SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1152012

Details

Other names	SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA, SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06606718
Registered	2013-05-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Signal Film & Media 104 Abbey Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 5QR
Phone	01229838592
Email	info@signalfilmandmedia.co.uk
Website	www.signalfilmandmedia.co.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO PROMOTE THE ARTS AND TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE ARTS IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:(A) PROVIDING A CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES WHERE LOCAL RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM DISADVANTAGED GROUPS, CAN ACCESS FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP SKILLS IN A DIVERSE RANGE OF CREATIVE, MEDIA AND ARTS DISCIPLINES; AND(B) PROVIDING PREMISES, SPACE AND ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL FRONTLINE GROUPS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT MEDIA PRODUCTION AND THE CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PEOPLE.

Activities: a) Providing a centre for arts and creative industries where local residents, particularly those from disadvantaged groups, can access facilities and activities to develop skills in a diverse range of creative, media and arts disciplinesb) Providing premises, space and activities for local front-line groups, to support media production and the creative and artistic development of local people.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CUMBRIALANCASHIRE
- Cumbria
- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,524,679	£565,668	£1,338,935	9
2024-03-31	£700,771	£562,541	£324,195	6
2023-03-31	£444,745	£521,585	-	-
2022-03-31	£492,285	£518,028	-	-
2021-03-31	£502,294	£350,423	£288,548	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brie Burkeman		2019-04-15
Chris Barnes		2014-04-09
David Foster		2020-12-10
Helen Wall		2019-04-15
Jemma Swales		2020-12-11
KAREN MARGARET BIRD		2013-01-30
KERRY KOLBE		2018-11-09
Loren Slater		2008-05-30
Margaret Davis		2022-03-24
Natalia Wealleans-Turner		2020-09-23

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SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1152012

Accounts



SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA ANNUAL REPORT

AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2024



BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2024

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WELCOME TO **SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA...**

We are an award winning charity based at Cooke's Studios on Abbey Road in Barrow-in-Furness, where we run activities in art, film and heritage. Since 2008, we have built a welcoming space that thousands of people from all walks of life have used to enjoy free events, get hands-on experience and take part in training in the creative industries.

This year we have started renovating our building to improve our welcome area, create a state of the art exhibition space and make our offices more accessible by moving them to the ground floor. We work closely with some of the most isolated and disadvantaged people in Barrow and across Cumbria, using creativity to help build confidence, skills and self esteem. Alongside our workshops and events, we also support artists through residences and mentoring - helping new local talent grow and strengthening the creative scene in our area.

FOLLOW US

@Signal Film and Media

@signalfilmmedia

www.signalfilmandmedia.com

@signalfilmmedia

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(effective 1 January 2019)".



OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The charity's objects are for the public benefit to promote the arts and to advance education in the arts in particular but not exclusively by:

a) Providing a centre for the arts and creative industries where local residents, particularly these from disadvantaged groups, can access facilities and activities to develop skills in a diverse range of creative, media and arts disciplines, and:

b) Providing premises, space and activities for local front-line groups in order to support media production and the creative and artistic development of local people.

Activities undertaken for public benefit in relation to these objects

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are to implement a programme of film, media and digital arts training courses, masterclasses, screenings and workshops for adults and young people and there has been no change in these during the year.

As such the Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the 'public benefit' notice.

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

AIMS & APPROACH

We aim to achieve four overarching outcomes for our community through provision of arts and culture activity:

1. Connecting residents, old and young, to a wider world and diverse experiences

2. Providing skills training, advice and resources

3. Providing new cultural experiences and connecting people and communities

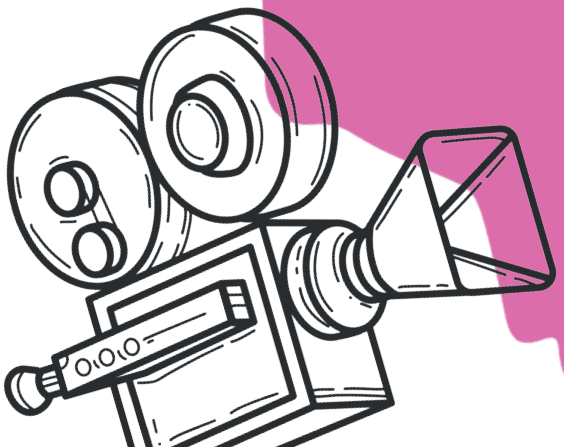
4. Supporting and encouraging personal and social development

We achieve these by delivering projects under 3 strands of activity:

Strand 1: Confident, Empowered Young People

Strand 2: A Connected Cultural Community

Strand 3: Skilled, Fulfilled Creatives



CO-DIRECTORS STATEMENT

We've had an exceptionally very busy year at Signal, delivering our expansive programme of community-focused digital arts, film and heritage activities alongside more hard work securing capital funding, working up architect plans and beginning construction on our long-anticipated refurbishment which will provide much improved access, a new welcome education area and improved exhibition and event spaces for our Barrow community.

Construction on this exciting £1.4m transformation project began in October 2024 and is set to be completed in Summer 2025. The building has remained open throughout the work and we've made strong progress on our delivery outcomes whilst simultaneously grappling with the challenges of the capital redevelopment alongside the impact of the cost of living crisis and increased demands on our services.

Our Arts Council NPO and NLHF grant funding, matched with core funding from various other supporters to underpin strategy and management, has allowed us to provide ambitious, impactful projects across our artists, community adults and youth engagement activities, increasing the depth of engagement for some of our most in-need residents.

We learned from and rolled out our co-creation models across our participatory projects and built new partnerships with funders, other local third sector organisations and schools. We turned the challenge of having less physical spaces in our building into the opportunity to hold more activities in off-site spaces which has opened up many new opportunities for engagement.

This year our permanent delivery team was able to rise to eight people, all of whom are extremely committed and talented and we're proud of the warm, inclusive, collaborative culture we've continued to maintain.

Our volunteers and steering groups have been instrumental in the continuing success of our National Lottery Heritage Funded work with the Sankey Archive, delivering public talks, curating events, producing podcasts, and mentoring fellow volunteers and participants. Their contributions have enriched the programme and supported the development of both artists and community members. Unfortunately we still haven't been able to replace our excellent fundraising/development lead, which has put pressure on the Directors, who whilst being experienced and able at fundraising have struggled for capacity. We are pleased to have secured a place on the ACE-backed Brave Futures scheme run by Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy in order to tackle some of that challenge.

Kerry Kolbe & Loren Slater, Co-directors, Signal



Building hoardings, Jan 2025

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

1,858
YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

121
YOUTH SESSIONS DELIVERED

575
ADULT PARTICIPANTS

224
ADULT SESSIONS DELIVERED

85
CREATIVES SUPPORTED

33
VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

17,615
IN PERSON AUDIENCES

129,500
ONLINE, OUTDOOR & PRINT AUDIENCES

PROFILE RAISING & MEDIA COVERAGE

The Sankey Photo Archive continues to be celebrated as Barrow's most-treasured collection. We've had huge interest from local press - the North West Evening Mail has been running regular articles including images from the collection both online and in their publication, with over 21 articles produced between August 2024 and March 2025, sharing stories, navigating readers directly to our online archive.

Examples:
www.nwemail.co.uk/news/24849064.barrow-day-largest-naval-airship-world-split-half/

www.nwemail.co.uk/news/24758069.barrovians-flocked-frozen-lakes-ice-skate-100-years-ago/

We refreshed our 'Sankey Photography Archive' Facebook page in November 2024 - it is now led and run by our volunteers who regularly share photographs accompanied with histories and local insights. Sankey images are also shared though local Facebook groups like 'Memory Lane- old photos of Furness and Surrounding Areas & 'Barrow in Furness in old photos' where stories, memories and connections are reactively shared.

Our building refurbishment progress has been recognised by the local press as we work towards launching our new community spaces.

www.cumbriacrack.com/2025/02/05/revamp-of-barrow-landmark-building-makes-good-progress/

We've been successful in keeping up with an average engagement rate of 7.18% on Facebook and 9.38% on Instagram over the year, which is over 400% higher than industry averages! Our Instagram growth is also significantly stronger with a growth rate of 11.48% for new followers.



"One of the great things about working on the Sankey collection has been the opportunity to learn from others, such as facts about local history; and also to share information. It's satisfying when bits of information come together so a fuller story can be written up about an image.""
(Sankey Volunteer)



SCREENINGS & AWARDS

One of our core principles is empowering local voices and showing world-class creativity can emerge from Barrow. By collaborating with film industry professionals and local people of all ages, projects made here in Barrow reach global audiences through selection in various film festivals. This year our short films featured at three different festivals worldwide:

WISHBONE
(2023, made by our team supported by a crew of local filmmaking trainees)
Working class teen Chrissie Fox refuses to relinquish her dream of being a photographer through a 60-year odyssey charting her life in small town Barrow-in-Furness (northern England) from 1960 to the present day.

Award-winning at: LA1 Shorts, April 2024
Quarter finalist at: Australian Independent Film Festival in the category of Short Film International (under 21 mins), Sept 2024

WATCH HERE: www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6Gr44MaoP8

SUBSCRIBE

@signalfilmmedia

MILLIE AND JUNE
(2024, made by 16-19 year old BFI participants)
A mother and daughter are divided when a new man comes into their lives.

Screened at: Focus Wales Film Festival in the category of Narrative Short, Mar 2025



BFI, HOME Screening, Feb 2025


BFI workshop, Dec 2024

IMPACT GOAL 1: CONFIDENT, EMPOWERED YOUNG PEOPLE

> ***"It got me out of the house and made me feel wanted and had somewhere to go"***
>
> Casey Orr Photography workshops Participant

Our year-round Youth Programme gives young people a pathway into work in the creative world. Starting with Signal Starters animation workshops for 8-11 year olds, participants can engage long term by progressing to digital arts and filmmaking sessions via Cooke's Crew (12-15 year olds) and Get Digital (16-25 year olds) through to the nationally acclaimed and accredited British Film Institute's Film Academy short course for 16-19 year olds.

We pride ourselves on creating an environment where young people feel nurtured and where participants have the opportunity to work with a varied and experienced range of practitioners from both the digital arts and film sector. Young people improve their skills and knowledge, grow in confidence and find their voice and a sense of empowerment through the creation of collaborative digital artworks, animations and short films. By strengthening our partnerships with organisations such as Dropzone and Queer Cumbria and with youth-focused artists such as Jack Brown and Casey Orr, we have provided a safe space for new and returning participants and have formed relationships with marginalised groups such as those from LBGTQ+ demographics and those that live with mental and physical health issues.

"Its allowed me to specialise in my preferred area as well as exploring new ones. I've also enjoyed meeting and working with other creatives."
Cooke's Crew, August 2024, Participant.

We have seen lots of participants returning to Signal this year, climbing the ladder of progression and also some who have moved on to higher education courses in the sector further afield, but returning to mentor and continuing to take part in the Youth Board. We had seven alumni return this summer to mentor during workshops, showcasing the skills they have learnt with us but also what they have experienced since, through their own personal progression. One mentor spent the summer Signal Starters animation sessions working 1:1 with young people to develop their model making skills and has since returned again as a paid staff member due to how particularly well received he was by the young people.



Signal Starters, 2024

OUTREACH TASTER SESSIONS

Over the past year we have engaged 720 people through a wide range of sessions delivered across the community. Our outreach included visits to Furness College, Barrow Sixth Form, and Kendal College, where we showcased our programmes and connected with students. We also hosted drop in sessions at BAE Portland Walk, providing information about our workshops, and delivered a variety of family friendly activities throughout the summer.

As part of Barrow's 'Playcation' initiative we ran animation stations at two events located in Vickerstown Park and Ormsgill Community Centre - areas identified as among the most deprived in the town. In addition, we distributed 100 summer activity packs which were warmly received by local young people and their families.

A highlight of the year was our participation in Furness Pride. In collaboration with pop-up portrait photographer Casey Orr and supported by Stevie Westgarth from Queer Cumbria, we contributed to a vibrant event organised by Dropzone and their LGBTQ+ group 'True Colours'. Nearly 150 portraits were taken during the day, which will feature in Casey's future exhibitions and publications.

This year also marked the launch of 'Tiddlers', a new project developed in partnership with The Dock Museum, Family Action and Theatre Factory. Designed for children aged 0-4 years olds and their families, these light touch sessions introduce basic model making and storytelling, engaging an age group we had not previously reached.

"There isn't much provision for toddlers in Barrow so it is really great to have more options. It is amazing to come to something like this for free – thank you." *Parent*

"Sam loved using the playdough with Signal." *Parent*

"We loved exploring the museum and finding so much for kids to do. My daughter absolutely loved the animation"

Parent at Tiddlers Sessions at Dock Museum

THE DOCK MUSEUM
BARROW-IN-FURNESS



Tiddlers, Dec 2024



Youth Board, Mar 2024



BFI Workshop, Oct 2024

NEW YOUTH BOARD

Throughout the year our Youth Board has been developing their own objectives after expressing their desires to deliver activities and lead on mentoring younger people. They have plans to work more with the community and put into practice creative and professional skills, which so far has included members supporting delivery at Signal's stall with Casey Orr at Furness Pride in May 2024 and many joining our Get Digital and Cooke's Crew summer short courses as mentors to share their skills with our new participants.

We've been working with members individually to support their interests and personal progression. Spencer interviewed and was selected to be a Project Assistant, a 6-week internship funded as part of our 'Sankey Lives Through the Lens' Project. Spencer also worked with us to help deliver our Signal Starters workshops as a by-now well experienced model maker/sculptor. Having had Spencer join us on workshops since he was 8 years old - it's been wonderful to see his progression and to give him the opportunity for some professional development with Signal.

Sam H participated in artist Niki Colclough's series of workshops and later worked with us to lead on curation of an online exhibition, Digital Net, (QR below: www.signalfilmandmedia.com/participant-work/) to highlight his own and fellow participant's' work. We also celebrated Sam M's short film online and taking a cohort to attend his screening at Brewery Arts in August 2024.

INTEGRATING YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMMES

Over the past year we developed a range of family orientated drop-in activities designed to connect with the broader themes of our programme. These included interactive experiences with green screens and photography sessions using the Sankey Archive for inspiration; Playcation animation workshops featured a hand painted backdrop inspired by historical imagery from the Archive. 100 summer activity packs were distributed, containing designs and creative exercises drawn from the Archive. These elements offered younger participants a meaningful introduction to the arts and local heritage, while also sparking nostalgia and engagement among older family members, many of whom recognised familiar buildings depicted in the set designs.

Our summer 'Film in a Week' programme empowered our Signal Starters group (ages 8-11) to produce a short film titled 'Above the Below', drawing creative inspiration from Niki Colclough's 'Field Notes' exhibition. The prominent 'Leading Lights' sculptures from the exhibition were reimagined in the children's storytelling, forming a backdrop to a narrative about a rebellious fish exploring forbidden territory.

In response to Casey Orr's portrait exhibition 'Saturday Town' at Barrow's train station, we facilitated a series of five workshops for a group of six participants aged 16 years and over. Led by Casey Orr, the young people explored collage as a medium, creating large scale works using enlarged photographic prints and wheat paste techniques. The resulting pieces were showcased in a weekend pop-up exhibition at Cooke's Studios, highlighting the creativity and vision of the group.

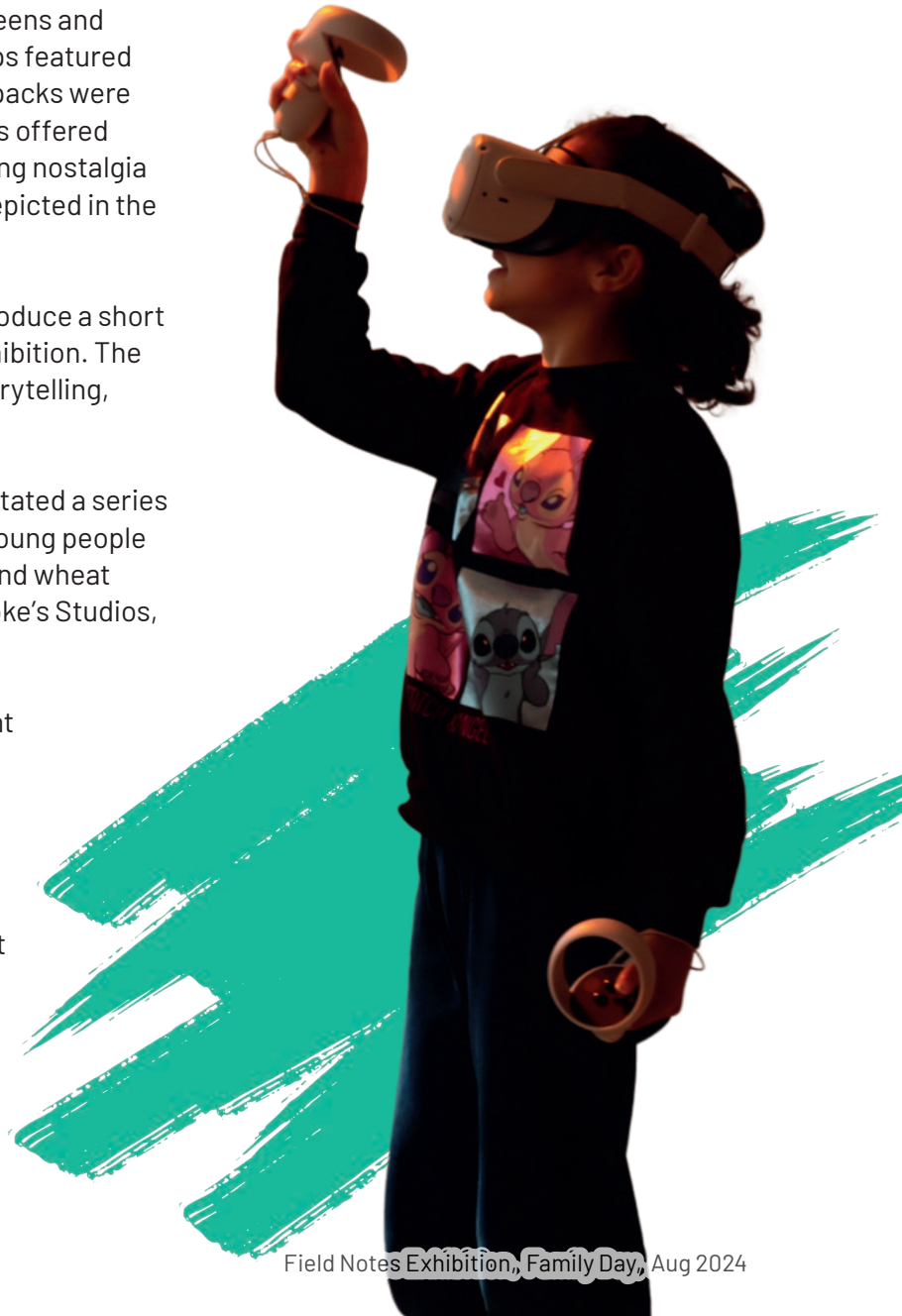
"I enjoyed the art and mixing with others similar to me and the amazing staff." Youth Participant

"I enjoyed getting a chance to be creative." Youth Participant

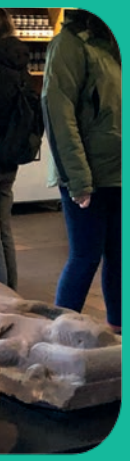
"I enjoyed doing art outside of heavily structured A levels." Youth Participant

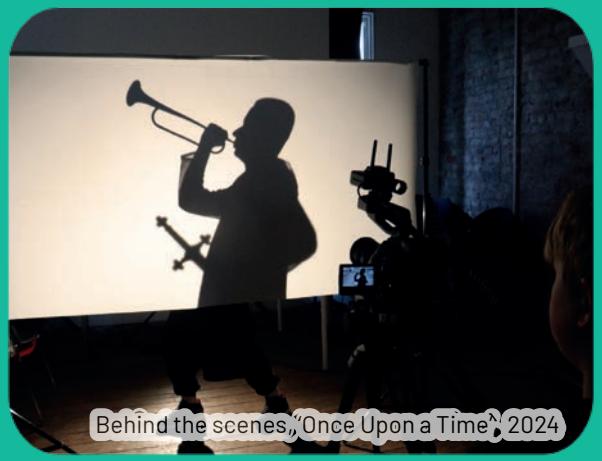
"These sessions got me out of my room which is better for my mental health." Youth Participant

"The workshops have reinspired my interest in art." Youth Participant



Field Notes Exhibition, Family Day, Aug 2024

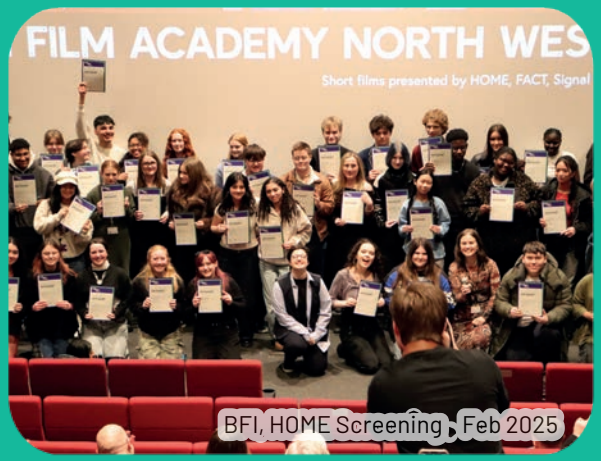




Behind the scenes, 'Once Upon a Time', 2024



BFI, HOME Screening , Feb 2025



BFI, HOME Screening , Feb 2025



YOUTH FILM SCREENINGS

This year 228 participants, parents, families and the wider community attended in-person screenings of films made by our youth programme cohorts. 'Once Upon a Time' was a collaboration between Cooke's Crew (11-15 year olds) and Get Digital (16-19 year olds), made during the summer. It was screened alongside the BFI Academy cohort's film 'Millie and June' to a packed audience. Participants of the BFI Academy also visited HOME in Manchester for the screening of their film and those of the other North West Academies cohorts and received well deserved praise.



BFI, HOME Screening , Feb 2025

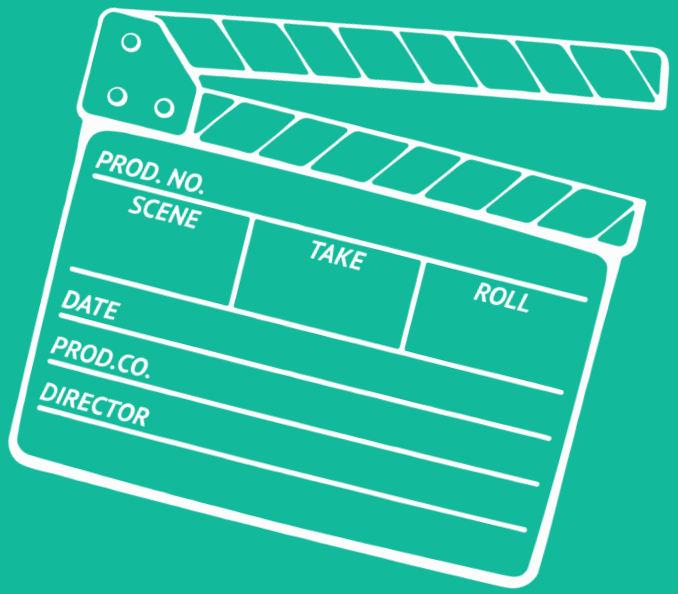


SIGNAL STARTERS

We are now in our 10th year of running our claymation, stop-frame animation sessions for 8-11 year olds, funded by Children in Need. These free, oversubscribed workshops run through each school holiday for local disadvantaged children and are focused on building their confidence, communication with others and encouraging them to make friends and connect with their peers. Participants collaboratively create their story, design their own characters, learn to make their model to a high standard through the support of experienced staff, voice record their characters and learn digital stop-motion animation techniques to make their short film from scratch. These free sessions saw over 100 young people doing tasters and 31 taster session participants progressing onto one of our four day 'Film in a Week' workshops during the year.

This year Spencer, our 20 year old Signal Starters alumni, successfully returned to Signal for a paid role as a mentor model-making with the young people.

20 young people worked on gaining the Arts Award Explore qualification during the 'Film in a Week' sessions.





Signal Starters, Taster Session, 2024

COOKE'S CREW / GET DIGITAL

Funded by Cumbria Community Foundation, our Cooke's Crew (12-15 year olds) and Get Digital (16-19 year olds) cohorts came together, for the second year running, to collaborate on a joint short film. Over 14 sessions during the summer holidays 13 young people (nine of which had progressed from Signal Starters) took part in Cooke's Crew and 19 took part in Get Digital. Six of the Get Digital participants were returning alumni who specifically worked with the younger cohort to mentor, direct and teach them how to use the equipment, resulting in a short film using a mix of live action and animation. Inspired by both groups' international diversity, the film was themed around medieval storytelling and used the cultural backgrounds of participants to influence the story and made use of a variety of languages (Spanish, Albanian, Filipino and Ukrainian).

29% of the YP were non White British. Eleven participants across both groups told us they had a disability or learning difference, with four participants speaking little or no English. Participants were encouraged to mix and engage with one another, with Google translate becoming an important tool during sessions and peer interviews. We were also lucky enough to have access to an interpreter, via the Multicultural Forum, who was able to translate documents for us and the young people.



Cooke's Crew/Get Digital , Aug 2024



Get Digital, Aug 2024

"Before the course he was really unhappy at school and this course had helped to boost his confidence by giving him a new hobby that he now enjoys. He also liked attending a place where he has felt welcome by the staff and other young people. It has been life changing to see him happy again." Cooke's Crew Participants Parent

"My son is very interested in becoming a film director and everything he learned in the course has been fantastic for him, as well as helping him interact with other young people his age, since we arrived from Colombia a few months ago and my son, who is autistic, does not know English yet, but Cook's Crew made his participation easy!! I am immediately grateful for the wonderful work! Thank you!" Cooke's Crew Participants Parent

"Ever since he started the course he kept practicing animation at home and when we went on holiday to stay with friends he encouraged other children to carry out filmmaking. He keeps talking all about Signal Films and asking when he can come back again." Cooke's Crew Participants Parent

"It has improved my abilities to work as a team and inspired me to enter the film industry" Get Digital Participant

" I moved to Barrow a month before this started and i didn't know anyone and now I have friends" Get Digital Participant

BRITISH FILM INDUSTRY ACADEMY

This year marks an exciting development as we became part of the North West Film Academies Consortium, working in partnership with HOME (Manchester), FACT (Liverpool), Aunty Social (Blackpool) and Touchstones (Rochdale). Now in its 13th year, our Film Academy benefited greatly from this collaborative network, providing participants with a wider sense of community and the opportunity to connect with peers from across the region.

Over the course of five months, our group of 16-19 year olds trained with professional mentors to produce their own short film, 'Millie and June', while also completing the Silver Arts Award. Each participant had the chance to specialise in a specific crew role, gaining hands-on experience in both technical and creative aspects of filmmaking. With access to industry standard equipment and guided on set learning, the programme offered a rare and immersive professional training experience.

We are especially proud to see our alumni returning to give back. This year, Adam Pickford - Producer and Cinematographer of the Channel 4 feature film 'The Fence' - delivered a masterclass and provided in-person mentorship as Director of Photography during our two-day shoot.

The finished film premiered at HOME in Manchester alongside the work of other consortium partners, giving our young people the unforgettable experience of seeing their film on the big screen before an audience of 190. A second more intimate screening was held at Cooke's Studios for friends and family, with a full house audience of 63.

"Amazing to see how young people can progress onto creating really professional films." Parent

"Very good captivating storyline, really good film in quality, believable set, good acting and timing." Parent

"Really good. A challenging film and I didn't expect the finale. Brilliant, acting and script. Excellent film." Parent

We will now submit 'Millie and June' to various festivals which the cohort have already researched.



BFI Workshop, Dec 2024

IMPACT GOAL 2: SKILLED, FULFILLED CREATIVES

A key part of our mission is to break down barriers to creative careers for people living in isolated and underrepresented areas of Barrow and Cumbria. We support people in building sustainable futures in the creative sector by helping them grow in confidence, develop their skills, and become more adaptable to the evolving nature of creative work.

Through a variety of opportunities - such as workshops, events and collaborative projects - we create chances for individuals to connect with others who share similar interests to help support each other on their creative journeys. Our goal is to encourage both personal growth and the development of meaningful collaborative work.

> ***"You helped me learn at a pace I could do. Everybody was so friendly and it was just everything you would want for a neurodiverse adult to come into and go 'We just accept you no matter how weird or wonderful you are. Come in, take a seat, take some pictures'. And then to connect that along with the Sankey Archive, with these pictures of where I live but from a completely different age, it was a dream come true for me. It really was."*** Regular Volunteer/Participant



FIELD NOTES

As part of our 'Sankey: Lives through the Lens' programme in summer 2024, we commissioned artist Nicky Colclough and engaged a cohort of nine local young people, recruited through partners such as Vision Support and Children's Services, to co-create 'Field Notes.' Inspired by the Sankey Archive, a series of seven creative workshops introduced participants to photography, 3D scanning, digital collage and sound recording. Field trips to archive-related locations encouraged independent exploration and artistic response.
Of the 9 participants:
86% said they gained skills in teamwork
63% said they gained communication skills
86% said they gained skills in using creativity
86% said they developed skills as a result of the project

The resulting work was exhibited in our gallery throughout August 2024, launched with a special opening event and welcoming a total of 245 visitors, with 100% agreeing that the exhibition had a positive impact on their lives. 92% agreed it was important to have these types of activities in Barrow and 88% agreed that anyone can take part in these activities. Wrap around activities for the exhibition included a Family Day which welcomed 47 young people and adults through our doors, workshops with Mind, Furness Multicultural Forum and a Sankey-themed animation set for our participation in Barrowful's 'Playcation' festival around multiple locations in Barrow, including Barrow Park.

"A fantastic exhibition. Beautiful, poignant images and such clarity. A plea to have a longer exhibition to allow further folk to enjoy a joyful oracle of Barrow." Audience member

"Mesmerising. Truly unique insight into a lost world." Audience member

"We really did have quite a few young people express their amazement at the collection, so the Sankey work reaches across the generations and unites all ages in a common understanding of the town's history and provides a sense of belonging." Volunteer & Sankey Researcher)







"It's been interesting learning new techniques like soundscape, 3D scanning, and beachcombing sculptures. Looking forward to the outcome." Participant

MIND AND FURNESS MULTICULTURAL FORUM WORKSHOPS



Our partnership with Furness Multicultural Forum and Mind in Furness has continued to thrive with the 'Sankey: Lives through the Lens' project serving as a powerful example of community engagement.

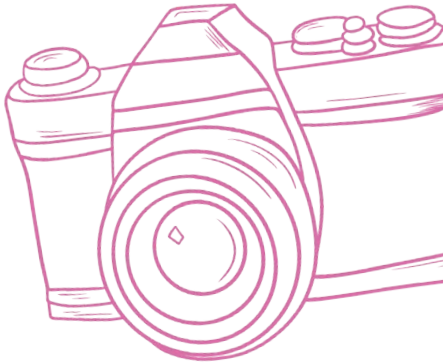
During the summer, we hosted a series of weekly workshops that alternated between mixed media and textiles led by Danielle Chappell Aspinwell, and photography delivered by local photographer Phil Green. The photography sessions, supported by Signal Staff and Volunteers, provided a welcoming environment where participants could learn to use digital cameras, explore photographic techniques and receive one-on-one guidance. Each week focussed on a different theme with practical exercises to build skills and confidence. The workshops also included cyanotype printing allowing participants to create unique portraits of each other.

A curated selection of the photographs, along with the mixed media artwork was exhibited at the 'Field Notes' exhibition in August 2024, which provided a meaningful opportunity for participants to see their creative achievements celebrated in a public place.

'This sort of thing never happens to people like me!' Mind participant at exhibition
"I have loved it. I have learnt lots of new stuff and made new friends." Mind Participant
"I want to do more please." Mind participant

PROJECT ASSISTANT WORK PLACEMENT

This year we offered three paid work placements to young people from a variety of backgrounds and life stages. One participant joined us ahead of starting university, gaining valuable first job experience, while another had recently graduated. A third had been out of work for a period of time and was eager to begin building a career in the creative industry.



These placements provided hands-on experience across several areas of our organisation. The participants supported our workshops, contributed to social media and marketing initiatives, represented us at Freshers Fairs and brought fresh creativity to the redesign of our youth group mascots.

"My experience with Signal Film and Media has been enjoyable and educational. I find that new opportunities have arisen just by being there. The team at Signal have been very inclusive, despite me being new to working with them, it's been a positive experience all around" Project Assistant

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND NPO PROGRAMME

SATURDAY TOWN

Saturday Town is an award-winning, nationally significant photographic project celebrating youth culture, fashion and self-expression led by Casey Orr, who we brought to work with Signal photographing participants in a colourful pop up studio at 'Barrowween' and Pride.

The playful and vibrant portraits produced and accompanying publication celebrated the region and its people whilst highlighting the subject's individual style and personality.

Saturday Town was launched at Barrow Train Station and Cooke's Studios on the 19th September 2024 and a pop up exhibition of youth and artist co-creative works exhibited on the 18th- 20th October 2024.







A GUIDE TO GENTLE PROTEST

A Guide to Gentle Protest began with a three-part workshop series led by Artists Joseph Doubtfire and Tina Dempsey, inviting participants to explore and creatively express their cares and concerns about Barrow-in-Furness. Through guided town-centre and coastal walks, participants collected images, objects and ideas that captured their connection to the town's industrial and natural landscapes. Participants worked towards creating 'gentle' visual manifestos - public declarations of policies, cares and aims that communicated their ideas through artworks and creative writing.

The group's work was captured in a film created by the artists and they used the manifestos to create new artwork that was installed in the underpass at Barrow Train Station.

"I've enjoyed getting my camera out and intend to take more photographs & learn more about my local area." Participant

"I am able to transfer what I know to help in the job I do." Participant

"Gave me ideas for new creative projects and I was able to network with other local creatives and facilitators." Participant

Watch the film:
www.signalfilmandmedia.com/a-guide-to-gentle-protest/



EMERGING CUMBRIAN ARTIST DEVELOPMENT LAB

In September 2024, 10 out of 14 of our Lab Artists came together for a collaborative, jam-packed day which began with a trip to Piel Island where Amy Dickson and Jamie Jenkinson from Jwllrs (a free alternative art school based in Morecambe) ran an outdoor workshop on practices of exploration and quantum thinking.

After lunch we made our way to Furness Abbey where artist Joseph Doubtfire led a creative VR workshop, introducing many artists to the possibilities of making digital art using VR headsets. The day concluded with group discussions and networking. The opportunity to reconnect as a cohort and for artists to exchange progress on where they were with their art practice was energising and inspirational ,with 100% of artists reporting that the Lab helped them make new connections, access new networks and feel more involved in the arts and its communities and 86% reporting they learned about new techniques, tools or technologies.

We have also held group sessions on zoom where mentees presented their work in progress and have had individual consultations in person and online in preparation for their exhibition in late 2025. We have provided technical, funding advice and field research for mentees, as well as letters of support for three mentees which aided in the award of two 'Developing Your Own Creative' (DYCP) funds and one project grant.

"With the Digital Development Lab being a continuous source of reconnection, I feel like my communications have developed since the start of the project. Looking back I feel confident in seeing this journey and how it has gradually allowed me to come out of my shell. I have learned specific digital skills on the Lab such as how to use and paint in VR, but through conversations with other artists on the Lab I have learned about different approaches to using such digital skills and making work. I have learned more about and experienced in more depth, Furness Abbey and Piel Island which has made me appreciate the heritage of Barrow on a deeper level." Participant

"Participating in the Lab re-inspires me to come up with brand new ideas and approaches to making which I wouldn't have thought about previously. After not having much time to create work as regularly as I would like to and struggling to give my practice the time it needs, the Lab gives me a boost and reminds me why I make art in the first place." Participant



Artist Lab Workshop, Piel Island, Sep 2024





Artist Lab VR Workshop, Furness Abbey, Sep 2024

MENTORING CREATIVES

Throughout the year we have remained deeply committed to providing consistent support, guidance and encouragement to the artists involved in our Development LAB, as well as to our commissioned and associate artists. This ongoing support has taken various forms ranging from assistance with research and offering practical and technical help, to facilitating the development of their individual artist practices and project outputs.

We have actively supported and championed their exhibitions and creative projects, which have taken place across a variety of locations including Kendal, Morecambe, Millom, Grizedale and Barrow. These engagements have allowed artists to connect with specific communities and share their work with wider audiences.

"I really appreciate your time and the many introductions you made for me!" Participant



Photography Workshop with Furness Multicultural Forum, Mar 2024



Artist Lab Workshop, Sep 2024

PSYCHOGEOLOGY - EXHIBITION

Psychogeology was exhibited in Barrow Market throughout the spring and summer of 2024, showcasing work created in February and March 2024 by local young participants and Manchester based artist, Jack Brown.

Through exploring underwater filming, using blue screens, making sculptures, collecting rock samples on field trips, digging holes on the beach and learning first-hand from a professional artist, participants collaboratively created three new artworks to share with the community.

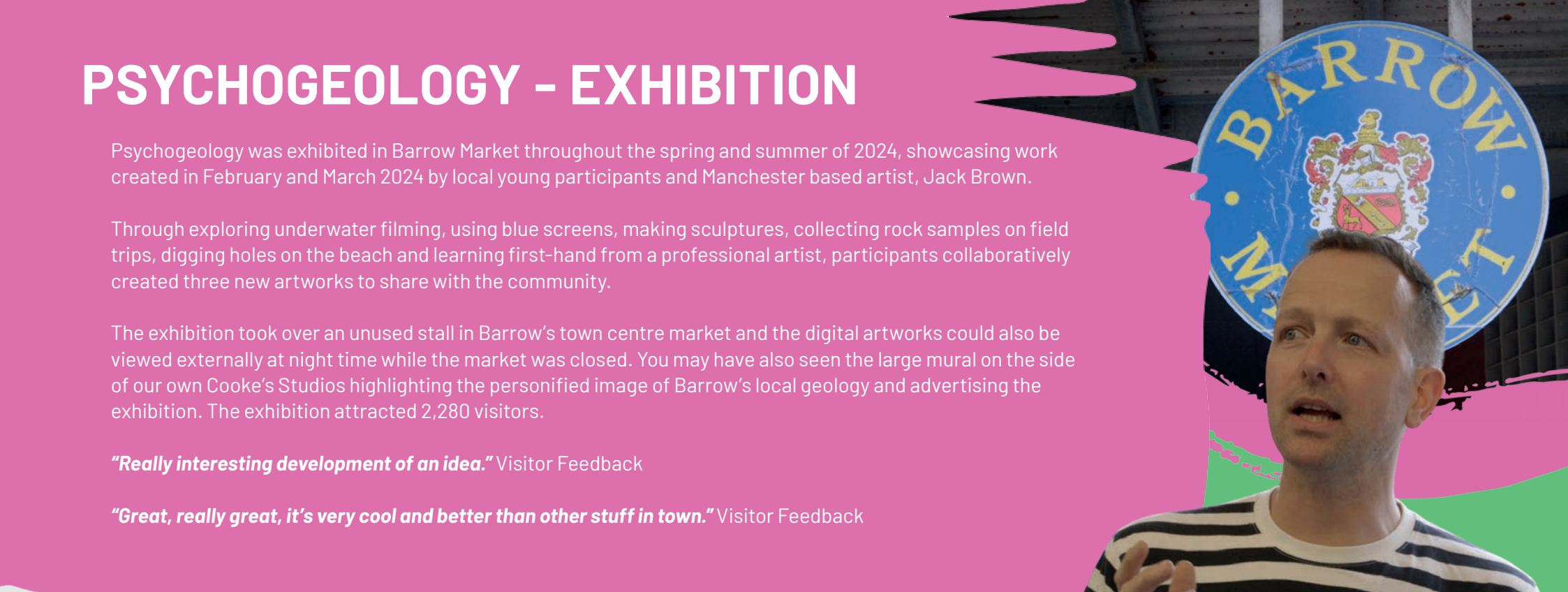
The exhibition took over an unused stall in Barrow's town centre market and the digital artworks could also be viewed externally at night time while the market was closed. You may have also seen the large mural on the side of our own Cooke's Studios highlighting the personified image of Barrow's local geology and advertising the exhibition. The exhibition attracted 2,280 visitors.

"Really interesting development of an idea." Visitor Feedback

"Great, really great, it's very cool and better than other stuff in town." Visitor Feedback



Psychogeology Exhibition Launch May 2024



"I've been working with a group of brilliant creative residents to find ways to explore and respond to Barrow's geology and deep history. As the project progressed we broke into three teams each with their own focus. The 'Hills team' were interested in the Slag Hills in Ormsgill, the 'Sea team' wanted to throw cameras into the ocean and the 'Quarry team' wanted to make a film of them disappearing back into the Quarry or maybe into geology itself." Jack Brown

ENERGY GOAST

As part of our continued and evolving partnership with artists Vaseem Bhatti and Mishka Henner, we are proud to have commissioned a digital work that will contribute to the latest chapter of the Energy Goast Project. This initiative takes the form of a conceptual 'nature awareness brand' that draws inspiration from, and is deeply rooted in, the strikingly beautiful and geologically volcanic landscapes of Cumbria. Originally conceived during 'West Coast Photo' - Signal's celebrated International Photography Festival held in 2021 - this new development marks an exciting extension of the project's creative and environmental narrative.

"This is a new vision for Cumbria, one that attracts the world's brightest minds, investors, and adventurers—ensuring that economic growth, environmental responsibility, and engineering brilliance go hand in hand.

This is not just about preservation. It's about reinvention. Energy Goast is the future. And the future starts now."
www.energygoast.com

The next phase of this commission - rolling out in June 2025 - is a targeted PR campaign (with a bespoke designed press pack) teasing the enigmatic possibilities of Energy Goast. This will also be accompanied with a series of podcasts digging into 'key aspects' of the project.

ENERGY GOAST



CEO WINS TOP ACCOLADE



THE LAKE DISTRICT RESURFACED

STORE



CARGOCARRIER™



CHILLSTORE™



ENVIROCLOAK™ 2.0

IMPACT GOAL 3: CONNECTED, CULTURAL COMMUNITY

Barrow faces a significant gap in access to contemporary art and meaningful cultural experiences. In response, we've worked to bridge this divide by delivering engaging digital arts programmes that are open, inclusive, and community led, as well as undergoing a £1.4 million Capital Works Project.

This year we are nearing completion of the transformation of our historic Grade II listed Victorian warehouses into a dynamic, public facing arts and cultural centre. This flagship capital project to improve infrastructure and facilities marks a change in accessibility and visibility in Barrow, providing world class creative opportunities for communities that have traditionally been underserved.

A diverse range of partners - including Furness Multicultural Forum, Theatre Factory and Sir John Fisher Foundation - will benefit immediately from the new space with at least ten other organisations expected to regularly use the venue each year.

Emerging and local artists will soon have the opportunity to exhibit their work in a purpose built, international standard gallery space they can take pride in. Visitors will enjoy year round access to exhibitions in a professionally curated setting, supported by a welcoming team, and an onsite cafe in the future.

The upgraded infrastructure, which includes new lighting track systems and environmental controls, will enable us to meet the exacting standards required to host national and international touring exhibitions. We are already delivering on this potential with an exciting opening programme, including a partnership with Martin Parr Foundation, and exhibitions featuring Chris Killip and their touring exhibition; *'ONE YEAR: Photographs from the Miners' Strike 1984-85*, alongside community works.



Photography Workshop with Furness Multicultural Forum, Mar 2024



BFI standing in front of hoardings marking start of our refurb!

SANKEY - LIVES THROUGH THE LENS

Over the past 12 months we have worked closely with community members to explore the 'Sankey Photographic Archive', uncovering historical connections and thematic links across the collection. Participants engaged with both urban and rural narratives, drawing inspiration from the Sankey family's legacy to produce a wide range of creative responses, including photography, printmaking, cyanotypes, collage, sculpture, writing and sound. Overall, an amazing 15,450 people have been part of this project so far, including audiences, participants, and volunteers combined, over 111 total sessions.

This programme has fostered new friendships, skill development, and a deeper connection to local and global histories. The archive continues to inspire, offering diverse perspectives and stories that remain relevant today. We have particularly valued seeing the collection through the eyes of our commissioned artists and participants of their workshops.

Volunteers have been instrumental in the project's success, delivering public talks, curating events, producing podcasts, and mentoring fellow volunteers and participants. Their contributions have enriched the programme and supported the development of both artists and community members.

As we move into the final phase of the project, we are pleased to collaborate with artists Nicholas J.R White, Dawn Parsonage, Jack Brown, Tina Dempsey and Nom Ncube. Together we will explore connections between Barrow, Blackpool and Africa through co-curated artworks and collaborative research.

"I think the sessions are very good and have made me grow in skills and confidence. Also helped me feel relaxed." Volunteer



Dawn Parsonage



Podcast Training, Aug 2024

ADULT STEERING GROUP

We have been continuing our community steering group with adult representatives of all ages and backgrounds through 2024-2025. The group includes young creatives, artists, local cultural supporters and heritage professionals.



Meetings were held in May, October & January and participants were able to join in person or online. They have helped: plan for our capital project, workshopped Sankey project plans, fed into artist commissions, analysed risks to engagement and their help has been particularly useful as we move into formalising our youth and adult community engagement.

Individuals from the group have also been part of our artist selection processes and have helped us throughout the year providing objective and enthusiastic advice and support.

VOLUNTEERING

Our committed team of volunteers has continued to play an integral role in supporting the 'Sankey Photography Archive' and our arts programme. Their contributions span welcoming visitors, delivering talks, assisting with workshops and acting as dedicated ambassadors for the organisation.

Highlights from this year include a group visit to the Liverpool Maritime Museum, featuring an informative tour of the 17th century dock system. We also continued our festive tradition with the annual Sankey Christmas Quiz. Additionally volunteers have been instrumental in the development of a new newspaper and podcast, aimed at expanding the reach and impact of the Sankey Archive to broader audiences.

"My experience of volunteering at Signal has been a positive one, it has presented opportunities and challenges which I would not normally have encountered and it has certainly taken me out of my comfort zone at times. I have enjoyed the experience and hope my contributions have been useful." (Volunteer)

"I enjoy volunteering with Signal media for several reasons: It connects me to my personal history in the Barrow area, I have learnt new things linked to photography and Sankey archive, there are opportunities to contribute and engage with projects, the staff and environment are supportive and flexible, and I like that outcomes are displayed in an exhibition and on line so others can enjoy and share."

Volunteer

EMPLOYEES & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Our ability to achieve and uphold high standards in our creative work relies on the talent and dedication of our team. We are therefore committed to providing staff with as much relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as possible, in order to continually enhance their knowledge, skills and professional competence.

This year we attended training in:

- **Mental Health First Aid**
- **Digital Marketing**
- **Fundraising**
- **Brave Futures Strategy**
- **Trauma Informed Basic Awareness Training**
- **Disability Confident Intro**
- **Dedicated Safeguarding Lead training**
- **Audience Data Collection**
- **Website Health Check**
- **Archive Network**
- **NFTS & BBC Introduction to The Role of Production Coordinator Taster Day**

All of our staff undertake Safeguarding training for working with children and have Enhanced DBS checks which are renewed every three years.



BFI Workshop, Oct 2024



MIND Workshop, Oct 2024

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

As part of our commitment to addressing the climate emergency, environmental sustainability remains within the core of all we do. It is embedded as a Development Priority within our Arts Council NPO Programme and underpins our Strategic Plan 2022-2030.

We considered the impact on the environment throughout our arts programme, Landscape & Protest but especially as part of our 'A Guide to Gentle Protest' workshops. These workshops, including our workshops for 'Psychogeology'/ Get Digital and 'Field Notes' were largely held in areas of natural beauty with themes naturally emerging around conservation, protection and sustaining our local environments while highlighting ecological awareness through artistic practice.

To better understand and reduce our environmental impact, we actively use Julie's Bicycle, an online tool to monitor our carbon footprint. We prioritise sustainable materials in production, work with local and environmentally responsible suppliers across all our operations. Environmental Policy is a key topic during our monthly team meetings to inform ongoing best practice.

Our approach reflects a long term commitment to sustainability, ensuring that environmental considerations are not only addressed but actively shape our organisational culture and creative outputs.



BFI Workshop, Nov 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year are summarised in the Statement of Financial Activities (income and expenditure account) on page 22. Incoming resources increased by £823,908 (118%) to £1,524,679. Income in respect of restricted funds increased by £875,555 (337%) to £1,135,725; income in respect of unrestricted income decreased by £51,647 (12%) to £388,954.

Expenditure totalled £565,668, an increase of £33,711 (6%). This led to an increase in the total fund balances of £959,011 in the year. They now total £1,338,935; of which the General Fund (unrestricted) totals £236,151, including £72,640 designated funds. The restricted funds total £1,102,784 of which £990,000 relates to capital grants in respect of the improvements to the leasehold property.

Reserves policy

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining a realistic level of reserves in order to ensure that Signal Film and Media continues to be in a position to discharge its obligations to its beneficiaries, partners, creditors and staff. The reserves policy is reviewed annually by trustees to take into account risk and sustainability of the organisation.

At 31 March 2021 the trustees redefined the reserves target such that unrestricted general funds, excluding designated funds, are required to be at least equal to 3 months' cover of core costs (being establishment and staff expenditure not directly attributable to project activity) to be held in the form of cash at bank in a specially designated bank deposit account.

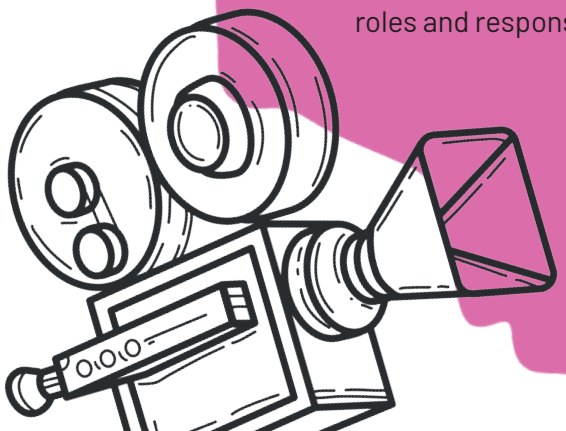
The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have implemented review systems to mitigate these risks.

The major risks are currently identified as:

- Reliance on short term charitable grants income to supplement earned income to meet the cost of the creative programme;
- Changes in the arts funding system; and
- Critical impact of the loss of key senior staff.

To mitigate these risks the charity:

- Ensures that it has a diverse funding profile without an over-reliance on any one source of funding;
- Reviews existing and potential ways of generating earned income and works towards financial sustainability;
- Maintains and enhances relationships with key funders and remains well informed about developments in the arts funding arena;
- Invests time and effort in the exploration of funding opportunities and financial partnerships; and
- Ensures that all staff, including key senior staff, are well supported and that there is a regular appraisal of skills, roles and responsibilities within the senior staff team.



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, not having share capital, and is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 10 April 2013, as amended. It's company registered number is 6606718. On 14 May 2013 the company became a registered charity with a charity number 1152012.

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

Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater - Chair
Ms K M Bird
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner
Ms J L Swales
Mr D J Foster
Ms M A M Davis

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
The Board consists of people with considerable interest and experience in the arts, who are able to draw on their past experiences at a senior level in relevant disciplines.

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

The company's current policy concerning the payment of trade creditors is to follow the CBI's Prompt Payers Code (copies are available from the CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU).

The company's current policy concerning the payment of trade creditors is to:

- settle the terms of payment with suppliers when agreeing the terms of each transaction;

- ensure that suppliers are made aware of the terms of payment by inclusion of the relevant terms in contracts;

and

- pay in accordance with the company's contractual and other legal obligations.

Trade creditors of the company at the year end were equivalent to XX day's purchases, based on the average daily
amount invoiced by suppliers during the year.



Casey Orr, Barrow Pride, May 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Statement of trustees' responsibilities
The trustees, who are also the directors of Signal Film & Media Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

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

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

Auditor
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Melville & Co be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

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

.....
Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee

Date: 30/01/2026



Tiddlers, Dock Museum, Dec 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

Opinion

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

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.
We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect there under.

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.]5 The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

[Which laws and regulations the auditor identified as being of significance in the context of the entity.] ICAEW guidance relating to reporting on irregularities, November 2020, based on ISA 700 A39-1 to A39-5


Psychogeology Exhibition Launch May 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

Extent to which the audit was capable of identifying irregularities, including fraud

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the trustees and other management, and from inspection of the charity's records. We discussed with the trustees and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance during the audit.

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related charities legislation), pensions legislation, taxation legislation and further laws and regulations that could indirectly affect the financial statements, comprising environmental, health and safety and employment legislation and safeguarding. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These procedures did not identify any potentially material actual or suspected non-compliance.

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud we considered the opportunities and incentives and pressures that may exist within the charity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included: enquiry of trustees and other management to understand the high level policies and procedures in place to prevent and detect fraud, reading Board minutes and considering performance targets and incentive schemes in place for management. We remained alert to any indications of fraud during the audit.

As a result of these procedures we identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:
- income recognition and in particular the risk that income is recognised in the wrong reporting period or that restricted income is incorrectly recognised as unrestricted income.

These risks may arise due to a potential desire to present weaker results due to an incentive to obtain further funding.

As required by auditing standards we also identified and addressed the risk of management override of controls.

We performed the following procedures to address the risks of fraud identified:
- identifying and testing high risk journal entries through vouching the entries to supporting documentation; and
- testing the recognition of income and in particular that it was appropriately recognised or deferred.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent
permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

S Oram
S Oram (Jan 30, 2026 15:26:49 GMT)

Simon Oram MA FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Melville & Co, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Unit 17-18, Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN
Date: 30/01/2026

Melville & Co is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.


Psychogeology Exhibition Family Day May 2024


Psychogeology Exhibition Family Day May 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds as restated 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	384,303	1,135,725	1,520,028	438,503	260,170	698,673
Investments	4	4,651	-	4,651	2,098	-	2,098
Total income		388,954	1,135,725	1,524,679	440,601	260,170	700,771
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	302,043	263,625	565,668	341,939	190,018	531,957
Total expenditure		302,043	263,625	565,668	341,939	190,018	531,957
Net income		86,911	872,100	959,011	98,662	70,152	168,814
Transfers between funds		(7,529)	7,529	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	7	79,382	879,629	959,011	98,662	70,152	168,814
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		156,769	223,155	379,924	58,107	153,003	211,110
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		236,151	1,102,784	1,338,935	156,769	223,155	379,924



Casey Orr Workshop, Sep 2024

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

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 as restated £	2024 as restated £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		923,889		124,715
Current assets					
Debtors	12	357,854		117,928	
Cash at bank and in hand		251,862		215,207	
		609,716		333,135	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(194,670)		(77,926)	
Net current assets			415,046		255,209
Total assets less current liabilities			1,338,935		379,924
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		1,102,784		223,155
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	17	72,640		110,427	
General unrestricted funds		163,511		46,342	
			236,151		156,769
			1,338,935		379,924

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 30/01/2026

Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee

Ms L A R Slater - Chair
Trustee

Company Registration No. 06606718

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	19		832,778		130,856
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(856,503)		(120,785)	
Prior year adjustment for purchase of fixed assets		55,729		-	
Investment income received		4,651		2,098	
Net cash used in investing activities			(796,123)		(118,687)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			36,655		12,169
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			215,207		203,038
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			251,862		215,207

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Signal Film & Media Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Cooke's Studios, 104 Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 5QR.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

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

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

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

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

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

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

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

All expenditure is accounted for when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the costs of all activities carried out, with the exception of the costs incurred for governance purposes.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Improvements to leasehold property (straightline over the term of the lease)	
Plant and equipment	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Computers	33% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

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

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Prior period restatement

The prior period adjustment relates to the capital grant received from Arts Council England. This was not treated as a restricted grant in 2024 (though it was in 2023). The expenditure relating to it was not capitalised in 2023 and only partly in 2024. As a result the following changes have been made to the comparative figures:

Restricted fund	Original	Restatement	2024
	£	£	£
	45,122	107,881	153,003
- opening balance	216,001	44,169	260,170
- income	(190,018)	-	(190,018)
- expenditure			
	71,105	152,050	223,155
- closing balance			

Unrestricted fund	Original	Restatement	2024
	£	£	£
	140,843	(82,736)	58,107
- opening balance	484,770	(44,169)	440,601
- income	(372,523)	30,584	(341,939)
- expenditure			
	253,090	(96,321)	156,769
- closing balance			
	324,195	55,729	379,924
Total			

There has been a corresponding increase of £55,729 in the Improvements to leasehold property.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Charitable activities

	Charitable Income 2025 £	Charitable Income 2024 £
Grants	1,450,834	649,569
Other income	69,194	49,104
	1,520,028	698,673
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	384,303	438,503
Restricted funds	1,135,725	260,170
	1,520,028	698,673
Grants		
Arts Council England - NPO funding	200,000	200,000
Westmorland & Furness Council - NPO funding	22,500	-
Other unrestricted funds	-	73,973
Restricted funds - see note 15	1,135,725	265,169
Designated funds - see note 17	92,609	110,427
	1,450,834	649,569

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	4,651	2,098

5 Charitable activities

	Charitable xpenditure 2025 £	Charitable Expenditure 2024 £
Staff costs	212,587	158,349
Equipment	36,184	8,275
Insurance	1,361	1,514
Light and heat	18,443	28,472
Repairs and renewals	4,715	3,404
Travelling	28,180	16,047
Computer costs	33,068	24,977
Sundry expenses	13,709	21,880
Legal and professional	2,562	3,623
Freelance staff	178,023	221,500
Advertising	7,780	14,953
Bank charges	101	55
Training	13,224	9,791
Rent and rates	7,706	7,833
	557,643	520,673
Share of support costs (see note 6)	1,600	6,522
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	6,425	4,762
	565,668	531,957
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	302,043	341,939
Restricted funds	263,625	190,018
	565,668	531,957

6 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	1,600	6,522
Governance costs	6,425	4,762
	8,025	11,284
Analysed between:		
Unrestricted funds	8,025	11,284

7 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable to the charity's auditor:		
- for the audit of the charity's financial statements	2,742	804
- for other assurance services	594	804
- for tax advisory services	150	144
- for other financial services	2,939	3,010
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	1,600	6,522

8 Trustees

The trustees received the following fees from the charity during the year:
Ms K J Kolbe - £61,900 (2024 - £54,500)
Ms L A R Slater -£60,620 (2024 - £53,750)
Ms K Bird - £26,155 (2024 - £14,475)

The fees include £28,484 for extra work to secure additional £900,000 funds to meet capital project deficit and to project manage, administer and deliver the £1.4m capital project in addition to the programme delivery.

9 Employees

	2025 Number	2024 Number
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	9	6

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	196,656	146,955
Social security costs	11,630	8,062
Other pension costs	4,301	3,332
	212,587	158,349

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

10 Taxation

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Improvements to leashold property	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	65,056	87,905	47,440	25,564	225,965
Additions	856,370	-	-	133	856,503
At 31 March 2025	921,426	87,905	47,440	25,697	1,082,468
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2024	-	83,975	47,440	25,564	156,979
Depreciation charged in the year	-	1,555	-	45	1,600
At 31 March 2025	-	85,530	47,440	25,609	158,579
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2025	921,426	2,375	-	88	923,889
At 31 March 2024	120,785	3,930	-	-	124,715

12 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	5,218	22,198
Other debtors	94,166	5,481
Prepayments and accrued income	258,470	90,249
	357,854	117,928

13 Creditors: amounts falling due

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	2,715	256
Trade creditors	133,025	23,413
Accruals and deferred income	58,930	54,257
	194,670	77,926

14 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	**4,301**	**3,332**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

15 Restricted funds

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

		Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Sir John Fisher Foundation	-	20,000	(20,000)	7,529	7,529
Arts Council England Capital Fund	152,050	337,950	-	-	490,000
National Heritage Lottery Fund	-	135,454	(135,454)	-	-
Children in Need	7,721	19,222	(9,583)	-	17,360
Associaton of Independent Museums	43,384	17,000	(60,384)	-	-
Cumbria Community Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Cumbria County Council (Library)	20,000	5,000	(5,000)	-	20,000
Police and Crime Commissioner Community Fund	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Barrow Town Council	-	4,975	-	-	4,975
National Lotter Community Fund	-	19,669	(9,669)	-	10,000
BFI Film Academy	-	17,220	(14,500)	-	2,720
Westmorland & Furness - Community Fund	-	1,535	(1,535)	-	-
Community Ownership Fund	-	500,000	-	-	500,000
Westmorland & Furness - Team Barrow	-	50,200	-	-	50,200
	223,155	1,135,725	(263,625)	7,529	1,102,784

The restricted fund balances include £990,000 of capital grants relating to the improvements to leasehold property, which came in to use in the summer of 2025 & will be depreciated over the remaining term of the lease (15 years) from then on.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	90,463	833,426	923,889
Current assets/(liabilities)	145,688	269,358	415,046
	236,151	1,102,784	1,338,935

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	59,659	65,056	124,715
Current assets/(liabilities)	97,110	158,099	255,209
	156,769	223,155	379,924

17 Designated funds

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

		Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Tudor Trust	40,000	40,000	(40,001)	-	39,999
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation plus	8,500	-	(8,477)	-	23
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	24,398	-	(24,389)	-	9
Westmorland and Furness Council	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Francis C Scott Charitable Trust	10,000	42,609	(40,000)	-	12,609
Sir John Fisher Foundation	7,529	-	-	(7,529)	-
Other designated funds	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
	110,427	92,609	(122,867)	(7,529)	72,640

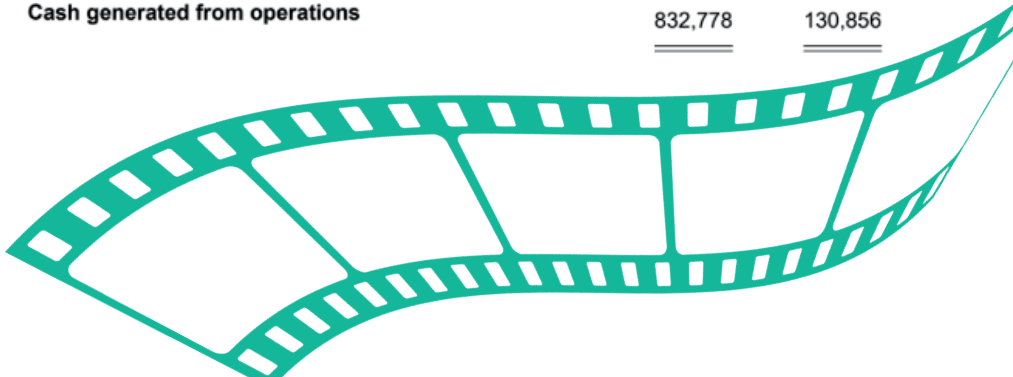
The grant received the previous year's accounts as from the Sir John Fisher Foundation was specified, to the charity by the funder, after the completion of last year's accounts, as a restricted fund. Accordingly the balance brought forward in to this tear's accounts has been transferred to the restricted funds.

18 Related party transactions

Creative Studios Cumbria Limited is a charitable company, under the control of trustees of Signal Film & Media Limited. During the year the paid rent, utilities and building running costs of £15,150 (2024 - £43,337) to Creative Studios Cumbria Limited.

19 Cash generated from operations

	2025 £	2024 £
Surplus for the year	959,011	168,814
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(4,651)	(2,098)
Prior period adjustment to opening capital		25,145
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	1,600	6,522
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(239,926)	(81,047)
Increase in creditors	116,744	13,520
Cash generated from operations	832,778	130,856





A Guide to Gentle Protest workshop, Feb 2025

SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1152012

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



Signal Starters Workshops, Jul 2023

SIGNAL
FILM & MEDIA



Greengate Juniors Exhibition Workshop, May 2023



Artist Development Lab Workshop, Jan 2024



Troubled Waters Exhibition Launch, Jun 2023

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WELCOME TO **SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA...**

www.signalfilmandmedia.com

We are an award-winning charity providing creative activities in film, arts, heritage and digital media from our base at Cooke's Studios on Abbey Road in Barrow-in-Furness. Since 2008 we have built a unique resource for thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds to access free facilities, events, professional training and hands-on experience in film, digital arts and creative digital media.

Facilities include training rooms, edit suites, exhibition and screening spaces. Our charity works extensively with Barrow and Cumbria's most isolated and deprived residents, using the arts as a tool to build confidence, skills and self esteem. Alongside our programme of participation activities we also provide residencies for artists to produce new work and a mentoring scheme which supports the development of emerging local talent with the aim of creating a vibrant film and arts culture in the area.

@signalfilmandmedia

@signalfilmmedia

@signalfilmmedia



Greengate Juniors Exhibition Visit, Jan 2024

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees
Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater (Chair)
Ms K M Bird
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner
Ms J L Swales
Mr D J Foster
Ms M Davis

Ms K J Kolbe (Secretary)

Charity number 1152012
Company number 6606718

Registered office
Cooke's Studios
102-104 Abbey Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 5QR

Independent examiner
Melville & Co
Unit 17-18
Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN



Tales of The Tide Workshop, Jul 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are for the public benefit to promote the arts and to advance education in the arts in particular but not exclusively by:

a) Providing a centre for the arts and creative industries where local residents, particularly those from disadvantaged groups, can access facilities and activities to develop skills in a diverse range of creative, media and arts disciplines, and:

b) Providing premises, space and activities for local front-line groups in order to support media production and the creative and artistic development of local people.

Activities undertaken for public benefit in relation to these objects

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are to implement a programme of film, media and digital arts training courses, masterclasses, screenings and workshops for adults and young people and there has been no change in these during the year.

As such the Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the 'public benefit' notice.

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

Aims and Approach

We aim to achieve four overarching outcomes for our community through provision of arts and culture activity:

1. Connecting residents, old and young, to a wider world and diverse experiences

2. Providing skills training, advice and resources

3. Providing new cultural experiences and connecting people and communities

4. Supporting and encouraging personal and social development

We achieve these aims by delivering projects under three strands of activity:

Strand 1: Confident, Empowered Young People

Strand 2: A Connected Cultural Community

Strand 3: Skilled, Fulfilled Creatives

"My proudest achievement is actually signing up - I was anxious because I was different from everybody else and I wasn't really familiar with the place but I already had a passion for filmmaking. I still am scared now sometimes but not like before - I'm more confident in what I'm making and would love to take more opportunities if presented to me."

- BFI Academy Participant

CO-DIRECTORS STATEMENT



KERRY KOLBE & LOREN SLATER

In this jam-packed year we combined delivery of the first year of our Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funded digital arts programme with a big push to bring our long-planned-for capital project to fruition. Having secured funds from Arts Council England to refurbish our premises in 2022, we progressed steadily through 2023, developing an exciting design with a new team from award-winning architects Baumon Lyons. But by late 2023, unprecedented rises in the cost of materials and construction put the project into serious jeopardy - in less than two years the cost of the scheme increased from £490,000 to £1,400,000.

As the government's Community Ownership Fund (COF) had become available, we worked from October 2023-January 2024 to develop a bid to fill the shortfall, carrying out new community consultation, business planning, financial modelling, RIBA Stage 3 and planning permission. In March 2024 we were offered COF funding of £910,000 and were able to move forward confidently with this exciting £1.4m project that will transform the building and unlock its potential for widening and benefiting community engagement - on track to be completed in March 2025.

The security provided by the new three-year funding commitment as an Arts Council NPO allowed us to recruit two new members of staff. In June 2023 we were able to offer our long-serving freelancer Phil Northcott a permanent role as a curator and exhibition coordinator and in September 2023 Jennifer McMillian joined us as a Communications & Community Engagement Lead, making great strides improving our social media presence since then as well as initiating a shared marketing meet-up for arts organisations to share intelligence and join up their scheduling.

Other highlights for Signal this year included our short films WISHBONE and MISJUDGED taking home all three prizes at the Keswick International Film Festival Osprey Awards (Judge's Choice, Audience Choice and Best Student Film), with young filmmakers and our team in attendance to accept the prizes. And in September 2023 we finally launched the wonderful Sankey Photographic Archive website, attracting a whopping 171,000 hits in its first six months - our biggest impact project to date!



The Osprey Short Film Awards, Mar 2024

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

YOUTH:

1,642 PARTICIPANTS

150 SESSIONS DELIVERED

49 QUALIFICATIONS GAINED

873 AUDIENCES

3,322 ATTENDANCES

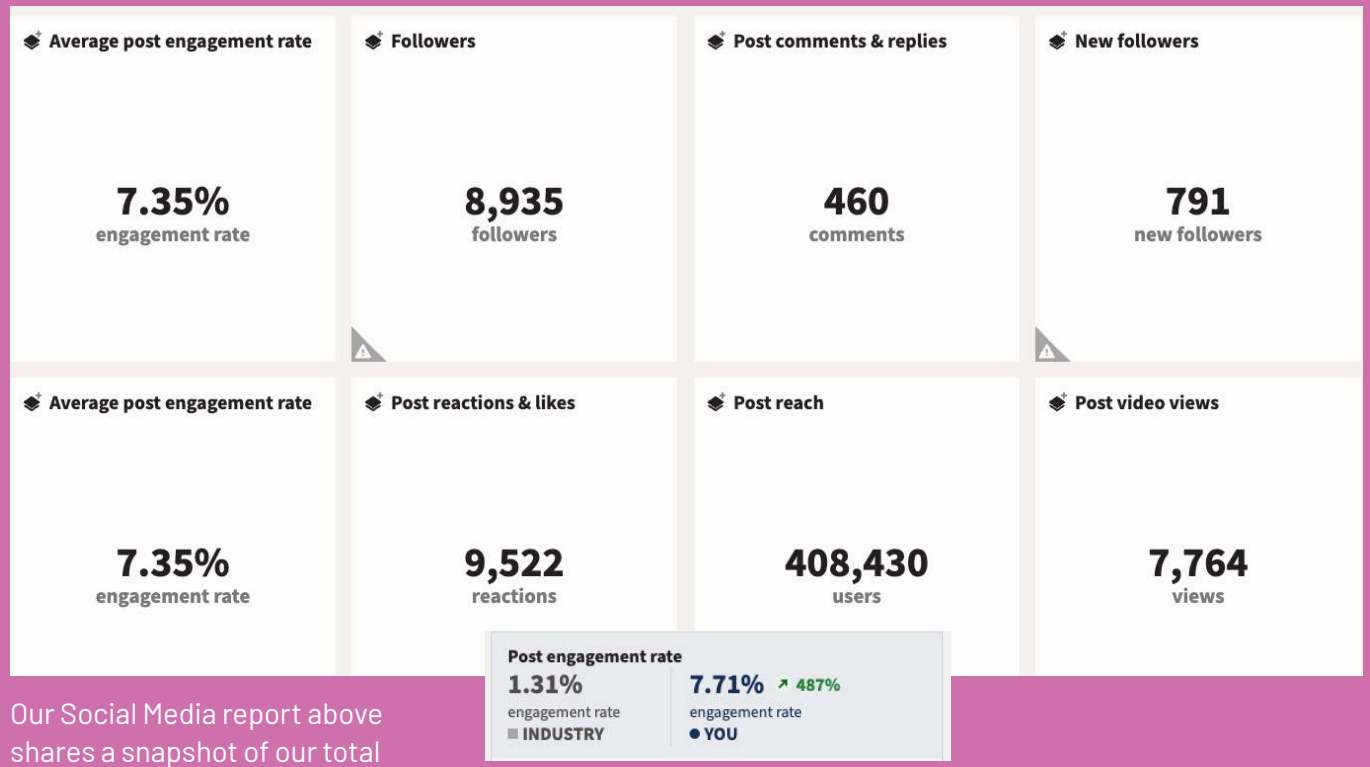
ADULT:

472 PARTICIPANTS

205 SESSIONS DELIVERED

47 CREATIVES SUPPORTED

SOCIAL MEDIA:



Our Social Media report above shares a snapshot of our total engagement across Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and X for the financial year. We are particularly proud of our post engagement rate over February and March 2024 which was 487% higher than the industry average!

45 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

5,370 IN-PERSON AUDIENCES

90,870 ONLINE, OUTDOOR & PRINT AUDIENCES

PROFILE RAISING & MEDIA COVERAGE

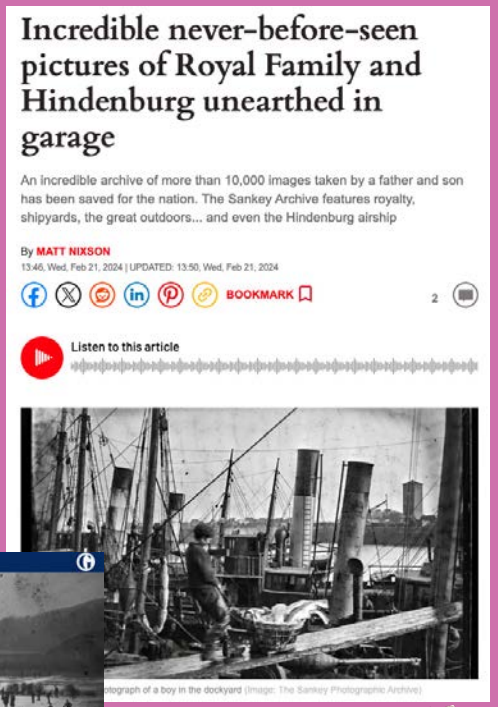
The first year of our Arts Council NPO-funded programme and our final TIDAL project were marked by TROUBLED WATERS - a spectacular, ambitious installation by Danish Artist Stine Deja, who transformed our gallery space into a futuristic fever dream inspired by Monet's 'Bridge Over a Pond of Water Lilies', complete with a waterfall, robot fish and a metal bridge.

Reviewed in Contemporary Arts and Writing Journal for the North Corridor 8: www.corridor8.co.uk

"Amazing, colourful, subversive and engaging."
- Exhibition Visitor

After many months of diligent cataloguing and interpretation by our dedicated volunteers and a complex website build, helmed by our technical manager Jon, the Sankey Photography Archive launched online in September 2023. It gained significant attention across Barrow, Cumbria and worldwide. Articles appeared in The Guardian and The Express, Co-Director Loren talked about the project on BBC News Northwest and stories and images featured across a score of media sites throughout 2023/24. In the first 6 months, the online archive had 171,000 views.




Incredible never-before-seen pictures of Royal Family and Hindenburg unearthed in garage

An incredible archive of more than 10,000 images taken by a father and son has been saved for the nation. The Sankey Archive features royalty, shipyards, the great outdoors... and even the Hindenburg airship

By MATT NIXSON
13:46, Wed, Feb 21, 2024 | UPDATED: 13:50, Wed, Feb 21, 2024

BOOKMARK

Listen to this article

DAILY EXPRESS

"With a steady and growing audience, Signal Film and Media organisation is a stand-out in the area for impressive exhibitions by national and international artists alike."
- James McColl, Corridor 8

SCREENINGS & AWARDS

A key value of our organisation is enabling local people to co-produce professional-standard work that garners recognition on a regional, national and international stage. Each year films made in Barrow are accepted into film festivals and showcased to audiences around the world. This year is no exception with shorts screened at 14 different festivals:



WISHBONE (2023)

Made by our team supported by a crew of local filmmaking trainees.
Working class teen Chrissie Fox refuses to relinquish her dream of being a photographer through a 60-year odyssey charting her life in small town Barrow-in-Furness (northern England) from 1960 to the present day.

WATCH IT ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

Award Winning at:
- Osprey Short Film Awards at Keswick Film Festival

Semi-Finalist at:
- Stockholm City Film Festival

Public screenings of Wishbone were also delivered at local care homes, alongside our Oscar shortlisted past production 'The German Who Came to Tea' (2013) for a total of 63 residents.

MURDER BY CLICHE (2022)

Made by 16-19 yr old BFI participants.
When actress Kezia Du Pont is murdered in the hotel where he works, Ed Smith, security guard and super-fan, vows to find out whodunnit!

Screened at:
- Women's International Film Festival Nigeria WIFFEN

Honourable Mention at:
- Student World Impact Film Festival
- Ceylon International Film Festival

Award Winning at:
- Rohip International Film Festival
- Thilsri International Film Festival

PAPER TOWN (2022)

Made by 8-11 yr old Signal Starters participants.
The colour has gone out of Paper Town. People don't care for each other anymore, until a stranger casts a spell to bring colour (and the love) back to the town.

Screened at:
- VAFI & RAFI - International Children and Youth Animation Film Festival

Semi-Finalist at:
- Student World Impact Film Festival

WHERE'S LOKI? (2022)

Made by 12-15 yr old Cooke's Crew participants.
When a cat goes missing, a rift between two sisters starts to heal.

Screened at:
- Student World Impact Film Festival

OUR PLACE (2022)

Made by 8-11 yr old Signal Starters participants.
Litter-picking animals work with humans to get their forest back to its natural beauty.

Screened at:
- Student World Impact Film Festival
- VAFI & RAFI - International Children and Youth Animation Film Festival
- Fresh International Film Festival

SHOCK JOCK (2022)

Made by 16-19 yr old Get Digital participants.
A DJ's need for higher ratings sends his career in a new direction.

Screened at:
- Student World Impact Film Festival

MISJUDGED (2023)

Made by 8-11 yr old Signal Starters participants.
When a seagull meets a tentacled sea-witch, they share tales of making quick judgements of others.

Award Winning at:
- Osprey Short Film Awards at Keswick Film Festival


Still from Signal Starters Animation 'Misjudged', 2023

IMPACT GOAL 1:
CONFIDENT, EMPOWERED YOUNG PEOPLE

In 2023-24 we continued to work fulfil the three Impact Goals identified in our Strategic Plan (2022-30):

- Confident, empowered young people
- Skilled, fulfilled creatives
- A connected, cultural community

And made considerable progress across all three objectives, presented below:

Our Youth Programme is a year-round offer which spans animation sessions for 8-11 yr olds delivered in house, outreach sessions across community events, the accredited British Film Institute's Film Academy short course for 16-19 year olds and in-depth artist-led participatory commissions where young people create their own exhibitions from scratch.

This year our young people have worked with a huge range of practitioners from the Digital Arts and Film sector who encourage intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and a sense of empowerment through the creation of collaborative digital artworks and short films. Working with relevant artists, photographers and organisations has strengthened our relationships with marginalised groups such as those from LBGTQ+ demographics, by connecting with Dropzone, Queer Cumbria and queer advocate Casey Orr.

Through exploration, experimentation and self reflection, our young people have grown in confidence and have been able to find not only their 'voice' but a sense of place here at Signal Film and Media. We have seen many new young participants return to SFM this year, finding it a safe place to be and climbing the ladder of progression, with some moving onto higher education courses in the sector and also returning as mentors in their free time.



Signal Starters Workshop, Jul 2023

"He enjoyed his experience and he was proud of the clay monster he made."
- Signal Starters Participant's Parent

"M came out convinced he was a sculptor extraordinaire, it really helped his confidence!
- Signal Starters Participant's Parent"



Ormsgill School Fair, Jul 2023



Ormsgill School Fair, Jul 2023



Roose School ArtFly Workshop, Nov 2023

OUTREACH TASTER WORKSHOPS

This year we delivered more than twice as many tasters than last year to 330 people at venues across the community. Animation stations were run at three BarrowFull 'Playcations' events in the most deprived areas of town (Barrow Park, Vickerstown Park and Ormsgill Community Centre) and at Ormsgill Primary Family Fun Day. Green Screen tasters were held partnering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Unity Fest in Barrow Town Centre.

These light touch sessions showcase our offer and gives us new platforms to speak to more diverse users, parents and the community. They have encouraged more young people to be further involved in future sessions and have allowed us to develop trusting co-production relationships. We also distributed 75 summer activity packs to local schools and 25 packs to local food banks.

"Our children loved using the equipment and backdrops."
- Ormsgill Teacher

"My grandson lacks confidence, has social anxiety and attachment difficulties. He especially enjoyed the feeling of being included and accepted amongst the group."
- Workshop Participant's Grandparent



Greengate School Exhibition Visit, Jan 2024



Askam School Workshops, Jun 2023

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS

We've continued to nurture strong, long-term relationships with local primary and secondary schools, focusing on Barrow's most deprived wards. Workshop for 271 young people ran at Cooke's Studios and in schools, including: Ormsgill Primary, Askam Primary, Roose Primary, Roose Juniors, Greengate Juniors, Chetwynde High, Walney High, Sandside School; Ulverston Victoria High and Barrow 6th Form.

Teachers highlight the benefits of pupils getting the chance to meet artists and filmmakers and gaining experience using professional equipment not available in school. We've also delivered tailored careers talks at Walney High School for Creative Futures Friday.

INTEGRATING YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMMES

We've worked hard to design family-friendly 'drop ins' and bespoke youth sessions that link with the themes and content of the wider programme. This creates an entry point for younger people to engage with the broader arts and local heritage scene, to encourage them to bring their friends and family and seed their participation into adulthood.

Taster sessions for our 8-11-year-old Signal Starters participants used a hand-painted backdrop taken from historical images in the Sankey Photographic Archive, with children making plasticine characters inspired by images from the collection. Tying in with the TIDAL theme of our arts programme, children made a 'film in a week' that explored the sea creatures in our local area and wove them into a narrative for their short animation. Whenever an exhibition is on we ensure young people see them and their reflections often form part of their Arts Awards qualification.

NEW YOUTH BOARD

We've been looking at ways to ensure our work is best responding to young people's needs, and after meeting with other organisations that already had established youth boards, we held our own inaugural Youth Board meeting in December 2023. 11 regular attendees now come together every three months, the week before the 'official' board meeting, to debate the agenda and agree recommendations to put forward. Their input now informs decision-making at leadership level. The board had their first 'away day' in March 2024, attending Keswick International Film Festival.

YOUTH FILM SCREENINGS

An important part of every project is bringing participants together at its culmination to celebrate the work they've made. This year 156 parents, families and the wider community attended in-person screenings of films made by our BFI, Get Digital, Cooke's Crew and Signal Starters cohorts. In November 2023 we partnered with Into Film's Annual Film Festival to provide free film screenings of 'Clifford the Big Red Dog' and 'The Croods - A New Age' at Cooke's Studios for 71 pupils from Dane Ghyll Primary School.

"It just felt really professional and the way the film was presented in a cinema-like way made the experience even better."
- Get Digital Participant



Youth Board at Keswick Film Festival, Mar 2024



Signal Starters Film Screening, Dec 2023



Signal Starters Workshops, Apr 2023



Signal Starters Workshops, May 2023

SIGNAL STARTERS

Funded by Children in Need and now in its 9th successful year, our free, oversubscribed claymation workshops run during each school holiday for children aged 8 to 11 from disadvantaged backgrounds. Participants learn about story creation, character design, model-making, set design and stop-motion animation techniques as they make their own collaborative short film from scratch.

21 Arts Award Explore qualifications were gained this year.

89% of parents/guardians saw significant improvement in confidence in their young person

94% saw significant improvement in communication

52% experienced significant progress in feeling less isolated

"Not stopped talking about it..."
- Parent

"Child P (11) is home educated and initially she found it difficult to talk to people. Over the week she became more confident and was happy to chat with staff and put forward her ideas. She flourished when voicing her character and as the sessions went on, she was socialising with a group and seemed extremely happy."
- Tutor

"He improved immensely. He is confident to go in, whether he knows other children from his school or not. He talks so much about it at home and tries to recreate his own work based on what he has learned with you. For a boy with little self confidence it has helped him so much."
- Parent

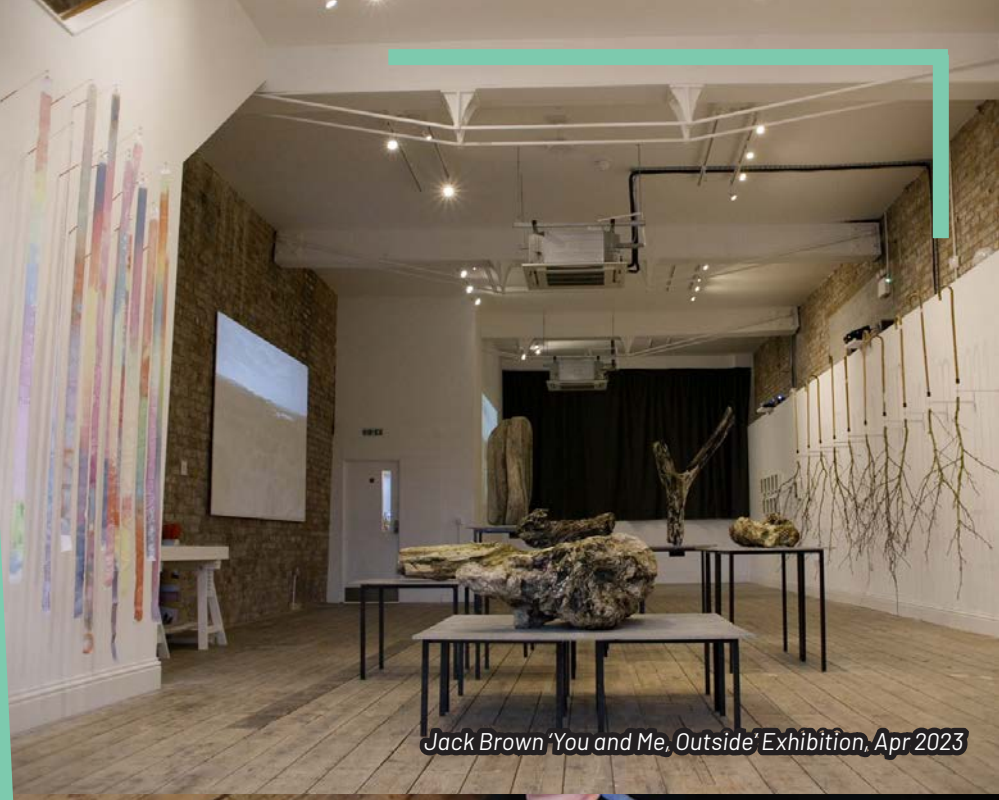
COOKE'S CREW

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EXHIBITION – YOU AND ME, OUTSIDE

In April 2023 we staged a multimedia exhibition of work produced by twelve Year 10s from Chetwynde High School in collaboration with Manchester-based artist Jack Brown during a series of outdoor workshops engaging with the coastline and practicing non-traditional artistic skills.

The school put forward pupils who were struggling with confidence with a view to get them out of the classroom to try new ways of working creatively and experiencing 'failure' in a non negative way within a supported environment. The experience was hailed as a great success by their Head of Art Charlotte Stafford:

"They have grown in so many ways - you have had a way of connecting with the students that was both inspiring and effective. They felt comfortable and supported, but also challenged to improve and grow. The progress is truly remarkable. You have helped to build their confidence and communication skills and, in a world, where these skills are more important than ever, you have helped our students to develop the tools they need to succeed in life."



Jack Brown 'You and Me, Outside' Exhibition, Apr 2023



Cooke's Crew Workshop, Mar 2023



Cooke's Crew Participants & Jack Brown, Mar 2023



Cooke's Crew Workshop, Mar 2023



Get Digital Film Shoot, Aug 2023



Get Digital Film Shoot, Aug 2023

GET DIGITAL

This annual series of workshops building up to a mentored short film/artwork production is aimed at 16-19 year olds who are less academically inclined, particularly focusing on harder to reach and marginalised teens. Typically these young people gain huge benefits in being given a voice and freedom to express themselves creatively, and thrive in a 'professional' setting where artists and crew members collaborate together to make work come to life.

This year the focus was on exploring their natural environment, filming at the sand dunes at Roanhead Beach, South Walney Nature Reserve, Ormsgill Slag Banks and Barrow Park. Participants focused on developing skills in collaboration, composition, installation art, research skills, and video editing whilst looking at Barrow's geology and deep history. Their escapades included exploring underwater filming, using blue screens, making sculptures, hanging artworks down street grids, collecting rock samples on field trips, digging holes on the beach. Three new artworks are set to be exhibited in May 2024.

"I loved being able to work with a group of people who respect each others opinions and aren't afraid to help each other out."

- Participant

"His confidence has grown in his creative digital abilities and working with a new group of people who he had never met before."

- Parent

BRITISH FILM INDUSTRY ACADEMY

We are the only chosen provider of the BFI Film Academy in the Northwest outside of Manchester and Liverpool and this project provides the top tier of our youth 'ladder of progression.' Spanning five months, a group of 16-19-year olds train with professional mentors to create their own film whilst completing an NCFE Level 2 Award - Preparing to Work in the Film Industry. The most valued parts of the course are the chances to gain hands-on practical, mentored experience in technical and craft film skills, with unique access to specialist kit and on-set learning local young people couldn't otherwise access without a two-hour travel time.

This was our 12th year delivering the Academy scheme and films made by our cohorts have screened in 49 festivals worldwide, winning numerous prizes and honourable mentions. Many alumni go on to study film and arts at University and have gained jobs in the creative sector. We're proud that we now have successful alumni return to us to mentor. This year's delivery also included a focus on environmental sustainability in the film industry. Our participants shared:

"I got a lot more confident during the shoot which is something I have struggled with for years. Being part of the BFI Academy has also made me feel more strongly about applying for film making at university."

"I usually prefer to be alone but I know that won't work in this industry and you need to be able to communicate with everyone in order for things to be done. It pushed me to be out of my comfort zone."



BFI Academy Foley Workshop, Oct 2023



Still from BFI Academy film 'Seeing Red', 2024

HALLOWEEN TOWN

CASEY ORR

In October 2023 we hosted a series of portrait sessions in collaboration with photographer Casey Orr for Dropzone's LQBTQ+ participants, our BFI cohort and for the wider public at Barrow Market.

The sessions provided a platform for conversations about identity and self-expression. Stevie Westgarth from Queer Cumbria provided much-needed support on the market day, where a whopping 78 portraits were produced - Casey's largest ever taken in a day!



Casey Orr 'Pop Up Studio' at Barrowween, Oct 2023



Casey Orr



Casey Orr 's Portrait from Barroween Event, Oct 2023



Casey Orr 's Portrait from Barroween Event, Oct 2023

IMPACT GOAL 2: SKILLED, FULFILLED CREATIVES

We work to ensure people from isolated, disadvantaged areas of Cumbria have equal access to creative careers and are able to contribute and develop their creativity. We aim to give residents resilience and practical skills to enable them to forge sustainable creative careers, alongside providing opportunities to network and connect with other creatives and organisations to explore individual practice and nurture collaborations.

"I loved every minute of the sessions and the performance. The group was kind, inclusive, accepting and supportive. The tutor was warm, welcoming and a very talented practitioner."
- Workshop Attendee

"The staff make you feel welcome, offering a brew and like you're part of the art community. The people you meet while volunteering is also excellent, visitors and other volunteers."
- Volunteer



Artist Development Lab Workshop, Apr 2023



Tales of the Tide Event, Aug 2023



Jack Brown 'You Me, Outside' Exhibition, Apr 2023



Jack Brown 'You Me, Outside' Exhibition, Apr 2023

TIDAL

This two-year Arts Council-funded project exploring Barrow's coastal environment and the proximity of town and sea culminated in Spring 2023 with two extremely well received residencies:

YOU AND ME, OUTSIDE

Work created by multimedia artist Jack Brown was exhibited alongside the pieces he co-created with youth participants in April 2023, including a karaoke installation, film and sculptural work. 409 visitors attended the exhibition and attended complimentary workshops and talks.

"A great space and a grounded, relatable exhibition. Contemporary art without the pretension."

"I work at the school the students who created TIDAL attend. I am proud of them - AMAZING!"

TALES OF THE TIDE

In a partnership project with Furness Multicultural Community Forum, artist Jessica El Mal co-created work with a small group of 6 global majority adult participants, culminating in a fun family cultural day at the local beach. 150 people visited the artworks and watched participants perform poems and songs.

TROUBLED WATERS

After exploring the local coastline with local ecologists and volunteers, Danish artist-in-residence Stine Deja conceived her artwork 'Troubled Waters', which became our most ambitious installation to date. The exhibition transformed our gallery space into a futuristic fever dream inspired by Monet's 'Bridge over the Lily Pond', complete with a waterfall, robot fish and a metal bridge. It opened at Cooke's Studios on the 16th June, running for 6 weeks with 780 visitors.

A free wrap-around programme of events further explored the themes of the exhibition and included National Trust-led walking talks on the Barrow coastline and an interactive Family Day with VR and augmented reality workshops from local artists.

"Loved this - such a large installation and fantastic response to our climate and technology."

"Very interesting! Very Different! Eye-opening and eye-watering! Captivated children."

"Fantastic - thank you so much for inspiring, educating and awesome experience."

"Amazing, colourful, subversive and engaging."



Troubled Waters Exhibition, Jun 2023



Stine Deja Talk, Jun 2023

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND NPO PROGRAMME

RELAX INTO 2050: ADVENTURES IN AN OPTIMISTIC FUTURE

Ulverston-based tech-experimenter duo Artfly (Chris and Jennie Dennett) joined us for a residency over the latter half of 2023, collaborating with Roose School children, ecologists and adult participants to design work in response to their theme - imagining a more positive future. The exhibition encouraged visitors to explore a landscape of their own creation, by engaging with a playful installation set in a flourishing future where nature and technology work in harmony.

Visitors entered a 'dream dome' where they could sink into comfy cushions, lie back and enjoy mesmerising kaleidoscopic patterns made in collaboration with AI whilst listening to a specially-composed soundscape intended to conjure humanity travelling forward in time, not to a dystopian destination, but to one where it's actually all OK. The exhibition was accompanied by a programme of activities including a 'seagrass' talk by Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Artist talks and a family day.

In November 2023 poet Ann Grant worked alongside a group of aspiring writers to compose poems that responded to the artwork's themes, which were performed live at a poetry evening in January 2024 with a backdrop of digital imagery created with the artists.

A digital publication of their poems and a full video of the live event can be enjoyed on our website:

"I loved every minute of the sessions and the performance. The group was kind, inclusive, accepting and supportive. Ann was a warm, welcoming and very talented practitioner. I was very sorry for the sessions to end."
- Poetry Workshop Participant

ArtFly



'ArtFly' Chris & Jennie, Jun 2023



Relax Into 2050 Exhibition Launch, Dec 2023

"I feel very strongly about these issues and it was refreshing to see them presented in a positive, doable way."

"What a fantastic exhibition- one of the best I've been to in a very long time- so positive and full of hope."

"A wonderful hour of peace on a busy Saturday morning, everyone should have an Artfly kaleidoscope machine!"

- Exhibition Visitors



Relax Into 2050 Exhibition, Dec 2023



Relax Into 2050 Exhibition, Dec 2023



Relax Into 2050 Exhibition, Dec 2023

EMERGING CUMBRIAN ARTIST DEVELOPMENT LAB

The artist development programme took place over a three-day residential Lab with 16 artist participants taking part, followed by mentoring and technical support towards the production of new work for exhibition. Led by artists and curators to connect, support and develop emerging digital artists from across Barrow and Cumbria, the lab included the opportunity to participate in a funded exhibition. Mentors included Tate Modern Assistant Curator Micheal Raymond and leading digital artists Mishka Henner and Rachel Pimm. Due to the demand to participate (50 applications) we programmed an additional Mini Lab for 14 more artists, with an eco walk, digital workshop by Angela Chan (FACT, Liverpool) and a talk by leading artist collective Marshmallow Laser Feast.

MICRO COMMISSIONS FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

Five of our artists were awarded micro commissions to exhibit alongside our main exhibitions. David Haley presented Equinox: A day on an ocean's edge and Ellie Hoskins installed her work Fly on the Wall with Jack Brown's 'You and Me, Outside'.

Zoe Forster's, 'Looking Out, Looking In' accompanied Stine Deja's 'Troubled Waters'. And after a live, recorded performance at FON's new project space in Barrow Park we exhibited Mel Galley and Núria Rovira's installation, 'Sinking in Slow Motion.'

"I got a real sense of community with my fellow artists on the weekend. I also gained more confidence in my practice."
- Development Lab Artist

"I gained confidence to explore new ideas. Advice from established artists. Great to see all the fantastic work being made in the local area."
- Development Lab Artist

"I gained connections, artist community variety and future opportunities."
- Development Lab Artist



Artist Development Lab Workshop, Jan 2024



Artist Development Lab, Jan 2024



Jack Brown Psychogeology Workshops, Mar 2024



Energy Goast, Spring Campaign, 2024

PSYCHOGEOLOGY

YOUTH PARTICIPATION COMMISSION

A new set of workshops, experiences, visits and experiments were designed to help unlock Barrow's rich heritage and the creative potential of young adults (16-20yrs) from Barrow. During ten workshops artist Jack Brown worked with 11 teenagers to explore Barrow's past, present and future through experimental art-making. They explored themes of rocks, the land, geology, climate crisis, local history, global futures, personal journeys, Barrow's coasts and townscapes by creating rock animations, making hand stamped trinkets using words related to the project, exploring the local quarry using green screen, making films underwater, collecting objects on the slag banks, projecting films onto windows at night and experimenting with sound recordings.

Skills used and developed included collaboration, compositional skills, film shooting, installation art making, 3D scanning, research skills, video editing, audio recording, a wide range of art making skills and interpersonal skills. Jack gave participants opportunities to shape the project, bring in themes that were personal/important to them. Their artworks are set to be displayed in Barrow Market Hall in May 2024.

ENERGY GOAST

DIGITAL COMMISSION

We continued our ongoing collaboration with artists Vaseem Bhatti and Mishka Henner distributing a new chapter of the Energy Goast Project: a nature awareness brand from the heart of the beautiful, volcanic landscape of Cumbria - initiated during West Coast Photo. This new iteration was in the form of a brochure/artwork and website. This was delivered to houses across Barrow reaching around 5000 people. Another iteration of Energy Goast was shown internationally at Blue Sky Gallery in Portland, Oregon this year.

IMPACT GOAL 3:
A CONNECTED CULTURAL COMMUNITY

In Barrow, public access to relevant contemporary art and cultural engagement is strikingly low. Our work continued to open up access to digital arts for all through high-quality public exhibitions, workshops and accessible community outreach. We collaborated with local grass-roots organisations as well as world-class artists and partners to increase diverse cultural engagement and promote improved well-being through a programme of creative digital arts participation and accessible, relevant events and entry-points. Activities focused on accessible cultural experiences that improve health and wellbeing, reignite civic pride, challenge stereotypes and secure agency for the underrepresented.

Having secured funds from Arts Council England to refurbish our premises in 2022, we tendered for an architect to work with us in 2023, securing the services of award-winning Leeds-based architects Baumon Lyons. Unprecedented rises in the cost of materials and construction put the project into serious jeopardy soon after as the scope we had committed to became unaffordable.

We worked from October 2023-January 2024 to develop a bid to fill the shortfall by applying to As the government's Community Ownership Fund. In March 2024 we were offered COF funding of £910,000 and were able to move forward confidently with this exciting £1.4m project, on track to be completed in March 2025.



Greengate School Exhibition Visit, Jan 2024


Playcations Workshops, Aug 2023



Sankey Archive Opening Night, Sep 2023



Sankey Archive Opening Night, Sep 2023

SANKEY - LIVES THROUGH THE LENS

HERITAGE PROJECT

Our latest project focusing on the Sankey archive in partnership with Cumbria Archives, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, began with the launch of the much-anticipated Sankey Photography Archive online in September 2024:

SANKEYPHOTOARCHIVE.UK

Billed as 'A joyful oracle of Barrow', the new website had 19,588 users and 171,000 views in its first six months - website analytics show engagement from all over the world including Argentina, Sweden, USA, Canada, Australia and Japan. Closer to home, the images have been shared on various social media platforms and facebook groups reaching many thousands more and we have enjoyed reading the stories and comments the posts have prompted.

"Mesmerising. Truly unique insight into a lost world."
- Audience member

© ALL IMAGES COPYRIGHT The Sankey Family Photography Collection, courtesy of Cumbria Archives | Special Thanks to the Sankey Family

We've reached out in person to different communities in Barrow and further afield to engage new audiences, showing them how to use the site and share this resource, including at The Dock Museum, Art Gene, Grizedale Arts, Roa Island Boat Club, different Rotary organisations and community groups both in Barrow and extending to Carnforth and the West Coast of Cumbria - 450 people in total attending. We've held light box exhibitions in Cooke's Studios and at Barrow Train Station underpass and had pop-up exhibitions in Barrow Town Hall and the Forum. 676 visitors came to our in person exhibitions and an estimated 40,000 people have seen public realm artworks.

"A fantastic exhibition. Beautiful, poignant images and such clarity. A plea to have a longer exhibition to allow further folk to enjoy a joyful oracle of Barrow."

- Audience member

"We really did have quite a few young people express their amazement at the collection, so the Sankey work reaches across the generations and unites all ages in a common understanding of the town's history and provides a sense of belonging."

- Volunteer Sankey Researcher

THE SANKEY PHOTOGRAPHY ARCHIVE

A Signal Film and Media project funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund



Sankey Display at Barrow Station Underpass, Dec 2023





Cinema Club Poster Crop, Nov 2023 - Jan 2024

ADULT STEERING GROUP

We started an adult steering group in January 2024 to guide our adult programmes and engagement, ensuring the voice of our stakeholders and participants is represented at all levels of decision-making. The group is made up of arts and heritage professionals, local artists and a range of local people with an interest in our core activities and delivery. They've already helped us plan for projects in 24/25, reviewed our participant recruitment process and helped us think more deeply about how to create a space and a welcome that is optimally inclusive and friendly. We've planned future meetings quarterly and look forward to working with the group to improve the experience of all our participants and audiences.

CINEMA CLUB

This year we held weekly film screenings for our asylum seeker community, with attendance building up to 15-20 adults for each screening. Despite the language barrier we have been able to build good relationships with individuals as well as community partners such as Furness Refugee Support Group and Furness Multicultural Community Forum who are signposting and often attending.

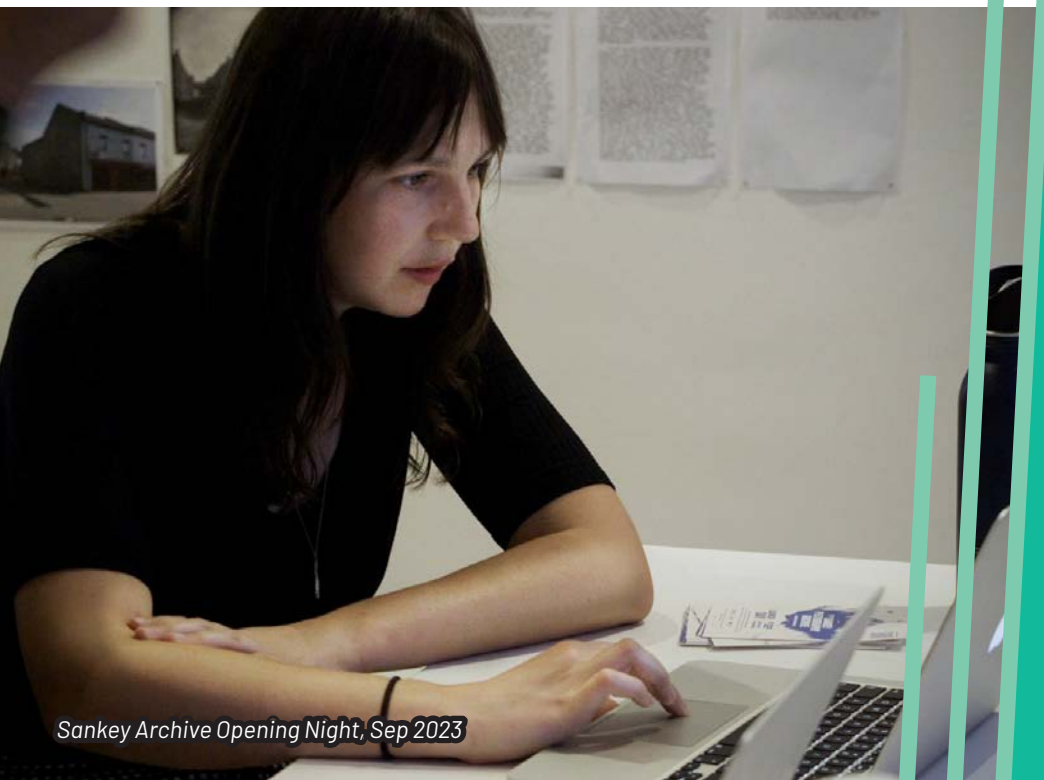
We also held a family screening of 'Wonka' to our local refugee and asylum seeker families, as an opportunity for them to make connections, practise their English language skills and socialise in a safe and welcoming environment.

EMPLOYEES & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

We endeavour to complete as much relevant CPD as possible - this year we attended training in:

- Autism Awareness
- Arts Award - Bronze & Silver
- First Aid
- Safeguarding & Child Protection: Level 1 & DSL
- PREVENT Awareness
- Essentials of Marketing Meta, Google & TikTok
- Website Health Check
- Anti-Racism
- Non-violent Communication Training

All of our staff undertake Safeguarding training for working with children and have Enhanced DBS checks which are renewed every three years.



Sankey Archive Opening Night, Sep 2023

VOLUNTEERING

A loyal team of volunteers has formed around shared enthusiasm for the Sankey Photography Archive and our digital arts exhibitions. Along with welcoming visitors to exhibitions, delivering talks and helping with workshops, our valued volunteers are advocates for the organisation and we have been looking at ways to reward their contributions, including day trips and a Christmas social. Our volunteers shared:

"I always felt so welcome and valued when I volunteered as a gallery assistant. I felt part of the team and appreciated. There isn't anything I would change - honestly!!"

"I love volunteering at Signal! The gang are always so welcoming and friendly. I've learnt so much about art and how you can see things from different perspectives, how art isn't just 'one thing' it's not black and white.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

We take our environmental responsibilities seriously and are committed to playing our part in tackling the climate emergency. 'Environment and Sustainability' is a Development Priority in our Arts Council NPO Programme and our Strategic Plan 2022-2030. Raising awareness of environmental issues has been a key curatorial theme across our key projects including Relax into 2050 and TIDAL. We use Julia's Bicycle Creative Green Tools to measure impact on our environment and carbon footprint, use sustainable materials across all of our projects wherever possible and use local or green businesses, regularly referring to the Carbon Literacy training that our staff undertook and continue to use.

The plans for our capital redevelopment champion a low-energy, environmentally sustainable approach. We commissioned an Environmental Design company to advise on an environmentally responsible scheme and to model this project's impact on energy use and CO2 emissions - the works significantly improve the Energy Performance Asset Rating of our heritage buildings.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The results for the year are summarised in the Statement of Financial Activities (income and expenditure account, page 16). Incoming resources increased by £256,026 (58%) to £700,771. Income in respect of restricted funds decreased by £52,825 (20%) to £216,001; income in respect of unrestricted income increased by £308,851 (176%) to £484,770.

Expenditure totalled £585,308, an increase of £63,723 (9%). This led to an increase in the total fund balances of £115,463 in the year. They now total £301,428; of which the General Fund (unrestricted) totals £230,323, including £110,427 designated funds.

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining a realistic level of reserves in order to ensure that Signal Film and Media continues to be in a position to discharge its obligations to its beneficiaries, partners, creditors and staff. The reserves policy is reviewed annually by trustees to take into account risk and sustainability of the organisation.

At 31 March 2021 the trustees redefined the reserves target such that unrestricted general funds, excluding designated funds, are required to be at least equal to 3 months' cover of core costs (being establishment and staff expenditure not directly attributable to project activity) to be held in the form of cash at bank in a specially designated bank deposit account.
The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have implemented review systems to mitigate these risks.

The major risks are currently identified as:
- Reliance on short term charitable grants income to supplement earned income to meet the cost of the creative programme;
- Changes in the arts funding system; and
- Critical impact of the loss of key senior staff.

To mitigate these risks the charity:
- Ensures that it has a diverse funding profile without an over-reliance on any one source of funding;
- Reviews existing and potential ways of generating earned income and works towards financial sustainability;
- Maintains and enhances relationships with key funders and remains well informed about developments in the arts funding arena;
- Invests time and effort in the exploration of funding opportunities and financial partnerships; and
- Ensures that all staff, including key senior staff, are well supported and that there is a regular appraisal of skills, roles and responsibilities within the senior staff team.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, not having share capital, and is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 10 April 2013, as amended. It's company registered number is 6606718.

On 14 May 2013 the company became a registered charity with a charity number 1152012.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:
Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater - Chair
Ms K M Bird
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner
Ms J L Swales
Mr D J Foster
Ms M A M Davis

The Board consists of people with considerable interest and experience in the arts, who are able to draw on their past experiences at a senior level in relevant disciplines.

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

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees

Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee
Dated: Dec 20, 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Signal Film & Media Limited (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Melville & Co

Melville & Co (Dec 20, 2024 12:44 GMT)

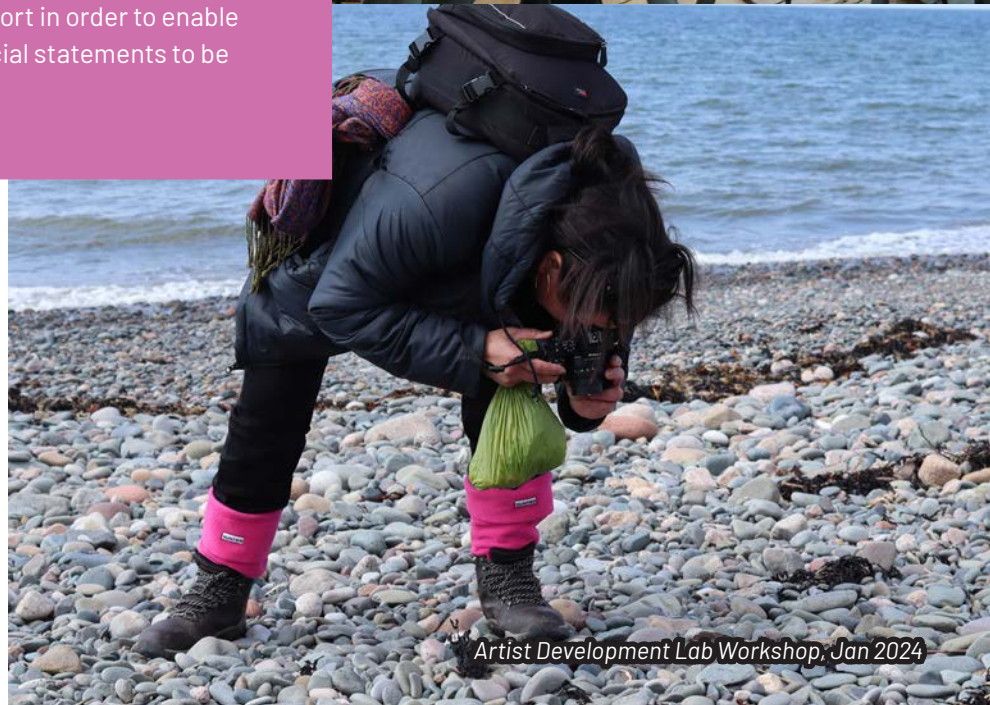
Melville & Co

Chartered Accountants
Unit 17-18, Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

Dated: Dec 20, 2024



Relax Into 2050 Family Fun Day, Dec 2023



Artist Development Lab Workshop, Jan 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	482,672	216,001	698,673	175,360	268,826	444,186
Investments	4	2,098	-	2,098	559	-	559
Total income		484,770	216,001	700,771	175,919	268,826	444,745
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	372,523	190,018	562,541	177,394	344,191	521,585
Total expenditure		372,523	190,018	562,541	177,394	344,191	521,585
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		112,247	25,983	138,230	(1,475)	(75,365)	(76,840)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		140,843	45,122	185,965	142,318	120,487	262,805
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		253,090	71,105	324,195	140,843	45,122	185,965





BALANCE SHEET

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

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

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on Dec 20, 2024.

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		68,986		10,452
Current assets					
Debtors	12	117,928		36,881	
Cash at bank and in hand		215,207		203,038	
		333,135		239,919	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(77,926)		(64,406)	
Net current assets			255,209		175,513
Total assets less current liabilities			324,195		185,965
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		71,105		45,122
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	17	110,427		-	
General unrestricted funds		142,663		140,843	
			253,090		140,843
			324,195		185,965

Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee

Ms L A R Slater - Chair
Trustee

Company Registration No. 06606718

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	19		75,127		(50,169)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(65,056)		(3,091)	
Investment income received		2,098		559	
Net cash used in investing activities			(62,958)		(2,532)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			12,169		(52,701)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			203,038		255,739
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			215,207		203,038



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting policies

Charity information

Signal Film & Media Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Cooke's Studios, 104 Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 5QR.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)

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

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

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

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

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

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

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

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

All expenditure is accounted for when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the costs of all activities carried out, with the exception of the costs incurred for governance purposes.

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

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

Improvements to property	**not depreciated**
Plant and equipment	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Computers	33% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)

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

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

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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

1.10 Employee benefits
The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits
Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

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

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



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)

3. Charitable activities

	Charitable Income 2024 £	Charitable Income 2023 £
Grants	649,569	367,849
Other income	49,104	76,337
	698,673	444,186
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	482,672	175,360
Restricted funds	216,001	268,826
	698,673	444,186
Grants		
Unrestricted funds	433,568	150,000
Restricted funds - see note 12	216,001	217,849
	649,569	367,849

4. Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	2,098	559

5. Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2024 £	Charitable Expenditure 2023 £
Staff costs	158,349	127,429
Equipment	8,275	10,251
Insurance	1,514	1,422
Light and heat	28,472	3,872
Repairs and renewals	3,404	4,315
Printing, postage and stationery	-	4,608
Telephone	-	1,734
Travelling	16,047	9,710
Computer costs	24,977	11,346
Sundry expenses	21,880	17,914
Legal and professional	3,623	1,918
Freelance staff	252,084	281,913
Advertising	14,953	668
Bank charges	55	109
Training	9,791	3,619
Rent and rates	7,833	30,469
Film Production and hire costs	-	1,458
	551,257	512,755
Share of support costs (see note 6)	6,522	5,572
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	4,762	3,258
	562,541	521,585
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	372,523	177,394
Restricted funds	190,018	344,191
	562,541	521,585

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)

6. Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation	6,522	5,572
Governance costs	4,762	3,258
	11,284	8,830
Analysed between:		
Unrestricted funds	11,284	8,830

7. Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	6,522	5,572

8. Trustees

The trustees received the following fees from the charity during the year:

Ms K J Kolbe - £54,500 (2023 - £52,500)
Ms L A R Slater - £53,750 (2023 - £49,100)
Ms K Bird - £14,475 (2023 - £30,750)

9. Employees

	2024 Number	2023 Number
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	6	5

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	146,955	119,304
Social security costs	8,062	5,514
Other pension costs	3,332	2,611
	158,349	127,429

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,00

10. Taxation

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

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Improve-ments to property £	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	-	87,905	47,440	25,564	160,909
Additions	65,056	-	-	-	65,056
At 31 March 2024	65,056	87,905	47,440	25,564	225,965
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2023	-	81,613	47,440	21,404	150,457
Depreciation charged in the year	-	2,362	-	4,160	6,522
At 31 March 2024	-	83,975	47,440	25,564	156,979
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2024	65,056	3,930	-	-	68,986
At 31 March 2023	-	6,292	-	4,160	10,452

12. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	22,198	19,094
Other debtors	5,481	10,837
Prepayments and accrued income	90,249	6,950
	117,928	36,881

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)

13. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	256	13
Trade creditors	23,413	20,829
Accruals and deferred income	54,257	43,564
	77,926	64,406

14. Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2024 £	2023 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	3,332	2,611

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

15. Restricted funds

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

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds: Incoming resources	Movement in funds: Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Westmorland and Furness Council	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Arts Council (TIDAL)	-	48,500	(48,500)	-
Heritage Lottery Fund (Lives through a Lens)	-	51,543	(51,543)	-
BBC Children in Need	7,721	31,488	(31,488)	7,721
AIM (Connecting Lives)	-	44,000	(616)	43,384
Cumbria Community Foundation	17,401	-	(17,401)	-
Cumbria County Council (Library)	20,000	-	-	20,000
Granada (TIDAL)	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
NLCF (Youth Programme)	-	9,370	(9,370)	-
BFI Film Academy (Youth Programme)	-	19,100	(19,100)	-
	45,122	216,001	(190,018)	71,105

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	68,986	-	68,986
Current assets/(liabilities)	184,104	71,105	255,209
	253,090	71,105	324,195

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	10,452	-	10,452
Current assets/(liabilities)	130,391	45,122	175,513
	140,843	45,122	185,965

17. Designated funds

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

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Movement in funds: Incoming resources	Movement in funds: Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds: Incoming resources	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	20,267	-	(20,267)	-	110,427	110,427
	20,267	-	(20,267)	-	110,427	110,427

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CONTINUED)

18. Related party transactions

Creative Studios Cumbria Limited is a charitable company, under the control of trustees of Signal Film & Media Limited. During the year the paid rent, utilities and building running costs of £43,337 (2023 - £5,656) to Creative Studios Cumbria Limited.

19. Cash generated from operations

	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	138,230	(76,840)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(2,098)	(559)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	6,522	5,572
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(81,047)	4,787
Increase in creditors	13,520	16,871
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	75,127	(50,169)





OUR SUCCESS IS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF OUR FUNDERS. WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE & THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT!



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

































The Granada Foundation

the Tudortrust

Garfield Weston FOUNDATION







Funded by UK Government

SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1152012

Accounts



SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

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

Curating Climate Greengate Juniors Workshop, Oct 2022



Get Digital Workshops, Jun 2022



Cooke's Crew Film Shoot, Jul 2022

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WELCOME TO **SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA...**

We are an award-winning charity providing creative film and digital media activities from our base at Cooke's Studios on Abbey Road in Barrow-in-Furness. Since 2008 we have built a unique resource for thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds to access free facilities, events, professional training and hands-on experience in film, digital arts and creative digital media.

Facilities include training rooms, edit suites, exhibition and screening spaces. Our charity works extensively with Barrow and Cumbria's most isolated and deprived residents, using the arts as a tool to build confidence, skills and self esteem. Alongside our programme of participation activities we also provide residencies for artists to produce new work and a mentoring scheme which supports the development of emerging local talent with the aim of creating a vibrant film and arts culture in the area.



Curating Climate Workshops, Aug 2022

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees
Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater (Chair)
Ms K M Bird
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner
Ms J L Swales
Mr D J Foster
Mr K Sherbayani (Resigned 6 Jun 2022)
Ms M Davis

Ms K J Kolbe (Secretary)

Charity number 1152012

Company number 6606718

Registered office
Cooke's Studios
104 Abbey Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 5QR

Independent examiner
Melville & Co
Unit 17-18
Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN



Cooke's Crew Workshops, Jun 2022

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives are for the public benefit to promote the arts and to advance education in the arts in particular but not exclusively by:

a) Providing a centre for the arts and creative industries where local residents, particularly those from disadvantaged groups, can access facilities and activities to develop skills in a diverse range of creative, media and arts disciplines, and:

b) Providing premises, space and activities for local front-line groups in order to support media production and the creative and artistic development of local people.

Activities undertaken for public benefit in relation to these objects

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objectives are to implement a programme of film, media and digital arts training courses, masterclasses, screenings and workshops for adults and young people and there has been no change in these during the year.

As such the Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the 'public benefit' notice. The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Aims and Approach

We aim to achieve four overarching outcomes for our community through provision of arts and culture activity:

1. Connecting residents, old and young, to a wider world and diverse experiences

2. Providing skills training, advice and resources

3. Providing new cultural experiences and connecting people and communities

4. Supporting and encouraging personal and social development

We achieve these by delivering projects under 3 strands of activity:

Strand 1: Confident, Empowered Young People

Strand 2: A Connected Cultural Community

Strand 3: Skilled, Fulfilled Creatives

"There is evidence of substantial, positive change for some participants who have not previously felt valued or been offered creative opportunities that are flexible enough to play to their strengths. This is particularly apparent within the youth and creatives programmes where significant 1:1 support is given to participants, some of whom have specific and/or complex needs."
(Independent Evaluation, Emma Parsons Consulting 2022)

CO-DIRECTORS STATEMENT

In this jam-packed year we've been gratified to see our sustained efforts to fund, recruit and embed an expanded, skilled team come to fruition.

Over the past three years, steered by our dedicated development lead, we've pursued a growth strategy to ensure we're equipped to deliver a co-created year-round participation programme that's fully resourced and sustainable. In that time we've doubled our turnover and increased permanent staff roles from five to nine. The culmination of this plan to date came in November 2022 when we secured Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation status. Their provision of £200,000 p.a. provides core funding for three years worth of activities that were devised with frontline partners and existing participants to build around a wholly community designed, co-creation approach. Our work to firmly embed and establish this new scale and scope of work will continue in the next several years.

We're confident we're on the right track: An independent evaluation in April 2022 produced by consultant Emma Parsons evidenced that our offer of digital and creative learning, skills development and qualifications is of high-quality, varied and responsive; and most importantly, in demand and highly appropriate to the needs of our community. Young people consistently report improved skills, pride, confidence and aspirations, noting there's nowhere offering what's available here within a two-hour travel time.

Partners see us as a "highly valued partner bringing expertise and an inclusive, flexible approach to projects." And our work to support emerging creative talent through labs, mentoring and commissions "delivers strongly in terms of developing a cultural community and network, as well as making a real difference to professionalising practice. It's notable too that involvement in the programmes changed the artists' perceptions of the area for the better."

We've responded to growing community strain from the cost of living crisis by offering free, tasty food wherever we can and providing extra help with travel and childcare expenses. We worked closely with a variety of frontline service partners to ensure our free activities, in warm and welcoming spaces, are accessed by those most in need. We also focused on improving working conditions for our team, benchmarking and boosting salaries and introducing an individual wellbeing budget to cover therapy or gym sessions alongside paid mental health/duvet days.

Following the opening of two 'asylum seeker hotels' in Barrow, we've developed close-working relationships with ethnically diverse adult participants, in particular through our Curating Climate project digital arts project. We retained 88% of ethnically diverse participants at these workshops, culminating in an exhibition in Grizedale Forest seen by 3,982 visitors. We've delivered a hugely popular Emerging Artist Development Lab In November 2022, focused on integrating digital arts practice and environmental activism. We opened up extra places after receiving over 50 applications for just 12 places, with 16 diverse artists from across Cumbria taking part in workshops and mentoring sessions with exemplar artist and environmental mentors including Marshmallow Laser Feast, FACT Liverpool and the National Trust.

Across education we've seen the inequality of opportunity to participate in the arts increase in line with poverty. Curriculum time for the arts and provision of courses have been drastically cut; creative career pathways are severely limited and even discouraged. Having returned to Furness after university ourselves as aspiring arts professionals, we want Signal to be a guiding light for young people to enter exciting and fulfilling careers in the creative sector and are thrilled to hear from participants in our youth projects that they've discovered their 'life's purpose' as a result of taking part. We saw a 31% increase in young people's attendances in our 'ladder of progression' of youth activities this year, and the BFI Academy once again fed back that the NCFE examination body sees our delivery for industry entrants exemplifies Best Practice nationally.

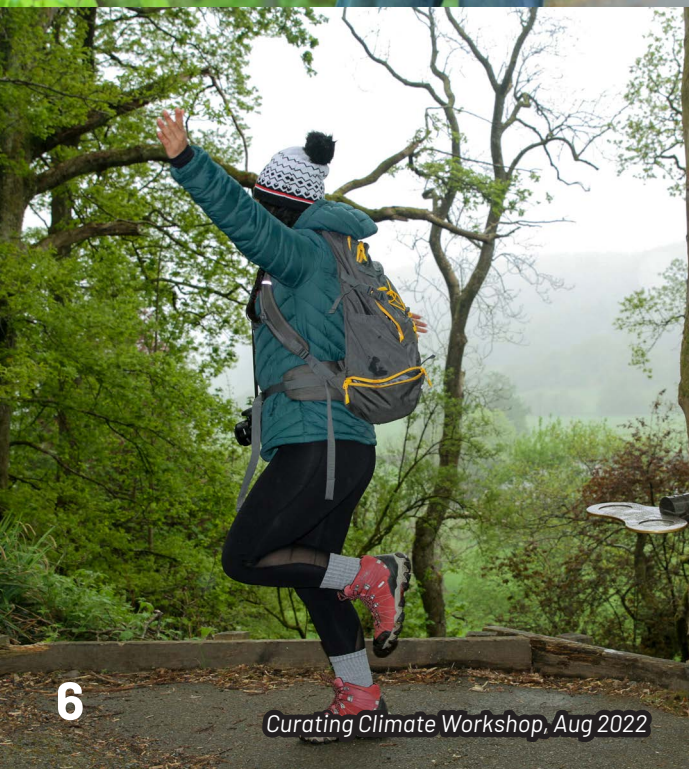
We were grateful to be further supported by Arts Council England this year with a capital funding grant of £490,000 capital funding from the Arts Council to make our premises in Cooke's Studios larger, more accessible and far more inclusive as a participatory arts venue. We're excited to be working with award-winning architects Baumon Lyons to create plans to transform public access to our iconic town centre buildings - watch this space!

KERRY KOLBE & LOREN SLATER





Curating Climate Workshop, Aug 2022



Curating Climate Workshop, Aug 2022

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

1,052 IN PERSON YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

1,121 IN PERSON ADULT PARTICIPANTS

63 ACCREDITED QUALIFICATIONS GAINED

61 CREATIVES SUPPORTED

4,629 IN PERSON AUDIENCES

53,699 ONLINE, OUTDOOR & PRINT AUDIENCES

PROFILE RAISING & MEDIA COVERAGE

- Our co-directors Kerry and Loren were interviewed in December 2022 for BBC Radio 4's Front Row arts & culture programme (https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001fn13 - Starts at 26:05 mins in). Their reporters came to Barrow to visit us at Cooke's Studios to talk to us about our road to securing Arts Council NPO status, including the importance of routes into the arts for working class people from far-flung areas and our passion for making work inspired by Barrow.

- In December 2022 the Peaky Blinders VR game 'The King's Ransom', co-written by our directors Kerry and Karen, premiered in competition at the Venice Film Festival before being released globally in March 2023. It attracted widespread praise for its storytelling: ***"An exemplary storyline, utterly in keeping with the TV programme and studded with entertaining characters in both Birmingham and London, unfolds. The plot is easily good enough to stand alongside the show and is without doubt the game's strongest point, complete with a clever twist at the end."*** (The Metro)

- One of our commissioned works from 2020, Nebula by LAB212, was selected as a Finalist for the Arte Laguna Prize in Venice and was displayed at the Arsenale of Venice in December 2022.




BBC 4 Front Row Visit, Jan 2023

BBC FRONT ROW

ARTE LAGUNA PRIZE

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

"Loved the evidence of young people learning interesting and valuable skills" (Parent)

SCREENINGS & AWARDS

A key value of our organisation is enabling local people to co-produce professional-standard work that garners recognition on a regional, national and international stage. Each year films made in Barrow are accepted into film festivals and showcased to audiences around the world. This year is no exception and we have showcased the following:

THE CHAMELEON WOLF (2021)
Made by Signal Starters 8-11 year olds:
A flatulent baby wolf gets lost in the woods, but his farting becomes the reason he is rescued.
WINNER - Audience Award at Keswick Film Festival, Feb 2023

MURDER BY CLICHE (2022)
Made by BFI Film Academy 16-19 year olds:
When actress Kezia Du Pont is murdered in the hotel where he works, Ed Smith, security guard and super-fan, vows to find out whodunnit.
Screened at: Filmmaker Sessions at Lift-Off Global Network, Feb 2023



THE CATFISH CLUB (2020)
Made by BFI Film Academy 16-19 year olds:
Three mysterious figures compete in a high-stakes heist in this 1920's drama; it's anyone's game at The Catfish Club.
Screened at: Corti a Ponte - Piccolo Festival, Venice, Mar 2023

PAPER TOWN (2022)
Made by Signal Starters 8-11 year olds:
The colour has gone out of Paper Town. People don't care for each other anymore, until a stranger casts a spell to bring colour (and the love) back to the town.
Screened at: Keswick Film Festival, Feb 2023

OUR PLACE (2022)
Made by Signal Starters 8-11 year olds:
Litter-picking animals work with humans to get their forest back to its natural beauty.
Screened at: Fresh International Film Festival, Limerick, Ireland, Mar 2023

We continued to work fulfil the three Impact Goals identified in our Strategic Plan (2022-30):

- **Confident, empowered young people**
- **Skilled, fulfilled creatives**
- **A connected, cultural community**

And made considerable progress across all three objectives, presented below:









IMPACT GOAL 1:
CONFIDENT, EMPOWERED YOUNG PEOPLE

Our year-round digital youth programme spans from entry-level animation clubs for 8 to 11 year olds through to the nationally acclaimed and accredited British Film Institute's Film Academy for 16 to 19 year olds. Our nurturing environment encourages intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and a sense of empowerment. Young people working with us grow in confidence, find their 'voice' and discover new ways to express issues which are important to them. Many of them progress into further training, higher education and jobs in the sector. We invest substantial resources in ensuring we reach the most marginalised young people including migrants, young people from our ethnically diverse community, those who suffer from mental health issues and the LBGTQ+ community. Feedback this year included:

"She seems to feel accepted and free to be herself here and can be confident and happy which is so important to her." (Parent)

"There is evidence of substantial, positive change for some participants who have not previously felt valued or been offered creative opportunities that are flexible enough to play to their strengths. This is particularly apparent within the youth and creatives programmes where significant 1:1 support is given to participants, some of whom have specific and/or complex needs." (Independent Evaluation, Emma Parsons Consulting 2022)

"The best bit for me personally was when we were let loose and just told to produce something. It gave me a sense of freedom." (Young Participant)

"Our students have loved every moment of their time with you, and we feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with such a talented and inspiring team. The progress that they have made under your guidance is truly remarkable.

"You have helped to build their confidence and communication skills and, in a world, where these skills are more important than ever, you have helped our students to develop the tools they need to succeed in life. You have made a lasting impact and for that we are truly grateful." (Feedback received March 2023 from a teacher at Chetwynde High, regarding the TIDAL/Cooke's Crew project)



Cooke's Crew Workshop, May 2022

"Your dedication to the sessions has had an incredible impact on our students. They have grown in so many ways....You have had a way of connecting with the students that was both inspiring and effective. They felt comfortable and supported, but also challenged to improve and grow." (Teacher)



Filmmaking Workshop with Ormsgill School, Oct 2022



Curating Climate Workshop with Greengate Juniors, Feb 2023

OUTREACH TASTER WORKSHOPS

Since securing more core, flexible funding we've been able to be more responsive to partner requests to deliver taster sessions at external sites. These help broaden our reach and attract more diverse user groups as we are able to dovetail with their existing provisions and cater to specific needs - for example delivering animation taster workshops to community members at The Hub Taster Day in the Forum, an animation station at the BarrowFull Playcations events in deprived areas of Barrow like Hindpool and Barrow Island, and at the first Coast Roads Festival to reach out to new and different audiences. Other tasters were led at Cumbria CVS BBO Family Community Services Day - Barrow Island; Eid event at Walney Community Hub; LGBQT+ Dropzone group and Women's Community Matters (boys group) - guided tour of our exhibitions.

Most importantly these light touch 'tasters' are a 'shop window' for what we do, providing a stepping stone for new cohorts of young people to further engage and allowing us to develop trusting co-production relationships with parents and partners that work with more diverse users.

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS

We rely on strong, long-term relationships with teachers at local primary & secondary schools, especially in Barrow's most deprived wards, to work with us to develop and host appropriate and exciting schools-based arts workshops. These provide a great recruitment stream into our 'outside school' provisions, given that young people are keen to do more, and teachers are able to signpost the most 'in need' to our wider programme.

This year we ran: Filmmaking workshops with Anne Frank Trust in Barrow Library; Filmmaking taster sessions at Walney High School; '6 Shot' Film tasters with Year 7 at Chetwynde High; five Digital Gimbal workshops at Askam School; Filmmaking taster sessions for 16-18yr olds at Barrow Sixth Form College; Mixed Media Workshop with twelve 9-10yr olds from Greengate Juniors, who visited our exhibition and also did a forest walk; Curating Climate exhibition visits by the PRU; Careers Fair stall as part of Futures Friday at Walney High.

INTEGRATING YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMMES

We've worked hard to stitch together our youth and adult programmes, delivering family-friendly 'drop ins' and bespoke youth sessions (with partners like Grizedale Forest and Art Gene), which tied in with our adult-focused Curating Climate Exhibition and the Duke Street 'Wishbone' film project. These provided a fun entry point for younger people to engage with the wider arts and local heritage scene and seed interest in becoming our future adult cohorts.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ARTS RESIDENCY

In February 2023 Manchester artist Jack Brown began working on participatory artworks with 12 young people in year 10 from Chetwynde High School. With outdoor workshops engaging with the coastline and development of non-traditional artistic skills, the young people co-created several responsive pieces which were exhibited in April 2023 at Cooke's Studios gallery space. Jack Brown also created his own artworks in response to the TIDAL theme and his experience with the group. These works called You and Me, Outside included a (much enjoyed) Karaoke installation, film and sculptural work and were displayed side by side showing both processes through development to final works.

100% of participants enjoyed the experience of being involved in the programme.

The positive impact of the project was echoed in audiences' reflections on the programme, with 98% of visitors to the exhibition programme saying their experience was either good or excellent. Over 70% of the audience also reflected that the exhibition supported a sense of improved health and well-being and an increase in pride of place.

"My relationship has also changed to Barrow now, when I'd previously visited it, I only really knew or walked around the inner town area as you come in from the station, but there is a much wider more rural area which I got to know quite well" (Participant)



Curating Climate Family Workshop, Aug 2022



Jack Brown TIDAL Workshop, Mar 2023



Signal Starters Animation Workshop, Dec 2022

SIGNAL STARTERS

Our ever-popular animation workshops which run during school holidays give children aged 8 to 11 from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to work with film industry professionals on story creation, character design, model-making, set design and stop-motion animation techniques as they make their own collaborative short film from scratch. During this process they have the option to complete an accredited Arts Award Explore qualification with one to one support from our team.

Funded by Children in Need and now in its 8th successful year, many of the short films produced have gone on to win awards and screen across the UK and worldwide.

BBC Children in Need

"D loves these sessions. It is wonderful to see her so happy and confident. She doesn't find being with other young people the easiest but seems to be great here. She loves being creative and getting to learn new things. This has been a fantastic experience and of so much benefit to her. Thank you." (Parent)



Signal Starters Animation Workshop, May 2022



Signal Starters Animation Workshop, May 2022

COOKE'S CREW

This year we tested a new offer to our 11 to 15 year old cohorts, with two sets of workshops providing a broader range of activities working with creative mentors in digital arts and film disciplines. Participants worked to gain an Arts Award Accredited Qualification alongside hands-on activities including animation, experimental audio and mixed media through to more traditional dramatic storytelling for the screen.

In May 2022 Cohort 1 worked with a young local filmmaker team (and Signal Alumni) Film On The Brain to learn film crew roles then make their own short film 'Where's Loki', shot at a range of outdoor locations across the town. From July 2022 Cohort 2 worked with digital artist Michaela French to create artistic responses to their experience of Grizedale Forest, with their artworks going on display to nearly 4,000 people as part of our 'Nature Now' Exhibition at Grizedale's gallery venue.

100% of Cooke's Crew participants said they gained increased knowledge about digital arts and film and 68% reported an increase in confidence.

"M was very proud of her achievements at the Cooke's Crew workshops. I know this because she talked in detail about what she had done over the 4 days, what she was inspired to create and also that she hoped her work might end up in the exhibition at the end." (Parent)



Cooke's Crew Film Shoot, Jul 2022

CUMBRIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY FUND



Cooke's Crew Workshop, Jul 2022

"M had an absolute blast, he has come home smiling from ear to ear everyday, he's learnt new skills and made new friends."(Parent)



Get Digital Workshop, Jun 2022



Get Digital Film Shoot, Jul 2022

GET DIGITAL

This annual series of workshops, building up to a mentored short film production, is aimed at 16-19 year olds who are less academically inclined, particularly focusing on harder to reach and marginalised teens. Typically these young people gain huge benefits in being given a voice and freedom to express themselves creatively, and thrive in a 'professional' filmmaking setting where crew members collaborate together to make a film come to life.

This Get Digital was the most neurodiverse, gender fluid group we've ever had, which also bonded together the most from the get go. They said they especially benefited from exploring the roles in filmmaking which allowed them to make an informed decision about the path they'd like to take in the future. Cohort 1 created a music video for up and coming country music artist Megan Lee and Cohort 2 worked with professional crew and actors to make a short thriller 'Shock Jock.'

FCSCT
FRANCIS C SCOTT CHARITABLE TRUST

Sir John Fisher Foundation

"He definitely is very confident now, this is not his first course and when he first came he did lack confidence and had some personal issues and doing these courses has definitely helped him every time."(Parent)

BRITISH FILM INDUSTRY ACADEMY

Signal Film and Media are the only chosen providers of the BFI Film Academy in the Northwest outside of Manchester and Liverpool and this project is the top tier of our youth 'ladder of progression'. Over six months of each year, participants aged 16-19 train with professional mentors in all the key filmmaking departments to create their own film whilst completing an NCFE Level 2 Award in Preparing to Work in the Film Industry.

Since the Academy scheme began nine years ago films made by our cohorts have screened in 35 festivals worldwide and won numerous awards, prizes & honourable mentions. Many alumni go on to study film and arts at Uni and gain jobs in the creative sector.

100% of BFI participants reported that they felt the course had given them extra filmmaking experience and/or opportunities for further development.

79% said that they gained confidence and 95% improved on existing or gained new technical skills.

"I was expecting a film that wouldn't be particularly good, that I would work on for a week. Instead, I got a high production value film that I would work on for months." (Participant)



BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2022



BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2022

"An amazing film from such talented future film-makers. An amazing experience which will inspire future creations." (Participant)

YOUTH FILM SCREENINGS

An important part of every project is bringing participants together to celebrate the films they've made at public screenings for parents, families and the wider community. This year 122 participants attended in-person screenings of films made by our BFI, Get Digital & Signal Starters cohorts. In November 2022 in what has become a regular fixture we participated in national partner Into Film's Annual Film Festival, offering free film screenings to 71 children from schools in deprived Barrow areas.

"Very enthusiastic and well executed. you can see how much the kids enjoyed it." (Teacher)



'Of Sound Mind' Screening, Mar 2023



Get Digital Film Shoot, Jul 2022



BFI Academy Film Shoot Prep, Dec 2022

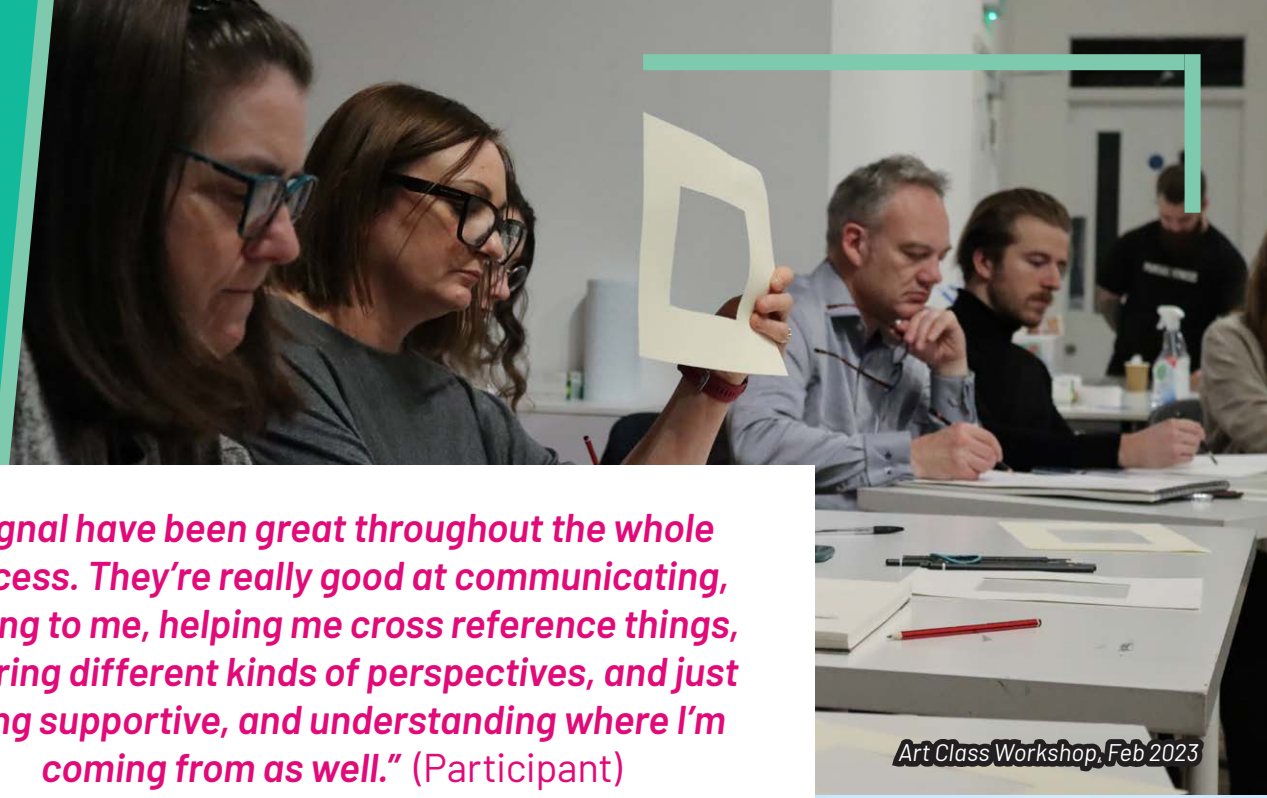
IMPACT GOAL 2: SKILLED, FULFILLED CREATIVES

We work to ensure people from isolated, disadvantaged areas of Cumbria have equal access to creative careers and are able to contribute to a diverse cultural sector. We give talented people the emotional resilience and practical skills to enable them to forge out sustainable creative careers. Feedback this year included:

"The Signal team were amazing, they pulled me out of a hole." (Participant Feedback 2022)

"Signal was a lifeline for me at that time." (Participant Feedback 2022)

"Being an artist who's working class and not speaking posh, and being energetic with the way I come across - it's been really refreshing and fabulous that I've been able to be accepted for who I am basically and so it's a really important thing for my confidence." (Participant with ADHD)



Art Class Workshop, Feb 2023

"Signal have been great throughout the whole process. They're really good at communicating, talking to me, helping me cross reference things, offering different kinds of perspectives, and just being supportive, and understanding where I'm coming from as well." (Participant)

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION



Tidal Artist Development Lab Workshop, Dec 2022



Tidal Artist Development Lab Workshop, Dec 2022



Tidal Artist Development Lab Workshop, Dec 2022

TIDAL

This Arts Council supported, digital arts engagement programme focused on Barrow's coastal environment launched in October 2022 with an invite for emerging digital artists to apply for a place on a two day Artist's Development Lab which would lead on to a series of paid commissions for participating artists. The 16 attendees, selected from 50 applicants, met up for a coastal walk guided by Steve Benn, local Environmental Consultant, learning about the ecology of the tideline and how to interact safely and environmentally as an artist in these surroundings.

A raft of inspiring digital arts talks and workshops then unfolded over a long weekend, sharing how to use digital manifestations through google earth, environmental practice through digital art, community participation workshops and ways of working with digital art within their own practice. Speakers included Director of Marshmallow Laser Feast Robin McNicholas, climate change artist Angela Chan, Charlotte Horn (FACT Senior Exhibitions Producer) and Tom Ireland (Abingdon Studios).

The Lab was a huge success: 100% of the participants felt they were more confident about developing as an artist in the area, an increase of 42%.

100% also reported an improved sense of belonging to the arts community, an increased knowledge of progression routes in the creative sector, and a greater sense of a professionalism within their practice. They all felt that they had built new networks as a result of being involved in the programme.

"As I am early in my artistic career I feel that taking ideas and learning curves from experienced peers and guest speakers has really given me the confidence and validation to explore the work." (Participants)

"The project hosts and mentors have shown they are very skilled and ambitious to support me as an artist through this project. Through the experience I have already started thoughts and writings on the coastal climates I explored on the residency. I hope to gain further knowledge on the ecosystems and nutrient cycles of the Cumbrian Coast, delving into art making to show the ecosystems of the Cumbrian coast through an immersive and audience interactive exhibit." (Participant)



Tidal Artist Development Lab Workshop, Dec 2022



Tidal Exhibition Launch, Apr 2023



Tidal Artist Development Lab Workshop, Dec 2022

ART CLASS

In February 2023, as part of her continuing professional development (CPD), our new Community Producer Ilona piloted 'Art Class'. This was a casual space where new and emerging local artists could freely explore and expand their skills and ideas as creatives, irrespective of their experience. This was a passion project for Ilona, who devised the weekly workshops to provide an encouraging environment where developing artists could learn new mixed media art forms, produce their own work, and meet new people.

Participants decided which skills they wanted to learn, and a series of tutors then delivered sessions including wire sculpting, lino printing, experimental observational drawing, life drawing and cyanotype printing. The classes were oversubscribed and we will continue to roll them out next year.

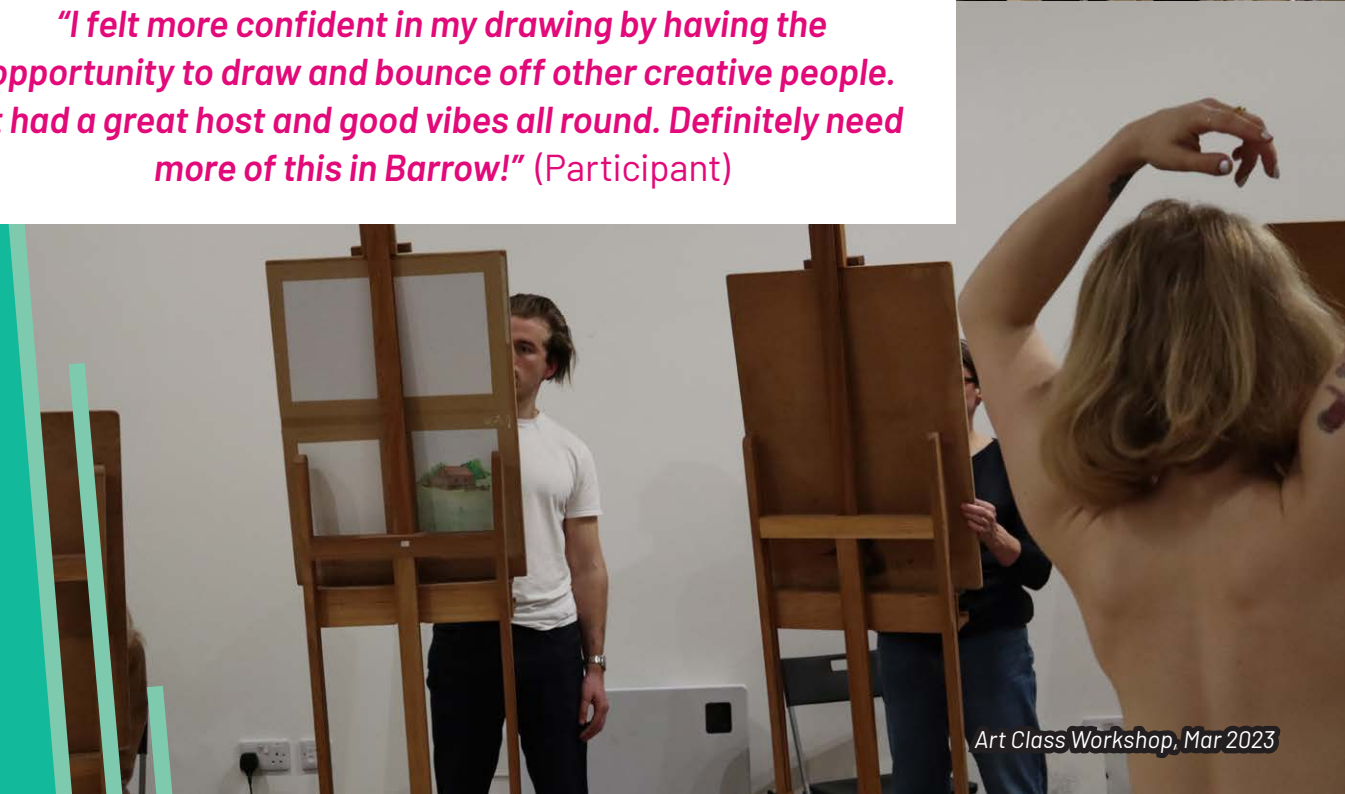
"It was such an amazing experience. I had forgotten what it was like to be creative and these sessions really encouraged me. Thank you so much." (Participant)

"I really appreciate that I got the opportunity to do this. Great artists that came on board. I would love to see more availability for more spaces on the art classes. Understandable due to the funding but would be great to have more people to join." (Participant)



Art Class Workshop, Feb 2023

"I felt more confident in my drawing by having the opportunity to draw and bounce off other creative people. It had a great host and good vibes all round. Definitely need more of this in Barrow!" (Participant)


Art Class Workshop, Mar 2023

IMPACT GOAL 3:
A CONNECTED CULTURAL COMMUNITY

In Barrow, public access to relevant contemporary art & cultural engagement is strikingly low. Our work opened-up access to digital arts for all through high-quality public exhibitions, workshops & accessible community outreach. We collaborated with local grass-roots organisations as well as world-class artists & partners to increase diverse cultural engagement and promote improved well-being through a programme of creative digital arts participation and accessible, relevant events & entry-points. Activities focused on accessible cultural experiences that improve health & wellbeing, reignite civic pride, challenge stereotypes & secure agency for the underrepresented.

"SFM's work makes a significant and lasting positive difference to people's lives, often for those in most need." (Independent Evaluation, Emma Parsons Consulting 2022)

"People who volunteer with Signal report significant positive outcomes in skills and knowledge as might be expected, but strikingly, they also report an improvement in their mental health and wellbeing. Across all programmes, volunteers, partners and participants report on Signal's inclusive and welcoming environment." (Independent Evaluation, Emma Parsons Consulting 2022)



EID Event Family Workshops, Jun 2022

ASYLUM SEEKERS CINEMA CLUB

Through our building neighbours Furness Multicultural Forum and partners Furness Refugee Support Group we were aware of the arrival of 120 refugees aged 20-40 years in Barrow, resident in two town centre hotels where they live on less than £1.50 a day. They reached out to us and expressed a lack of activities for the guys to get involved in during the winter months when outdoor activities are limited. In response we set up a social film club to show films with food and fun activities, programmed by a group of their keenest volunteer men.

The weekly screening event allowed asylum seekers to have a safe and comfortable place to practise their English skills, unwind and make friends, benefiting their mental health & wellbeing, with a total audience of 268 attendees over the space of three months.

"Cinema Club provides a very important social and learning opportunity for the asylum seekers during the winter months when they can't go for a walk in the park in the dark. The club's been great to help to build confidence and English skills." Kim Farr, Chair, Furness Refugee Support

SEEING THE NORTH WITH SANKEY

Starting in 2016, this long-standing project to save, re-house, catalogue and celebrate the incredible Sankey Family Photographic Collection continued apace. The Collection consists of more than 15,000 photographic images which capture Cumbria and the North's social history from 1890 to the 1970s.

In April 2022 visitors saw striking, poignant and ethereal, larger-than-life images of the tough women who ran Barrow's paper mills dominating the walls of our suitably industrial gallery space. The exhibition was staged by artist Nicky Bird alongside our new Women's History Group, which included women who worked in the long-defunct mill. They curated a collection of photography, film, objects and poetry for this 10th and final exhibition from the Sankey Archive. A high quality publication of the Sankey photographs was produced for sale and is set to enter its second print run.

Throughout the year our technical manager Jon and volunteers have crafted the content and interface for the online Sankey Archive to create a website that includes curated collections to provide an introduction to users, history and information about the Sankey Family, multiple films and creative outputs from the project. We've worked with website specialists Loungehopper to develop a user experience which connects to the archive database so the collection can be explored via keywords as well as image numbers, and as the website is linked directly to the database all future updates and corrections made will carry through to the online archive. In this way the collection will continue to be a dynamic legacy sharing these wonderful images to a worldwide audience of anyone with access to a computer or mobile phone. The site launched in September 2023.

This year our programme manager worked closely with our many loyal, long-serving and new volunteers and reviewed our approach to ensure we support and empower them. 82% of volunteers agreed that their involvement had a positive effect on their health and wellbeing.

Feedback from key partners was also very positive: Cumbria Archives are *"very happy to work with the team again and enjoyed being involved from the early stages to develop the project. We haven't got the staff resource to do community engagement projects in-house so it's great to work with Signal. The Dock Museum found the Signal team* ***"very well organised and brilliant to work with, very knowledgeable, practical, knew what they wanted."***



'Going Through The Mill' Exhibition, Mar 2023



'Going Through The Mill' Exhibition, Mar 2023



Nature Now Exhibition, Oct 2022



Curating Climate Workshop, Aug 2022

CURATING CLIMATE

Building on a highly successful existing partnership, we again teamed up with Grizedale Forest on a wide-ranging public programme exploring the climate crisis and potential solutions, to engage local communities and in particular ethnically diverse residents who are underrepresented and marginalised. Running from May to December 2022 the project used the Forest as a central focus for activities, with participants coming from partner organisations Furness Multicultural Community Forum and Furness Refugee group.

Participants took part in a series of workshops with 'Super/collider' artists Melanie King and Louise Beer and artist Michaela French, experimenting with digital and site-specific art as a means to explore their connection to nature for personal wellbeing and for climate solutions.

"I felt our conversations and showing each other photos helped me appreciate nature in a different way." (Participant)

"Today my heart is full of happiness. Even though I speak a little, I found the place extremely beautiful." (Participant)

"I love nature and meeting new people, I want to find new ways of uniting communities." (Participant)

The project retained 88% of its participants and the 'Nature Now' exhibition at Grizedale showcasing their creative responses to the forest and the impact of climate change during September and October 2022 to an audience of almost 4,000 people.

77% of the audience who completed a survey thought that attending exhibitions like this had a positive impact on their health and well-being and 50% said they had not attended an exhibition before this one.

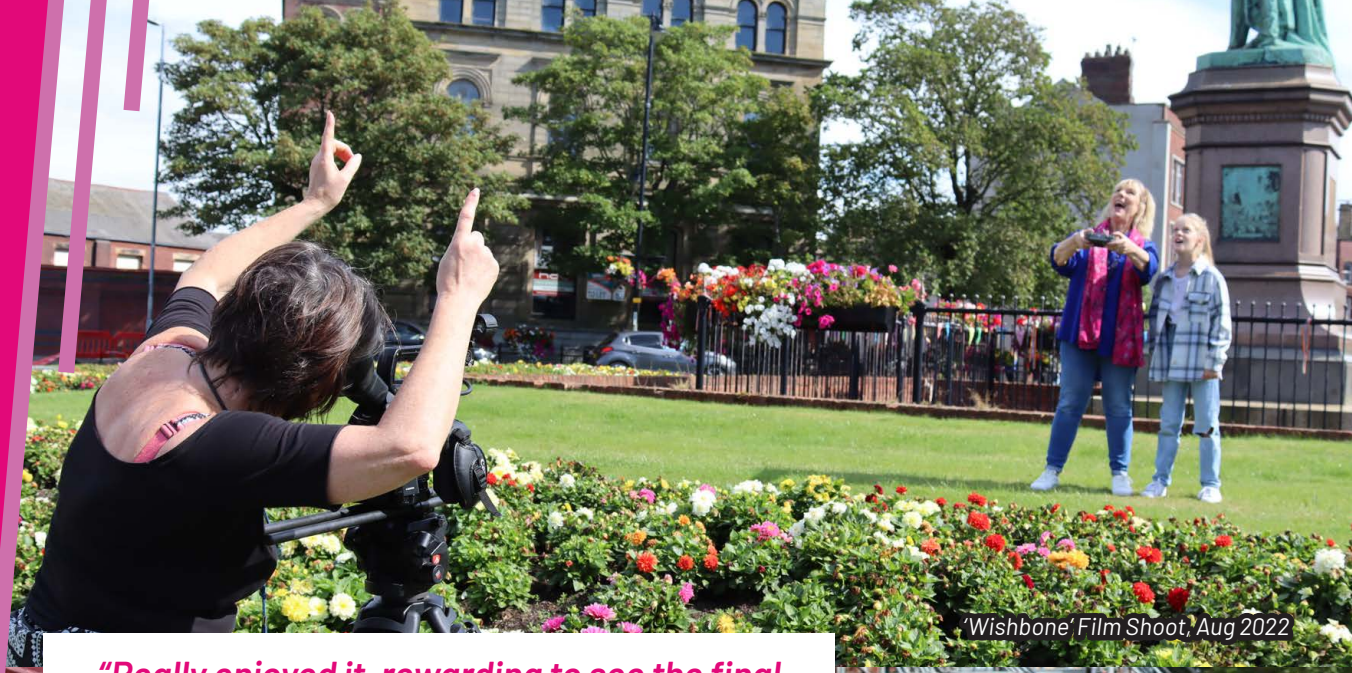
100% thought that these types of events make Cumbria a better place to live and 66% said they would support more projects like this as a result of visiting the exhibition.

DUKE STREET FILM WISHBONE

With Heritage Action Zone funding from Historic England we worked alongside our fellow Arts Council NPO organisations in Barrow to make work as part of a cultural programme highlighting the history of Barrow's iconic Duke Street.

We devised a fictionalised short drama that features the interiors of Duke Street's lost shops and unfolds across various other sites featured in the oral history recordings gathered from local residents.

In July 2022 we gathered ideas and input at an afternoon tea with 16 local older women who talked about their experiences as working class women in Barrow over the decades since the 1950s. As the script was developed alongside pre-production for the film we worked with set designers to recreate Duke Street locations including the interior of Sankey's Photography shop, The Palace Theatre and Pass and Co department store. The Ashton Theatre Group supported us to cast local acting talent and we worked with local vintage shop owner Becki Fishwick to source costumes and to do styling, and we put out an appeal on social media to residents to find props to make our settings as authentic as possible. The film had a premiere screening to over 100 people at the Forum in September 2022, and will soon be available to watch online.



'Wishbone' Film Shoot, Aug 2022

"Really enjoyed it, rewarding to see the final product. Thank you for this experience!" Participant)



'Wishbone' Film Shoot, Aug 2022

Historic England

EMPLOYEES & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

We are dependent on the excellence of our staff to help achieve and maintain the high standards of our creative outputs. After COVID-19 took a heavy toll on our team's mental health the Cost of Living Crisis kicked in, and we felt it was important to address working conditions and wellbeing in the team so we 'put on our own mask before assisting others.' We assigned our Co-Director Kerry as Wellbeing Lead and she took some immediate steps towards supporting the team's mental health by reducing standard working week hours, increasing pay/ sick leave entitlement and allocating funding for staff therapy/ wellbeing and increasing training. We will continue to review pay regularly to ensure it stays apace with living costs. This initiative has been well received and appreciated by our team.

We continue to embed and develop our organisational structure, roles and approach as we grow accustomed to having a bigger permanent team. We carry out regular performance reviews and training and development that's tailored to the individual's needs and interests.

This year it included:

- Arts Award Assessment - Explore, Bronze & Silver Level Moderation
- Disability Equality
- Understanding Autism
- Gimbal Training
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
- Boundaries Training
- Video Editing Training
- Climate and Carbon Literacy Training

All of our staff undertake Safeguarding training for working with children and have Enhanced DBS checks which are renewed every three years.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

We take our environmental responsibilities seriously and are committed to playing our part in tackling the climate emergency.

This year our staff took part in Carbon Literacy Training with Cumbria Action for Sustainability, learning from which has been taken forward across our organisation. CAFS also carried out an audit and report of recommendations, which was followed up with a more detailed report by Small Green Business. We have since put in place some practical steps to reduce our negative environmental impacts wherever possible.

These include:

- Developing a Carbon Emission Reduction Policy.
- Minimising non-public transport travel: Workshop/activity venues will be within easy access of public transport wherever possible and within walking distance for the vast majority of the beneficiaries we are targeting.
- Sustainable materials: Materials used will be as sustainable as possible. We will repurpose existing materials, or choose recycled materials/sustainably sourced materials for physical exhibitions/ displays.
- Producing and embedding an Environmental Policy and Action Plan.

In addition, through our curatorial programming we are aiming to educate, train, advocate and inspire mindset change. We have used creative digital art in our Curating Climate Project as a tool to shine a spotlight on the climate emergency & engage new audiences in the climate debate, using creativity to reconnect us to & celebrate our local natural environment, as well as partner with more environmental organisations.



Duke St Afternoon Tea, Jul 2022



Get Digital Film Shoot, Aug 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year are summarised in the Statement of Financial Activities (income and expenditure account) on page 29. Incoming resources decreased by £47,540 (10%) to £444,745. Income in respect of restricted funds decreased by £59,978 (18%) to £268,826; income in respect of unrestricted income increased by £12,438 (8%) to £175,919.

Expenditure totalled £521,585, an increase of £3,557 (1%). This led to a decrease in the total fund balances of £76,840 in the year. They now total £185,965; of which the General Fund (unrestricted) totals £140,843.

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining a realistic level of reserves in order to ensure that Signal Film and Media continues to be in a position to discharge its obligations to its beneficiaries, partners, creditors and staff. The reserves policy is reviewed annually by trustees to take into account risk and sustainability of the organisation.

At 31 March 2021 the trustees redefined the reserves target such that unrestricted general funds, excluding designated funds, are required to be at least equal to 3 months' cover of core costs (being establishment and staff expenditure not directly attributable to project activity) to be held in the form of cash at bank in a specially designated bank deposit account.

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have implemented review systems to mitigate these risks.

The major risks are currently identified as:

- Reliance on short term charitable grants income to supplement earned income to meet the cost of the creative programme;
- Changes in the arts funding system; and
- Critical impact of the loss of key senior staff.

To mitigate these risks the charity:

- Ensures that it has a diverse funding profile without an over-reliance on any one source of funding;
- Reviews existing and potential ways of generating earned income and works towards financial sustainability;
- Maintains and enhances relationships with key funders and remains well informed about developments in the arts funding arena;
- Invests time and effort in the exploration of funding opportunities and financial partnerships; and
- Ensures that all staff, including key senior staff, are well supported and that there is a regular appraisal of skills, roles and responsibilities within the senior staff team.

"I have worked on multiple film shoots since the Academy thanks to the industry professionals I met" (Participant)



Tidal Artist Development Lab Workshop, Dec 2022



Art Class Workshop, Mar 2023



Curating Climate Workshop, Aug 2022



Get Digital Film Shoot, Jun 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, not having share capital, and is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 10 April 2013, as amended. It's company registered number is 6606718. On 14 May 2013 the company became a registered charity with a charity number 1152012.

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

Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater (Chair)
Ms K M Bird
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner
Ms J L Swales
Mr D J Foster
Mr K Sherbayani (Resigned 6 Jun 2022)
Ms M Davis

The Board consists of people with considerable interest and experience in the arts, who are able to draw on their past experiences at a senior level in relevant disciplines.

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

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

.....
Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee
Dated: Dec 22, 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Signal Film & Media Limited (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Melville & Co
Melville & Co (Dec 22, 2023 10:37 GMT)

Melville & Co

Chartered Accountants
Unit 17-18, Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

Dated: Dec 22, 2023

"The kids had a ball but they also learned about computer science and it helped them in their GCSEs." (Teacher)



Curating Climate Workshop, Aug 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	175,360	268,826	444,186	163,464	328,804	492,268
Investments	4	559	-	559	17	-	17
Total income		175,919	268,826	444,745	163,481	328,804	492,285
Charitable activities	5	177,394	344,191	521,585	141,995	376,033	518,028
Net expenditure and movement in funds		(1,475)	(75,365)	(76,840)	21,486	(47,229)	(25,743)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		142,318	120,487	262,805	120,832	167,716	288,548
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		140,843	45,122	185,965	142,318	120,487	262,805

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



BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2022

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		10,452		12,934
Current assets					
Debtors	**11**	36,881		41,668	
Cash at bank and in hand		203,038		255,739	
		239,919		297,407	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**12**	(64,406)		(47,536)	
Net current assets			175,513		249,871
Total assets less current liabilities			185,965		262,805
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**13**		45,122		120,487
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	**15**	-		20,267	
General unrestricted funds		140,843		122,051	
			140,843		142,318
			185,965		262,805

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

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

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

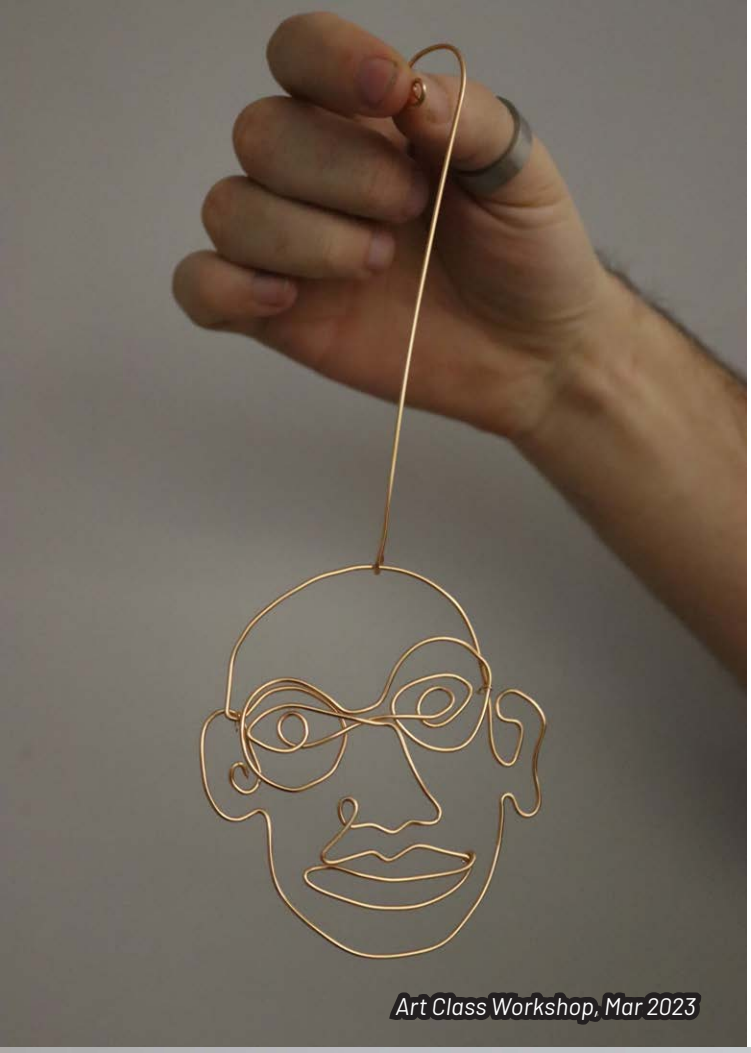
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on Dec 22, 2023.

Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee

Loren slater
Loren slater (Dec 22, 2023 10:37 GMT)
Ms L A R Slater - Chair
Trustee

Company Registration No. 06606718


Art Class Workshop, Mar 2023

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	17		(50,169)		(23,422)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(3,091)		(12,489)	
Investment income received		559		17	
Net cash used in investing activities			(2,532)		(12,472)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(52,701)		(35,894)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			255,739		291,633
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			203,038		255,739


Duke St Film, Aftrenoon Tea, Jul 2022


Curating Climate Workshop, Aug 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting policies
Charity information

Signal Film & Media Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Cooke's Studios, 104 Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 5QR.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

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

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

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

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

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

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

1.5 Expenditure

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

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

time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All expenditure is accounted for when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the costs of all activities carried out, with the exception of the costs incurred for governance purposes.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

- Plant and equipment
  20% straight line
- Fixtures and fittings
  20% straight line
- Computers
  33% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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


Cooke's Crew Film Shoot, Jun 2022

3. Charitable activities

	Charitable Income 2023 £	Charitable Income 2022 £
Grants	367,849	456,082
Other income	76,337	36,186
	444,186	492,268
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	175,360	163,464
Restricted funds	268,826	328,804
	444,186	492,268
Grants		
Unrestricted funds	150,000	114,946
Restricted funds - see note 12	217,849	328,804
Designated funds - see note 13	-	12,332
	367,849	456,082

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

4. Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	559	17

"Really helped me with my social confidence and generally talking to others. It was great to interact with new people and be more confident in my own opinions." (Participant)



Curating Climate Workshop, Aug 2022

5. Charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2023 £	Charitable Expenditure 2022 £
Staff costs	127,429	98,298
Equipment	10,251	1,256
Insurance	1,422	1,014
Light and heat	3,872	4,167
Repairs and renewals	4,315	2,924
Printing, postage and stationery	4,608	15,703
Telephone	1,734	976
Motor expenses	-	12
Travelling	9,710	4,828
Computer costs	11,346	14,305
Sundry expenses	17,914	16,314
Legal and professional	1,918	3,521
Freelance staff	281,913	306,237
Advertising	668	14,344
Bank charges	109	95
Training	3,619	2,173
Rent and rates	30,469	18,177
Film Production and hire costs	1,458	-
	512,755	504,344

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

6. Support costs allocated to activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	5,572	10,082
Governance costs	3,258	3,602
	8,830	13,684
Analysed between:		
Unrestricted funds	8,830	13,684

7. Trustees

The trustees received the following fees from the charity during the year:
Ms K J Kolbe - £52,500 (2022 - £44,500)
Ms L A R Slater -£49,100 (2022 - £42,800)
Ms K Bird - £30,750 (2022 - £7,100)
Ms H Watson - £nil (2022 - £28,400)

Fees for trustees include additional workload this year on delivery, development and fundraising of Capital Project.

8. Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	5	5

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	119,304	93,787
Social security costs	5,514	2,681
Other pension costs	2,611	1,830
	127,429	98,298

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

9. Taxation

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



Cooke's Crew Workshop, May 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	84,814	47,440	25,564	157,818
Additions	3,091	-	-	3,091
At 31 March 2023	87,905	47,440	25,564	160,909
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2022	80,205	47,440	17,240	144,885
Depreciation charged in the year	1,408	-	4,164	5,572
At 31 March 2023	81,613	47,440	21,404	150,457
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2023	6,292	-	4,160	10,452
At 31 March 2022	4,610	-	8,324	12,934

11. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	19,094	3,916
Other debtors	10,837	10,672
Prepayments and accrued income	6,950	27,080
	36,881	41,668

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	13	4,715
Trade creditors	20,829	2,897
Accruals and deferred income	43,564	39,924
	64,406	47,536


'Wishbone' Film Shoot, Aug 2022


Cooke's Crew Workshop, May 2022


Cooke's Crew Film Shoot, Jun 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

13. Restricted funds

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

		Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council (Capital)	-	15,262	(15,262)	-
Arts Council (TIDAL)	-	48,500	(48,500)	-
Arts Council (COvid Recovery)	57,102	6,415	(63,517)	-
BBC Children in Need	7,720	29,844	(29,843)	7,721
BFI Film Academy	-	17,000	(17,000)	-
Cumbria Community Foundation	16,154	17,401	(16,154)	17,401
Cumbria County Council (Library)	20,000	-	-	20,000
Foyle Foundation	-	25,000	(25,000)	-
Francis C Scott	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
Furness Refugee Support	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	42,427	(42,427)	-
National Lottery	9,511	-	(9,511)	-
Tudor Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Art Gene	-	6,500	(6,500)	-
Arts Council (Curating Climate)	-	33,355	(33,355)	-
BBO	-	6,022	(6,022)	-
CDEC	-	5,100	(5,100)	-
	120,487	268,826	(344,191)	45,122


Cooke's Crew Filmmaking Workshop, May 2022


Greengate Juniors Workshop, Oct 2023


Art Class Workshop, Mar 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	10,452	-	10,452
Current assets/(liabilities)	130,391	45,122	175,513
	140,843	45,122	185,965

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	12,934	-	12,934
Current assets/(liabilities)	129,384	120,487	249,871
	142,318	120,487	262,805

15. Designated funds

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

		Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2022	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Covid recovery	70,000	12,332	(62,065)	20,267	(20,267)	-
	70,000	12,332	(62,065)	20,267	(20,267)	-

16. Related party transactions

Creative Studios Cumbria Limited is a charitable company, under the control of trustees of Signal Film & Media Limited. During the year the paid rent of £5,656 (2022 - £7,360) to Creative Studios Cumbria Limited.



Nature Now Exhibition, Oct 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

17. Cash generated from operations

	2023 £	2022 £
Deficit for the year	(76,840)	(25,743)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(559)	(17)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	5,572	10,082
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	4,787	(19,991)
Increase in creditors	16,871	12,247
Cash absorbed by operations	(50,169)	(23,422)


Jack Brown TIDAL Workshop, Mar 2023


Nature Now Exhibition, Oct 2023


Tidal Artist Development Lab Workshop, Dec 2022



Tidal Exhibition Launch, Apr 2023

SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1152012

Accounts

SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



West Coast Photo Exhibition, Oct 2021

SIGNAL
FILM&MEDIA

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater (Chair)
Ms K M Bird
Ms H J Watson (Resigned 22 Jul 2021)
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner
Ms J L Swales
Mr D J Foster
Mr K Sherbayani (Appointed 23 Mar 2022)
Ms M Davis (Appointed 24 Mar 2022)

Ms K J Kolbe (Secretary)

Charity number 1152012

Company number 6606718

Registered office
Cooke's Studios
102-104 Abbey Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 5QR

Independent examiner
Melville & Co
Unit 17-18
Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

"Partners and participants feel SFM provides a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment where people feel heard and can be themselves."

Independent Evaluation
Emma Parsons, 2022



BFI Location Scouting, Nov 2021



Youth Collective Audio Workshop, Nov 2021

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BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2021

WELCOME TO **SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA...**

We are an award-winning charity providing creative film and digital media activities from our base at Cooke's Studios on Abbey Road in Barrow-in-Furness. Since 2008 we have built a unique resource for thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds to access free facilities, events, professional training and hands-on experience in film, digital arts and creative digital media.

Facilities include training rooms, edit suites, exhibition and screening spaces. Our charity works extensively with Barrow and Cumbria's most isolated and deprived residents, using the arts as a tool to build confidence, skills and self esteem. Alongside our programme of participation activities we also provide residencies for artists to produce new work and a mentoring scheme which supports the development of emerging local talent with the aim of creating a vibrant film and arts culture in the area.

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The charity's objects are for the public benefit to promote the arts and to advance education in the arts in particular but not exclusively by:

a) Providing a centre for the arts and creative industries where local residents, particularly those from disadvantaged groups, can access facilities and activities to develop skills in a diverse range of creative, media and arts disciplines, and:

b) Providing premises, space and activities for local front-line groups in order to support media production and the creative and artistic development of local people.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are to implement a programme of film, media and digital arts training courses, master classes, screenings and workshops for adults and young people and there has been no change in these during the year.

As such the Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the 'public benefit' notice.

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

AIMS AND APPROACH

We aim to deliver three overarching Impact Goals for our community through provision of arts and culture activity:

IMPACT GOAL 1:
Confident, Empowered Young People

IMPACT GOAL 2:
Skilled, Fulfilled Creatives

IMPACT GOAL 3:
A Connected Cultural Community

We achieve these through 5 Strategic Objectives:

- **To deliver an inclusive, excellent digital arts participation programme for disadvantaged young people**
- **To develop diverse talent in isolated, deprived parts of Cumbria, supporting emerging creatives to access the cultural sector**
- **To enhance wellbeing through access to a programme of cultural digital arts participation and learning for marginalised adults**
- **To increase diverse cultural engagement through accessible, relevant audience and community events and entry-points**
- **To drive Signal Film and Media's reputation as an ambitious, leading digital arts organisation whilst nurturing its talented team and its financial sustainability**



West Coast Photo Exhibition, Oct 2021


BFI Academy Film Shoot Prep, Dec 2021


Youth Collective 16mm Film Workshop, Jul 2021

CO-DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2021-22 we reached more people than ever before, engaging a massive 159,219 in audiences (attending in-person, outdoor and online exhibitions). 1,903 adults and young people participated in our activities and 110 creatives and volunteers benefited from support.

In the face of unprecedented challenges our programme of creative digital media activity has gone from strength to strength. Rather than hindering progress, the COVID 19 crisis actually served to reveal our true potential and accelerate our ambition.

As the pandemic exposed the fragility of our deprived community we responded by adapting to provide remote, online delivery from an early stage. Our creative offer was considered a 'lifeline' by both our participants and partners. We offered learning and self expression opportunities when people felt they had none, making a difference to the most vulnerable at a time when they most needed support.

After 18 months of COVID delays we were able to deliver our two most ambitious community projects yet: West Coast Photo Festival and Seeing the North with Sankey. Both projects were received with great enthusiasm and support from the community in Barrow and across Cumbria as well as receiving national attention with feature articles appearing in both The Guardian and the British Journal of Photography.

Our team pulled out the stops and worked exceedingly hard to make all this happen. The sustained efforts of our fundraising brought in emergency COVID funding that helped Signal to survive and adapt, and secured the funds for two new, full-time Programme Managers who are focused on improving and integrating our adult and youth programmes.

As we neared the end of the financial year we launched into two more substantial pieces of work - funding bids to Arts Council England for National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status and for capital investment in our building. We enter the next financial year in a confident position with a renewed faith in the power of art and culture to give people hope, connection and purpose in difficult times.

Kerry Kolbe & Loren Slater





Youth Collective Audio Workshop, Nov 2021

"I quietly cried with joy, we felt there was a place where he was accepted, and people appreciated his creative, quirky style without judgement."

Parent of autistic young adult



Family Friendly Collage Workshop, Nov 2021

SCREENINGS & AWARDS

A key value of our organisation is enabling local people to co-produce professional-standard work that garners recognition on a regional, national and international stage. Each year films made at Signal Film & Media are accepted into film festivals and showcased to audiences around the world.

THE CATFISH CLUB (2020)
Created by BFI Film Academy 16-19 year olds

In a prohibition-era speakeasy, waiting staff work together to steal jewellery from wealthy customers, but must ultimately betray each other in pursuit of a bigger prize.

Screened at:
- Ignite Film Festival, Wiltshire, UK, June 2021
- Dorking Film Festival, Surrey, UK, June 2021
- Busan International Kids and Youth Film Festival, South Korea, July 2021
- Super International Teenager Film Festival, Bucharest, Romania, August 2021
- Keswick Film Festival, Cumbria, UK, September 2021
- Scout Film Festival, Boston, USA, November 2021



THE HALLOWEEN PARTY (2020)
Created by 8-11 year old Signal Starters

Depressed and lonely, The Grim Reaper goes to the Job Centre in search of new employment and makes some strange new friends.

Screenings & Awards:
- 3rd Place Award: Anim!Arte International Student Animation Festival of Brazil, May 2021
- VAFI & RAFI International Children and Youth Animation Film Festival, Croatia, May 2021



NO FIXED ADDRESS (2019)
Created by Get Digital 16-19 year olds

A 'visual poem' about youth homelessness made in partnership with Nightstop Cumbria and DePaul UK to promote the work of these national charities.

Screenings & Awards:
- Anim!Arte International Student Animation Festival of Brazil, May 2021
- Award Winner 18 or Younger category - Dorking Film Festival, UK, June 2021
- ZEBRA Poetry Film Festival, Berlin, November 2021

DELIVERED (2020)
Created by Get Digital 16-19 year olds during lockdown

Socially isolating teens are freaked out when a series of bizarre parcels arrive anonymously in the post.

Screened at:
- Screened at Busan International Youth Film Festival, South Korea, July 2021

CIRCLE OF LIFE (2019)
Created by 8-11 year old Signal Starters

The oceanic story of one of the earth's most important creatures: phytoplankton!

Screened at:
- VAFI & RAFI International Children & Youth Animation Film Festival, Croatia, May 2021



TWO-WAY MIRROR (2019)
Created by 8-11 year old Signal Starters

A young girl makes a strange discovery when visiting her creepy Aunt Cheryl's spooky home.

Screened at:
- VAFI & RAFI International Children & Youth Animation Film Festival, Croatia, May 2021

AUTISM AWARENESS (2019)
Created by Get Digital 16-19 year olds

A film to raise awareness of hate crime about college life from the point-of-view of an autistic student.

Screened at:
- Screened at Dorking Film Festival, UK, June 2021



Feedback on Catfish Club from judges of Four River Film Festival

2021-22: OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

YOUTH PROGRAMME:

1,015 IN PERSON PARTICIPANTS

55 ACCREDITED QUALIFICATIONS GAINED

ADULT PROGRAMME:

888 IN PERSON PARTICIPANTS

69 CREATIVES SUPPORTED

41 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

8,655 IN PERSON AUDIENCES

150,564 ONLINE, OUTDOOR & PRINT AUDIENCES



West Coast Photo Exhibition, Oct 2021

OUR WORK FEATURED IN:

theguardian
British Journal of Photography
BBC NEWS



West Coast Photo Exhibition, Oct 2021

IMPACT GOAL 1 : Confident, Empowered Young People

Our year-round digital youth programme spans entry-level animation clubs for eight year olds through to the nationally acclaimed and accredited British Film Institute's Film Academy for 16 to 25 year olds. Our nurturing environment encourages intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and a sense of agency and empowerment. Young people working with us grow in confidence, find their 'voice' and discover new ways to express issues which are important to them. Many of them progress into further training, higher education and jobs in the sector. We invest substantial resources in ensuring we reach the most marginalised young people including migrants, young people from our ethnically diverse community, those who suffer from mental and physical health issues and the LBGTQ+ community.

Our new Programme Manager spent time and care developing flexible and tailored pastoral support for participants. This was particularly well received by participants and their parents.

40% of the regular Youth Collective attendees declared an LDD/SEN and said our activities offered much-needed social opportunities within a safe, supportive & familiar environment.

"There is evidence of substantial, positive change for participants... This is particularly apparent where significant 1:1 support is given to participants, some of whom have specific and/or complex needs."

Independent Evaluation, Emma Parsons Consulting 2022



Workshop for Eid Al-Adha Celebrations, Jul 2021

OUTREACH TASTER WORKSHOPS

A strategic shift toward more flexible, core funding allowed us to better respond to partner requests to deliver taster sessions at external sites. These help broaden our reach and attract more diverse user groups because we are able to dovetail with their existing provisions and cater to specific needs - for example putting on green screen, photography, animation and cyanotype workshops during Eid Celebrations, for Barrow Resilience Forum and for the Pupil Referral Unit.

Most importantly these light touch 'tasters' are a 'shop window' for what we do, providing a stepping stone for new cohorts of young people to further engage and allowing us to develop trusting co-production relationships with parents and partners that work with more diverse users.

Total Beneficiaries: **105**

Total Sessions: **9**

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS

Through our Seeing the North with Sankey and West Coast Photo projects we ran more sessions than ever before in local primary & secondary schools to give young people a chance to try out activities like animation & poetry, which link into our wider arts programme. This also builds trust among teachers meaning they're more likely to signpost their 'in need' young people to us in future.



Working with Schools at North Scale, Jun 2021

Total Beneficiaries: **435**
Total Sessions: **32**

INTEGRATING YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMMES

We've worked hard to stitch together our youth and adult programmes, delivering family-friendly 'drop ins' and bespoke youth sessions (with partners like Brathay Trust and Project John), which tied in with the West Coast Photo and Seeing the North with Sankey photographic exhibitions. These provided a fun entry point to engaging with the arts and local heritage and encouraged participants to look at the artworks on display both physically and online. We hope that this intergenerational 'cross fertilisation' will pay off long-term by encouraging young people to inspire their parents to get involved and adult participants to sign their youngsters up to take part.

Youth Beneficiaries - West Coast Photo: **92**
Youth Sessions - West Coast Photo: **6**
Youth Beneficiaries - Seeing The North with Sankey: **19**
Youth Sessions - Seeing The North with Sankey: **4**



St Pius X Pupils Visiting Sankey Exhibiton at The Dock Museum, Jan 2022



Sankey Trip with Brathay Trust, Feb 2022

SIGNAL STARTERS

Our ever-popular animation workshops which run during school holidays give children aged 8 to 11 from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to work with film industry professionals on story creation, character design, model-making, set design and stop-motion animation techniques as they make their own collaborative short films from scratch. During this process they have the option to complete an accredited Arts Award Explore qualification with one to one support from our team.

Now in its seventh successful year, many of the films produced have gone on to win awards and screen across the UK and worldwide. We secured a new, three-year funding commitment from Children in Need in August 2021.

Arts Award Explore qualifications gained:
10 accredited, 20 awaiting moderation

Total Participants: **80**

Total Sessions: **15**



Signal Starters Taster Workshop, Oct 2021





Signal Starters 'Film In A Week' Workshop, Dec 2021

Youth Collective VR Workshop, Oct 2021

"They help me create ideas on what I can do in future."

"I got to learn and experiment."

"The best thing is the amount of choice and time we have to do our own things."





Youth Collective 16mm Film Workshop, Jul 2021

YOUTH COLLECTIVE

This year we tested a brand new approach to give young people (16-19 years or up to 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs) a new level of control and ownership over decision-making. We wanted to let young people take the lead by designing their own programme of relevant, inspiring, inclusive activities which responded to their needs and aspirations. Running for 10 months every 2 weeks on a Tuesday night, the Youth Collective offered new and exciting masterclasses from a high-end TV director, Emmy-winning film producer and LA-based TV screenwriter; practical sessions with a Star Wars costume designer; mentoring in cinematography, lighting, camera and sound effects; painting in VR & projection mapping & careers talks on funding films through Kickstarter.

86% of Youth Collective participants felt they'd contributed to the content and programming and had time for their ideas to be heard through informal discussions, democratic voting & focus groups.

80% agreed and 20% strongly agreed that taking part in the Youth Collective had a positive impact on their mental health.

The project successfully reached new people - 43% of participants came to Signal for the first time. 100% said that they would recommend Signal to a friend and 93% said they were likely to take part in further activities.

Total Participants: **37**

Total Sessions: **22**

BFI FILM ACADEMY

Signal Film and Media are the only chosen providers of the BFI Film Academy in the Northwest outside of Manchester and Liverpool and this project is the top tier of our youth 'ladder of progression'. Over six months of each year, participants aged 16-19 train with professional mentors in all the key filmmaking departments to create their own film whilst completing an NCFE Level 2 Award in Preparing to Work in the Film Industry.

Since the Academy scheme began nine years ago films made by our cohorts have screened in 30 festivals worldwide and won numerous awards, prizes & honourable mentions.

This year we received a record number of applications - over 50 for 20 places. Our new flexible core funding allowed us to respond to the demand by adding extra online masterclasses for everyone who applied, where diverse female industry talent shared their career stories and answered young people's questions.

100% of BFI participants reported that their professional skills and knowledge had improved and 93% said their digital skills had also improved. All participants but one said that taking part had given them more personal confidence and 100% felt proud or extremely proud of what they had achieved (33.3% extremely proud).

NCFE Level 2 qualifications 'Preparing to Work in the Film Industry' gained: 17

Total Participants: **82**

Total Sessions: **18**



BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2021

"I gained a huge amount of new technical skills and got the opportunity to use amazing equipment, taught by professionals, with the chance to ask questions and get knowledge from people who really know what they're doing."

BFI Participant





Stills from BFI (2021-2022) Short Film







YOUTH FILM SCREENINGS

As people became more confident about meeting again, we were keen to bring participants together to celebrate the films they've made through public screenings. 56 young people and their parents and families came to the in-person screening of this year's BFI short film and in November we rebooted our longstanding participation in national youth film body Into Film's annual festival by offering free film screenings to 65 children from schools in deprived Barrow areas.

"I genuinely feel so proud to have been a part of the BFI Film Academy and it has meant A LOT to me."

"Best film ever, get it on Letterboxed. 5 stars."

We were able to stage delayed educational screenings of the Insight Into Addiction film we made in partnership with The Well Recovery Centre last year, in sessions which sparked important conversations about the realities of addiction among 100 young people from Furness College, The Pupil Referral Unit, Dropzone and Barrow's LGBTQI group.

"It was really emotive and made me feel things rather than telling me arguments/statistics. I liked that it wasn't just a bunch of social workers telling people not to take drugs but actual people who had got over their addiction."

"The film opened my eyes to the tragedy of addiction and its presence in our town, it made me recognise the self-awareness and humanity of addicts that I may have once overlooked."


'Into Film' Screening, Nov 2021


Still from 'Insight Into Addiction' film


Still from 'Insight Into Addiction' film

"Very impressed - some real honest accounts of what addiction is like mixed with a very powerful central story and the film techniques were really emotive."
Dom McCavish, Pupil Referral Unit

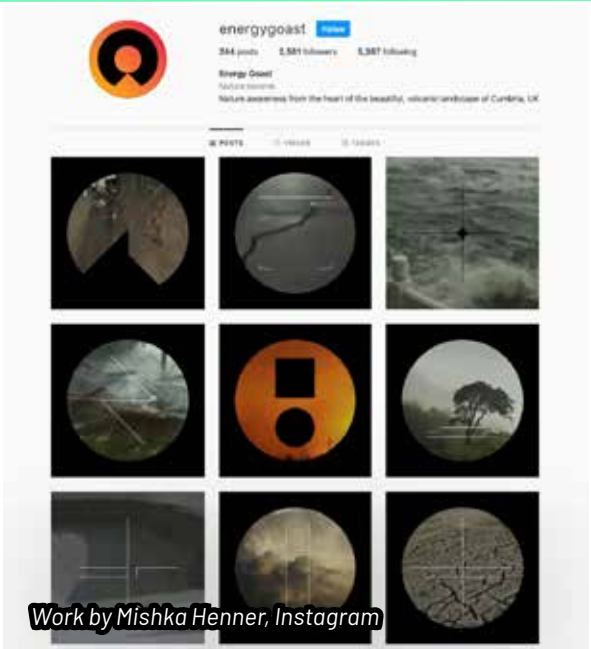
IMPACT GOAL 2 : Skilled, Fulfilled Creatives

We work to ensure people from isolated, disadvantaged areas of Cumbria have equal access to creative careers and are able to contribute to a diverse cultural sector. This includes delivering high-quality industry training and bespoke, client-led advice and support; developing strong networks and routes into work and providing inspirational role models, workspace, facilities and exhibition opportunities to help emerging and 'career-stuck' local artists to reach their potential.

WEST COAST PHOTO FESTIVAL

Running from June to November 2021, this was the first major festival of photography and digital art in our part of the UK and our most ambitious project to date.

West Coast Photo brought world class artists to Barrow to work alongside local creatives to produce work that shone a light on unseen facets of our county. Through an ambitious new collection of photographs, the festival delved into the coastline's industrial and post-industrial aesthetics, landscapes and cultures, opening up the Cumbrian coast to audiences around the world and supporting local artists to develop their creative practice and to engage with artists and thinkers. It included new commissions from renowned international artists Vanessa Winship & Mishka Henner which attracted national attention, including articles in the British Journal of Photography and The Guardian.



Work by Mishka Henner, Instagram

Total Creatives Supported: **69**

Total Audiences: **55,581**


Work by Chris Killip & Phil Green, displayed outside Cooke's Studios


West Coast Photo Exhibition Launch Night, Oct 2021



"The artists that I have met during West Coast have stayed in contact and have actually offered both advice and opportunities moving forward. I feel like my artistic community is growing".

"I think it's marvellous to have this in Barrow, it gives the community creative opportunities rarely available in the town."

WEST COAST PHOTO FESTIVAL



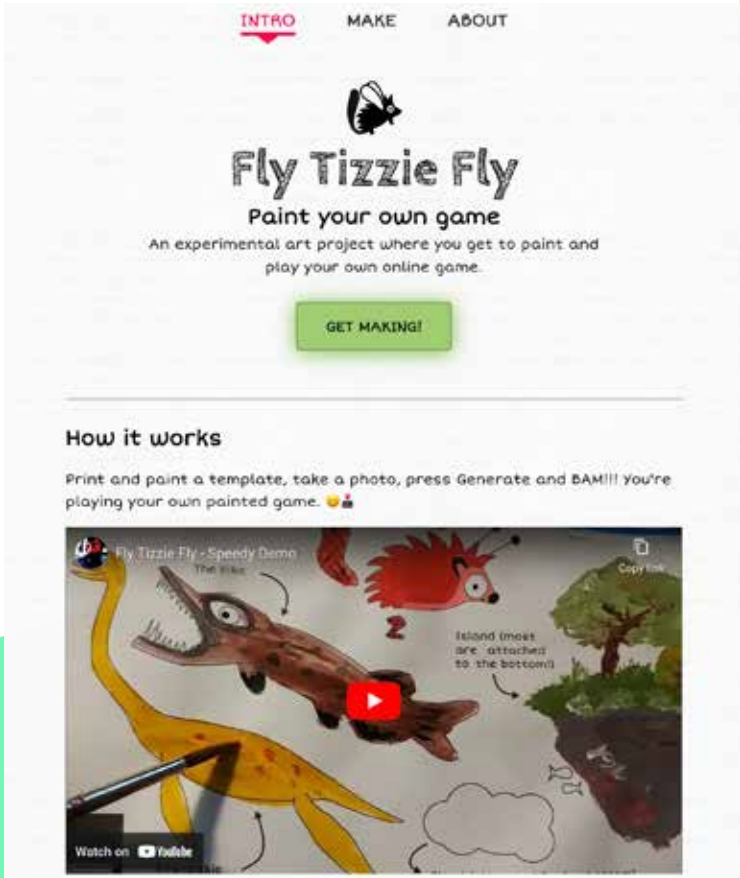
We showcased the work produced to tens of thousands of people by working with 12 venues and 9 partners countywide, including the University of Cumbria, Barrow Indoor Market, Northern Rail and Cumbria Community Railway, Florence Arts Centre Egremont, Whitehaven Harbour Commission and The Rum Story, The Dock Museum, Groundworks and MIND. In Barrow the main exhibition launch night in September 2021 also marked the opening of our brand new Cooke's Studios exhibition space in 102 Abbey Road and was attended by over 100 people.

SOURCE

We devised and led a development scheme for emerging Cumbrian Artists in partnership with Cumbria Museum Consortium that supported seven participants to explore, research and create digital art in response to the work of their host organisations.

Artists were matched with venues including Tullie House, Signal Film and Media, Windermere Jetty and Wordsworth Trust and received mentoring from artists Hwa Yung Young and Robert Parkinson. Online sessions and mentoring took place throughout lockdowns and each artist exhibited work in their host venue and online in summer 2021.

"I feel like I'm part of that creative community now, it's definitely new and it's definitely bigger as well."

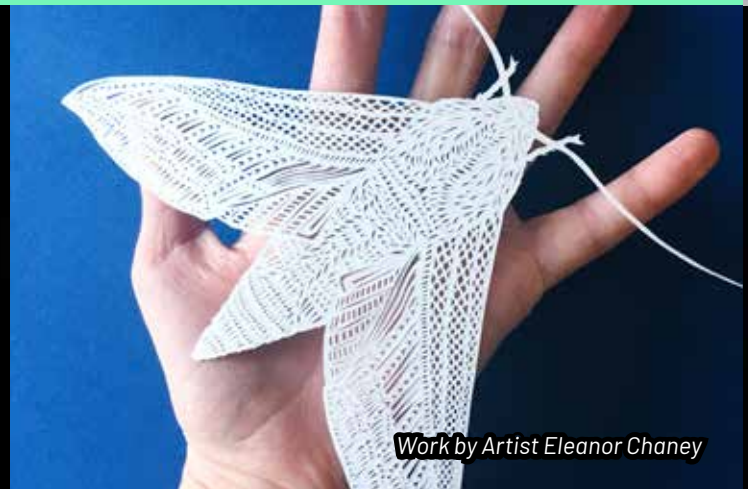








Work by Artist Jennifer Macmillan



Work by Artist Eleanor Chaney



Work by Artist Zoe Forster

IMPACT GOAL 3 : A Connected Cultural Community

In Barrow, public access to relevant contemporary art & cultural engagement is strikingly low. Our work opened up access to digital arts for all through high-quality public exhibitions, workshops & accessible community outreach. We collaborated with local grass-roots organisations as well as world-class artists & partners on a programme of creative digital arts participation with accessible, relevant events & entry-points. Activities focused on cultural experiences that improve health & wellbeing, reignite civic pride, challenge stereotypes & secure agency for the under-represented.

WEST COAST PHOTO FESTIVAL

Adult informal learning was an integral part of West Coast Photo, with various projects taking place with 'hard to reach' adults whose stories and insights into the region are often overlooked. Participants were affected by issues such as anxiety, depression, OCD, criminal convictions, poverty, loneliness and hidden disabilities such as ADHD. The project helped give them a sense of belonging and pride in our area and to develop new social and technical skills.

Partners reported increased awareness of the benefits of creative and cultural opportunities for their community users. The Director of Florence Arts Centre said: *"This collaboration enabled us to diversify our visual arts offer. It enabled our local audiences to participate in a type of art project they may not otherwise have access to".*

White Haven Harbour Commission Manager said: *"The whole Harbour environment here in Whitehaven has acted as a focal point for our community's well-being through the recent challenging times, which in particular and undoubtedly provided a significant reason for being involved in the Festival.*

We have witnessed the public engage and discuss the art and clearly the well-being benefits have been very clear to see and very inspirational to be part of".

100% of partners interviewed agreed that working on the festival was beneficial for their staff and users: *"It has been an overwhelmingly positive experience – staff and visitors have thoroughly enjoyed it, and we have seen new audiences at Florence during what has been a challenging time for attracting audiences."*

Total Participants: **442**

77% of participants surveyed felt being part of the programme had improved their wellbeing.

60% of the participants of public workshops had never attended workshops by Signal Film and Media before.

"I feel more positive, I'm joining in now, where before I was cut off with depression."

"I've felt more connected and felt more of a sense of imagination and fun than I have in a while."



SEEING THE NORTH WITH SANKEY



Sankey's Going Through The Mill Exhibition, Mar 2022

In 2016 we began the journey to re-house, catalogue and celebrate the incredible Sankey Family Photographic Collection of over 15,000 photographic images capturing Cumbria and the north's social history, produced and shared around the world from 1890 to the 1970s. In 2019, with funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund, we launched a three-year project to digitise the full collection for future generations to discover, and to create a raft of exciting community engagement opportunities for local people to explore and enjoy this vast and largely untapped collection.

During COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions the project proved to be an important way of staving off isolation and loneliness for older adults. Our pool of volunteers put in over 2,000 hours completing restoration, digitisation and cataloguing of the archive and we worked with partners including Cumbria Archives, Barrow Library, Brathay Trust, Dock Museum, Pupil Referral Unit, Barrow Borough Council, The Evening Mail, Cumbria Railway Association, University of Cumbria and Cumbria Industrial History Society.

As we entered the final stretch of the much-loved project, this year volunteers co-curated a brilliantly-received exhibition at the Dock Museum from October 2021 to January 2022 and from December 2021 artist Nicky Bird developed a new Women's History Group which included women who worked in Barrow's papermill. The group curated a collection of photography, film, objects and poetry for our 10th and final exhibition from the Sankey Archive. In March 2022 Going through the Mill opened to the public, with striking, poignant and ethereal, larger-than-life images of the tough women who ran the paper mills dominating the walls of newly renovated exhibition space in Cooke's Studios.

The completion of a dedicated online website of the entire collection from the comprehensive database has become a passion project for volunteers and staff, who are taking their time to get it right and as a result have pushed its launch into late 2022.





Sankey Papermill Visit, Nov 2022

74% of participants surveyed felt being part of the programme had improved their wellbeing.

In response to the question "Do you feel you have a network of contacts in the local community?" scores rose from just 42% at the start of the project to 81% by the end.

"They were able to develop strong working relationships with the groups of pupils and as a result each pupil made a significant creative contribution to the project. The exhibition of work was a very special moment for the pupils as they hadn't had this opportunity in their recent educational experience to display and celebrate their work publicly."

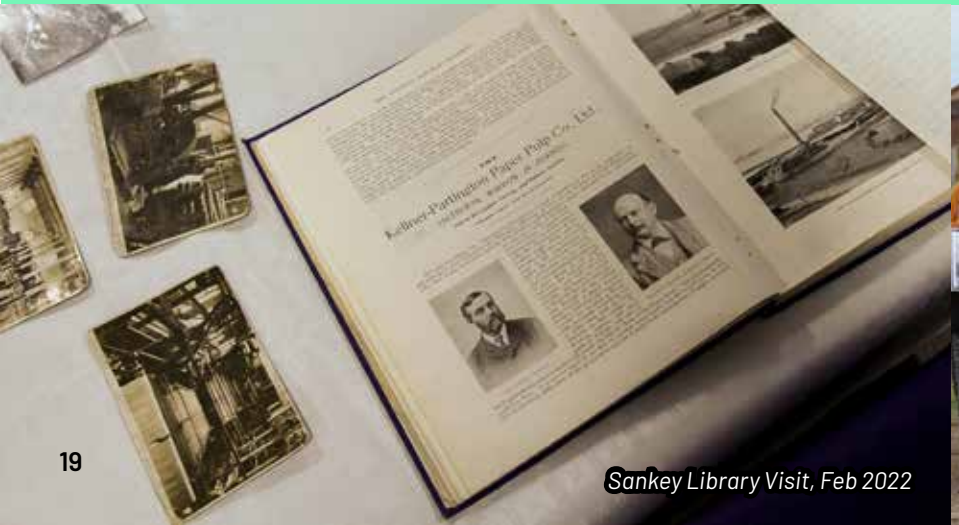
Support Worker, Barrow Pupil Referral Unit

"Signal were very well organised and brilliant to work with, very knowledgeable, practical, and knew what they wanted. We were impressed with the way Signal engaged with the public in a way we aren't able to do."

Dock Museum staff member, Barrow-in-Furness



Seeing The North With Sankey Exhibition, Oct 2022



Sankey Library Visit, Feb 2022



Sankey Papermill Visit, Nov 2022



Sankey Library Visit, Feb 2022



Image from Sankey Collection

Total Participants: **312**
Total Volunteers: **41**
Total Audiences: **105,247**

"People who volunteer with Signal report significant positive outcomes in skills and knowledge as might be expected, but strikingly, they also report an improvement in their mental health and wellbeing, pride in place and sense of connection with the local community. Across all programmes, volunteers, partners and participants report on Signal's inclusive and welcoming environment and the crucial positive social interaction Signal provides, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic."

Independent Evaluation, Emma Parsons Consulting 2022

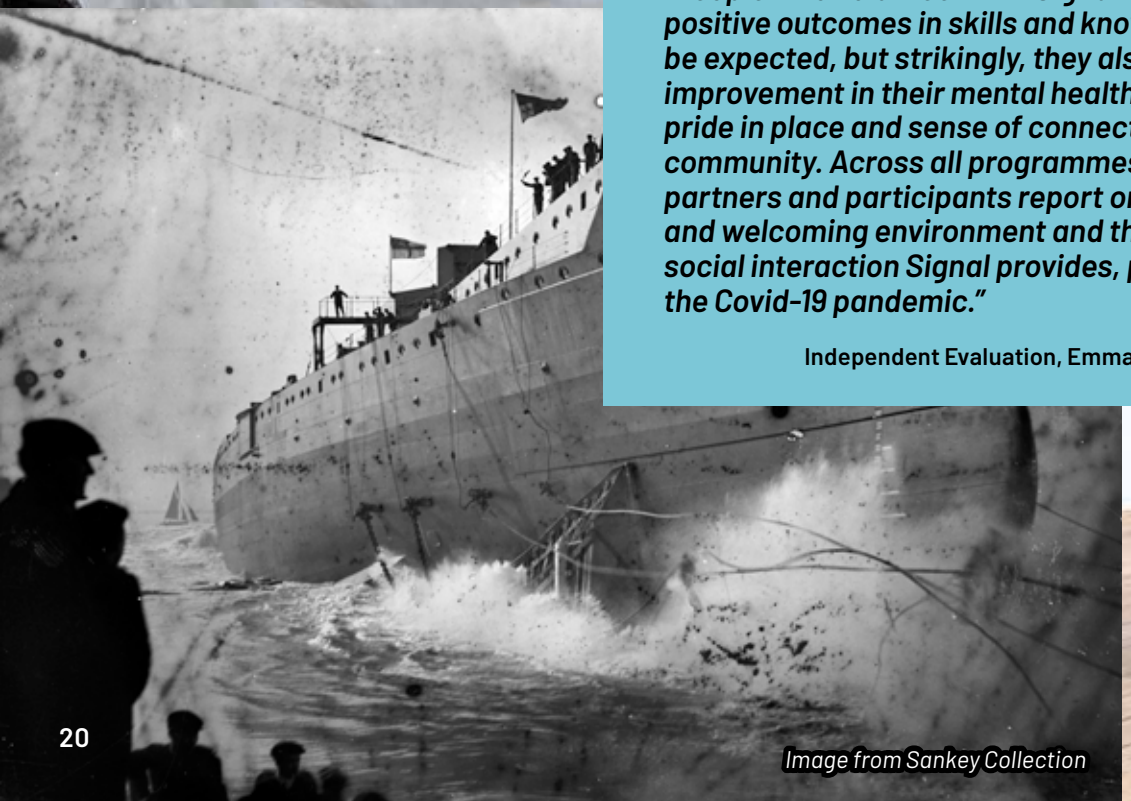


Image from Sankey Collection



Sankey's Going Through The Mill Exhibition, Mar 2022

CUMBRIA DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION CENTRE

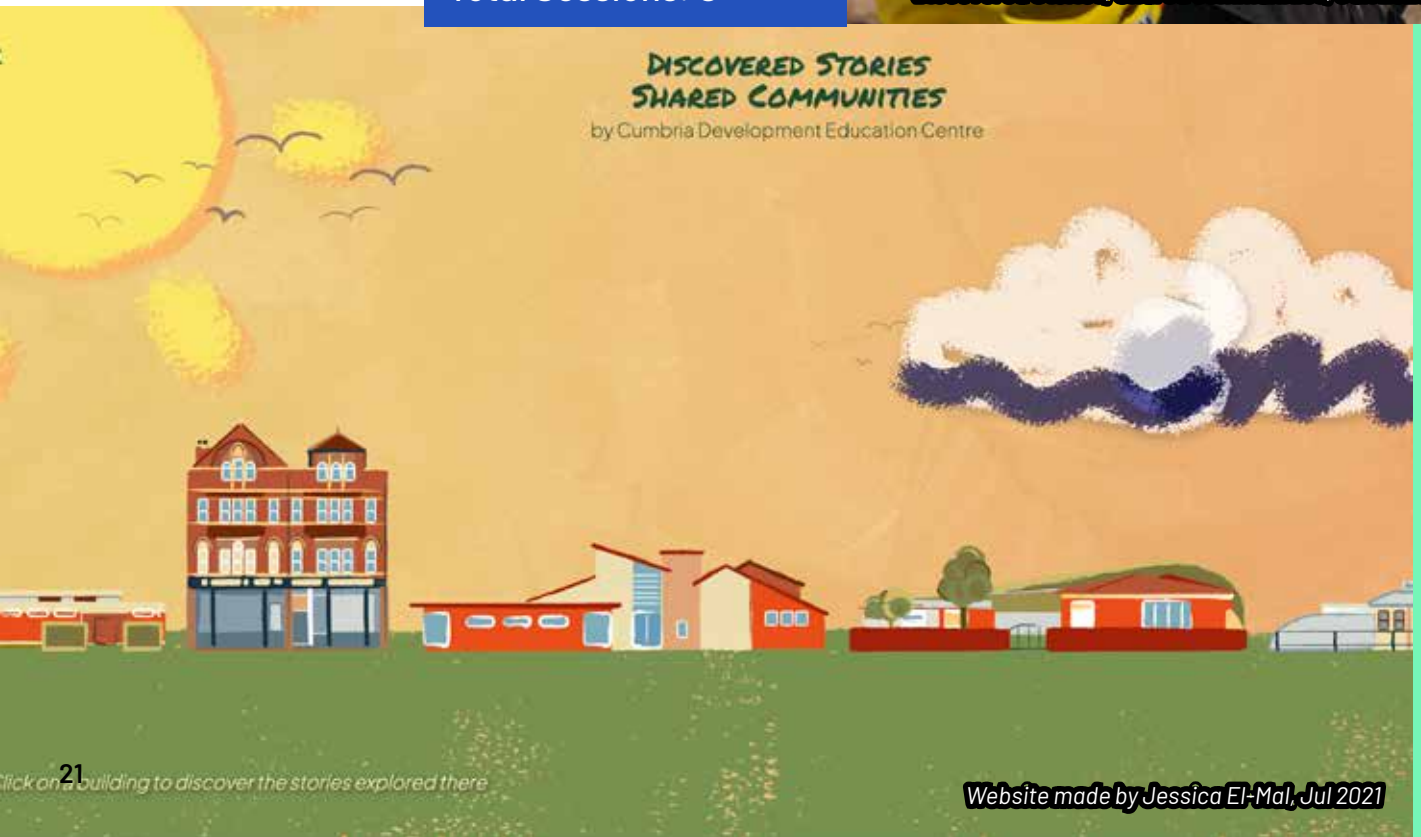
We teamed up with this local diversity-focused charity to deliver a family-oriented project designed to increase understanding of and engagement with global citizenship. *Discovered Stories, Shared Communities* brought together ethnically diverse residents to explore the meaning of home whilst learning photography, stop-motion animation and collage-making to create work for an online exhibition.



Discovered Stories, Shared communities, Jun 2021

Total Beneficiaries: **53**

Total Sessions: **8**



Website made by Jessica El-Mal, Jul 2021

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

We are dependent on the excellence of our staff to help achieve and maintain the high standards of our creative outputs. We support them through regular performance reviews and through training and development that's tailored to the individual.

To ensure a consistent high quality of skills & knowledge among our Youth Programme delivery team we commissioned film tutor Sam Harrie (Met Film School, NFTS, RADA) to develop a new suite of 'Art of Filmmaking' workshops with supporting Powerpoints, resources & materials, and our whole team were trained over two intensive days so they are up to speed on the latest approaches to delivering engaging workshops in schools and the community.

All of our staff undertake yearly Safeguarding training for working with children and have Enhanced DBS checks which are renewed every three years.

This year our staff also undertook training in:

- Arts Award Assessment - Explore, Bronze & Silver Level Moderation
- Disability Equality
- Understanding Autism
- Transgender Awareness
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Development Priority 1: DIVERSITY & RELEVANCE

We believe everyone should have equal access to the cultural sector and we work proactively to ensure our activities are inclusive and relevant to participant's needs. This year we have begun a three-year process of developing our understanding and practice of community co-creation to build a framework that ensures our projects are accessible to diverse and marginalised members of our community. So far we've piloted a new approach to participant-led projects with our democratically run Youth Collective and our flagship heritage project, Seeing the North with Sankey, where volunteers were empowered to curate and stage exhibitions from start to finish. We have also begun a move towards financing the organisation with more flexible, core funding which will allow us greater freedom to pursue a co-creation approach.

Our organisation (paid staff, tutors, Board of Trustees and volunteers) is female led, neurodiverse and includes people with diverse sexuality, gender, economic status and ethnicity. The majority of our board members are from working class backgrounds with lived experience of the issues faced by the majority of our beneficiaries. In the year to come we intend to redouble our efforts to attract board members from ethnically diverse backgrounds and to improve representation of the voices of young people at board level.

Development Priority 2: HEALTH & WELLBEING

The pandemic exacerbated health and wellbeing inequalities in Barrow and we have seen an uptick in people struggling with stressful home lives, financial pressures and poor mental health. In response we've spent time liaising closely with vulnerable people, parents and partner organisations to ensure that we adjusted our offer to be fit for purpose in post-Covid times. The consultation highlighted a need for consistency of support staff so we implemented a move away from freelance part-timers and invested heavily in the appointment of two new, full-time Programme Managers and a full-time Project Assistant. These new appointments have transformed our ability to deliver a joined up programme, to develop meaningful, long-term relationships with beneficiaries and to offer flexible, one-to-one pastoral support.

"Partners and participants feel SFM provides a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment where people feel heard and can be themselves."

Independent Evaluator Emma Parsons

Development Priority 3: ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

We take our environmental responsibilities seriously and are committed to playing our part in tackling the climate emergency.

This year we have used creative digital art as a tool to shine a spotlight on the climate emergency and to inspire new audiences to engage with environmental concerns. West Coast Photo explored and celebrated the rich coastal environment of our county and Seeing the North with Sankey catalogued the impact of industry and human exploitation on our natural environment during a period of rapid industrialisation. The projects encouraged a deeper appreciation of our natural environment and awareness of the fragility of our home planet with opportunities for lively debate and fresh learning.

We have invested in reducing Signal Film and Media's carbon footprint and improving our energy efficiency by surveying our existing premises and practices to make positive changes and by commissioning an Environmental Design company to advise on an environmentally responsible scheme for Cooke's Studios future development. We aim to significantly reduce the building's energy consumption and CO2 emissions and introduce measures to manage heat and damp including new insulation, high efficiency electric panel heaters, adapted ventilation systems and high efficiency LED lighting.

Development Priority 4: EVALUATION & LEARNING

Our organisation-wide monitoring and evaluation framework, developed with leading consultant Marge Ainsley, provides a structured methodology to robustly measure our impact. All of our funded activities and projects are mapped via the framework to ensure we achieve specified outputs and outcomes for the defined target audiences in line with funder requirements and the three goals set out in our strategic plan. These are tracked from project inception to completion using a wide menu of diverse and flexible evaluation tools to measure progress. Reflection and learning is embedded into the process and we review our framework at the end of each financial year to ensure it remains relevant.

Development Priority 5: CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Co-Directors continue to run Cooke's Studios, a key arts hub in Barrow which houses eight creative and community organisations; to advocate for local access and accomplishment in digital arts and film and to influence and grow our area's cultural ecosystem through:

- Steering group membership of the Cumbria Arts and Culture Network
- Membership of Barrow Arts Group and Barrow's Heritage Action Zone Cultural Group
- Board member and panel advisor for Barrowfull, the town's Arts Council-funded Creative People and Places project

This year, after many months of hard work and delays, we finally completed the refurbishment of 102 Abbey Road, the long-vacant building adjoining our current premises at 104. In September 2021 Cooke's Studios expanded its footprint to include brand new exhibition space, workshop and tenant spaces, showcased to the public with the launch of the West Coast Photo Festival. The new building has radically improved our offer, with bigger and better spaces to welcome increased participant numbers and to host new partners like Wordsworth Trust poetry group.

However the refurbishment was done on a shoestring, so when in December 2021 an opportunity arose to apply for capital funds from Arts Council England we pulled out the stops and put together a bid for a comprehensive redesign of both buildings (102 and 104) to transform its existing 'rabbit warren' configuration into an integrated, vibrant and accessible public centre for arts, with an expected outcome due in April 2022.

COVID-19

The trustees have considered the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the charity's current and future financial position.

Work delayed throughout 2020-2021 means increased costs of delivery arising from the implementation of Covid safety measures. Although to a lesser degree, the impact has continued into 2021-22 - there has been a shift towards working remotely which affects our approach to management of staff and incurs increased costs for portable and home working equipment for staff.

The charity is taking the following steps to mitigate the threat that COVID-19 may pose to the organisation by: Performing, monitoring and reviewing risk assessments for office, homeworking, production and education delivery work; and implementing controls and procedures to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 amongst Signal Film and Media's workforce, partners and beneficiaries.

During 2021-22, in response to the Covid emergency, Signal received substantial funding from the Cultural Recovery Fund, managed by Arts Council England on behalf of the Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The funding enabled the charity to adapt its programme to online delivery, replenish its reserves, invest in new strategising and fundraising and to further develop, refine and consolidate outreach, engagement and remote working practices begun in lockdown.

"Forcing me to think about my future is reminding me that there is a future after this pandemic."

" It gives me hope especially in these times that things will get back to normal."

"Taking part in at least the online sessions has definitely helped as it gives me something to look forward to when a lot of things have been cancelled."

FUNDRAISING & SUSTAINABILITY

The charity has invested considerable resource in preparing its first ever application to Arts Council England to become a National Portfolio Organisation. This would provide unrestricted funding for three years. Our application was due to be submitted in May 2022 to receive a decision on funding for 2023-26 in October 2022. NPO status would provide a foundation for a more secure and sustainable financial position.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year are summarised in the Statement of Financial Activities (income and expenditure account) on page 17. Incoming resources decreased by £37,089 (7%) to £465,205. Income in respect of restricted funds increased by £15,920 (5%) to £328,804; income in respect of unrestricted income decreased by £53,009 (28%) to £136,401 .

Expenditure totalled £518,027, an increase of £167,604 (48%). This led to a decrease in the total fund balances of £52,822 in the year. They now total £235,726 of which the General Fund (unrestricted) totals £115,239.

The trustees recognise the importance of maintaining a realistic level of reserves in order to ensure that Signal Film and Media continues to be in a position to discharge its obligations to its beneficiaries, partners, creditors and staff. The reserves policy is reviewed annually by trustees to take into account risk and sustainability of the organisation.

At 31 March 2021 the trustees redefined the reserves target such that unrestricted general funds, excluding designated funds, are required to be at least equal to 3 months' cover of core costs (being establishment and staff expenditure not directly attributable to project activity) to be held in the form of cash at bank in a specially designated bank deposit account.

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have implemented review systems to mitigate these risks.

The major risks are currently identified as:

- Reliance on short term charitable grants income to supplement earned income to meet the cost of the creative programme;
- Changes in the arts funding system; and
- Critical impact of the loss of key senior staff.

To mitigate these risks the charity:

- Ensures that it has a diverse funding profile without an over-reliance on any one source of funding;
- Reviews existing and potential ways of generating earned income and works towards financial sustainability;
- Maintains and enhances relationships with key funders and remains well informed about developments in the arts funding arena;
- Invests time and effort in the exploration of funding opportunities and financial partnerships; and
- Ensures that all staff, including key senior staff, are well supported and that there is a regular appraisal of skills, roles and responsibilities within the senior staff team.



Signal Starters Taster Workshop, Feb 2022



Discovered Stories, Shared Communities, Jun 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, not having share capital, and is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 10 April 2013, as amended. Its company registered number is 6606718. On 14 May 2013 the company became a registered charity with charity number 1152012.

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

Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater (Chair)
Ms K M Bird
Ms H J Watson (Resigned 22 July 2021)
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner
Ms J L Swales
Mr D J Foster
Mr K Sherbayani (Appointed 23 March 2022)
Ms M Davis (Appointed 24 March 2022)

The Board consists of people with considerable interest and experience in the arts, who are able to draw on their past experiences at a senior level in relevant disciplines.

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

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

.....
Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee
Dated: Dec 22, 2022 .....



West Coast Photo Exhibition, Oct 2021


West Coast Photo Family Friendly Workshop, Oct 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Signal Film & Media Limited (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. *Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or*
2. *The financial statements do not accord with those records; or*
3. *The financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or*
4. *The financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).*

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



West Coast Photo Family Friendly Workshop, Oct 2021



Millom School Cyanotype Workshop, Dec 2021

Melville & Co

Unit 17-18 Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

Melville & Co
Melville & Co (Dec 22, 2022 16:05 GMT)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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


Discovered Stories, Shared Communities, Jun 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	163,464	328,804	492,268	189,361	312,884	502,245
Investments	4	17	-	17	49	-	49
Total income		163,481	328,804	492,285	189,410	312,884	502,294
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	141,995	376,033	518,028	94,588	255,835	350,423
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		21,486	(47,229)	(25,743)	94,822	57,049	151,871
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		120,832	167,716	288,548	26,010	110,667	136,677
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		142,318	120,487	262,805	120,832	167,716	288,548

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		12,934		10,528
Current assets					
Debtors	10	41,668		21,677	
Cash at bank and in hand		255,739		291,633	
		297,407		313,310	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(47,536)		(35,290)	
Net current assets			249,871		278,020
Total assets less current liabilities			262,805		288,548
Income funds					
Restricted funds	12		120,487		167,716
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	13	20,267		70,000	
General unrestricted funds		122,051		50,832	
			142,318		120,832
			262,805		288,548

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on Dec 22, 2022.

Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee

Loren Slater
Loren Slater (Dec 22, 2022 15:58 GMT)
Ms L A R Slater - Chair
Trustee

Company Registration No. 06606718

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	16		(23,422)		185,348
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(12,489)		(4,665)	
Investment income received		17		49	
Net cash used in investing activities			(12,472)		(4,616)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(35,894)		180,732
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			291,633		110,901
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			255,739		291,633



"There is evidence of substantial, positive change for participants... This is particularly apparent where significant 1:1 support is given to participants, some of whom have specific and/or complex needs... Participants overwhelmingly report improved wellbeing."

Independent Evaluator Emma Parsons, 2022.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

CHARITY INFORMATION

Signal Film & Media Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Cooke's Studios, 104 Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 5QR.

1.1 ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 GOING CONCERN

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

1.3 CHARITABLE FUNDS

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

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

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 INCOME

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

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

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

1.5 EXPENDITURE

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

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

All expenditure is accounted for when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the costs of all activities carried out, with the exception of the costs incurred for governance purposes.

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

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

Plant and equipment	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Computers	33% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1.7 IMPAIRMENT OF FIXED ASSETS

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

1.8 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

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

BASIC FINANCIAL ASSETS

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

BASIC FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

DERECOGNITION OF FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

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

1.10 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

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

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

"We study Film at college and this was so different to what we do there."

Youth Collective Participant

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Charitable Expenditure 2022 £	Charitable Expenditure 2021 £
Grants	98,298	67,229
Other income	1,014	1,015
	4,167	1,632
	2,924	5,946
	15,703	2,691
	976	1,327
Analysis by fund	12	156
Unrestricted funds	4,828	3,281
Restricted funds	14,305	5,744
	16,314	21,856
	3,521	1,758
	306,237	216,833
	14,344	422
	95	116
Grants	2,173	2,706
Unrestricted funds	18,177	9,590
Restricted funds - see note 12	1,256	-
Designated funds - see note 13		
	504,344	342,302

4. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Interest receivable	17	49

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Charitable Expenditure 2022 £	Charitable Expenditure 2021 £
Staff costs	98,298	67,229
Insurance	1,014	1,015
Light and heat	4,167	1,632
Repairs and renewals	2,924	5,946
Printing, postage and stationery	15,703	2,691
Telephone	976	1,327
Motor expenses	12	156
Travelling	4,828	3,281
Computer costs	14,305	5,744
Sundry expenses	16,314	21,856
Legal and professional	3,521	1,758
Freelance staff	306,237	216,833
Advertising	14,344	422
Bank charges	95	116
Training	2,173	2,706
Rent and rates	18,177	9,590
Equipment	1,256	-
	504,344	342,302
Share of support costs (see note 6)	10,082	6,101
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	3,602	2,020
	518,028	350,423
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	141,995	94,588
Restricted funds	376,033	255,835
	518,028	350,423

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £
Depreciation	10,082	-	10,082	6,101	-	6,101
Accountancy	-	3,602	3,602	-	2,020	2,020
	10,082	3,602	13,684	6,101	2,020	8,121
Analysed between Charitable activities	10,082	3,602	13,684	6,101	2,020	8,121

7. TRUSTEES

The trustees received the following fees from the charity during the year:

Ms K J Kolbe	£44,500 (2021 - £35,000)
Ms L A R Slater	£ 42,800 (2021 - £33,600)
Ms K Bird	£ 7,100 (2021 - £8,840)
Ms H Watson	£ 28,400 (2021 - £12,300)

8. EMPLOYEES

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	5	4

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	93,787	66,294
Social security costs	2,681	301
Other pension costs	1,830	634
	98.298	67.229

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

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2021	84,814	47,440	13,075	145,329
Additions	-	-	12,489	12,489
At 31 March 2022	84,814	47,440	25,564	157,818
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2021	78,647	47,440	8,715	134,802
Depreciation charged in the year	1,557	-	8,525	10,082
At 31 March 2022	80,204	47,440	17,240	144,884
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2022	4,610	-	8,324	12,934
At 31 March 2021	6,167	-	4,361	10,528

10. DEBTORS

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	3,916	20,105
Other debtors	10,672	552
Prepayments and accrued income	27,080	1,020
	41,668	21,677

11. CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Other taxation and social security	4,715	-
Trade creditors	2,897	-
Accruals and deferred income	39,924	35,290
	47,536	35,290

13. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Covid recovery	70,000	12,332	(62,065)	20,267
	70,000	12,332	(62,065)	20,267

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS

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

		Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council (West Coast Photo)	-	7,800	(7,800)	-
Arts Council (Covid Recovery)	29,956	102,737	(75,591)	57,102
BBC Children in Need	-	24,710	(16,990)	7,720
Copeland Community Foundation	5,000	2,500	(7,500)	-
Cumbria Community Foundation	3,000	16,154	(3,000)	16,154
Westmorland Trust	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
Cumbria County Council (Library)	20,000	-	-	20,000
Francis C Scott	8,000	11,000	(9,000)	10,000
Heritage Lottery	-	93,335	(93,335)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
PCC Film	2,000	4,470	(6,470)	-
Peoples Health Trust	882	3,087	(3,969)	-
Sir John Fisher	10,378	-	(10,378)	-
Sir John Fisher (West Coast Photo)	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
The Matson Ground Charitable Trus	6,000	-	(6,000)	-
National Lottery	-	9,511	-	9,511
The Granada Foundation	2,500	4,000	(6,500)	-
The Isla Foundation	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Tudor Trust	15,000	30,000	(45,000)	-
Tudor Trust (training)	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Other	-	19,500	(19,500)	-
	167,716	328,804	(376,033)	120,487

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	12,934	-	12,934	7,194	3,334	10,528
Current assets/ (liabilities)	129,384	120,487	249,871	63,906	164,382	278,020
	142,318	120,487	262,805	71,100	167,716	288,548

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Creative Studios Cumbria Limited is a charitable company, under the control of trustees of Signal Film & Media Limited. During the year the charity received Other income of £nil (2001- £8,200) from and paid rent of £7,360 (2021 - £7,360) to Creative Studios Cumbria Limited.

16. CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS

	2022 £	2021 £
(Deficit)/surpus for the year	(25,743)	151,871
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(17)	(49
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	10,082	6,101
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(19,991)	(3,951
Increase in creditors	12,247	31,376
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(23,422)	185,348


Outreach AUTUS Summer Workshop, Jul 2021


West Coast Photo Family Friendly Workshop, Oct 2021

SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1152012

Accounts

SIGNAL FILM & MEDIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021



SIGNAL
FILM&MEDIA

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Trustees
Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater
Ms K M Bird
Ms H J Watson
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner
Ms J L Swales
Mr D J Foster

Secretary
Ms K J Kolbe

Charity Number
1152012

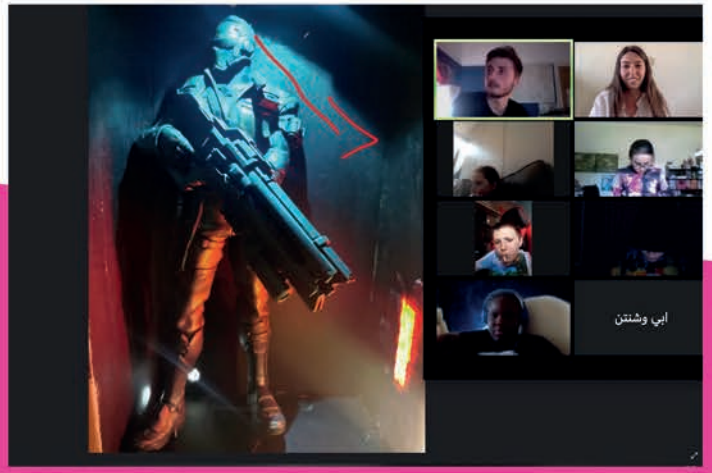
Company Number
06606718

Registered Office
Cooke's Studios
104 Abbey Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 5QR

Independent Examiner
Melville & Co
Unit 17-18
Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN









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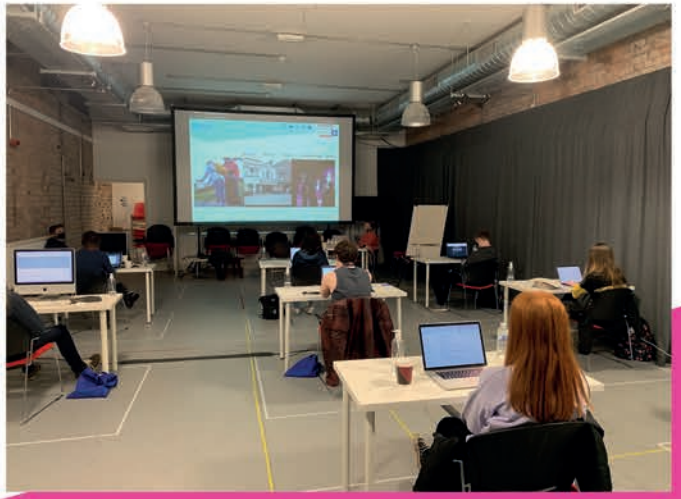
Strand 3: Skilled, Fulfilled Creatives

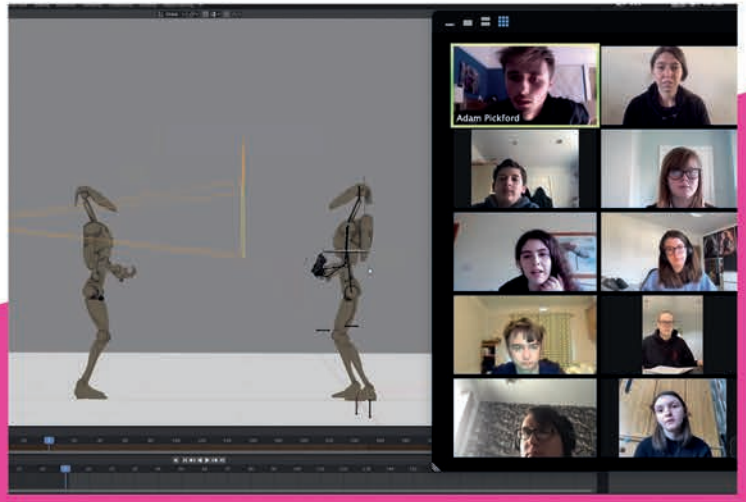
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WELCOME TO...

Signal Film & Media is an award-winning charity providing creative film and digital media activities from its base at Cooke's Studios on Abbey Road in Barrow-in-Furness. Since 2008 it has built a unique resource for thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds to access free facilities, events, professional training and hands-on experience in film, digital arts and creative digital media.

Facilities include training rooms, edit suites, exhibition and screening spaces. The charity works extensively with Barrow and Cumbria's most isolated and deprived residents, using the arts as a tool to build confidence, skills and self esteem. Alongside its programme of participation activities it also provides residencies for artists to produce new work and a mentoring scheme which supports the development of emerging local talent with the aim of creating a vibrant film and arts culture in the area.

CO - DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

COVID 19 had a huge impact when it hit, as our programme of work at that time was all delivered face to face - most disappointingly we had to cancel our most ambitious project yet, the West Coast Photo Festival, which was due to launch in the last week of March 2020 with 14 exhibitions across Cumbria and a huge community engagement programme of workshops and courses with 100s of participants.

However, after postponing the festival we assessed how we could adapt our delivery to work with people online, and quickly found that the demand to take part remotely was vast; so instead of furloughing staff, we entered what's been our busiest period ever.

We negotiated new agreements with all our funders and evolved new ways of working - from using Zoom and Facebook Live for delivery to building online exhibitions and introducing remote mentoring and volunteering practices; sent 100s of packs of materials to participants in the post and using blended approaches to learning whenever lockdown allowed socially distanced face to face.

We struggled to meet demand as the need increased across all projects, but were thankfully able to expand our work thanks to COVID-specific support funds granted via ACE Emergency & Recovery tranches (£35,000 & £75,000); National Lottery (£10,000), Cumbria Community Foundation (£5,000) and Cumbria Police Commission (£5,000).

Unfortunately the impact of Covid was felt the strongest when it came to the development of our adult programme. Whilst a good many still joined online activities, it definitely limited the reach and ambition of our work.

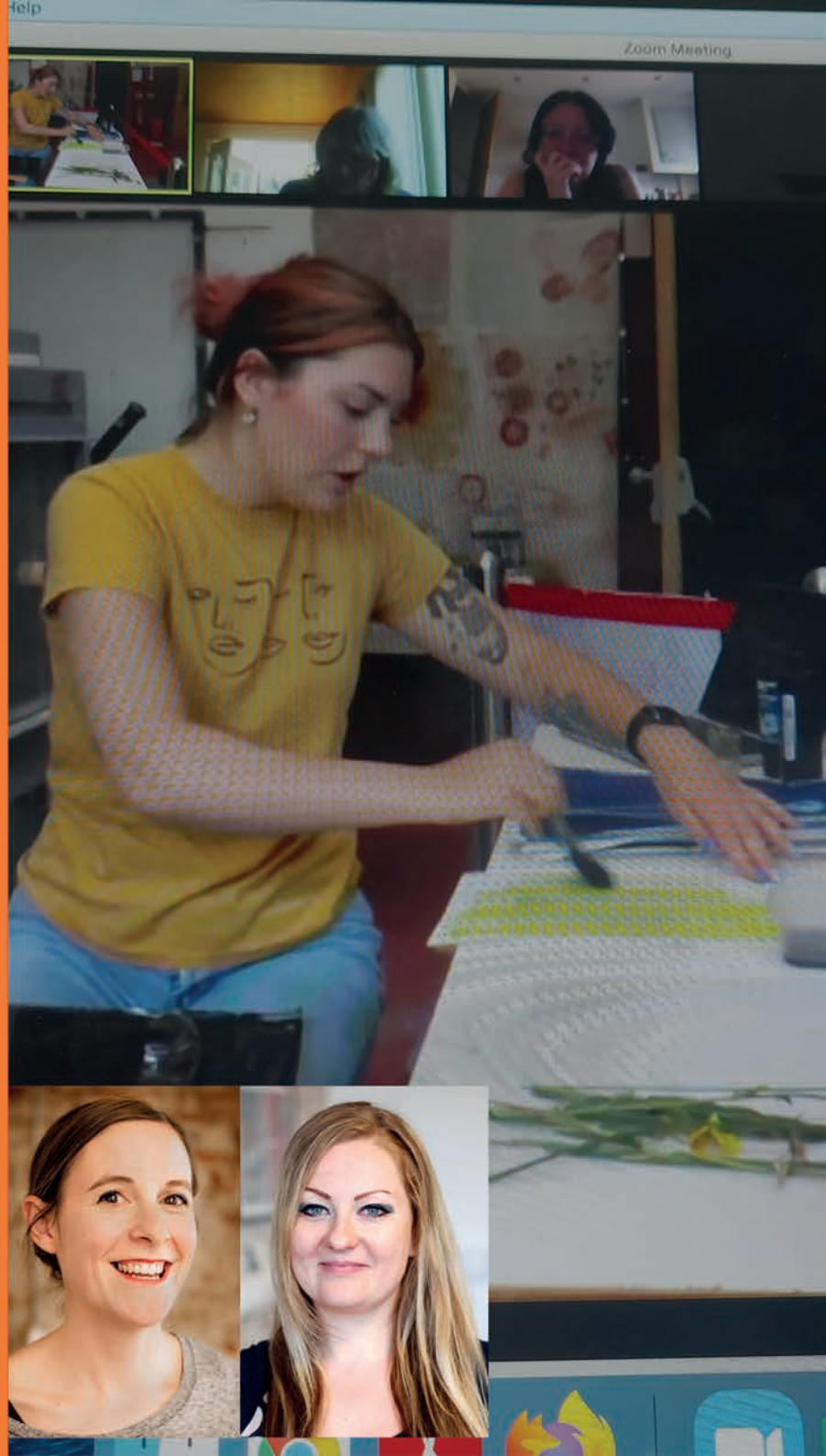
Still, we piloted many innovative approaches in delivering creative photography and digital workshops to very vulnerable adults, with final group exhibitions all online, and an incredibly dedicated group of 21 adults spending 100s of hours cataloguing the Sankey Archive online as part of our HLF project.

The postponement of ACE NPO for at least a year is another major external change that's affected us as we'd prepared ourselves to apply - but on the plus side at least we have more time to prepare the best application possible.

The Black Lives Matter movement was a major event that our staff felt impassioned by, spurring us to action to ensure Cumbria's arts response was strong and meaningful. Our team led an action research project to help improve representation and inclusion of BIPOC artists and audiences, and we instigated the formation of an Arts Focus Group as part of our membership of the newly formed Anti-Racist Cumbria group. We also ran all-staff training in subconscious bias and have a new target of engaging at least 25% BAME delivery tutors and participants across all activities.

Internally we have chosen to see the challenges presented by COVID-19 as an opportunity to transform our digital and online offer into a custom designed, needs-focused provision that delivers the most accessible and meaningful experiences possible within the limitations of the medium. We have piloted and developed lots of new ways to engage with under-represented audiences in digital spaces to ensure we're breaking down barriers to access young people and adults who might normally be excluded for economic, well-being or diversity-related reasons. Our team has done some incredible work, with a lot of strain on resources and staff but worthwhile, amazing results!

Kerry Kolbe & Loren Slater



2020-21

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS





2,604 people engaged across all of our in-person activities on site and out in the community, including training, screenings, workshops,

556 participants took part in training activities (441 young people and 115 adults).

40 children and young people gained nationally recognised 'Arts Council England', Arts Award & NCFE Qualifications

175 sessions, workshops & events took place as a mixture of online and in-person

4 major national/regional news and media outlets featured our work.

37 people volunteered their time to support our projects.

Screenings, Awards & Profile Raising

A key value of our organisation is enabling local people to co-produce A professional standard of work that garners recognition on a regional, national and international stage. Each year films made in Barrow and Cumbria are accepted into film festivals and shown to audiences around the world.





Learner (April 2019)
was made by 16-19 year old first-time film-makers as part of our BFI Film Academy 2018-19. It is a short coming-of-age film about the challenges faced by a daughter in gaining independence when living rurally on the west coast of Cumbria.

SCREENED AT:

- Dorking Film Festival, UK, April 2020
- Ufa Youth Short Film Festival, Bashkortostan, Russia, May 2020



PENGUINS FROM OUTTA SPACE
was created by 8-11 year olds attending free holiday workshops in 2017-18 as part of our Signal Starters cohort. An animated clay-mation cosmic Christmas tale about curiosity and festive wishes.

SCREENED AT:
- Online at Animator FEST - European Youth Festival of Animated Film, September 2020.



NO FIXED ADDRESS
was a multimedia 'visual poem' created by deprived young people aged 16-19, addressing the issue of youth homelessness and sofa surfing. Made in partnership with Nightstop Cumbria and DePaul UK and used to promote the work of these national charities.

SCREENED AT:
- Online at Animator FEST - European Youth Festival of Animated Film, September 2020.



THE CATFISH CLUB
was made by 16-19 year old first-time filmmakers as part of our BFI Film Academy cohort in 2019-2020. It's a 1920's period drama which follows 3 mysterious figures competing in a high-stakes heist at the ironically-named titular venue.

SCREENED AT:
- First-Time Filmmaker Sessions (1st Round online), May 2020
- Four River Film Festival, Karlovac, Croatia, September 2020 WINNER: Best Actress (Celeste Zollino)
- Cinemagic Belfast - Young Filmmaker 2020, October 2020
- White Unicorn International Film Festival. Kolkata, India, Nov 2020
- 2021 UK Seasonal Short Film Festival (Honourable Mention)

RAISING OUR PROFILE

Signal Film and Media continued to raise its profile in 2020-2021 with activities featuring in local, regional and national press, radio and TV. Highlights included:



14th March 2021

Signal Film & Media's Kerry Kolbe 'thrilled' at BAFTA nomination

By Joe Hagan-Duckers | @JoeHDuckersNews
Reporter

0 comment

An Ulverston creator could be rubbing shoulder
after a film she wrote was nominated for a pres

Kerry Kolbe, who is a director at film-making ch
which is based in the town, has secured a place

BBC Sign in Home News Sport Weather iPlayer

NEWS

Home | Coronavirus | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Tech | Science | Health | Family & Education

England | Local News | Regions | Cumbria

Cumbria exhibition showcases scenes of winters past

20 December 2020

CUMBRIA ARCHIVE SERVICE

A game of curling on the frozen-over steelworks reservoir in Ormsgill between 1908 and 1915

Winter scenes dating back to the early decades of the 20th century are being showcased in an online exhibition.

BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS

- Director Kerry Kolbe was nominated for a BAFTA for writing the script for the animated short film '*The Fire Next Time*' inspired by the 2011 London Riots.

BBC NORTHWEST TONIGHT

- Members of the team discussed the BFI Film Academy with Arts Presenter Helen Millican on BBC Radio Cumbria in August 2020.

BBC RADIO CUMBRIA

- The Sankey exhibition 'Scenes of Winters Past' was showcased on BBC News twice during prime time in December 2020.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

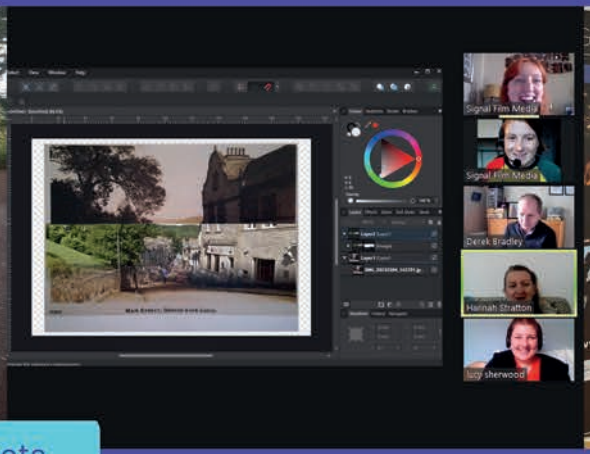
- A feature in the British Journal of Photography on artist Mishka Henner's West Coast Photo commission.

PROFILE RAISING: THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WORKING



Signal Film and Media proactively seek out outstanding and diverse partners so that collectively we are able to reach more people, continuously improve our offer, share learning and promote best practice. In 2020-2021 we worked regionally and nationally with partners such as The Photography Collections Network, Cumbria Museums Consortium, Cumbria Libraries and Archives Services, AWAZ Cumbria and The Forestry Commission. We also worked with respected local and national funding organisations such as The Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Arts Council England, The National Lottery and Tudor Trust.









Locally we partner with grass-roots charities including Furness Refugee Support Group, Furness MultiCultural Network, Brathay Trust, MIND, AUTUS, Special Educational Needs Schools, DropZone Youth project and Barrow Foodbank.

We have invested heavily in positioning ourselves at the heart of key cultural collaborations - Signal Film and Media is represented on the Board of Trustees for the Cumbria Arts and Culture Network, which is helping shape cultural policy through Cumbria County Council, Cumbria LEP and Arts Council England. We have also delivered significant projects with Cumbria Libraries, Cumbria Museums Consortium and The Forestry Commission and we are working closely with Barrow's ACE Creative People and Places project.

STRAND 1: Confident, Empowered Young People

SIGNAL STARTERS
8-11 year olds, 105 Participants

Funded by Children in Need, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Barrow Borough Council & Walney Extension Community Fund

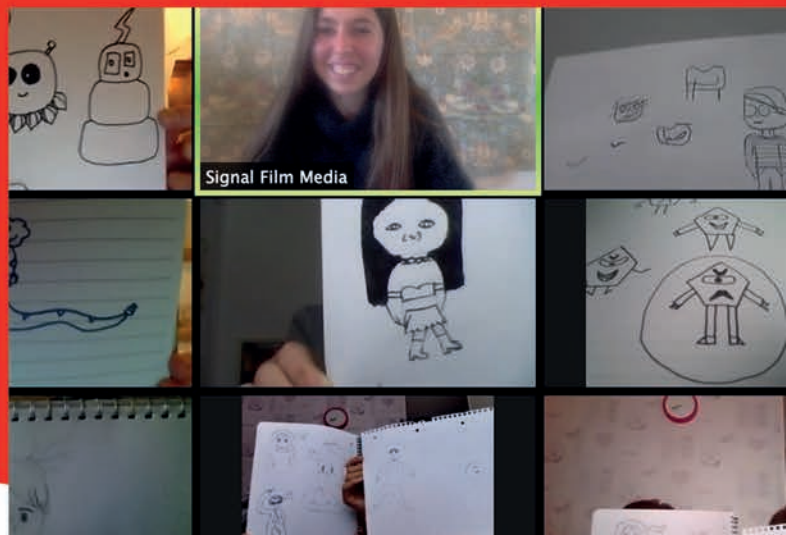
The extremely popular animation workshops continued to run during school holiday periods, giving children from disadvantaged backgrounds & circumstances the opportunity to work with film ndustry professionals to develop creative ideas, learn new digital skills and form new friendships by making their own films and animations.

Participants learn basic filmmaking techniques, story creation, character design, model-making, set design and stop-motion animation techniques. This was its sixth successful year, with many of our young people's short animations going on to win awards & are screened across the UK & worldwide.

"My favourite part was the animating because it makes me want to do more and it helps me in the future."









The difference measured by the questionnaire was as follows:

92% of participants increased their digital skills

100% of participants felt more confident in talking to others about what they've learned

50% of participants increased their confidence in group discussions

83% of young participants talked more confidently with adults and workshop staff

50% of participants felt more confident in working as part of a team

55% of participants took huge leaps forward in their confidence, reporting a 30% or higher increase from their baseline level

23 participants completed an Arts Award (Explore level) this year

"As a parent I thought the whole course was well organised and the content was excellent with lots of variety in the activities."

COOKE'S CREW

11-15 year olds, 84 Participants

Funded by The Health Lottery (NE & Cumbria), The Poeple's Health Trust, Arts Council England, Cumbria County Council, The Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Tudor Trust & The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

This creative filmmaking course gave young people the chance to work in a supportive & welcoming environment with professional filmmakers to get hands-on experiences in creative digital media. It was free and open to young residents of Barrow, with a particular focus on the wards of Ormsgill, Walney South, Hindpool, Central, Barrow Island & Risedale. It provided opportunities to meet and share experiences using digital and film media, using a variety of different art forms from SFX makeup and scriptwriting to animation, acting, sound design and photography. The experience helped young people to gain practical and leadership skills; gave them purpose, confidence, pride and aspirations & provided opportunities to make lasting connections and friendships.



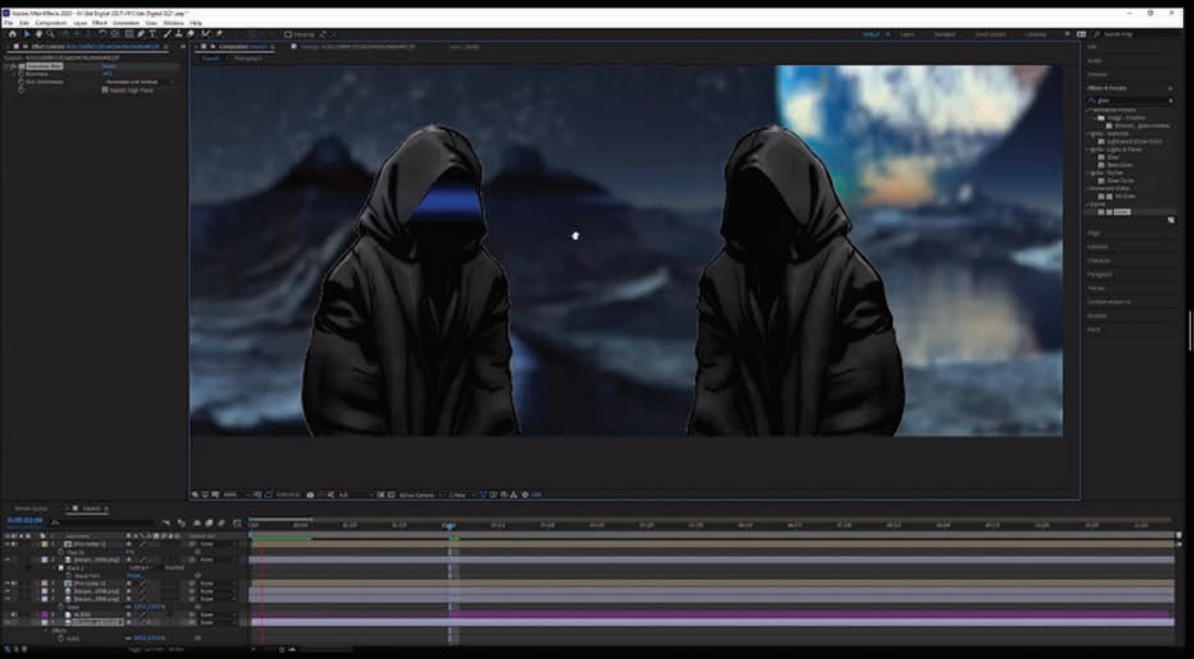
"I didn't know how to use stop motion, and now I can use multiple forms of photography."

"I liked that we learnt a large amount of skills, but the sessions never really felt difficult to follow thanks to the excellent leaders."











GET DIGITAL

15-19 year olds, 21 Participants

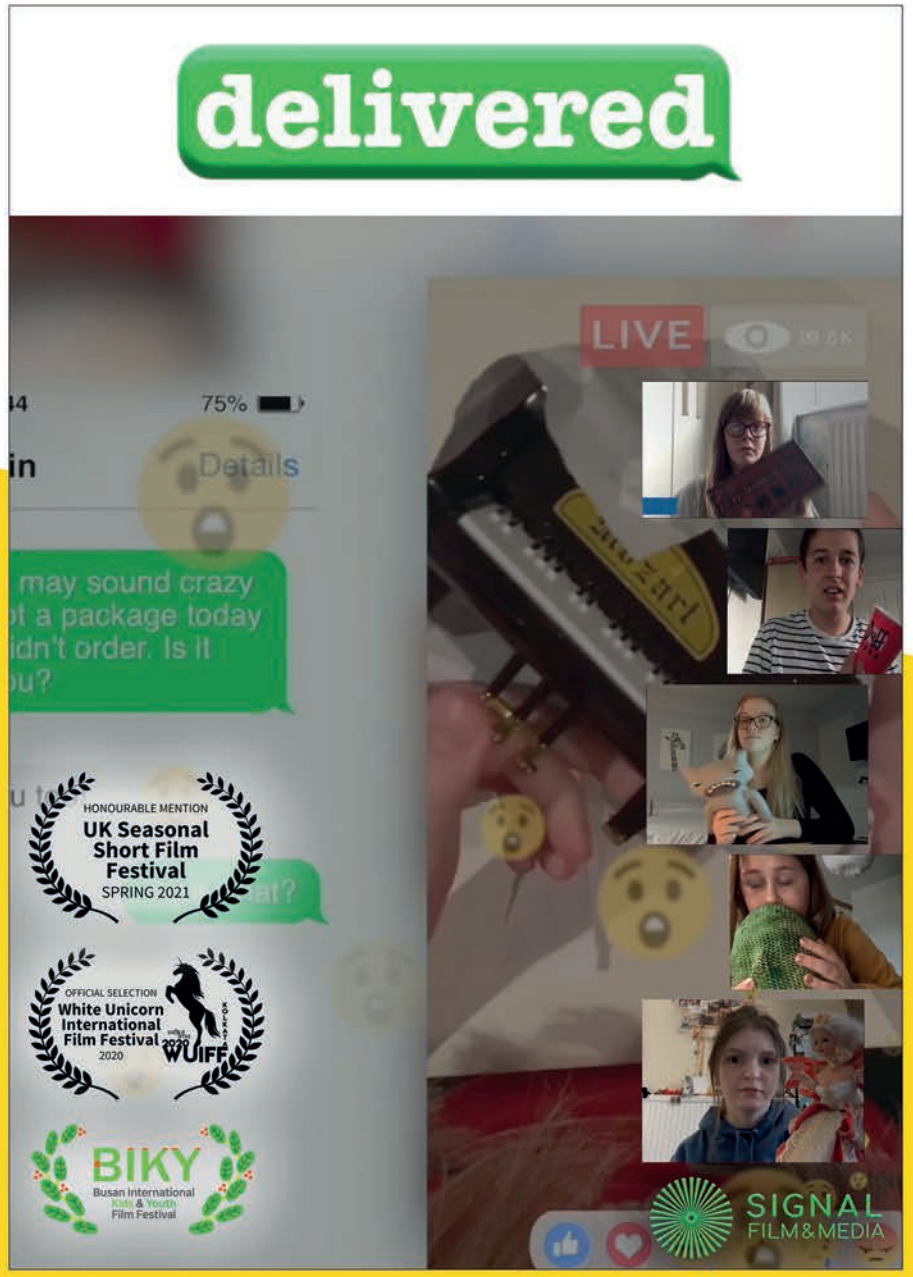
Funded by the Cadent Foundation, Sir John Fisher Fund, the Francis C Scott Charitable Trust, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, People's HealthTrust, Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Community Fund

The 'Get Digital' projects support young people in the Barrow area who are not choosing academic routes post-16, the majority of whom are affected by barriers to learning. The programme provides opportunities for learning essential digital and creative skills in a safe, supportive environment, whilst importantly building self-confidence and supporting personal and social development.

Both courses were led by Industry Professionals: Writer/Director, Karen Bird, for 'Get Digital' (Film) and Sound & Digital Media Artist, Ashley Holmes, for 'Get Digital' (Arts)'. Participants learnt new digital and creative skills and collaborated on final pieces: a collaborative short film 'Delivered' and a collaborative sound & media piece entitled 'The Fells with Iron Ribbons'.



15



Participants reported feeling 'proud' of what they achieved and described the courses as 'enjoyable', 'exciting' and 'worthwhile'. They detailed their favourite aspect of the activities as:

"The sense of community with the other members and looking forward to meeting everyone and seeing how the edits and final piece will look after the week".



"A good opportunity to improve your skills in the media industry, with access to good tools, locations and equipment whilst working alongside professionals and making new friends and contacts."

ONLINE MASTERCLASSES

15-19 year olds, 21 Participants

We ran a series of three online Masterclasses with high-profile Industry Professionals in November & December 2020.

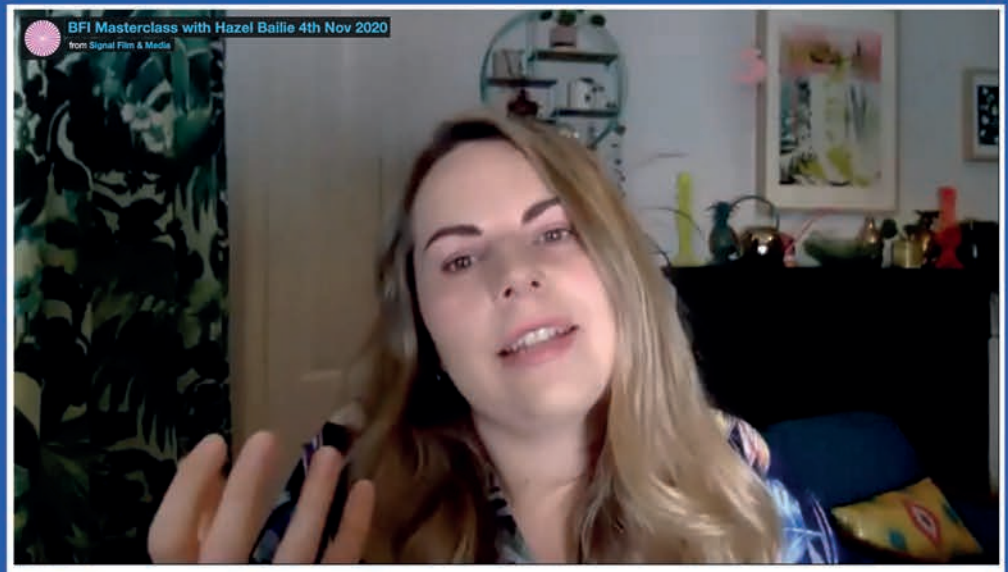
These were aimed at aspiring filmmakers from the local area with the purpose of raising aspirations, offering professional development opportunities and increasing a sense of community amongst young people identified as feeling the effects of the pandemic most keenly on their mental health and wellbeing, as well as in their professional and social lives.

Each Masterclass was led by high-profile creatives with an emphasis on diversity - Bisha K. Ali, Hazel Baillie and Emma Ko had a range of experience from writing for Marvel Studios, Netflix and Disney+, to editing for Channel 4.

Feedback on the event was overwhelmingly positive, especially in regards to aspirations and mental wellbeing:

"It gives me hope that my ambitions are possible, which in turn gives me a purpose and sense of optimism about my future. The friendly environment also makes me feel more accepted, when I often feel like I don't fit in."

"It gives me hope especially in these times that things will get back to normal, forcing me to think about my future is reminding me that there is a future after this pandemic."



BFI Masterclass with Hazel Bailie
4th Nov 2020



BFI FILM ACADEMY 2020-21

21 PARTICIPANTS

Funded by BFI Film Academy, the Cadent Foundation, Walney Extension Community Fund & supported by the Department for Education and Creative England

The BFI Film Academy is our annual accredited course for young people interested in pursuing a career in film and/or TV. This year it was hugely oversubscribed with 58 applications for places. The Academy ran a weekly blend of online and offline activity between October 2020 and February 2021 (total of 28 sessions) for 21 core participants.

Included in the programme was a 3-day in-person socially distanced film shoot in December 2020, in which the group explored the theme of mental health among young people as a pertinent issue affecting their age group especially during the pandemic; and chose to incorporate live action, stop-motion animation and remotely filmmaking (over zoom).

The project culminated in an online premiere of the final piece entitled 'Three Short (Socially Distanced) Films About Anxiety' in March 2021; and 17 participants achieved an NCFE Level 2 Award in Preparing to Work in the Film Industry as a result of the project.

"I wanted to try lots of different roles, so it was really good. Challenging, but good. I hadn't ever recorded sounds before properly, so I did that and animated some bits, directed sections... so it was all really interesting to try it all."









"I wasn't sure about taking on the role of the director but, I surprised myself!"

"I absolutely loved the experience. It was brilliant and just what I needed at the right time - especially with Covid-19 and everything going on at the moment."

STRAND 2: A Connected, Cultural Community

SEEING THE NORTH WITH SANKEY

42 Participants

Funded by National Heritage Lottery Fund, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Cadent Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, Tudor Trust, Sir John Fisher Foundation & Cumbria County Council

Funded predominantly by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, this project preserves, shares and celebrates one of Cumbria's largest image collections of rare glass-plate negatives & postcards, produced by Barrow's father-son photographers Edward and Raymond Sankey over an 80 year period. In October 2020, adult volunteers reached a milestone in the project by finishing the cataloguing of 22 Photographic Albums containing 7381 prints and postcards. The group are now focusing on the 9,161 glass plate and acetate negatives held within the Sankey Family Photography Collection.

The project has attracted a whole new audience and volunteer group by capitalising on this incredible opportunity to engage with over 80 years of local heritage and to celebrate the importance of Barrow. The impact on our community has been to provide new connections between people with shared interests, promoting inclusion and community cohesion; the opportunity to raise aspirations and learn new and transferable skills and, through discovering far more about the local area than previously considered, bringing a sense of ownership and pride and therefore changing perceptions (internally & externally) of the town.



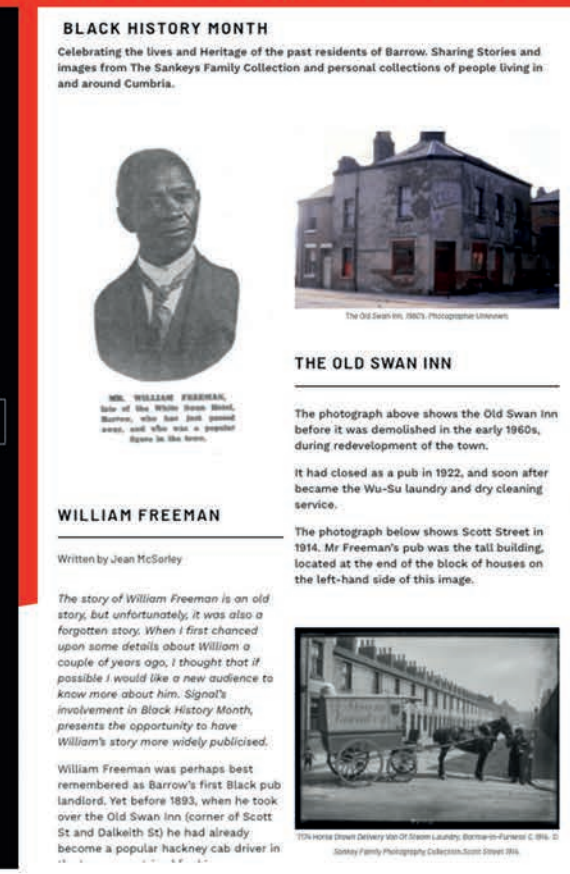


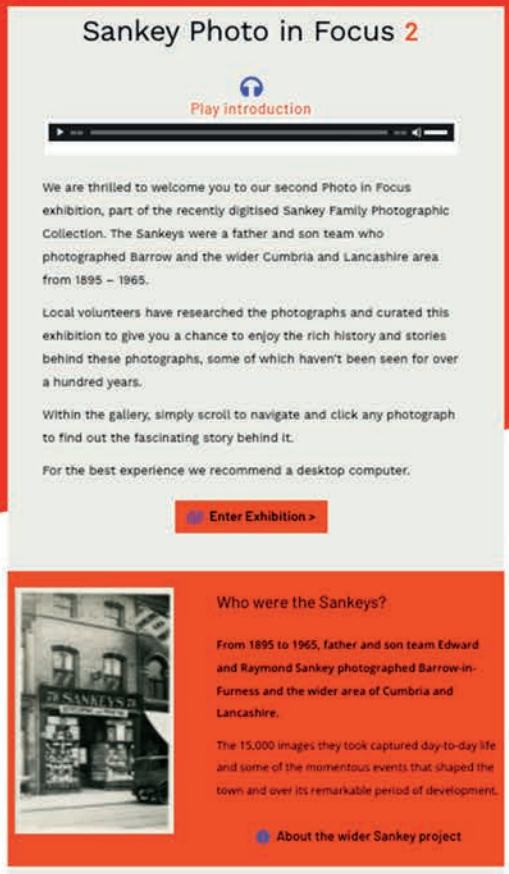
"I thought I wouldn't be able to bring much to the project as I am much less knowledgeable than some of the others, however this project is now making me look at photographs in a whole new way - I am noticing things I wouldn't have before."



Our volunteer led online exhibitions have so far had over 100,000 views:









Primary Schools

During lockdown we ran workshops with Scouts and Beavers (25 children) and 3 classes of year 3 students from South Walney Juniors (29 years 3's). They created their own postcards in response to the Sankey Family Photographic Archive collection which they shared with friends.









We also ran a full day workshop for 6 young offenders (via Brathay Trust) where we looked at the Sankey Family Photographic Archive and created new images of the town. The group's work was shown as part of a wider exhibition for their Summer Arts College Project.

INSIGHT INTO ADDICTION PROJECT

A short film funded by Police Crime Commissioner Peter McCall was created in collaboration with recovering addicts to capture and illustrate contributor's personal, unvarnished insights into how alcohol and drug use can escalate from 'harmless' fun to something far darker and ultimately fatal.

Former addicts painted a vivid portrait of how drug and alcohol dependence can hijack and destroy your life. Framed by a spoken word poem created with service users from The Well recovery centre in Barrow, THE LASH creatively conveys their raw, first-hand experiences of addiction, shared in the hope of preventing young people from following in their footsteps.

The completed film is set to be screened at youth groups and colleges later in 2021.







STRAND 3:
Skilled, Fulfilled Creatives

SOURCE & The Pool
(40 participants)

Signal Film and Media partnered with Cumbria Museum Consortium (Tullie House, Carlisle, Lakeland Arts and Wordsworth Trust) to deliver an exciting digital development lab to connect, support and develop emerging artists and curators from across the region.

SOURCE and The Pool are our early & entry career-level artist professional development programmes, providing online mentoring, workshops and sessions for the artists, with access to Signal's project staff for online advice and support.

The Pool connected emerging artists across the county with mid-career digital artists sharing their professional practice and partnering with arts organisations FACT (the UK's leading organisation for the support and exhibition of art, film and new media) and VARC (Visual Arts in Rural Communities), who shared what they look for when commissioning and gave advice on honing transferable skills.

By providing important resources and network connections we've made an impact in increasing connectivity both to peers and bigger arts organisations, improving aspirations & creative retention levels to the Barrow & Cumbrian areas as well as opportunities for progression; we have supported digital learning opportunities & helped transfer existing practices to increase employability & skill levels. Finally in exploring the historical lack of applications from black or ethnically diverse artists, through this project a small arts and culture working group has been formed and is gaining momentum with support from cultural organisations around Cumbria to bring about institutional change within our arts institutions, ensuring that opportunities and development are available for all creatives.

THE POOL
CONNECTING DIGITAL ARTISTS IN CUMBRIA

A NEW SERIES OF ONLINE EVENTS FOR CUMBRIAN ARTISTS

The project allowed artists to explore, research and create a digital piece of artwork in response to the collection or programme of their host organisation and it provided a space for ongoing conversation and cross disciplinary exchange, with the aim of nurturing new collaborations with the artists and venues involved.

Co-director Loren Slater and Project Manager Julia Parks also supported students at the University of Cumbria, serving as mentors for participants in its Cultural Leadership Course.

"Taking part allowed me to meet other artists local to me and beyond Cumbria, providing the opportunity to create and share work. I've also increased my knowledge of other arts organisations. I hope this will lead on to further work. "



JESSICA EL MAL



VICKY CLARKE



JENNY WATTS

DIGITAL FOREST –

Nature is Ours: Forest of Cultures

20 participants

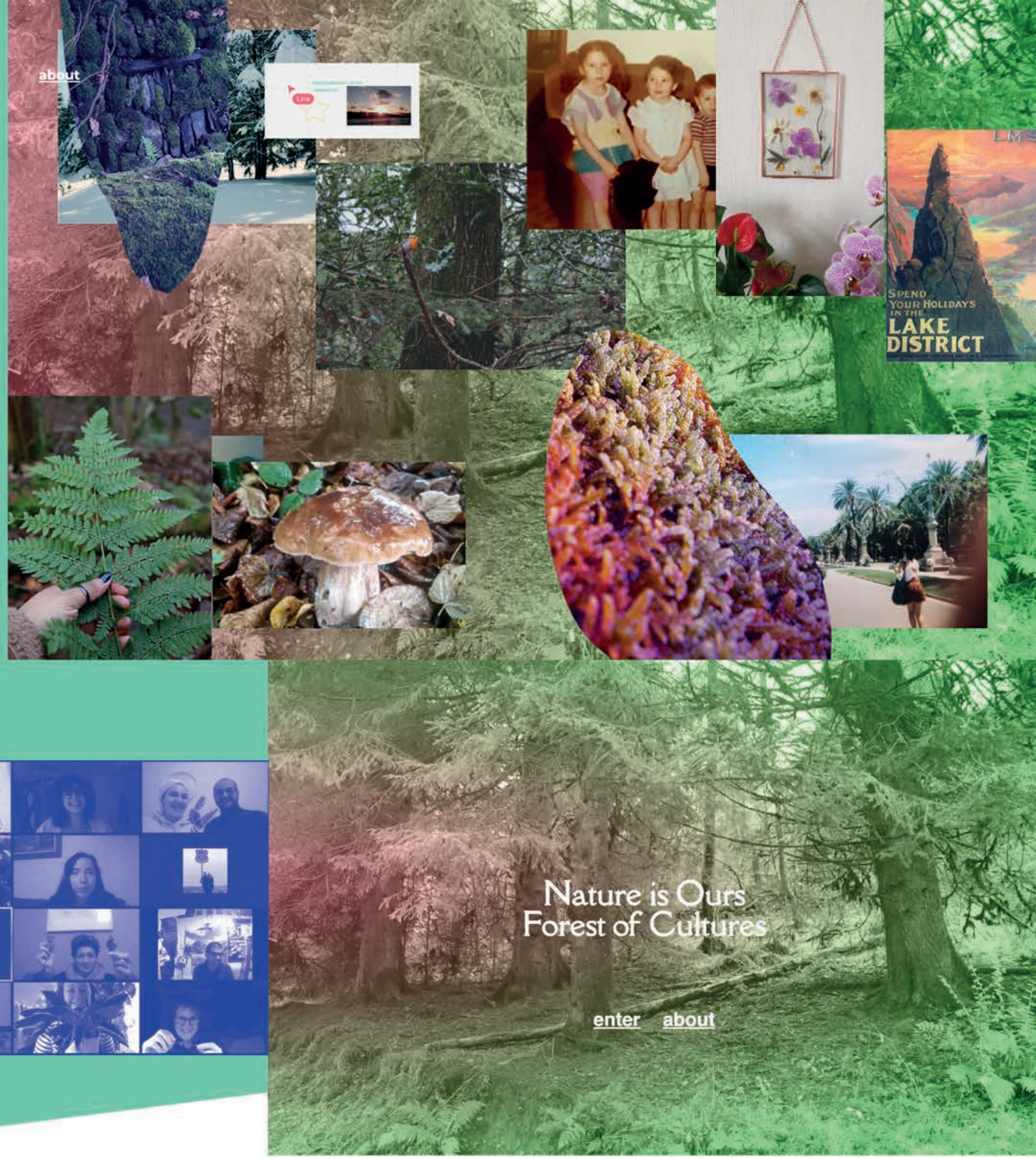
Grizedale Forest and Signal Film and Media, with support from Art Fund, commissioned the digital artist and curator Jessica El Mal to create a new, online participatory artwork responding to Grizedale Forest in Cumbria.

The Digital Forest Project captured a truly unique moment in time as visitors slowly returned to the forest and once again reconnected with nature. This project was designed so that underrepresented groups were very much part of the reconnection. Through a process of socially-distanced workshops and online zoom workshops the forest was opened up to become the gallery, studio and playground for all as new relationships were formed through digital media and creativity.

View the online artsite:

https://forestofcultures.com/





FUNDERS

We are hugely grateful to all our funders:

- Alex Scott & Family
- Arts Council England
- British Film Institute
- Cadent Foundation
- Charities Aid Foundation
- Children in Need
- Clothworkers' Foundation
- Copeland Community Foundation
- Cumbria Community Foundation
- Cumbria County Council
- Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner Community Fund
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
- Francis C Scott Charitable Trust
- Granada Foundation
- Isla Foundation
- National Lottery
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- People's Health Trust
- Screenskills
- The Sir John Fisher Foundation
- Tudor Trust
- Westmorland Arts Trust



FINANCIAL REVIEW

by Simon Oram, Melville & Co.

The results for the year are summarised in the statement of Financial Activities (income and expenditure account) on page 13. Incoming resources increased by £68,651 (16%) to £502,294, mostly in respect of unrestricted income.

Expenditure totalled £350,422, an increase of £24,831 (8%). This lead to an increase in the total fund balances of £151,871 in the year. They now total £288,548 of which the General Fund (unrestricted) totals £120,332.

A considerable amount of the Unrestricted Fund balance is comprised of Covid recovery funding and will be spent as part of the 2020-21 budget; this is shown as a designated fund.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to the higher of 20% of turnover or six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, not having share capital, and is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 10 April 2013, as amended. It's company registered number is 6606718. On 14 May 2013 the company became a registered charity with a charity number 1152012.

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

Ms K J Kolbe
Ms L A R Slater - Chair
Ms K M Bird
Ms H J Watson (Resigned 22 Jul 2021)
Mr C J Barnes
Ms B Burkeman
Ms H Wall
Ms N Wealleans-Turner (Appointed 23 Sep 2020)
Ms J L Swales (Appointed 11 Dec 2020)
Mr D J Foster (Appointed 10 Dec 2020)

The Board consists of people with considerable interest and experience in the arts, who are able to draw on their past experiences at a senior level in relevant disciplines.

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

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

Ms K Kolbe
Trustee
Dated: 5 October 2020

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Signal Film & Media Limited (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2020.

RESPONSIBILITES AND BASIS OF REPORT

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2) The financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3) The financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4) The financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Melville & Co

Unit 17-18 Trinity Enterprise Centre
Furness Business Park
Ironworks Road
Barrow-in-Furness
LA14 2PN

Dated: 20.12.2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT *(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021)*

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	189,361	312,884	502,245	96,756	336,845	433,601
Investments	4	49	-	49	42	-	42
Total income		189,410	312,884	502,294	96,798	336,845	433,643
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	94,588	255,835	350,423	71,795	253,796	325,591
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		94,822	57,049	151,871	25,003	83,049	108,052
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		26,010	110,667	136,677	1,007	27,618	28,625
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		120,832	167,716	288,548	26,010	110,667	136,677

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.
The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

BALANCE SHEET *(AS AT 31 MARCH 2021)*

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		10,528		11,964
Current assets					
Debtors	10	21,677		17,726	
Cash at bank and in hand		291,633		110,901	
		313,310		128,627	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(35,290)		(3,914)	
Net current assets			278,020		124,713
Total assets less current liabilities			288,548		136,677
Income funds					
Restricted funds	12		167,716		110,667
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	13	70,000			
General unrestricted funds		50,832		26,010	
			120,832		26,010
			288,548		136,677

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20 December 2021

Ms L A R Slater - Chair

Ms K Kolbe
Trustee

Ms L Slater
Trustee

Company Registration No. 06606718





STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS *(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021)*

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	16		185,348		103,423
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,665)		(17,133)	
Investment income received		49		42	
Net cash used in investing activities			(4,616)		(17,091)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			180,732		86,332
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			110,901		24,569
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			291,633		110,901

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021)

1) Accounting policies

Charity information

Signal Film & Media Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Cooke's Studios, 104 Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 5QR.

1.1) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2) Going concern

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

1.3) Charitable funds

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

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

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4) Income

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

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

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

1.5) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for when incurred. Charitable expenditure includes the costs of all activities carried out, with the exception of the costs incurred for governance purposes.

1.6) Tangible fixed assets

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

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

Plant and equipment	(20% straight line)
Fixtures and fittings	(20% straight line)
Computers	(33% staright line)

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/ (expenditure) for the year.

1.7) Impairment of fixed assets

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

1.8) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9) Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

2)Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021)

3) Charitable activities	Charitable Income 2021 £	Charitable Income 2020 £
Grants	483,399	394,505
Other income	18,846	39,096
	502,245	433,601
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	189,361	96,756
Restricted funds	312,884	336,845
	502,245	433,601
Grants		
Unrestricted funds	100,515	57,660
Restricted funds - see note 12	312,884	336,845
Designated funds - see note 13	70,000	
	483,399	394,505

4) Investments	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable	49	42

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021)

5) Charitable activities	Charitable Income 2021 £	Charitable Income 2020 £
Staff costs	67,229	55,553
Insurance	1,015	1,459
Light and heat	1,632	1,951
Repairs and renewals	5,946	5,501
Printing, postage and stationery	2,691	5,797
Telephone	1,327	1,001
Motor expenses	156	545
Travelling	3,281	11,611
Computer costs	5,744	3,905
Sundry expenses	21,856	23,790
Legal and professional	1,758	668
Freelance staff	216,833	190,049
Advertising	422	4,888
Bank charges	116	112
Training	2,706	735
Rent and rates	9,590	10,013
	342,302	317,578
Share of support costs (see note 6)	6,101	5,169
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	2,020	2,844
	350,423	325,591
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	94,588	71,795
Restricted funds	255,835	253,796
	350,423	325,591

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021)

6 Support costs	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	2021 £	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	2020 £
Depreciation	6,101	-	6,101	5,169	-	5,169
Accountancy	-	2,020	2,020	-	2,844	2,844
	6,101	2,020	8,121	5,169	2,844	8,013
Analysed between Charitable activities	6,101	2,020	8,121	5,169	2,844	8,013

7. Trustees

The trustees received the following fees from the charity during the year:

Ms K J Kolbe - £35,000 (2020 - £36,530)
Ms L A R Slater - £33,600 (2020 - £32,400)
Ms K Bird - £8,840 (2020 - £10,275)
Ms H Watson - £12,300 (2020 - £nil)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021)

8. Employees

	2021 Number	2020 Number £
Number of employees **The average monthly number of employees during the year was:**	4	4

	2020 £	2019 £
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	66,294	54,236
Social security costs	301	504
Other pension costs	634	813
	67,229	55,553

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021)

9 Tangible fixed assets	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost	80,149	47,440	13,075	140,664
At 1 April 2020	4,665	-	-	4,665
Additions				
At 31 March 2021	84,814	47,440	13,075	145,329
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2020	76,903	47,440	4,357	128,700
Depreciation charged in the year	1,744	-	4,357	6,101
At 31 March 2021	78,647	47,440	8,714	134,801
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2021	6,167	-	4,361	10,528
At 31 March 2020	3,246		8,718	11,964

10. Debtors	**2021**	**2020**
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Trade debtors	20,105	17,726
Other debtors	552	
Prepayments and accured income	1,020	
	21,677	17,726

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Accruals and deferred income	35,290	3,914

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020)

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

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Arts Council (West Coast Photo)	-	31,200	(31,200)	-
Arts Council (Covid Recovery)	-	102,500	(72,544)	29,956
BBC Children in Need	-	13,755	(13,755)	-
Copeland Community Foundation	5,000	-	-	5,000
Cumbria Community Foundation	-	3,000	-	3,000
Westmorland Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000
Cumbria County Council (Library)	20,000		-	20,000
Francis C Scott	11,000	11,000	(14,000)	8,000
Heritage Lottery	-	65,405	(65,405)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	50,000	-	-	50,000
PCC Film	2,000	-	-	2,000
Peoples Health Trust	-	18,524	(17,642)	882
Sir John Fisher	-	30,000	(19,622)	10,378
Sir John Fisher (West Coast Photo)	10,000	-	-	10,000
The Matson Ground Charitable Trust	6,000	-	-	6,000
The Clothworkers.	6,667	-	(6,667)	-
The Granada Foundation	-	2,500	-	2,500
The Isla Foundation	-	2,000	-	2,000
Tudor Trust	-	30,000	(15,000)	15,000
Tudor Trust (training)	-	2,000	-	2,000
	110,667	312,884	(255,835)	167,716

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020)

13 Designated Funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

Movement in Funds	Balance at 1 April 2020	Incoming Resources	Balance at 31 March 2021
		£	£
Covid Recovery		70,000	70,000
		70,000	70,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020)

14 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	7,194	3,334	10,528	5,297	6,667	11,964
Current assets/ (liabilities)	63,906	164,382	278,020	20,713	104,000	124,713
	71,100	167,716	288,548	26,010	110,667	136,677

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
(FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020)

Related party transactions

Creative Studios Cumbria Limited is a charitable company, under the control of trustees of Signal Film & Media Limited. During the year the charity received Other income of £8,200 (2000- £13,880) from and paid rent of £9,006 (2020 - £7,360) to Creative Studios Cumbria Limited.

16 Cash generated from operations	2021 £	2020 £
Surplus for the year	151,871	108,052
Adjustments for: Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(49) 6,101	(42) 5,169
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets		
Movements in working capital: (Increase) in debtors	(3,951) 31,376	(11,990) 2,234
Increase in creditors	185,348	103,423
Cash generated from operations		