

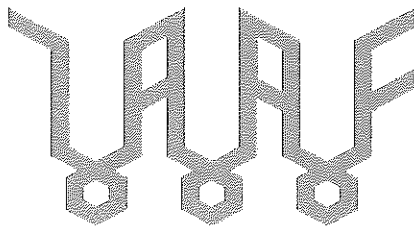
# **Liverpool Arab Arts Festival**

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**

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**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, LAAFs 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 LAAFs 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 LAAFs 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

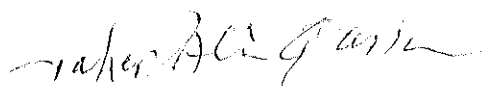
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

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 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 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

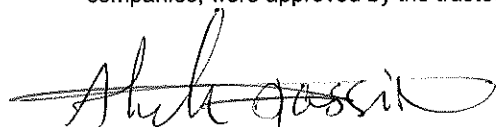
the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and

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
<b>Net increase/(decrease in cash:</b>	(17,716)	59,143
<b>Total cash as at 1 April 2024</b>	<u>133,027</u>	<u>73,884</u>
<b>Total cash as at 31 March 2025</b>	<u>115,311</u>	<u>133,027</u>

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	<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>