

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.

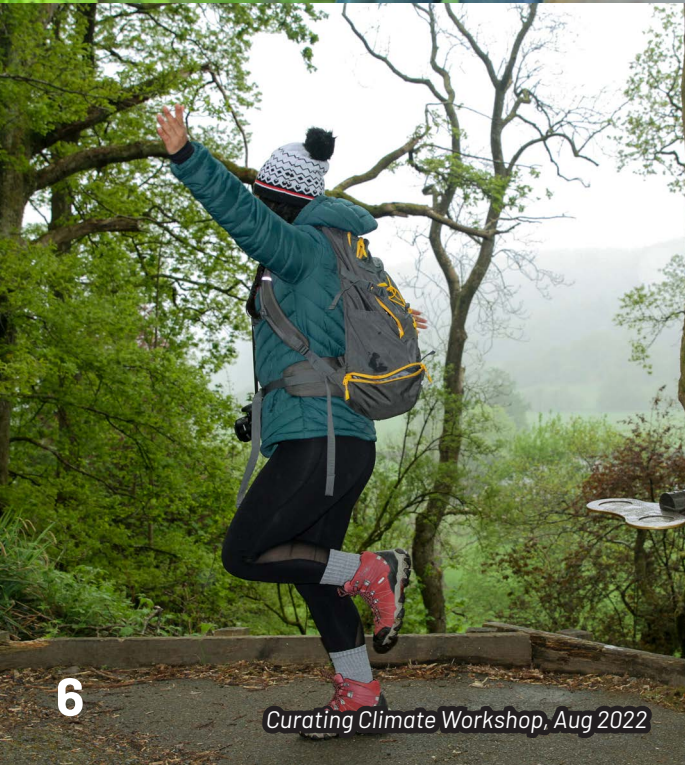
We were grateful to be further supported by Arts Council England this year with a capital funding grant of £490,000 capital funding from the Arts Council to make our premises in Cooke's Studios larger, more accessible and far more inclusive as a participatory arts venue. We're excited to be working with 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

arts
award

61

CREATIVES SUPPORTED

NCFE

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.



"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 LGBTQ+ 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)

arts
award

NCFE

BFI



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; LGBTQ+ 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

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.



"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)

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.

"I 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



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.'

FCSCCT
FRANCIS C SCOTT
CHARITABLE TRUST



"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)

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



BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2022



BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2022

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

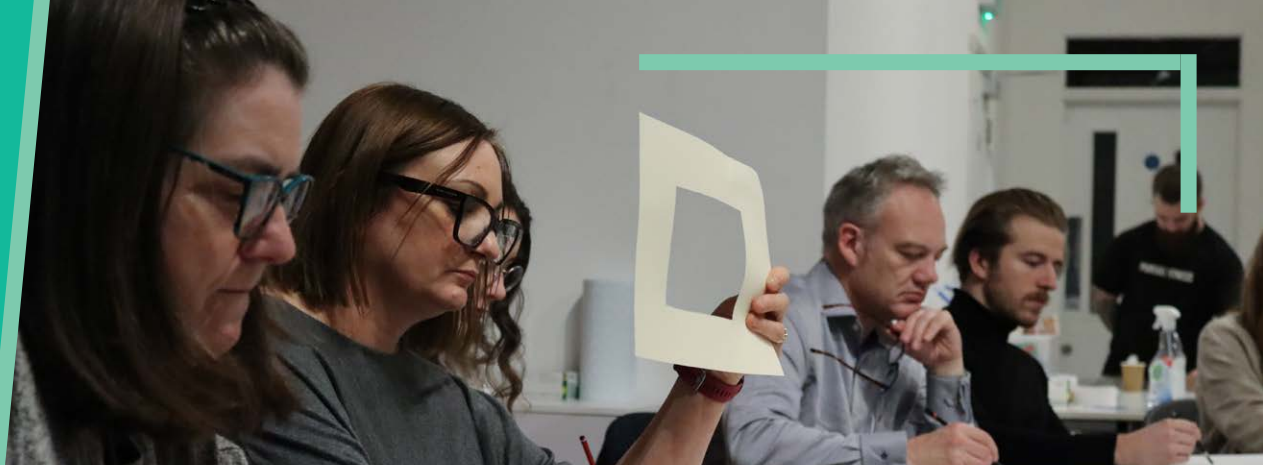
IMPACT GOAL 2: SKILLED, FULFILLED CREATIVES

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)



"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)

Art Class Workshop, Feb 2023



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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)



"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)



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

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 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, 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



BFI Academy Film Shoot, Dec 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Notes							
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		<u>175,919</u>	<u>268,826</u>	<u>444,745</u>	<u>163,481</u>	<u>328,804</u>	<u>492,285</u>
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		<u>142,318</u>	<u>120,487</u>	<u>262,805</u>	<u>120,832</u>	<u>167,716</u>	<u>288,548</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		<u><u>140,843</u></u>	<u><u>45,122</u></u>	<u><u>185,965</u></u>	<u><u>142,318</u></u>	<u><u>120,487</u></u>	<u><u>262,805</u></u>

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 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	
		<u>239,919</u>		<u>297,407</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(64,406)		(47,536)	
Net current assets			175,513		249,871
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>185,965</u>		<u>262,805</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		45,122		120,487
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	15	-		20,267	
General unrestricted funds		140,843		122,051	
			<u>140,843</u>		<u>142,318</u>
			<u>185,965</u>		<u>262,805</u>


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.

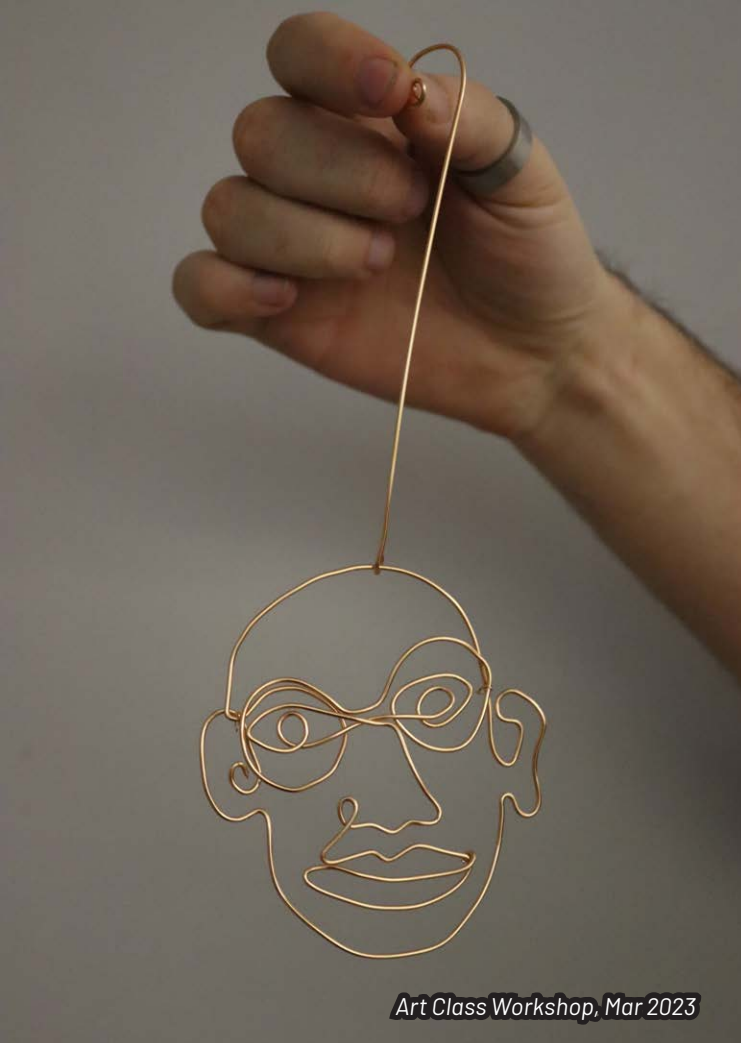
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

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


Ms K J Kolbe
Trustee


Loren Slater
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 £	£	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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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.

3. Charitable activities

Grants
Other income

Analysis by fund
Unrestricted funds
Restricted funds

Grants
Unrestricted funds
Restricted funds - see note 12
Designated funds - see note 13



Cooke's Crew Film Shoot, Jun 2022

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

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)



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
	<u>8,830</u>	<u>13,684</u>
Analysed between:		
Unrestricted funds	<u>8,830</u>	<u>13,684</u>

8. Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
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
	<u>127,429</u>	<u>98,298</u>

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.

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.



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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
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



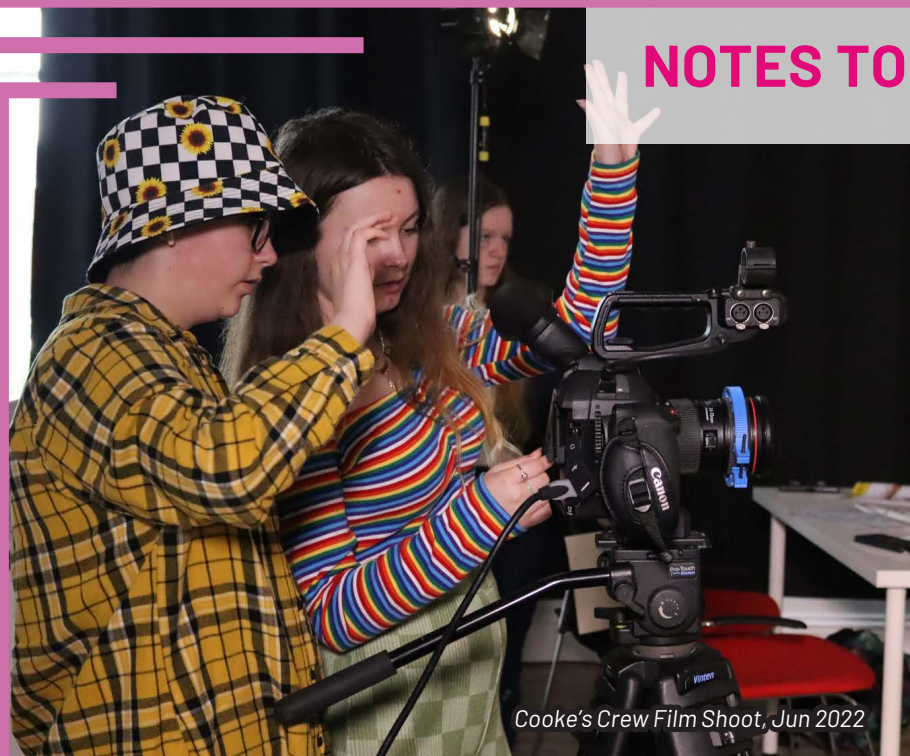
Cooke's Crew Workshop, May 2022

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.

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	£
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)	-
	<u>120,487</u>	<u>268,826</u>	<u>(344,191)</u>	<u>45,122</u>



Cooke's Crew Film Shoot, Jun 2022



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
	<u>140,843</u>	<u>45,122</u>	<u>185,965</u>

	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
	<u>142,318</u>	<u>120,487</u>	<u>262,805</u>

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.

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Movement in funds 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)	-
	<u>70,000</u>	<u>12,332</u>	<u>(62,065)</u>	<u>20,267</u>	<u>(20,267)</u>	<u>-</u>

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)



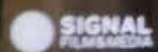
Jack Brown TIDAL Workshop, Mar 2023



Nature Now Exhibition, Oct 2023



Tidal Artist Development Lab Workshop, Dec 2022



TIDAL

Free Exhibition Exploring
Barrow's Coastal Environment

31 March - 29 April
Wed - Sat, 10am - 4pm

TIDAL

Free exhibition exploring
Barrow's coastal environment

1 - 29 April 2023
Wed - Sat 10am - 4pm
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