relationship between Bahrain, Britain and the British Bahrainis caught with a foot on either island. Produced by Ali Al-Jamri and Taher Adel the event was held at Chapters of Us on Saturday 30 October. It was live-streamed on LAAF's Facebook page. In the afternoon a zine-making workshop was facilitated by artist Fauziya Johnson. On the 1 October Fauziya Johnson the LAAF website held audio work *The Future: A Between Two Islands soundscape*.

We received Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant funding to realise two major projects:

*Threads* was an ambitious multidisciplinary filmed performance by 3 established female Arab artists from Syria, Lebanon and Sudan: Omeima Mudawi-Rowlings (visual art), Alia Alzougbi (storytelling) and Rihab Azar (music). Filmed at Bluecoat 23-26 October 2021 it brought together a scripted spoken word and musical performance within a mixed media installation.

Every day between 1 – 14 November 2021 we released new rapid response pieces on LAAF's website for 22; a project capturing the hopes and fears of a generation of Arab artists and activists, to coincide with the conversations being held by world leaders at COP26 in Glasgow. Together these pieces will form a creative anthology which will serve as a time capsule of this crucial moment in history, providing insight into the perceptions and preoccupations of those living or with heritage in the Arab world. 22 was produced by activist and producer Penny Babakhani.

We commissioned or supported a total of 66 unique projects in the extended festival period. At the time of writing, we worked with 77 artists on the festival across four continents. 66% of the artists identified as female.

Publications
2 commissioned publications ( <i>Eating the Copper Apple</i> ; <i>Yemen in Conflict</i> )
1 anthology ( <i>Between Two Islands</i> )

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

### **Online Platforms**

We held festival events on the following online platforms: Eventive, Zoom, Facebook Live, LAAF website, YouTube, Instagram Live and Vimeo. Eventive was our core ticket platform for digital events. We launched a new partnership with Melodic Distraction to broadcast artwork and interviews with artists via their online radio station. ARTISTS / IDEAS / NOW was live broadcast on Howlround, a US based digital art streaming platform.

### **Out of Festival Events**

LAAF remains committed to creating access to Arab arts and culture throughout the year. We had a wonderful pre-festival season that offered a range of online talks, activities and literature including: Book of Ramallah in partnership with Comma Press, A Journey to Yemen a collaboration with our partners in Ireland and Paris. A fascinating and thought provoking artist conversation Resistance Rebellion Revolution and our first partnership with Milton Keynes Festival showing The Art and Culture of Yemen: Honey and Frankincense.

### **Projects**

Our ongoing projects now feature as part of LAAF's core offer. We continue to develop our community and culture education strategy focusing on creating awareness and appreciation of Arab people and their rich cultural heritage, reducing 'othering' of people from Arab origins and creating equality of opportunity for Arab creatives who are underrepresented in the creative industries.

Covid-19 had restricted our engagement and reach during 2019/2020 but we have worked through and overcome many of the challenges to deliver a strong and impactful creative offer including:

### **Generations for Change**

LAAF was successful with an application to be one of five cultural organisations chosen to deliver a pilot project designed and funded by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) Metro Mayor Liverpool City Region in partnership with Curious Minds. This was an exciting 6 months paid development and training opportunity for young people from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds who are aged between 18 – 30 years and who are resident in the Liverpool City Region.

Hilan Gully joined LAAF team in the role of Young Producer working with the festival team to plan and deliver digital and in person events. Hilan conducted a 6 month action research project and chose to explore and provoke conversations regarding Liverpool Middle Eastern communities representation in the climate movement. Hilan's crafted her research findings into her own public exhibition *Voices*. The installation shown at OUTPUT Gallery, which ran included a film, protest boards and an interactive poll and participative workshops.

### **Yemen in Conflict**

We continued the development and delivery of Yemen in Conflict project in partnership with Poet/Creative Deryn Reece Jones. In May 2021 we held a Yemeni Female Poetry event online. At this digital event, the four poets had an opportunity to share their poetry and experiences and to listen to each other in front of a live audience. The featured poets Amina Atiq, Maliha Al-Asaadi, Maysoon Aleryani, moderated by BBC Special Correspondent Nawal Al-Maghafi.

As live workshops were not possible, we conducted a series of digital workshops via Zoom throughout 2021. These workshops offered participants an opportunity to experience creative poetry and engage with the different formats related to the war in Yemen. Each workshop was led by an experienced poet who presented, facilitated, and offered creative exercises on writing and make observations for improvement. Participants took part by expressing their ideas and sharing creative writing produced in the session.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

Poet Anthony Anaxagorou led the first workshop in English in August 2021. Yemeni poet Hamdan Dammag led an Arabic language workshop in September. A dual-language workshop was hosted in November by poets Dammag (Arabic) and Stephen Sexton (English). These digital workshops were well attended and allowed participants to creatively engage in both English and Arabic. The poems written by participants at the end of each workshop have been used (with consent) in a 48-page publication marking this project. The workshop, and this book, is a significant cultural achievement and has provided visibility for the Yemeni community, still amongst the lowest culturally engaged audiences in the UK, to create new work.

We are delighted that Yemen in Conflict project continues to develop, with future outcomes planned throughout 2022 and beyond the lifespan of its current funding period.

This vital project has demonstrated that there is a strong appetite for Yemeni poetry within the UK. We have seen the impact of creating safe and inclusive space to develop writing and poetry skills for the community. As an underrepresented group, we are keen to build on the success of this project.

### **Cultural Education Programme**

The Cultural Education Programme has worked with 7 artists to develop workshops to be delivered in Primary and Secondary schools in the Liverpool City Region. These include poetry with Amina Atiq (Yemen/UK), Dabke Dance with Sylvia Ferreira (Syria/UK), Music with Saied Silbak (Palestine/UK), DJ with Jacques Malchance (Italy/UK) & Saliah Bryan (Lebanon/UK) and Visual Arts with Hilan Gully (Iraq/UK) & Jessica El Mal (Morocco/UK).

At the time of writing, the project has engaged with 440 children (16 workshops, 4 days, 2 schools), all who have been introduced to Arabic language and aspects of Arab culture. Future bookings in place will take that number to 1530 (53 workshops, 16 days, 13 schools).

The workshops have been warmly welcomed by the schools as they are pitched in a fun, friendly & creative way, introducing children to Arab culture, arts and Arabic language. The legacy documents such as room name tags in Arabic & the Alphabet sheets with phonetics have proved very popular with the schools.

### **Maharat Project**

We were delighted to plan and deliver a pilot programme in partnership with London based Arts Canteen. In August we launched the first edition of Maharat (Arabic for Skills), our development programme for emerging creative professionals.

The programme is designed to offer an introduction for people of Arab origin to working in the creative industries, including music, film, events, performing arts and festivals. We gave five ambitious, curious, and emerging creative professionals from Arab backgrounds, who are based in England, the opportunity to develop their craft and professionalism.

The programme aims to support participants to make vital new professional connections through tailored mentorship and training. It will serve as a key moment in helping kick-start careers in the creative industries. The programme is taking place in two parts: a series of 5 online seminars, panel discussions, and workshops that brings some of the most influential industry experts that Arts Canteen and Liverpool Arab Arts Festival invites based on the needs of the five selected creative practitioners 2 mentorship sessions from other industry professionals, based on the practitioners' needs and areas of interest. The programme is run over five months and take place online via Zoom for the group sessions.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

LAAF uses Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and from July 2021, TikTok as its primary social media channels. We also use Mailchimp for email marketing, the Eventive film channel as a marketing platform.

The LAAF website had over 10k visitors during the course of the festival, an increase of 12% on 2020. There were over 30k website views. There was a 53% increase in Arabic speaking using the website compared with 2020. The majority of website visitors come from the UK (56%), with the US in second (10%), Yemen (5%), and Saudi Arabia (3.5%). The growth in Arabic speakers, particularly around the Arabic translated Yemen in Conflict page, provides a strong foundation for our decision to widen our website translation in 2021 / 2022 where more of our website will be dual language.

Our social media audience grew in 2021. Facebook has 9671 Likes, Twitter has 3268 followers. Instagram 2108 followers and we had 4950 plays on TikTok. That is a combined social audience of 15k, up by over 1k in 2020. Instagram has grown significantly, largely due to our continuing work with a younger Arab audience who primarily use this platform.

The festival's YouTube channel continued to grow in 2021 with over 6k views and 51.8k impressions. Our digital content was watched for over 1k minutes on facebook, 367 hours on YouTube.

### **New Income/Funding**

Much of our increased programming and project development has been made possible by the support of existing funders Arts Council England, Culture Liverpool, Granada Foundation, Al Omar Family and QFI. We anticipated 2020/2021 would be a difficult period to generate funds. Many funders repurposed their grants for Covid-19 response and many closed their open funding application process. Despite this, we were successful in securing DCMS Culture Recovery Fund, Arts Council Lottery Project Grants and Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor funding for Generations for Change and Granada Foundation support for our cultural education project.

### **Organisation Development and Governance**

LAAFs dedicated board members have continued to contribute their time and expertise to developing the organisation and providing additional capacity to the operational team in response to need.

We were saddened to see two of our much valued board members resign their positions, their decisions were due to them entering exciting periods in their careers which restricted their role in the board. We wish Joann and Diyan every success and thank them for their commitment and contribution to LAAF.

We are excited to welcomed new members Sarah Scally and Hamdan Dammag and look forward to working collectively to inform and support LAAF going forward.

Bi-monthly board meetings focus on organisations health and development. The development priorities have been identified during LAAFs organisation appraisal and skills audit.

Board members have participated in three additional subgroup meetings/awaydays dedicated to reviewing and updating LAAFs mission, vision and values and updating the five year business plan.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Trustees' report continued**

### **Going Forward LAAF Aims to:**

Pilot working from a dedicated community base to make arts and cultural activities more accessible for local communities.

Secure multi-year funding/income streams which will enable LAAF to develop its cultural education and community arts and participation work as part of the organisations core provision.

Continue our support for emerging artist and creatives with training and development programmes and commissioning of new work.

LAAF will continue with its commitment to creating awareness of environmental emergency and will build a library of online resources for artists, audiences and partner organisations.

Develop digital capacity for event programming and workshops aimed that are designed to develop creativity, widen geographical reach and make participation more accessible and meaningful.

LAAF operates a risk register ensuring early identification of reduced funds and impact on festival cost - programmes and festival events will only be delivered when LAAF is in receipt of adequate funds.

Funds over and above the minimum reserve are held to provide contingency funds and/or investment in organisational development agreed by the Board.

## **Statement of Directors' responsibilities**

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial accounts 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 charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP

make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

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 responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board on 16th December 2021 and signed on behalf of the directors by:

Tahar Qassim  
Trustee

## Reference and Administrative Details

### Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

The trustees, who are the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Name	Position	Dates
A Qassim	Chair	
T Qassim MBE		
A Kassabian		till 1st Feb 2021
S Sullivan		
Cllr Joann Kushner		till 1st Mar 2021
Ms Diyan Zora		till 29 Oct 2021
Ms Zoe Delemere Lafferty		
Hamdan Dammag		appointed 16 Nov 21
Sarah Scally		appointed 27 May 21

#### Method of appointment

Recruitment of new trustees is open, and focused on creating a diverse and effective Board

#### Registered address

The Bluecoat  
School Lane  
Liverpool  
L1 3BX

#### Bankers

HSBC  
99-101 Lord Street  
Liverpool  
L2 2AH

#### Independent examiner

Jane Williams MAAT

Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

#### Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10th March 2010 as Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival and registered as a Charity on 16th June 2010.

The company was renamed Liverpool Arab Arts Festival on 21st February 2013. The governing instruments under which the charitable company operates comprise the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9th February 2010 together with the policies made from time to time by the Trustees.

Trustees provide governance of the organisation as unpaid volunteers. The board of trustees meets bimonthly and administers the charity the board approve policy that is then implemented by the Director and the rest of the team. In addition to bimonthly meetings LAAF trustees provide voluntary support to the operational team which enables the organisation to fulfil its aims and objectives.

LAAF values volunteer support and ensures the festival offers opportunities for people to gain experience in Volunteers are given the opportunity to gain experience in festival management, events production and marketing, translation, finance and general events administration.

#### Objects of the organisation

The objects of the charity are to advance the education of the public in Arabic arts but not exclusively by the promotion and staging of regular Arabic arts festivals and events in Liverpool and;

the advancement of the arts culture and heritage through the support encouragement and showcasing of Arabic artists and artisans.

In setting objectives and policies to achieve them, the Board give due consideration to guidance issued by the Charities Commission to ensure that such policies achieve the requirement to give public benefit.

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

**Charity number 1136384**

**A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925**

#### **Accountant**

**Jane Williams**

**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**

Beacon Building

College Street

St Helens

WA10 1TF

#### **Approval**

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, was approved by the trustees on 16th December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

## **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 11 to 20

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

### **Basis of Independent examiner's statement**

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

have not been met; or

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

Jane Williams  
MAAT  
**Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service**  
Beacon Building  
College Street  
St Helens  
WA10 1TF

16 December 2021

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	(4)	684	-	684	10,720
Income from charitable activities	(5)	124,024	37,829	161,853	161,240
Other incoming resources	(6)	1,000	-	1,000	-
Investment Income	(7)	1	-	1	1
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>125,709</b>	<b>37,829</b>	<b>163,538</b>	<b>171,961</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities	(8)	105,948	17,825	123,773	157,157
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>		<b>19,761</b>	<b>20,004</b>	<b>39,765</b>	<b>14,804</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>(31)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>19,730</b>	<b>20,035</b>	<b>39,765</b>	<b>14,804</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds as at 1 April 2020</b>		<b>37,036</b>	<b>24,698</b>	<b>61,734</b>	<b>46,930</b>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2021</b>	(8a)	<b>56,766</b>	<b>44,733</b>	<b>101,499</b>	<b>61,734</b>

The above statement includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.  
All activities are regarded as continuing.  
Comparative figures for the previous year by fund type are shown in Note 15.  
The Notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

# Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

Charity number 1136384

A Company limited by guarantee number 07184925

## Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2021

	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors and prepayments	(11) 24,117	-	24,117	14,314
Cash at bank and in hand	(12) 37,577	44,733	82,310	49,789
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>61,694</u>	<u>44,733</u>	<u>106,427</u>	<u>64,103</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>				
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Creditors (due within one year)	(13) 4,928	-	4,928	2,369
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<u>4,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,928</u>	<u>2,369</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>56,766</u>	<u>44,733</u>	<u>101,499</u>	<u>61,734</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>				
Restricted Funds	-	44,733	44,733	24,698
Unrestricted funds	56,766	-	56,766	37,036
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>56,766</u>	<u>44,733</u>	<u>101,499</u>	<u>61,734</u>

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2021

the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and

the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act

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

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts, which have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, were approved by the trustees on 16 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Afrah Qassim  
Chair

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2021**

	2021	2020
	Total	Total
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income/(expenditure) per SOFA	39,765	14,804
Depreciation	-	-
Investment income	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5) (9,803)	94
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,559	651
	<u>32,521</u>	<u>15,549</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Investment income	(6) -	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease in cash:</b>	32,521	15,549
<b>Total cash as at 1 April 2020</b>	<u>49,789</u>	<u>34,240</u>
<b>Total cash as at 31 March 2021</b>	<u>82,310</u>	<u>49,789</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form an integral part of these accounts.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2021**

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#### **1 Basis of preparation**

- These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention,
- 1.1** with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s), in accordance with:
- (a) The Charities Act 2011
  - (b) The Companies Act 2006
  - (c) The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland: FRS 102
  - (d) Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) (effective January 2015)
- 1.2** The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102
- 1.3** The trustees consider that there are not material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### **2 Accounting Policies**

##### **2.1 Fund accounting**

- (a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.
- (c) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 8a.

##### **2.2 Income**

- (a) Income is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the income; receipt is probable; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (b) Where income has related expenditure (e.g. projects), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.
- (c) Bank interest is recognised when credited to the account.
- (d) Gift Aid, where appropriate, is recognised in the same accounting period as the donation to which it relates.
- (e) Income, which is subject to conditions that the charity has yet to fulfil, or which is specifically for use in a future accounting period, is treated as deferred income.

##### **2.3 Expenditure and liabilities**

- (a) Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis.
- (b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.
- (c) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out resources.
- (d) Governance costs include the costs of preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2021**

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#### **2.4 Tangible Fixed Assets**

(a) Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £250. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at their value on receipt.

Rates of depreciation

Building Improvements: 20% straight line basis to nil

Fixtures and fittings: 15% straight line basis to nil

Equipment: 20% straight line basis to nil

#### **2.5 Debtors**

(a) Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(b) Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

#### **2.6 Cash**

(a) Cash comprises bank deposits repayable on demand and any short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### **2.7 Creditors**

(a) Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount, usually the invoice amount.

(b) Accrued charges are normally valued at their settlement amount.

#### **2.8 Taxation**

The charity is not liable to income tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

### **3 Transactions with trustees and related parties**

One trustee received payment for the delivery of a complex project following the departure of the project co-ordinator (note 13) during the accounting period.

Owing to the nature of the charity's activities and the composition of the board of trustees (being drawn from local statutory and voluntary organisation), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a trustee may have an interest. All transactions in which a trustee may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the charity's financial regulations and expenditure procedures. No transactions were identified which should be disclosed under FRS 102.

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

4 Donations and legacies	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations	684	-	684	10,720
	<u>684</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>684</u>	<u>10,720</u>
5 Income from charitable activities	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council Funding	112,024	-	112,024	110,000
Box Office Income	-	-	-	2,076
Culture Liverpool Investment	-	14,250	14,250	15,000
LCRCA: Generations for Change	-	16,879	16,879	-
Yeman In Conflict	2,000	-	2,000	-
Liverpool City Council: COVID Support Grant	10,000	-	10,000	-
University of Liverpool	-	6,700	6,700	13,164
Granada Foundation	-	-	-	2,000
Qatar Foundation International	-	-	-	19,000
	<u>124,024</u>	<u>37,829</u>	<u>161,853</u>	<u>161,240</u>
6 Other Incoming resources from charitable activities	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Training	1,000	-	1,000	-
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>
7 Investment Income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Received	1	-	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

8 Expenditure of charitable activities

	Arts Council	LCRCA	Culture Liverpool	Donations	Granada Foundation	Yeman In Conflict	Qatar Fdtn International	COVID Support Grant	University of Liverpool	Total 2021
<b>Incoming Resources</b>										
Grants	112,024	16,879	14,250			2,000		10,000	6,700	161,853
Contributions										-
Donations				1,684						1,684
Interest										-
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>112,024</b>	<b>16,879</b>	<b>14,250</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>163,537</b>
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>										
Wages & Salaries	57,706									57,706
Artist Expenses	13,968		10,059		614				5,250	29,891
Equipment										-
Activities	24,255									24,255
Freelance										-
Advertising, Publicity & Marketing	3,308		1,400							4,708
Website Development	305									305
Volunteer Expenses										-
<b>Support &amp; Governance costs</b>										
Staff salary costs										-
Office costs	90		385							475
Running costs										-
Research and development										-
Refreshments and hospitality	28									28
Insurance	2,518									2,518
Training										-
Travel and subsistence expenses	229									229
Staff and board expenses										-
Subscriptions			75							75
Consultancy fees	2,169									2,169
Professional fees	53									53
Bank Charges	654									654
Sundry expenses	30		42							72
Bad debts written off										0
Payroll fees	340									340
Book-keeping										-
Accountancy	295									295
<b>Total outgoing resources</b>										<b>123,773</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>105,948</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,961</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>39,764</b>
<b>Income / expenditure</b>										
<b>Balance c/fwd @ 31st March 2021</b>	<b>6,076</b>	<b>16,879</b>	<b>2,289</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>(614)</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>39,764</b>

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

<b>8a Restricted funds summary</b>	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Culture Liverpool Investment	(161)	14,250	11,961	-	2,128
Granada Foundation	2,000	-	614	-	1,386
LCRCA: Generations for change	-	16,879	-	-	16,879
LCVS	(14)	-	-	14	-
Qatar Fdtn International	19,000	-	-	-	19,000
Trusthouse Charitable Fund	(17)	-	-	17	-
University of Liverpool	3,890	6,700	5,250	-	5,340
	<u>24,698</u>	<u>37,829</u>	<u>17,825</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>44,733</u>

**Purpose of restricted funds**

Culture Liverpool contribution towards the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival.  
 Granada Foundation provided funding towards cultural workshops in schools.  
 LCVS Community Impact Fund contribution towards Crafting Our Culture Back.  
 Qatar Foundation International provided funding for schools cultural development project.  
 Trusthouse Charitable Fund costs for an Arts Sessional Worker.  
 University of Liverpool funded our Yeman in conflict national project.

<b>9 Staff Costs</b>	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross Wages and salaries	56,073	35,375
Social security costs	1,312	692
Pension contributions	414	-
	<u>57,799</u>	<u>36,067</u>

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2021	2020
	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

<b>10 Debtors and prepayments</b>	2021	2020
	£	£
Debtors	24,117	14,314
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>24,117</u>	<u>14,314</u>
<b>11 Cash at bank and in hand</b>	2021	2020
	£	£
Current accounts	82,097	49,107
Credit card	(534)	(65)
Reserve account	705	704
Cash in hand	42	42
	<u>82,310</u>	<u>49,789</u>
<b>12 Creditors and accruals</b>	2021	2020
	£	£
Creditors	4,928	2,369
Accruals	-	-
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>4,928</u>	<u>2,369</u>
<b>13 Trustee remuneration and expenses</b>	2021	2020
	£	£
Total amount paid	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,643</u>

During the period one trustee received payment to support the delivery of a cultural engagement project following the departure of the project co-ordinator. This was the best option for the delivery of a complex project. (2020: out of pocket expenses were paid to 6 trustees)

**14 Operating Lease Commitments**

Financial commitments under non-cancellable operating leases relating to rental property lease will result in the following payments falling due at 31st March 2021, one month notice up to termination of lease agreement date 30th October 2021.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within 1 year	<u>697</u>	<u>607</u>

**15 Guarantees**

As at 31st March 2021, 6 members had given a guarantee of £10 each in the event of the company winding-up. Total: £60 (2020: 8 members, £80)

**Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**  
**Comparative Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Including Income & Expenditure Account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

**16 Comparative income and expenditure by fund type**

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>				
Income from donations	684	10,720	-	-
Income from charitable activities	124,024	112,076	37,829	49,164
Other incoming resources	1,000	-	-	-
Investment income	1	1	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>125,709</b>	<b>122,797</b>	<b>37,829</b>	<b>49,164</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	105,948	122,918	17,825	34,239
<b>Net incoming / (outgoing) resources</b>	<b>19,761</b>	<b>(121)</b>	<b>20,004</b>	<b>14,925</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>19,761</b>	<b>(121)</b>	<b>20,004</b>	<b>14,925</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
<b>Total funds as at 1 April 2020</b>	<b>37,036</b>	<b>37,157</b>	<b>24,698</b>	<b>9,773</b>
<b>Total funds as at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>56,797</b>	<b>37,036</b>	<b>44,702</b>	<b>24,698</b>