

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

(Registered under the Charities Commission for England and Wales)

Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Legal and Administration information

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Company Number: 08313916

Charity Number: 1158781

Trustees: Miss Sharan Jaswal
Mr Federico Bolza
Mr James Nicholas Emtage
Ms Collette Philip
Miss Nana-Efua Lawson
Mr Simon Marlow (appointed 19th February 2024)

Secretary: Jennie Cashman Wilson (resigned 31st August 2023)
Felix Andrew (appointed 1st June 2024)

Registered Office: Piccadilly Business Centre Unit C Aldow Enterprise Park
Blackett Street
Manchester
M12 6AE

Independent Examiners: Spicer & Co UK Limited
Staple House
5 Eleanor's Cross
Dunstable
LU6 1SU

Bankers: Barclays Bank
18 Islington Green
London N1 8EH

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Contents

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Page Number

1-4	Report of the Council
5	Independent Examiners' Report
6	Income and Expenditure Account
7	Balance Sheet
8 to 11	Notes to the Financial Statements

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Trustees Report

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Trustees Report

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in the planning and delivery of our current and future activities.

Our purpose and activities

Our mission is to inspire, connect and open doors to the music industry so that minoritised talent - from young people in schools to emerging and mid-career musicians - has an equal chance to realise their creative potential. We advance the education and training of the public by promoting, fostering and encouraging the knowledge, understanding, performance and appreciation of music and the arts in all their forms.

We design and deliver our programmes to level the playing field for aspiring musicians from minoritised backgrounds to build a sustainable career in the music industry. From their very first time playing in a class ensemble, right up to headlining a critically acclaimed venue, we seek to remove systemic barriers so that the next generation are equipped and inspired to pursue their music careers. We make progress towards our mission through two core programmes:

- Future Sound: our award-winning schools programme, a national artist-led programme which places racially minoritised and working-class musicians at the heart of school music-making, providing them with creative employment while improving access to music for minoritised young people from marginalised communities,
- Career Development Programme

Key Achievements and Performance

2024 was a year of strategic transition following the departure of our founder and previous CEO, Jennie Cashman Wilson, in 2023. In June 2024 we welcomed Mercy Welbeck, our new Creative Director and Joint CEO. Mercy undertook a review of our Career Development Programme in her first six months developing a 3-year strategic vision for the organisation and the redesign of our career development offer. Together with interim Executive Director Oliver Carruthers, Mercy oversaw the growth of our Future Sound programme, which was redesigned in 2023 following feedback from partner schools and pupils. With a new pedagogy written by music education specialist Adam Saunders, designed to improve accessibility for young people with no prior experience in music education the programme grew from delivery in 3 schools in 2023 to 8 schools in 2024.

House of Jazz

In March we delivered our second House of Jazz event, this time hosted in the Worshipful Company of Saddlers' at Saddlers' Hall in Central London. The night featured performances by Career Development programme alumni Sans Soucis and Emma Johnson. Also supporting the lineup were five jazz musician students from London's Guildhall School of Music. Through ticket sales, an auction, and sponsorship the night successfully raised more than £10,000.

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Trustees Report

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Programme Delivery

Future Sound

- This year our Future Sound programme expanded significantly.
- We reached over 3,118 participants aged 11–16 through in-school workshops and live performances.
- We partnered with 8 schools in Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Oldham, Wirral, Stoke-on-Trent and London.
- Just over 50% of the 264 young people participating in our small-group workshops were eligible for free school meals or in receipt of the Pupil Premium, 52% were from racially minoritised communities, and 21% had a disability or learning need.
- In London we delivered 2 Assembly days and 6 Skills workshops in Plashet School and Brampton Manor School.
- In the North of England, we delivered 12 Assembly days, 37 Skills workshops, 4 Play day workshops and 6 Experience day workshops.
- 2024 was the second year of a multi-year partnership with the Co-op Academies Trust and we are on target to deliver the Future Sound programme to 13 Co-op schools by the end of 2026.
- In 2024 we began a new collaboration with Newham Music Service, targeting the programme to young people facing the highest barriers to participation in the London borough.

Outcomes for Future Sound participants are:

1. Musical

- Improved aural and composition skills.
- Improved self-belief and confidence in their musical abilities and performing.
- A greater understanding of the music/creative industries as a whole.

2. Personal

- Increased communication and teamwork.
- Increased resilience and self-confidence.
- Increased aspirations and broader horizons.

3. Social

- More positive peer networks and relationships

Career Development Programme

In 2024, we supported 22 artists and Musicians through:

An opportunity to perform at We Out Here Festival. We held an open call competition for emerging musicians to apply. Two winners were selected by a panel which included AW Ambassadors Sans Soucis, Ashley Henry and Reuben James. The two winners, 10:32 and RYBES, joined Career Development alumna Emma Johnson and her band the Gravy Boat on the stage at We Out Here. This provided a paid platform for artists at one of the UK's most prestigious Jazz, Soul, Electronica festivals, with over 15,000 attendees.

Delivery of 2 days of training and 2 further days of support for 10 musicians employed as workshop leaders for Future Sound.

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Trustees Report

for the year ended 31 December 2024

A workshop for artists to learn about pitching to festivals, led by a member of the We Out Here production team and by Oliver Carruthers, a highly experienced artistic consultant, with a background as a festival and venue programmer and Director.

Outcomes for our Career Development Programme are:

- 1) Increased understanding of how to develop and manage their career
- 2) Increased confidence in their ability and upskilling as music educators.

Fundraising and Financial Review

We are especially grateful to our funders for supporting our work during this year where fundraising continues to be competitive across the sector. Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- Arts Council England
- Postcode Neighbourhood Trust
- Shears Foundation
- Youth Music Trailblazer Fund
- Youth Music Recharge Fund
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Foyle Foundation
- Victoria Wood Foundation
- 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
- Worshipful Company of Saddlers
- Virginia House Trust
- Big Give
- Trullo Ltd
- Garrick Charitable Trust
- The Childhood Trust
- ShareGift

Income generation additionally included earned income from the Co-op Academies Trust and individual donations from our pool of wonderful and committed supporters. Thank you.

Our financial year closed with a surplus of £21,112 (2024 £23,022 deficit).

Governance and Structure

Abram Wilson is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Our board of trustees meets quarterly, providing oversight on finance, risk and programme strategy. In 2024, we began a process of board renewal and skills audit. We welcomed one new trustee, Simon Marlow to the board, to broaden our strategic capabilities in finance and risk management. Trustees undertook training in safeguarding. We remain committed to inclusive and representative leadership across our team and board.

Our Partners

We continue to benefit from a network of professional musicians who are employed by us as workshop facilitators and school partners who share our mission. We are grateful to all these people who make our programmes possible.

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Trustees Report

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Communications and Public Profile

Newsletter subscribers base and social media followers were maintained across all platforms. Our monthly e-newsletter consistently achieved an open rate of around 50% demonstrating a high level of engagement from among our supporters. In September we were selected to participate in Stronger Voices, a 6-month training course for not-for-profits in the equality sector run by the Media Trust. The insights gained from the course will inform a new communications strategy, set to be developed in early 2025.

Plans for the Future

Looking ahead to 2025, we are focused on sustaining an outstanding and impactful Future Sound programme, ensuring stable and sustainable finances as we navigate an extremely challenging fundraising environment for arts organisations, designing, Beyond the Mix, a new career development programme for minoritised emerging musicians while remaining rooted in community need. To support this, we have recruited an Executive Director who joins Abram Wilson in early 2025. Our priorities include:

- Scale Future Sound's reach and impact by expanding the programme through new partnerships with local music venues in Manchester and Newham, introducing a live performance strand in 2026 that will showcase emerging talent and give young people a platform to share their voices, build confidence, and gain real-world experience of performing in professional settings.
- Plan the launch of Beyond the Mix for early 2026, a programme which will foster entrepreneurial mindsets and equip minoritised musicians with the professional and creative practice skills needed to navigate the industry and build sustainable careers.
- Develop a detailed delivery plan for Encore, a programme for mid-career musicians and artists.
- Develop our M&E framework to better measure our effectiveness and long-term impact
- Protect existing income streams and develop new ones to future proof our organisation.

We are setting intentional participation targets in line with our mission and values. At least 50% of our Future Sound participants will be minoritised by race or class and we will collect data on the interaction of these two characteristics. Our target cohort for the Beyond the Mix pilot will be 8-12 musicians 100% minoritised by race or class, with 75% racially minoritised, and 25% minoritised by both.

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Independent Examiners' Report to Abram Wilson Foundation for Creative Arts

Year ended 31 December 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 3 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Charitable 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 charity'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:

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)).

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 accounts to be reached.

Suzanne Spicer

Suzanne Spicer
FCA
Spicer & Co UK Limited
Staple House
5 Eleanor's Cross
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 1SU

05 Aug 2025

Date:

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
Income and endowments from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	2	90,868	75,588	166,456	168,878
Other trading activities	3	31,123	5,000	36,123	35,402
Total Income		121,991	80,588	202,579	204,280
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	4	2,397	5,000	7,397	1,031
Charitable activities		89,589	84,481	174,070	226,271
Total Expenditure		91,986	89,481	181,467	227,302
Net (Loss)/Profit		30,005	(8,893)	21,112	(23,022)
Total funds brought forward	7	32,635	26,705	59,340	82,362
Total funds carried forward	7	62,640	17,812	80,452	59,340

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these financial statements

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	6,715		1,041	
Cash at bank and in hand		97,167		67,840	
		<u>103,882</u>		<u>68,881</u>	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(24,430)		(9,541)	
Net Current Assets			<u>80,452</u>		<u>59,340</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			80,452		59,340
Net Assets			<u><u>80,452</u></u>		<u><u>59,340</u></u>
General Funds					
Unrestricted income funds	7		62,640		32,635
Restricted income funds	7		<u>17,812</u>		<u>26,705</u>
Total Funds			<u><u>80,452</u></u>		<u><u>59,340</u></u>

These financial statements were approved by the Committee members below on behalf of the Committee on 28th May 2025.



.....
C Philip (Chair)

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these financial statements

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in compliance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 (The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland) and the requirements of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents the amount received for services rendered, net of returns, discounts and rebates allowed by the society and value added taxes.

Grants

Income from grants are shown as amounts actually received.

Income from grants for assets are shown in the year received, where the assets are purchased in the same year. Government grants are recognised when there is reasonable assurance that the entity will comply with the conditions attaching to the grant and the grant will be received.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts. Loans and other financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price including any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price). Loans and other financial liabilities are initially recognised at transaction price net of any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations received	9,641	55,109	64,750	62,529
Grants received	81,227	20,479	101,706	106,349
	90,868	75,588	166,456	168,878

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2024

3. Income earned from other activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Fund raising events	20,000	5,000	25,000	2,934
Other activities for generating funds	11,123	-	11,123	32,468
	31,123	5,000	36,123	34,402

4. Expenditure on other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Fund raising events	2,397	5,000	1,031	1,031
	2,397	5,000	7,397	1,031

5. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	6,715	1,041
	6,715	1,041

6. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one-year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,097	8,041
Accruals	1,500	1,500
Deferred income	15,100	-
Other taxes and social security	594	-
Other creditors	139	-
	24,430	9,541

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

7. Movement in Funds-Current Year

	Balance at 01/01/2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance at 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	32,635	121,991	(91,986)	62,640
Restricted	26,705	80,588	(89,481)	17,812
Total	59,340	202,579	(181,467)	80,452

Movement in Funds- Previous Year

	Balance at 01/01/2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance at 31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	54,965	132,676	(155,006)	32,635
Restricted	27,397	71,604	(72,296)	26,705
Total	82,362	204,280	(227,302)	59,340

ABRAM WILSON FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	31.12.24 Unrestricted Funds £	31.12.24 Restricted Funds £	31.12.24 Total Funds £	31.12.23 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Donations and legacies				
Donations received	9,641	55,109	64,750	62,529
Grants received	81,227	20,479	101,706	106,349
	90,868	75,588	166,456	168,878
Other trading resources				
Fund raising events	20,000	5,000	25,000	2,934
Income from other activities for generating funds	11,123	-	11,123	32,468
	31,123	5,000	36,123	35,402
Total incoming resources	121,991	80,588	202,579	204,280
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities				
Cost of direct charitable activity	12,668	60,974	73,642	85,241
Other expenses	1,309	-	1,309	4,887
	13,977	60,974	74,951	90,128
Other trading activities				
Fund raising event costs	2,397	5,000	7,397	1,031
	2,397	5,000	7,397	1,031
Raising donations and legacies				
Consultancy fees	24,000	-	24,000	29,600
Advertising and marketing	265	92	357	1,638
Subscription, cultivation, travel and entertaining	239	-	239	5,439
	24,504	92	24,596	36,677
SUPPORT COSTS				
Management				
Management	16,830	-	16,830	25,751
Staff costs-wages & salaries	6,000	10,000	16,000	48,152
Staff costs- social security costs	59	-	59	2,101
Staff costs- other	21,089	12,900	33,989	14,968
Insurance	957	-	957	494
	44,935	22,900	67,835	91,466
Governance costs				
Accountancy fees	1,860	-	1,860	6612
Legal fees	37	-	37	30
Motor and travel expenses	4,276	515	4,791	1,358
	6,173	515	6,688	8,000
Total resources expended	91,986	89,481	181,467	227,302
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	30,005	(8,893)	21,112	(23,022)



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Parties involved with this document

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