

South East London Arts Network Limited

Operating as

The logo graphic consists of four overlapping, organic, blob-like shapes in light purple, orange, yellow, and green, arranged around a central white space where the text is located.

**arts
network**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for

April 2024 to March 2025

Company Number: 07897115

Charity Number: 1157803

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, and trustees for charity law purposes, submit their annual report and the accounts of South East London Arts Network Limited (Arts Network) for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and accounts of the charity.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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 published in October 2019.

AIMS OF THE CHARITY

Mission statement:

Arts Network is a charity reaching and empowering individuals through creative engagement, fostering community and a wider understanding surrounding mental health.

The aims of the Charity as stated in the Articles of Association are:

- (1) To relieve the needs of people living in South East London who have severe and enduring mental health support needs by the provision of Arts activities.
- (2) To advance the education of the public in the subject of severe and enduring mental health issues.

Strategy For Achieving These Aims

1. Arts Network's main strategy is to provide a range of free creative workshops and personal development opportunities for adults with severe and complex mental health support needs, in a non-clinical and user-led environment. Members are encouraged to get involved at all levels of the organisation and take an active part in the Charity's development. We also train members to facilitate sessions and provide volunteering opportunities suited to their needs and interests. We organise external workshops where members can facilitate or co-facilitate and share the skills they have learned and connect with members of the public. Our membership programme also includes monthly trips to public cultural venues to build members' confidence visiting public venues and using transport.

2. Arts Network actively works to fight against the stigma that exists around mental health. We achieve this in a number of ways, including exhibiting members' work both in-house and in external exhibitions through partnerships. Exhibitions are not only a great way to showcase our members' talents; they also provide opportunities for members to get involved with planning, preparation and delivery. We organise events led by our members and encourage them to play an active part in our public programme, providing an opportunity to connect with local people of all ages and encouraging early intervention. We take part in open days and various arts, community and healthcare networks to ensure that Arts Network has a voice in the wider landscape of creative health, and an influence in decision making for public strategy.

BACKGROUND

Arts Network was originally formed as Network Arts in 1996 as an NHS pilot project. In 2012, due to the restructuring of day services by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM), Networks Arts was decommissioned. That same year it was reconstituted by two of the original staff as South East London Arts Network Ltd (known as Arts Network).

Arts Network is now a user-led community arts charity that provides an inspirational and understanding environment for people with mental health support needs in South East London. Our creative programme includes access to our studio space and art workshops in Lewisham and Southwark, alongside hosting public exhibitions and events, trips, and volunteer opportunities.

We treat people as individuals to create an inclusive community in which they can develop their interests and personal goals. We respect the diversity of each individual's experience and empower people to challenge themselves with kindness and self-compassion. Co-production is at the heart of what we do and we always centre the ideas, skills and practices of individuals in our community.

Since becoming a charity in 2012, Arts Network has grown from strength to strength. Enabled by the passionate work of our staff team and volunteers, Arts Network continues to develop its reputation as a thriving local charity championing individuals and raising awareness around mental health.

Arts Network has moved throughout different premises in Lewisham over the years. It was given notice to vacate the Lee Gate premises in October 2024, and relocated to the Mornington Centre, Deptford with Art Hub Studios CIC. The move was carefully planned with members and staff to make the process as smooth as possible - taking into consideration how best to remove the challenges and barriers such a change of location and venue involves.

EXISTING BOARD

The board currently consists of eight elected Chair/Trustees.

Active Trustees

Chair: Anna Marlen-Summers, appointed 25 June 2025, trustee since 25 March 2025

Trustees:

Deputy Chair Jason Meininger – appointed 25 March 2025, trustee since 30 November 2023

Treasurer Jessica Burt – appointed 25 March 2025, trustee since 6 February 2024

Gill Phillips – trustee since 1 April 2016, Interim Chair September 2023 – June 2025

Kate Emblen, Member Representative – appointed 12 March 2019

Kate Pickering – appointed 30 November 2023

Emily Rose Crane – appointed 6 February 2024

Jane Elizabeth Findlay – appointed 2 May 2024

Development Alex Rodick – appointed 25 March 2025

All trustees are unpaid volunteers

Registered Office:
Mornington Centre
Stanley Street
London
SE8 4BL

Other professional bodies associated with the Charity

Accountant: Simon Erskine FCA FCIE DChA
61 Mortimer Road
London
NW10 5QR

STAFF TEAM

All staff are qualified in their field, and most have lived experience of mental ill health.

Brief outline of role developments over the year:

CEO, 3.5 days per week

Creative Facilitator, 2 days per week

Communications and Engagement Lead, 2 days per week

Creative Programme Manager, 3.5 days per week

Creative Programme Co-ordinator, 3.5 days per week

Creative Programme Co-ordinator, 3.5 days per week

Fundraiser (freelance)

Finance and Operations Manager (freelance) June 2024 - April 2025

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governance

The Arts Network Board of Trustees is responsible for setting the strategy, direction and management of the Charity.

At the first meeting following the AGM the elected board members will be asked to nominate a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, thus maintaining a link between the Board and the day-to-day running of the Charity. There is also a members' forum consisting of a Member Trustee and any Arts Network members who wish to be involved. This is designed so that there is a strong link between the membership and the Board.

The Chief Executive conducted a skills audit and publicly advertised vacancies for new trustees. It is hoped that the Board will consist of trustees with different skills and from various walks of life, including those with relevant experience in mental health, accounting, law, marketing and publicity, a carer, an artist and at least one member from the Arts Network membership.

Organisational Structure

Arts Network's current staff team is made up of six people on PAYE contracts, working between 14 and 25 hours per week, and two freelance contracts. The Chief Executive is accountable to the Board of Trustees. The Chief Executive manages the Creative Programme Manager and Communications & Engagement and freelance staff. The Creative Programme Manager manages the facilitator team and volunteers.

Continuing Professional Development

Arts Network strives to provide opportunities for all staff to develop in ways that are relevant to both the individual and the organisation. This year, the team has undertaken safeguarding training for vulnerable adults and will be renewing first aid training. We continue to work with Flourishing Lives to deliver Reflective Practice sessions for the team, which are facilitated online by a trained counsellor. The sessions provide structure for emotional support and in-depth reflection on working practice. Alongside this, we have established a continuous process of identifying areas of development for the team by discussing in quarterly one to ones and setting goals to work towards throughout the year. We also organise quarterly staff socials to support wellbeing, plus planning sessions with trustees to help to build relationships and understanding across the organisation.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Details of the income and expenditure for the year are given in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 14 and the Balance Sheet is set out on page 15. Free reserves at the end of the year amounted to £24,184, which is below the reserves policy which calls for them to amount to 25% of running costs – i.e. approximately £45,000. The purpose of reserves is to pay redundancy costs if this becomes necessary; to pay for running costs during the wind-up period; and to cover unforeseen or unexpected costs.

The Charity management and board are prioritising the need to build up reserves. Much of the Charity's time has been spent on relocating and onboarding new staff, including a new CEO. The focus is now on increasing unrestricted funds to cover core costs and hold as reserves. Plans for this include creating a fundraising strategy and developing donor income streams such as online and regular giving programmes, working with the newly appointed Development Trustee.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITY

Context

We are keen to build on our growing work supporting a community who are discovering the transformational impact of creative art practice on mental health and wellbeing. This is at the forefront of our development as we continue our Create & Connect project in Lewisham, and also welcome and support new beneficiaries across other locations in South London, directly supporting 1,500 beneficiaries each year and connecting generally with 5,000 people in the wider community. Our members are fully involved, shaping the direction of the project, helping to deliver workshops and events as trained co-facilitators, and having opportunities for their own artwork to be seen and experienced by others.

Create & Connect focuses on three strands of work:

- Continuing long-term engagement with individuals with ongoing and severe mental health support needs through our Studio Membership.
- Running short, flexible creative workshop courses across South East London, designed to welcome those with mild to moderate mental health problems.
- Engaging with our wider community through public workshops, open days and exhibitions to foster greater understanding and support for those struggling with mental ill health.

Quote from our reflection event: *"I love Arts Network for accepting me just as I am. This is the only place where I can take off my outside world mask".*

In-person creative workshops in Lewisham

Despite our relocation we continued to offer studio sessions and workshops based on member consultations. In total we have delivered 351 workshops (a 3% increase), with 111 members directly engaging, and an overall total attendance of 427 participants taking part in our structured and public workshops. Structured workshops explored working with a wide range of materials including paint, collage, printmaking, paper-mâché and clay. Workshops led by a volunteer member focused on teaching technical skills in portraiture.

Responding to the positive feedback from the previous year, a series of nature workshops took place during spring and summer at Wildcat Wilderness, where two volunteer members led group music making and movement workshops exploring Qi Gong and Reiki. Our weekly craft group, led by two volunteer members, offered drop-in sessions exploring beaded jewellery, crochet and knitting. The group has become especially popular among new members trying out new skills. Our weekly sculpture offerings have included using clay to make under-the-sea scenes and creatures, owls, springtime blooms, and paper-mâché vases.

Ahead of our relocation, drop-in workshops were held to collectively create a mural, to reflect and celebrate Arts Network's time in Lee Green. During the transitional period of Arts Network's move to Deptford, we led workshops in venues offered by our partner organisations such as METRO Charity and The Albany. After our relocation, workshops were focused on cultivating a sense of belonging and settling into the new space and making it a home. These activities included making windchimes, garden pebble designs and tile painting – to be used to create a backsplash for the art sink in the workroom. We introduced a new monthly board game club and gardening club, providing a space for members to relax, grow plants and try different creative wellbeing activities. On Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Day, a public workshop was held at Deptford Lounge, where we engaged 30 intergenerational participants in a drawing and collage activity.

In-person creative workshops in Southwark

Funding from National Lottery, City Bridge Foundation and Peabody has enabled Arts Network to continue outreach work in Southwark. We have focused on short series of workshops in a variety of locations. We simplified our referral process, so participants do not need to become Studio Members of Arts Network to take part. After participating, a number of people have now gone through the referral process to become a Studio Member, proving that the outreach workshops are useful in engaging people who may need longer-term support. A total of 128 participants took part across Southwark, supported by two volunteer members.

Dulwich Picture Gallery, Southwark – we completed residencies at the gallery, where self-referred participants explored the featured exhibitions through creative activities and a showcase of work made during the sessions.

Darwin Court, Southwark – through a grant from the Peabody Community Fund, we continued working at Darwin Court on a series of self-referral workshops up until September 2024. The sessions ran as 10-week projects, including

clay, mosaic and sculpture. We also ran taster sessions in the café space to encourage more interaction with the residents. The building is in the direct locality of the new development that Arts Network has secured, so our work at Darwin Court is important in building our presence in the community ahead of potential expansion to Southwark.

Southwark Sanctuary Community Day – Arts Network attended and ran a community mosaic workshop for an open day hosted by Together for Mental Wellbeing and Southwark Community Sanctuary. This workshop and event were attended by both members of various mental health charities and the organisation's representatives. Other organisations in attendance included The Bridge, The Nest, Southwark Wellbeing Hub, Outside Edge Theatre Company and Change Life Grow.

Online creative workshops

We continue to host one online workshop per week, as feedback from members tells us they are accessible and relevant. To help members who are not able to attend in person to feel less isolated, we include discussions about art alongside sharing creative activities. We have introduced a monthly theme to give the sessions more structure and we now deliver online sessions from our studio alongside other workshops, to make sure that members feel part of the community and wider activity.

Stay Connected magazine

Publication of this popular magazine was put on hold during this transitional year and we instead published a booklet related to our *Festival of Belonging* project. We have started gathering materials for the next issue of Stay Connected, which we hope to publish in 2025. It will continue to be circulated to our membership alongside partner organisations and mental health wards across South East London.

Trips

Arts Network continues to work with cultural venues and organisations across London to provide opportunities for our members to visit exhibitions and events, often including a creative workshop. The trips provide opportunities for members to gain confidence in using public transport, visiting new places and socialising. This past year we organised 15 trips, with 128 attendees joining us. We arranged trips in outdoor spaces such as Kew Gardens, during Community Open Week, when members took part in a collective textile piece and wellbeing tree walk, and at nature spots at Dulwich Picture Gallery, Greenwich Park and the Horniman Museum butterfly house and aquarium. We also did a walk to the river in Deptford to explore our new local neighbourhood.

We visited exhibitions and galleries including the Royal Academy Summer Show, longstanding member and artist Phil Baird's solo exhibition at Lewisham Arthouse, William Morris Gallery, *Brasil! Brasil!* at the Royal Academy, and *Lives Less Ordinary* at Two Temple Place. We also organised group visits to the Catford Constitutional for our *Festival of Belonging* exhibition and The Factory for our AI exhibition showcasing artworks by members.

Volunteer Programme

The volunteer programme at Arts Network continues to develop and ensure that members have opportunities that are relevant to them. Eight members attended our training session in June 2024, after which our number of active volunteers increased from six to 10, supporting us in the studio and at public events and workshops. Volunteers have since supported and delivered sessions at Arts Network and other venues through partnerships, including Darwin Court and Wildcat Wilderness. Volunteers provide support on a weekly basis, helping us to deliver our core workshops and gallery programme, including facilitating their own sessions and offering peer support in our regular

studio sessions and our gallery events. Two of our volunteers are now supporting sessions within SLaM, both online and in-person, after the training they undertook with us, and one of them has gone on to run creative projects in hospital wards. Another volunteer has since become a drama workshop assistant volunteer for Lewisham Youth Theatre.

Beyond this, during our relocation we opened up our volunteering to more general roles, which proved invaluable and ensured that our members were involved in each stage, with six volunteers helping us to pack materials and get ready for the move to Deptford.

Exhibitions

Arts Network has a member of staff working as gallery co-ordinator, which ensures that we have a regular programme of exhibitions at the Arts Network gallery and external venues. The exhibitions offer members the opportunity to showcase their work to peers and the public, resulting in increased confidence in sharing and talking about their artwork. The exhibition programme this year is listed below.

Arts Network Gallery

March - May – Solo show by member Debra Malley

May - July – *Festival of Belonging*, featuring works by over 30 members. A series of painting and collages on canvas, plus a soundscape and booklet responding to the theme of belonging.

July - August – Solo show by member Phil Baird, in conjunction with his solo show at Lewisham Arthouse funded by Arts Council England.

September – *Reflection Mural*. As a goodbye to our home of eight years, AN members contributed to a mural on the gallery walls and a reflection event. Thirty-five members and their family and friends were involved in the creation of the mural.

External exhibitions

October – Catford Constitutional – *Festival of Belonging* was displayed for World Mental Health Day.

October – The Factory Dalston – display of AI artworks from the workshop collaboration with King's College London.

Snack 'n' Chat

Held on a quarterly basis, Snack 'n' Chat meetings continue to be a valuable space for members to offer feedback and ideas on the creative programme and operations at Arts Network. Suggestions for workshops and visits are discussed with members and built into the programme of activity for the following months, alongside any practical feedback. The Member Trustee is present at the meetings to provide updates on governance and ensure a direct link between members and the Board of Trustees. Leading up to our relocation, this was also very important in providing a space for questions and reassurance. We gathered feedback on how best to support members throughout the move and hear ideas on what would benefit them in our new premises.

Member support

Significant time has been delegated to our management team to provide flexible support to members outside of our creative programme. This includes spending time with members who are struggling with their mental health or have a practical issue for which they need advocacy or assistance. When required, we liaise with their care team and signpost to other local organisations who can provide specialist support. In addition, we monitor member attendance and, after a short period of absence, check in with a phone call – first to the member and then to their

care team or carer if we are concerned for their wellbeing, or have not had contact for some time. In recognition of the cost-of-living crisis, we signpost all members to local food banks and community meals.

A monthly taster session was developed to introduce new members. To accommodate the increased number of referrals coming in, we have changed the format for introducing new members to the space from one-to-one initial meetings to group taster sessions. This has been very successful, with 95% of attendees taking the step to become a member and subsequently attending sessions.

During our relocation it was important to offer reassurance and consult members. Regular newsletters were emailed and posted, with moving updates that included timelines, details and documentation of the new space. We created a 'Have Your Say' board and surveys aimed to give members a voice during planning stages. Tours were held during each studio session time to offer flexibility and help members to acclimatise to the new space and their journeys. When we had to temporarily pause our sessions during the moving stage, we developed an off-site programme with regular visits to the new neighbourhood and local organisations. We offered one-to-one support to individuals facing challenges and barriers to attending, including increased phone check-ins and meeting members at the station and helping them with travel routes.

Digital Engagement

Social Media - engagement across Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube has been healthy with Instagram our most effective platform. Follower numbers have grown beyond 1,400 and our relocation to a vibrant creative environment in Deptford has connected us with many new individuals and organisations. An increased use of Instagram Stories has heightened our profile amongst partner organisations giving us an engaging way to cross-promote and strengthen relationships. We delivered two social media-driven fundraising campaigns as part of the Big Give's *Art for Impact* and *Christmas Challenge* opportunity that raised over £6,400 through online donations and match funding.

E-newsletters – we continue to send a monthly newsletter to stakeholders and associate members, via email, which provides updates on our programme, public workshops and showcases member work and news. Communications around our relocation has required particular sensitivity and consideration to ensure clarity, reassurance and positivity.

Website – The Arts Network website's online discoverability – search engine optimisation (SEO) - has improved and continues to attract newsletter subscribers and online donations. It is updated with relevant information and news stories by our Communications & Engagement Lead and developments to improve its accessibility and visual style are building alongside a logo and branding refresh in consultation with our members.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Art Hub Studios CIC – We share our new Deptford building with Art Hub Studios. We are building on this partnership as we both settle into the space, including through collaborative exhibitions and events. We jointly hosted a winter market in December 2024 which welcomed 400 visitors.

King's College London – Students collaborated with us to run a workshop aimed at using AI as a form of creative expression. This was the second iteration of this project after the success of the first. The workshops were well attended and culminated in an exhibition of the final work at The Factory in Dalston. King's College London continue to be keen to work with Arts Network and are scheduling another project for 2025.

IGEN – Arts Network were invited to collaborate with five organisations who are also supported by IGEN Trust – Bolton Octagon, Dark Horse, Bolton Solidarity (BSCA), Converge (Northumbria/York) and Chapel FM – on a project called *Festival of Belonging*. Arts Network contributed towards the project in the form of an art installation and a

complementary soundscape and booklet exploring the theme of belonging. Overall, more than 30 members took part in the project. The work was presented at the IGEN conference in Newcastle in July 2024, and has since been displayed in Arts Network gallery and at the Catford Constitutional, with plans to tour the project around the local community.

Chapel FM – In response to the *Festival of Belonging* project, two members joined Chapel FM over Zoom in a conversation on the theme of belonging.

Dulwich Picture Gallery – We have continued to build on this strong partnership. Arts Network responded to their exhibition *Soulsapes*, a contemporary retelling of landscape by artists from the African Diaspora. This five-week programme was open to members and self-referrals and included a public event during Creativity and Wellbeing Week. The works were also displayed for DPG's community preview day. Future projects have been scheduled with DPG and members are now invited to take part in their community days.

SLaM Volunteer Programme – Arts Network sits on the South London and Maudsley volunteer consortium. This group meets every three to four months to share best practice and discuss further opportunities for volunteers. Arts Network volunteers are offered the opportunity of training through the SLaM volunteer programme and are supported to apply for a free DBS check upon completion.

Two Arts Network members who have completed our co-facilitator training have been volunteering in a peer-support role with an online art group for people accessing SLaM services, facilitated by Occupational Therapists. One of those volunteers has gone on to work in hospital wards running creative projects.

METRO Charity – During the move METRO Charity hosted Arts Network at their New Cross site and we ran a couple of creative workshop for our members. This is a partnership that we wish to foster further to support our members from the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Albany – During the move The Albany hosted Arts Network at their site and we ran a creative workshop for our members. We wish to foster this partnership and are in discussion about how we can connect to their different groups, including Come as You Are, Entelechy Arts and Meet Me.

Deptford Lounge – Arts Network ran a creative public workshop for Health & Wellbeing Day in January 2025 and we are discussing potential exhibitions including displaying the *Festival of Belonging* Project in the library.

National Network – At the start of the pandemic, we established a national network to exchange thoughts about ways of working and best practice. The group also noticed a lack of diversity within the sector and Arts Network has led the way on producing and managing an inclusion training programme. We hope to begin regular meetings again soon. Members of the National Network can be found on our website – <https://artsnetwork.org.uk/wp/national-network/>

Wild Cat Wilderness – Arts Network continued to offer workshops in partnership with Wild Cat Wilderness to make use of their outdoor space. We have a designated area in their community gardens where our members are invited to take part in a series of workshops during summer months. Some members have also co-facilitated nature workshops. This outdoor space has had a great impact on wellbeing and provides a chance for members who are cautious of meeting in groups indoors to join a session outside where they might feel more comfortable. We plan to continue these sessions throughout 2025 and hope to complete a legacy project creating a mosaic bench.

Lewisham Council Creative Health Working Group – Our CEO is now part of this group, which started in October 2024 and meets quarterly. Plans for training and further programmes in creative health will be rolled out across Lewisham. The Creative Health Lead for NHS South East London organised a conference event in February 2025 at the Southbank Centre, where one of our members spoke about their lived experience to an audience of 200 people as part of a South London creative health strategy.

Lewisham Education Arts Network – Our CEO is accessing training and fundraising support through LEAN, which works with younger beneficiaries. We are sharing our programme with their network to reach a younger demographic for our public events and to raise awareness of mental health issues in the wider community encouraging early intervention.

Lewisham Local – Our CEO is building volunteering roles for Lewisham Council staff and working with Lewisham Local on fundraising support.

Lewisham Creative Arts Network – Our CEO is now part of this group, which meets quarterly and includes local arts and cultural organisations across Lewisham.

IMPACT

Evaluation across our projects this year found that Arts Network continues to provide a welcoming and safe space for people with severe mental health and complex needs and those who require support with their wellbeing. During the relocation, we reflected particularly on what the charity means to our members. This was an opportunity to look back at the history of the charity, and to think about the future, how our membership and creative programme have evolved, and the impact on the people involved in shaping it.

Below are some brief examples of our impact this year, in the words of our members:

“You've got the safety to be vulnerable, safety to be yourself, safety to not worry about people's perceptions of you.”

“It makes a massive difference to my day – it's a very creative and supportive environment to belong to and to work in. Also, the day trips are really good.”

“Thank you Arts Network for helping me regain my creativity and confidence.”

Our long-term membership gives members the space, time and structure they need, but we also offer flexibility and understanding. Sometimes, a break from attending can be necessary due to ill health, but our members feel welcomed and excited to return when they are able. Some comments from members include:

“Arts Network makes a big difference to my day as art is my main coping strategy and look forward to going as it is very friendly and chilled.”

“It makes me feel calm and at ease. Helps bring structure to my week.”

“Helps me regulate my moods and calms me. I feel better about myself and my life after coming, makes my day feel better.”

“I feel like I go to a different place and helps distract me from what I am going through.”

In our self-referral workshops at Dulwich Picture Gallery, participants enjoyed the drop-in nature of the sessions, with many returning each week. Some comments from participants include:

“Freedom to experiment, learn about artists, access to exhibition.”

“I enjoyed that it was a Black exhibition. I enjoyed responding to art and learning new skills.”

"I loved going outside to new places."

Quote from King's College London staff team reflecting on our partnership:

"It's been such a rewarding project for us, and definitely an experience we will hold close to our hearts for life."

FUNDING SOURCES

Arts Network would like to thank our funders for the financial and additional organisational support they have kindly provided. Their support has allowed us to grow and develop while continuing to provide a supportive and creative community to those in need and impacted by severe mental illness.

This year we have been funded by the National Lottery Community Fund (Reaching Communities), City Bridge Foundation, IGEN Trust, the London Community Foundation (Peabody Community Fund), London Catalyst, Garfield Weston Foundation and the Drapers' Charitable. This will support us to continue our work into 2025 and beyond. Arts Network received a grant carried over from the previous financial year from the Resilience Programme (Fusion21 Foundation, Clarion Futures and Places for People). Lewisham Council and Galliard Homes supported Arts Network by helping with the relocation of the charity.

We also send our thanks to members of the community who have generously donated to the Charity throughout the year. Arts Network took part in our first Big Give online fundraising campaigns including *Arts for Impact* and *Christmas Challenge* and raised over £6,400 through online public donations and match funding.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Programme

We will continue to embed co-production into the programme to develop activities that are relevant and accessible to our members and participants. User leadership through focus groups and creative evaluation will help us to steer the charity's activities.

We will focus on trying to reach people who face barriers to healthcare and creativity, especially those most impacted by systematic inequalities. We will also review our communications and process for keeping in touch with members to ensure that we are maximising and sustaining engagement, with a co-produced refresh of our branding and digital accessibility as part of this process.

Our volunteer programme is an important focus throughout 2025-26 as we expand skills-based opportunities both in-house and with SLaM and new partners, to develop clear development pathways. As new members join, and throughout our membership, we request feedback on the different types of activities that we offer, to give every member the chance to shape the programme and to ensure that there is a variety of structured workshops, events and trips.

Following the success of our outreach projects and learning from the piloting of social prescribing, we continue to build short-term engagement into our programme and plan to organise more drop-ins such as a gardening group. Our public programme will be a focus to raise awareness around mental health and increase our visibility. We will organise events suitable for all ages so that people can bring their families, friends and networks along to ensure we reach different intersections of the wider public.

Following on from our self-referral group through Peabody Housing Association in Southwark, we hope to offer more public opportunities across other South East London boroughs.

In 2026 Arts Network will reach its landmark 30th anniversary. We will involve members to tell the story of the charity, reflecting on our shared history and celebrating the next chapter.

Premises

Arts Network relocated in October 2024 to the Mornington Centre in Deptford with support from Lewisham Council. The building has a 5-year lease for change of usage. We are fostering connections in the local neighbourhood and await decisions on long-term plans for the building.

A new-build site on Rodney Road in Southwark has been secured, although further changes to the proposed design may be required. The idea is that Arts Network will be the tenants of a community space housed on the first floor of the building, which will primarily hold a hotel, in addition to a shop. Planning permission was granted in February 2023 and revisions were made in February 2024, with Arts Network's use of the community space being a key factor in the application. Arts Network would be the first occupier of the community use on site, which in addition to accommodating Arts Network will provide a space for community provisions such as after-school clubs, a meeting space for a local tenant's association, art and creative workshops. A memorandum has been entered whereby Arts Network will be the intended end-user for a minimum of 10 years. The build is expected to be completed in 18 months from breaking ground, which has not yet commenced.

The lease will be secured for 10 years with no rental payments. We will be responsible for ensuring that other local community groups and organisations also have free access to the space. The building will be accessible and is well located for public transport. Plans for the space include a public gallery, studio and workshop spaces, a café area and meeting rooms. The space will become Arts Network's main base; however, we hope to retain a presence in Lewisham to ensure that our existing membership have options for accessing our programme.

Funding strategy

Over the course of this year, Arts Network has been awarded sufficient funding to continue its work for the year ahead, with some grants running into 2026. Planning and applications are under way to ensure we can continue to develop our creative programme while adapting based on learning from the past few years. We have positive relationships with our current funders and will be returning to them for new and continued project funding, while identifying other trusts and foundations to approach where needed, particularly for unrestricted grants. We plan to diversify our income through public events and campaigns to increase online donations and individual giving. We are building a more detailed fundraising strategy with the support of our new Development Trustee and organisations including Lewisham Local and Lewisham Education Arts Network.

Preparation of the report

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 2 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Anna Marlen-Summers
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUTH EAST LONDON ARTS NETWORK LIMITED

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of South East London Arts Network Limited for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 23.

This report is made solely to the Trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Trustees matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trustees for my independent examination work, for this report, or for the statement I have given below.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company 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 your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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).



Simon Erskine FCA FCIE DChA
61 Mortimer Road
London
NW10 5QR

2 December 2025

SOUTH EAST LONDON ARTS NETWORK LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME FROM:					
Grants and donations	2	8,445	160,953	169,398	136,016
Hire of studio space		6,845	-	6,845	11,413
Sundry income		590	-	590	-
External Workshop Sales		-	-	-	900
Interest Income		208	-	208	348
TOTAL		16,088	160,953	177,041	148,677
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Staff costs	3	-	120,449	120,449	140,146
Support costs	4	-	19,699	19,699	8,748
Fundraising fees		8,022	-	8,022	8,965
Project costs:					
Stay Connected		-	226	226	40
Lambeth and Southwark		-	420	420	1,126
Lewisham		-	-	-	270
Materials		-	292	292	246
Equipment		-	284	284	105
Event / Exhibition Costs		-	103	103	227
Travel		-	206	206	236
Other project costs		-	156	156	282
TOTAL		8,022	141,835	149,857	160,391
Net income/(expenditure)		8,066	19,118	27,184	(11,714)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		18,498	14,027	32,525	44,239
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£ 26,564	£ 33,145	£ 59,709	£ 32,525

NOTE ON COMPARATIVES

An analysis of the comparatives between restricted and unrestricted funds is given in Note 12 on page 23.

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6		2,380		4,761
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	1,727		4,500	
Cash at bank and in hand		66,769		35,933	
		<u>68,496</u>		<u>40,433</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	8	(11,167)		(12,669)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>57,329</u>		<u>27,764</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>£ 59,709</u>		<u>£ 32,525</u>
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	9		33,145		14,027
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated property fund	9	-		5,000	
General fund	9	26,564		13,498	
			<u>26,564</u>	<u>13,498</u>	<u>18,498</u>
			<u>£ 59,709</u>		<u>£ 32,525</u>

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

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (i) The members have not required the Charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- (ii) The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Trustees on 2 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:-



ANNA MARLEN-SUMMERS, Chair

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General information and basis of preparation of financial statements

South East London Arts Network Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England; its registered office is as shown on page 3. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) issued in October 2019 (SORP 2019), FRS 102, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP 2019.

From time to time, the charity receives government grants from the London Borough of Lewisham to help with its work. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2025

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the expenditure heading for which expenditure arose.

(e) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price.

(s) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis

(u) Employee benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

(v) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(w) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

(x) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

No judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies and there are no key sources of estimation uncertainty.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
2025				
Create & Connect grants:				
IGEN Trust	-	13,000	13,000	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	73,433	73,433	35,603
Drapers Charitable Fund	-	10,000	10,000	-
London Catalyst	-	5,000	5,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	15,000	15,000	-
	-	116,433	116,433	35,603
City Bridge Trust	-	44,520	44,520	43,040
IGEN Trust	-	-	-	33,206
London Borough of Lewisham	-	-	-	1,500
Peabody London Community Fund	-	-	-	9,984
Clarion Futures	-	-	-	11,294
FUSS (Lochaber)	-	-	-	100
The Big Give	6,404	-	6,404	-
Donations	2,041	-	2,041	1,289
	<u>£ 8,445</u>	<u>£ 160,953</u>	<u>£ 169,398</u>	<u>£ 136,016</u>
2024				
IGEN Trust	-	33,206	33,206	
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	35,603	35,603	
City Bridge Trust	640	42,400	43,040	
London Borough of Lewisham	-	1,500	1,500	
Peabody London Community Fund	-	9,984	9,984	
Clarion Futures	-	11,294	11,294	
FUSS (Lochaber)	-	100	100	
Donations	1,289	-	1,289	
	<u>£ 1,929</u>	<u>£ 134,087</u>	<u>£ 136,016</u>	

3. STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	114,441	121,326
Leaving payment	-	13,000
Social security costs	3,844	3,357
Pension costs	2,164	2,463
	<u>£ 120,449</u>	<u>£ 140,146</u>

The average weekly number of employees during the period was 5.9 (2024 - 6.6).

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2025

4. SUPPORT COSTS	2025	2024
	£	£
Property costs (see below)	4,647	(62)
Equipment depreciation	2,381	2,381
Fees payable to independent examiner	2,100	1,960
Freelance Finance & Operations Manager	8,340	-
Staff Training and evaluation	704	745
Professional fees	117	937
Accountancy and payroll fees	40	200
Insurance	1,169	199
Telephone & Internet	814	1,306
Sundry expenses	1,152	1,082
Net relocation costs (see below)	(1,765)	-
	£ 19,699	£ 8,748

As at 31.3.23 the Charity was in dispute with its utilities supplier. The latter had claimed that £15,000 was owing and this was accrued in full in the 2023 accounts. However the Charity challenged this resulting in a settlement of the claim at just £7,500 resulting in £7,500 being written back in the 2024 accounts resulting in the negative Property costs shown above in 2024.

The Charity was given £5,000 by its landlord following the sale of the building and end of the Charity's tenancy. The actual costs amounted to less than the £5,000 within the year but there was no requirement to spend the full amount in the financial year or repay the surplus as this can be spent on ongoing costs associated with the move.

5. TRUSTEES, KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or reimbursed expenses (2024 - the same).

As well as the Trustees, the Charity's key management personnel comprise the Finance and Operations Manager, a freelance consultant who was paid fees of £8,340 (2024 - £Nil), and the senior staff comprising Chief Executive and maternity cover for the latter where applicable; these senior staff received employment benefits of £35,056 (2024 - £69,666).

There were no other related party transactions.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>11,903</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2024	7,142
Charge for the year	<u>2,381</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>9,523</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	<u>£ 4,761</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>£ 2,380</u>
Freehold land at valuation included above not depreciated	<u>£ Nil</u>

7. DEBTORS

Due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	-	1,500
Grant receivable	745	-
Rent deposit	<u>982</u>	<u>3,000</u>
	<u>£ 1,727</u>	<u>£ 4,500</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	3,826	-
Social security and other taxes	1,621	1,888
Salaries payable	640	6,991
Pension contributions payable	424	207
Other creditors	754	-
Accruals	<u>3,902</u>	<u>3,583</u>
	<u>£ 11,167</u>	<u>£ 12,669</u>

9. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

2025	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Create & Connect	800	116,433	(84,088)	-	33,145
City Bridge Trust	-	44,520	(44,520)	-	-
Peabody London Community Fund	3,227	-	(3,227)	-	-
Clarion Futures	<u>10,000</u>	-	<u>(10,000)</u>	-	-
	<u>£ 14,027</u>	<u>£ 160,953</u>	<u>£ (141,835)</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ 33,145</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Details of the Create & Connect project are given in the Annual Report.

The grant from City Bridge Trust was given towards the cost of two facilitator posts and management costs for member support.

The grant from Peabody London Community Funds was given towards the delivery of sessions at Darwin Court, Southwark, for local and Peabody residents – including facilitator and management time and project costs.

Clarion Futures gave funding in 2023/4 of £10,000 towards the cost of a new Finance & Operations Manager post in 2024/5. They also gave £1,294 in 2023/4 for public outreach workshops in Lee for local people including Clarion residents.

2025	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
Designated property fund	5,000	-	-	(5,000)	-
General fund	13,498	16,088	(8,022)	5,000	26,564
	18,498	16,088	(8,022)	-	26,564
Restricted funds	14,027	160,953	(141,835)	-	33,145
	<u>£ 32,525</u>	<u>£ 177,041</u>	<u>£ (149,857)</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ 59,709</u>

The Charity's property was due for redevelopment and the designated property fund was established to cover the costs in seeking new premises and any other related costs. During the year the Charity moved in to suitable new premises.

2024	Brought Forward £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Create & Connect	-	35,603	(34,803)	-	800
IGEN Trust	-	33,206	(33,206)	-	-
The National Lottery					
Community Fund	8,333	-	(8,333)	-	-
City Bridge Trust	-	42,400	(42,400)	-	-
Peabody London					
Community Fund	7,488	9,984	(14,245)	-	3,227
Clarion Futures	-	11,294	(1,294)	-	10,000
Other	-	1,600	(1,600)	-	-
	<u>£ 15,821</u>	<u>£ 134,087</u>	<u>£ (135,881)</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ 14,027</u>

The grant from IGEN Trust in 2023/4 was given towards the delivery of a membership programme including staff costs. In 2024/5 they gave funding towards the Create & Connect project.

The grants from the National Lottery Community Fund received in 2024 (see Note 2) and 2025 was given towards the Create & Connect project.

The grants from City Bridge Trust and Peabody London Community Fund were provided as described above for 2025 .

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2025

See above for the Clarion Futures funding.

2024	<i>Brought Forward</i> £	<i>Incoming Resources</i> £	<i>Resources Expended</i> £	<i>Transfers</i> £	<i>Carried Forward</i> £
SUMMARY OF FUNDS					
<i>Designated property fund</i>	12,000	-	-	(7,000)	5,000
<i>General fund</i>	16,418	14,590	(24,510)	7,000	13,498
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	28,418	14,590	(24,510)	-	18,498
<i>Restricted funds</i>	15,821	134,087	(135,881)	-	14,027
	<u>£ 44,239</u>	<u>£ 148,677</u>	<u>£ (160,391)</u>	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ 32,525</u>

10. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds			Total Funds
	Designated fund £	General fund £	Restricted funds £	Funds £
2025				
Tangible fixed assets	-	2,380	-	2,380
Net current assets	-	24,184	33,145	57,329
	<u>£ Nil</u>	<u>£ 26,564</u>	<u>£ 33,145</u>	<u>£ 59,709</u>
	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>			
	<i>Designated fund</i> £	<i>General fund</i> £	<i>Restricted funds</i> £	<i>Total Funds</i> £
2024				
Tangible fixed assets	-	4,761	-	4,761
Net current assets	5,000	8,737	14,027	27,764
	<u>£ 5,000</u>	<u>£ 13,498</u>	<u>£ 14,027</u>	<u>£ 32,525</u>

11. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods are as follows:		
Not later than one year	<u>1,800</u>	<u>4,200</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

12. COMPARATIVE SOFA FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		<i>Unrestricted Funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total Funds 2024 £</i>
	<i>Notes</i>			
INCOME FROM:				
Grants and donations	2	1,929	134,087	136,016
Hire of studio space		11,413	-	11,413
External Workshop Sales		900	-	900
Interest Income		348	-	348
TOTAL		14,590	134,087	148,677
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Staff costs	3	7,542	132,604	140,146
Fundraising fees		8,965	-	8,965
Support costs	4	8,003	-	8,003
Staff training		-	745	745
Project costs:				
Stay Connected		-	40	40
Lambeth and Southwark		-	1,126	1,126
Lewisham		-	270	270
Materials		-	246	246
Equipment		-	105	105
Event / Exhibition Costs		-	227	227
Travel		-	236	236
Other project costs		-	282	282
TOTAL		24,510	135,881	160,391
Net income/(expenditure)		(9,920)	(1,794)	(11,714)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		28,418	15,821	44,239
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		£ 18,498	£ 14,027	£ 32,525

NOTE

In the 2021 statutory accounts Hire of studio space was included as part of Grants and donations; this year they have been shown separately. The Trustees consider that it is more helpful to have the above detail of expenditure and have therefore re-stated the comparatives shown above accordingly.

As explained in Note 9 the split of the brought forward balances between Restricted funds and the General fund have been changed for the current and prior year.