

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

England & Wales · Charity number 1158874

Details

Other names	AHA-MK
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-10-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Ahamk Mk City Discovery Centre Alston Drive Milton Keynes MK13 9AP
Phone	07855315366
Email	DIRECTOR@AHAMK.ORG
Website	www.ahamk.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE ARTS AND HERITAGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN MILTON KEYNES IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY SUPPORTING AND REPRESENTING THE ARTS AND HERITAGE SECTOR THROUGH PROMOTION, REPRESENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER LIKE ORGANISATION'S TO ACHIEVE JOINT GOALS THAT FURTHER THE CIO'S CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Activities: The Arts & Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes (AHA-MK) is a forum of organisations that work together to promote, represent and develop arts and heritage, collaboratively delivering or supporting exciting activities. Through our work we champion the rich heritage and the creative future of Milton Keynes.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Buckinghamshire
- Milton Keynes

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£100,455	£116,180	-	-
2024-04-05	£50,570	£43,072	-	-
2023-04-05	£44,935	£113,044	-	-
2022-04-05	£120,935	£109,214	-	-
2021-04-05	£70,512	£60,218	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Simon Kearey	Chair	2025-08-04
Afreen Akhter Patel		2025-03-24
Emma Courtney		2018-01-17
Julie-Anne Dawes		2025-03-25
Lakshmana Kastala		2020-02-12
Robert Gifford		2020-01-22
Victoria Gibb		2018-08-22
Yvonne Owuor		2020-01-22

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

England & Wales - Charity number 1158874

Accounts

Charity Registration No: 1158874

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

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ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 05 April 2025.

Objectives and Activities

The charitable aims of the alliance are :

- 1) To promote arts and heritage for the benefit of the public in Milton Keynes in particular but not exclusively by supporting and representing the arts and heritage sector through promotion, representation and development.
- 2) To work in partnership with other like-minded organisations to achieve joint goals that further the charitable purpose.

Arts and Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes is an alliance of over 40 cultural sector members, working collaboratively to ensure culture is at the heart of the growing city of Milton Keynes. There is emphasis on the areas of Cultural Advocacy, Inclusion and Diversity together with a Schools alliance to promote the importance of creative skills for children and young people.

The Alliance promotes, supports and celebrates the diversity of Milton Keynes culture by engaging with events held by underrepresented communities. It acts as a bridge between the cultural sector and diverse communities to build social cohesion through culture.

The Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit is at the forefront of our work and the trustees have due regard to the guidance when exercising their powers and duties.

Achievements and Performance

Aim 1: Sustainability and Development of AHA-MK as a Sector Support Organisation

In 2024/25, AHA-MK continued to strengthen its role as the central support organisation for Milton Keynes cultural sector. We delivered a range of forums, communications, CPD opportunities, and direct support activities designed to enhance sector connectivity, build resilience, and extend our reach.

To support Membership, we delivered two full forums during the year, alongside four newsletters, which continued to be a key communication channel across the network. Member support expanded through two member meetings, a sector social event in July, and specialist gatherings such as two Marketing and Audience Development meetings and four Cultural Leaders Meetings. These provided strategic touchpoints and opportunities for collaboration and problem-solving.

Professional development grew significantly this year. We delivered a CPD Case for Support training programme, AI risk and funding training, and specialist marketing support took place in February 2025 with Sophie and Cerys from Destination MK. These sessions aimed to address sector-wide capacity gaps and align with evolving digital and funding landscapes.

Community engagement remained a priority. We provided over 15 hours of one-to-one support focused on cultural heritage storytelling and grassroots organisational development specifically around supporting ACE funding applications. We also saw an increase in community attendance at meetings and training sessions, demonstrating improved engagement and reach.

Early work has begun on shaping a new Community Membership level which will be developed through a new funding project with School of Social Entrepreneurs in 2026-27 to build capacity to support informal cultural organisations more effectively, enabling them to access AHA-MK resources and contribute their perspectives.

Digital resources and social media output increased through the support and skills of Camille Poole, broadening access to sector information for both members and non-members

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Aim 2 – MAKE: Connecting Children, Young People, Education and Culture Partnership and Sector Connectivity

The MAKE programme continued to support strong links between cultural organisations, creative industries and the education sector. Four MAKE partnership meetings were delivered in March, July, October and January, bringing together 46 participants and generating valuable cross-sector connections.

Our Learning and Inclusion Manager engaged approximately 440 learners across a range of education settings, reflecting a growing demand for cultural learning opportunities. MAKE newsletters saw continued growth, with 321 subscribers and an increased open rate of 43–47%.

Participants consistently reported that MAKE meetings broadened their understanding of local cultural work, offering insights into community-led initiatives and cultural diversity. The feedback demonstrates the programme's value in raising awareness, connecting practitioners and strengthening the cultural education ecosystem.

Key achievements included contributions to the Cornerstones Meeting in July and MK Gallery Inclusion Training, ongoing support for Supplementary Schools, and work on a new Toolkit developed with funding from the Foyle Foundation. Work also progressed on Creative Industries career profiles and early discussions around Youth Parliament consultation. CPD for MAKE partners continued to focus on diversity and inclusion, in direct response to teacher requests.

Cultural Apprenticeship Pilot Programme

As part of widening access for young people across Milton Keynes, AHA-MK delivered a 15-month Cultural Apprenticeship Pilot Programme in partnership with Milton Keynes City Council, Creative Alliance, MK Gallery Bletchley Park, and Milton Keynes Theatre.

Programme Purpose

The pilot aimed to:

- Create pathways for young people into the cultural sector
- Address under-representation in arts and heritage roles
- Expand apprentices' experience beyond their host organisation
- Develop a cohort of young ambassadors for culture in Milton Keynes

Three Level 3 apprentices were placed:

Evie Spillings, Events Assistant, Bletchley Park

Joshua Yon, Digital Marketer, MK Gallery

Remi Ajibola, Cultural Learning & Participation Officer, Milton Keynes Theatre

Each apprentice completed over 1,400 hours of work experience, supplemented by Creative Alliance's structured training. The apprentices made significant contributions to their host venues.

MK Gallery saw a 1086% increase in TikTok engagement, new digital engagement strategies, and high-response audience surveys; staff noted Joshua's skills filled a critical digital gap

Bletchley Park reported transformative growth in Evie's confidence and project management capabilities, including delivering major events such as the National Cipher Challenge and Women in Intelligence events.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Milton Keynes Theatre benefited from Remi's work on youth programmes, new partnerships, and leadership in developing content and delivering sessions.

All venues confirmed they would host an apprentice again, citing increased inclusivity, organisational learning, and widened access to cultural careers.

Apprentice Development

Apprentices reported:

- Increased confidence and professional identity
- Greater awareness of the breadth of cultural careers in Milton Keynes
- Significant growth in communication, planning, and collaborative working
- Improved understanding of creative sector pathways

Two apprentices received distinctions; Evie progressed to a full-time role at Bletchley Park; Joshua gained full-time employment in digital marketing; Remi continues to work on youth programmes with MKT.

Extended Cultural Experiences

AHA-MK curated monthly cross-sector visits introducing apprentices to:

- Milton Keynes Museum
- MK Gallery and MK Calling Exhibition
- The Stables and IF Festival programming
- Dreamsai and the Shirdi Sai Temple
- Milton Keynes Community Foundation
- Backstage tours and sessions at MK Theatre

These visits built sector knowledge, strengthened confidence, and fostered advocacy for Milton Keynes's cultural ecosystem.

Learning & Recommendations

Key lessons included

- Strong sector appetite for apprenticeship opportunities
- Need for a more structured and consistent training provider
- Importance of transport, hosted visits, and professional networking opportunities
- Apprenticeships as a successful alternative pathway for those not entering higher education
- Clear communication requirements should be set from the outset

This programme demonstrated a powerful, scalable model of young people's engagement in culture that AHA-MK hopes to expand.

Aim 3: Fundraising Support

This year AHA-MK prioritised addressing the sector-wide skills gap in fundraising. We provided more than 20 hours of one-to-one community mentorship on evidence gathering, reporting, and evaluation, including support for ACE applications by individual creatives and community groups.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Match Funding Applications

As part of our Organisational Development Grant work, AHA-MK pursued several match-funding opportunities.

Successful Applications

- Community Foundation (£20K): joint application with an artist exploring work with the Blue Light Sector, school engagement, and artist sustainability. AHA-MK delivered evaluation sessions to support the project
- Q Alliance (£4K): to support their cultural work.
- ACE/Lottery (5 applications reviewed): AHA-MK supported 5 applications with community members, but were not written into the bids; one is known to be successful.

This match-funding activity has strengthened partnerships, increased our organisational visibility, and supported grassroots capacity building.

Aim 4: Supporting Emerging Artists

AHA-MK delivered work designed to bring artists together, identify needs, provide mentoring, and improve progression pathways within Milton Keynes. Two Artist Feedback meetings took place, alongside three meetings supporting a proposed new community art and dance venue. We gathered evidence in July 2024 and presented findings back to artists and creatives in September 2025 with the aim of developing a programme of support over the autumn of 2025.

Five Spotlight organisations contributed to the sessions, and 10 hours of one-to-one support were delivered. This included supporting one artist through six mentorship sessions and putting in a funding application with Honey Mosaics to Community Foundation.

AHA-MK also met with ACE on three occasions regarding creative sector development and consulted with Gateway Arts, MKAC, Black Sheep Collective, MK Gallery, Arts for Health, and the Fringe Festival to ensure a joined-up approach. A potential sponsorship offer emerged from these conversations.

Aim 5: Collaborative Comms Group for Culture

Work continued to strengthen shared marketing and communications across the sector. We delivered two forums and three marketing meetings. A Meet and Greet event—rescheduled twice due to external factors will now take place in February 2025.

The sector's clash diary is now regularly included in the newsletter. A draft Audience Matrix has been produced, though progress is paused due to reduced engagement from key members. A proposed citywide Cultural Brochure has secured positive sector support, and quotes have been gathered for next steps.

Aim 6: Data Collection

AHA-MK refreshed its sector-wide data collection process, aligning with NPO, Audience Agency, and MDO requirements. Vital Elements questions were distributed across Member groups, Cultural Leaders, Marketing Groups, and Trustees, with the final report delivered from the Community Foundation.

A new AHA-MK Data Questionnaire has been developed for distribution incorporating sector feedback. We also raised the sector's profile through participation in three tech and community business events and contributed cultural insights from the entire sector to discussions on the MK50 City Plan.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Challenges Encountered

AHA-MK has faced several challenges over the past year:

1 Leadership Changes

We experienced the departure of our Chair twice within one year, which created periods of transition and uncertainty. Fortunately, Emma Courtney and Rob Gifford have stepped in to support the Vice-Chair and Treasurer roles, providing stability. Additionally, we have recruited four new trustees who have applied for interview, strengthening governance capacity

2 Limited Access to Infrastructure Funding

Infrastructure grants available to cultural organisations remain limited. In 2023, a bid to IPSOS was unsuccessful, and a potential NPO application was constrained by MK's urban classification, as the programme required rural-based organisations. We continue to research alternative infrastructure grants and support opportunities. ACE have indicated the possibility of an infrastructure application in 2026; careful planning will be needed to avoid clashes with other organisation funding cycles.

3 Business and Technology Networking Challenges

Networking with business and tech partners was difficult without a specific project or funding to anchor the collaboration. While investing time in making connections is valuable, it can be challenging to translate this into actionable projects or partnerships without clear opportunities for joint work. Sustained discussion and follow-up are required to convert networking into tangible outcomes for the sector.

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

Total Funds at 5th April 2025 were £31,197 , however, the trustees are aware that £22,904 of this is represented by restricted funds, the expenditure of which is carefully monitored throughout the year.

In the year to 5th April 2025, membership fees added to the unrestricted funds , as all expenditure was able to be paid out of restricted funds due to overhead support and organisation grants from Milton Keynes City Council. Unrestricted funds at the year end were £8,293 (£5,663 5th April 2024)

There is a reliance on funding from Milton Keynes City Council, but the trustees are confident this will continue for the foreseeable future as there is strong collaboration with the Council on mutual projects and objectives.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Arts and Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission under number 1158874. It is governed by a constitution dated July 2014, with an amendment February 2018 and January 2020.

Trustees are recruited through an open call, charity contacts and membership ; their appointment is confirmed at the Annual General Meeting. The maximum number of trustees is ten and the minimum is five. They meet regularly throughout the year.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

Trustees

The Trustees at the date of this report are as follows :

Simon Kearey	Chair	appointed 4th August 2025
Emma Courtney	Vice Chair	
Robert Gifford	Treasurer	
Victoria Gibb		
Lakshmana Kastala		
Yvonne Owour		
Julie-Anne Dawes		appointed 25th March 2025
Afreen Akhter Patel		appointed 24th March 2025

The following Trustees resigned during the period :

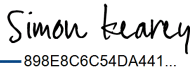
Anna Francesca Skelton	Chair	resigned 6th February 2025
Laura Margaret Keen	Treasurer	resigned 6th February 2025
Hannah Olarewaju		resigned 25th November 2024
Amanda Louise Farr		resigned 6th February 2025

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safe guarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps or the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

DocuSigned by:

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Chair : Simon Kearey

Date : 11th December 2025.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (" the Trust ") for the year ended 05 April 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act ").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

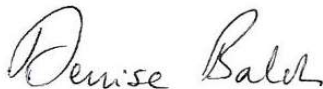
Independent examiner's statement

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

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Signature:



Name:

Denise Balch

Qualification:

A.C.A

Address:

15 Towcester Road
Old Stratford
Milton Keynes
MK19 6AN

Date:

3rd February 2026

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

	Notes	£	£	2025 £	2024 £
Incoming resources		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Grants received	3	-	97,825	97,825	46,720
Membership		2,630		2,630	3,850
		-			
Total		2,630	97,825	100,455	50,570
Resources expended					
Project Delivery		-	58,941	58,941	21,916
Staff costs	2	-	47,813	47,813	14,276
Office costs		-	2,419	2,419	2,230
Bookkeeping and payroll			3,193	3,193	
Consultancy		-	-	-	2,754
Forum costs		-	867	867	434
Insurance		-	752	752	750
Training		-	1,445	1,445	52
Independent Examination		-	750	750	660
		-			
Total		-	116,180	116,180	43,072
Net income/(expenditure)		2,630	(18,355)	(15,725)	7,498
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		5,663	41,259	46,922	39,424
Total Funds carried forward at 05 April 2025	6	8,293	22,904	31,197	46,922

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 05 APRIL 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	4	34,597	7,686
Cash at bank and in hand		12,681	56,378
		<u>47,278</u>	<u>64,064</u>
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	5	16,081	17,142
		<u>31,197</u>	<u>46,922</u>
Total Net Assets			
Funds of the Charity	6		
Restricted		22,904	41,259
Unrestricted		8,293	5,663
		<u>31,197</u>	<u>46,922</u>
Total Funds			

Approved on behalf of all the trustees and authorised for issue on 11th December 2025.

DocuSigned by:

Simon Kearey

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Chair : Simon Kearey

DocuSigned by:

Robert Gifford

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Treasurer : Robert Gifford

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice : Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

There have been no changes to accounting estimates in the reporting period and no material prior year errors have been identified.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

1. the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
2. it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources;
3. the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Government grants

The charity has received government grants in the reporting period.

Contractual Income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Grants with performance conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the service or output.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

2 Staff Costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	46,458	13,860
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	<u>1,355</u>	<u>416</u>
	<u>47,813</u>	<u>14,276</u>

The average number of employees during the year was as follows :

	2025	2024
	£	£
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

3 Government Grants

Grants were received from Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) for the following

	2025	2024
	£	£
Apprenticeship scheme	32,097	21,680
Operational Grant	20,000	7,500
Director/ Overhead Funding	10,228	3,290
	<u>63,325</u>	<u>32,470</u>

Further details regarding funds are shown in note 6

4 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Debtors	34,597	6,934
Prepayments	<u>-</u>	<u>751</u>
	<u>34,597</u>	<u>7,685</u>

5 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	12,972	11,974
Accruals	1,560	4,515
Taxation and social security	1,549	653
	<u>16,081</u>	<u>17,142</u>

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

6 (a) Movement in funds during the current reporting period

Restricted Funds:	Balance 01/04/24	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance 31/03/25
	£	£	£	£
MAKE projects	2,623	-	(2,623)	-
Apprenticeship scheme	26,454	32,097	(58,551)	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	11,470	13,750	(15,878)	9,342
MKCC Director/overhead support	712	10,228	(10,940)	-
MKCC Organisation Grant	-	20,000	(11,438)	8,562
Artist project	-	10,000	(5,000)	5,000
Q Alliance	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Foyle Foundation	-	9,750	(9,750)	-
	41,259	97,825	(116,180)	22,904
General Funds	5,663	2,630	-	8,293
Total Funds	46,922	100,455	(116,180)	31,197

6 (b) Movement in funds during the previous reporting period

Restricted Funds:	Balance 01/04/23	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance 31/03/24
	£	£	£	£
MAKE projects	5,069	-	(2,446)	2,623
Programme of Change	1,632	-	(1,632)	-
Apprenticeship scheme	26,000	21,680	(21,226)	26,454
Heritage Lottery Fund		13,750	(2,280)	11,470
MKCC/Director overhead support		3,290	(2,578)	712
MKCC Organisation Grant		7,500	(7,500)	-
Magic Little Grant		500	(500)	-
	32,701	46,720	(38,162)	41,259
General Funds	6,723	3,850	(4,910)	5,663
Total Funds	39,424	50,570	(43,072)	46,922

6 (c) Restricted Funds

MAKE Projects

Make is the Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership, with it's vision to work together to nourish and support the creative skills and cultural wellbeing of Milton Keynes children and young people, being part of a national movement of Cultural Education Partnerships to deliver creative thinking at the heart of education.

Programme of Change

A two year project funded by Milton Keynes Community Foundation, to build cultural inclusion and diversify the cultural ecology of Milton Keynes, focusing on the importance of connectivity, building bridges and trusted relationships between the cultural sector and communities.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2025

6 (c) continued

Artswork

Funding from Artswork to develop a MAKE website as a central portal for the MK Cultural Education Partnership network. This included arts and heritage resources for teachers, cultural sector education offers, and a platform for connection and information between the cultural sector and education sector.

Apprenticeship Scheme

Funds from MKCC as part of our inclusion and diversity strategy.

Following applications for on-the-job training for an apprentice, it was decided to support the following three cultural organisations ; Bletchley Park, MK Gallery and Milton Keynes Theatre.

HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund)

Funding from MK Musuem for projects involving inclusion and engagement with underrepresented communities.

Organisation grant

Funds from MKCC for traing and promoting in the following three areas ;

Inclusion and Diversity

Cultural and Creative Education

Cultural Advocacy

14 Transactions with trustees and related parties

14 (a) Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or expenses, or received any other benefits from the charity or a related entity.

14 (b) Transactions with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the current and prior year reporting periods.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

England & Wales - Charity number 1158874

Accounts

Charity Registration No: 1158874

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

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ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 05 April 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The charitable aims of the alliance are :

- 1) To promote arts and heritage for the benefit of the public in Milton Keynes in particular but not exclusively by supporting and representing the arts and heritage sector through promotion, representation and development.
- 2) To work in partnership with other like-minded organisations to achieve joint goals that further the charitable purpose.

Arts and Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes is an alliance of over 40 cultural sector members, working collaboratively to ensure culture is at the heart of the growing city of Milton Keynes. There is emphasis on the areas of Cultural Advocacy, Inclusion and Diversity together with a Schools alliance to promote the importance of creative skills for children and young people.

The Alliance promotes, supports and celebrates the diversity of Milton Keynes culture by engaging with events held by underrepresented communities. It acts as a bridge between the cultural sector and diverse communities to build social cohesion through culture.

The Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit is at the forefront of our work and the trustees have due regard to the guidance when exercising their powers and duties.

Achievements and Performance

The main source of funding this year came from Milton Keynes City Council for the Cultural Apprenticeship Scheme. Three Cultural Employers offered three Level 3 apprenticeships: Bletchley Park (Events Assistant) ; MK Gallery (Digital Marketer) & Milton Keynes Theatre (Cultural Learning & Participation Officer). The apprentices were recruited in November 2023 and are due to complete in the spring of 2025.

Funds were also received from MK Museum for a joint project to widen the engagement with ethnic minority groups. Introductory sessions have been held with African Diaspora Guests, Wolverton Pakistani community and Q;alliance. This programme is ongoing.

Support was given to Milton Keynes City Council, through member consultation and feedback papers, in relation to their refreshed strategic priorities for the MK Creative and Cultural Strategy.

The council have agreed to finance one day a week of director salary for the purpose of supporting the cultural sector CPD and collaborative action.

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The net assets at 5th April 2024 were £46,922, however, the trustees are aware that £41,259 of this is represented by restricted funds, the expenditure of which is carefully monitored throughout the year. In the year to 5th April 2024, membership fees were insufficient to cover unfunded expenditure and there was a small loss of £1,060. Unrestricted funds of £6,723 were brought forward so the carried forward funds at 5th April 2024 are £5,663.

There is a reliance on funding from Milton Keynes City Council, but the trustees are confident this will continue for the foreseeable future as there is strong collaboration with the Council on mutual projects and objectives.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The Arts and Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission under number 1158874. It is governed by a constitution dated July 2014, with an amendment February 2018 and January 2020.

Trustees are recruited through an open call, charity contacts and membership ; their appointment is confirmed at the Annual General Meeting. The maximum number of trustees is ten and the minimum is five. They meet regularly throughout the year.

Trustees

The following Trustees acted throughout the year

Anna Francesca Skelton	Chair
Emma Courtney	Vice Chair
Laura Margaret Keen	Treasurer
Hannah Olarewaju	
Robert Gifford	
Amanda Louise Farr	
Victoria Gibb	
Lakshmana Kastala	
Yvonne Owour	

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to :

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Vice Chair

DocuSigned by:
Emma Courtney
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Date : 31st January 2025

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (" the Trust ") for the year ended 05 April 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act ").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

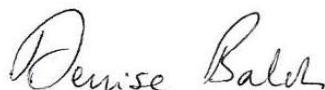
Independent examiner's statement

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

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Signature:



Name:

Denise Balch

Qualification:

A.C.A

Address:

15 Towcester Road
Old Stratford
Milton Keynes
MK19 6AN

Date:

31st January 2025

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

	Notes	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Grants received	3	-	46,720	46,720	39,996
Membership		3,850	-	3,850	4,125
Donations		-	-	-	125
Speaking fees		-	-	-	300
Other income		-	-	-	389
		-	-	-	-
Total		3,850	46,720	50,570	44,935
Resources expended					
Project Delivery		-	21,916	21,916	62,527
Staff costs	2	980	13,296	14,276	40,195
Office costs		1,230	1,000	2,230	2,658
Consultancy		804	1,950	2,754	6,620
Forum costs		434	-	434	436
Insurance		750	-	750	588
Training		52	-	52	20
Independent Examination		660	-	660	-
		-	-	-	-
Total		4,910	38,162	43,072	113,044
Net income/(expenditure)		(1,060)	8,558	7,498	(68,109)
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward		6,723	32,701	39,424	107,533
		-	-	-	-
Total Funds carried forward at 05 April 2024	6	5,663	41,259	46,922	39,424

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 05 APRIL 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	4	7,686	1,750
Cash at bank and in hand		56,378	47,616
		<u>64,064</u>	<u>49,366</u>
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	5	17,142	9,942
		<u>46,922</u>	<u>39,424</u>
Total Net Assets			
Funds of the Charity	6		
Restricted		41,259	32,701
Unrestricted		5,663	6,723
		<u>46,922</u>	<u>39,424</u>
Total Funds		<u>46,922</u>	<u>39,424</u>

Approved on behalf of all the trustees and authorised for issue on 31st January 2025

DocuSigned by:

Emma Courtney

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Vice Chair

DocuSigned by:

Robert Gifford

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Treasurer

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice : Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

There have been no changes to accounting estimates in the reporting period and no material prior year errors have been identified.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

1. the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
2. it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources;
3. the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Government grants

The charity has received government grants in the reporting period.

Contractual Income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Grants with performance conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the service or output.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

Debtors

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

2 Staff Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	13,860	39,027
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	<u>416</u>	<u>1,168</u>
	<u><u>14,276</u></u>	<u><u>40,195</u></u>

The average number of employees during the year was as follows :

	2024	2023
	£	£
	<u><u>2</u></u>	<u><u>2</u></u>

3 Government Grants

Grants were received from Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) for the following

	2024	2023
	£	£
Apprenticeship scheme	21,680	-
Operational Grant	7,500	-
Director Funding	2,290	-
Overhead contribution	1,000	-
MAKE Funding	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>
	<u><u>32,470</u></u>	<u><u>15,000</u></u>

Further details regarding funds are shown in note 6

4 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	6,934	950
Prepayments	<u>751</u>	<u>800</u>
	<u><u>7,685</u></u>	<u><u>1,750</u></u>

5 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	11,974	3,612
Accruals	4,515	3,900
Taxation and social security	653	2,430
	<u><u>17,142</u></u>	<u><u>6,330</u></u>

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

6 (a) Movement in funds during the current reporting period

Restricted Funds:	Balance 01/04/23	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance 31/03/24
	£	£	£	£
MAKE projects	5,069		(2,446)	2,623
Programme of change	1,632		(1,632)	-
Apprenticeship scheme	26,000	21,680	(21,226)	26,454
HLF		13,750	(2,280)	11,470
MKCC Director/overhead support		3,290	(2,578)	712
MKCC Organisation Grant		7,500	(7,500)	-
Magic Little Grant		500	(500)	-
	<u>32,701</u>	<u>46,720</u>	<u>(38,162)</u>	<u>41,259</u>
General Funds	6,723	3,850	(4,910)	5,663
Total Funds	<u>39,424</u>	<u>50,570</u>	<u>(43,072)</u>	<u>46,922</u>

6 (b) Movement in funds during the previous reporting period

Restricted Funds:	Balance 01/04/22	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Balance 31/03/23
	£	£	£	£
MAKE projects	25,257	15,000	35,188	5,069
Programme of Change	49,176	10,000	57,544	1,632
Artwork		14,996	14,996	
Apprenticeship scheme	26,000			26,000
	<u>100,433</u>	<u>39,996</u>	<u>107,728</u>	<u>32,701</u>
General Funds	7,100	4,939	5,316	6,723
Total Funds	<u>107,533</u>	<u>44,935</u>	<u>113,044</u>	<u>39,424</u>

6 (c) Restricted Funds

MAKE Projects

Make is the Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership, with it's vision to work together to nourish and support the creative skills and cultural wellbeing of Milton Keynes children and young people, being part of a national movement of Cultural Education Partnerships to deliver creative thinking at the heart of education.

Programme of Change

A two year project funded by Milton Keynes Community Foundation, to build cultural inclusion and diversify the cultural ecology of Milton Keynes, focusing on the importance of connectivity, building bridges and trusted relationships between the cultural sector and communities.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 05 APRIL 2024

6 (c) continued

Artwork

Funding from Artwork to develop a MAKE website as a central portal for the MK Cultural Education Partnership network. This included arts and heritage resources for teachers, cultural sector education offers, and a platform for connection and information between the cultural sector and education sector.

Apprenticeship Scheme

Funds from MKCC as part of our inclusion and diversity strategy.

Following applications for on-the-job training for an apprentice, it was decided to support the following three cultural organisations ; Bletchley Park, MK Gallery and Milton Keynes Theatre.

HLF

Funding from MK Musuem for projects involving inclusion and engagement with underrepresented communities.

Organisation grant

Funds from MKCC for traing and promoting in the following three areas ;

Inclusion and Diversity

Cultural and Creative Education

Cultural Advocacy

14 Transactions with trustees and related parties

14 (a) Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or expenses, or received any other benefits from the charity or a related entity.

14 (b) Transactions with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the current and prior year reporting periods.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

England & Wales - Charity number 1158874

Accounts



Arts and Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes

Trustees' Annual Report 2021-22

The AHA-MK trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2022 at the AGM 23 January 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

AHA-MK:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Charity Number:	1158874
Principal Office:	The Old Farmhouse City Discovery Centre, Alston Dr, Milton Keynes MK13 9AP.
Trustees at 5/4/22	Francesca Skelton (Chair) Emma Courtney (Vice-Chair) Laura Keen (Treasurer) Amanda Farr Victoria Gibb Rob Gifford Laxman Kastala Hannah Olarewaju Yvonne Owuor

FINANCIAL

S Green FMAAT, Accountant and Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians, was the Independent Examiner for 2021/22. Based on his examination, no matter has come to his attention.

The Honorary Treasurer, Laura Keen, is a qualified Chartered Accountant.

Bank: Metro Bank, 44-46, Midsummer Arcade, Midsummer Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 3BB

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Arts & Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is governed by its constitution dated October 2014, with an amendment February 2018 and January 2020.

A full list of the trustees is provided above. The maximum number of trustees is ten and the minimum 5. Trustees are recruited through an open call, AHA-MK contacts and membership; their appointment is confirmed at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees met four times a year as a board in 2021/22: 30 June, 08 September, 24 November 2021; 17 March 2022.

The AGM 2020/21 was held on 20 January 2022.

Staff

AHA-MK's one employee is Programme and Partnership Manager Elizabeth Howard who was on a part-time contract of 4 days ending June 2021. We were very pleased to increase this to full-time with a new one-year full-time contract in July 2021.

Elizabeth was on maternity leave from October 2021 to January 2022. Tina Corri was given a freelance contract to provide maternity cover from 21 September 2021 to 19 January 2022. We thank Tina for her excellent work during this period.

Risk

The Board of Trustees review the areas of risk that may affect the organisation.

OBJECTIVES

The Objects of AHA-MK are:

To promote arts and heritage for the benefit of the public in Milton Keynes in particular but not exclusively by supporting and representing the arts and heritage sector through promotion, representation, and development and by working in partnership with other like-minded organisations to achieve joint goals that further the CIO's charitable purposes.

AHA-MK champions the rich heritage and creative future of Milton Keynes.

AHA-MK is also the lead partner on **MAKE, the Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership**, with its vision to work together to nourish and support the creative skills and cultural wellbeing of Milton Keynes children and young people. This is part of a national movement of Cultural Education Partnerships to deliver creative thinking at the heart of education.

The Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit is at the forefront of our work (section 17 of the Charity Act 2011). The trustees comply with their duty to have due regard to the charity commission's public benefit guidance when exercising powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision: Milton Keynes as an international cultural destination

Mission: As the unified, independent voice for Milton Keynes culture, AHA-MK is a cultural leader and pioneering, place-making partnership. We work collaboratively and strategically through our members and partners to position culture as a catalyst for Milton Keynes to be an outstanding and inspiring place to live, work and visit.

Values

- **Creative:** perceiving the world in new ways, imagining and innovating.
- **Outward-looking:** championing the role and impact of Milton Keynes culture across the local, regional, national and international strategic context and seeking inspiration and best practice from all sectors.
- **Collaborative:** working together we are greater than the sum of our parts, driving forward the cultural future of Milton Keynes.
- **Empowering:** we are fiercely supportive of our members and invest in nurturing and sharing knowledge, skills and confidence to innovate and develop the sector.
- **Entrepreneurial:** we invest in the ideas, assets and skills within and beyond our membership towards solving common challenges and shared goals.
- **Committed to Excellence and Equality:** excellence as the driving force of everything we do and deliver; equality in its widest sense, as we strive for inclusion and diversity to ensure our Milton Keynes cultural sector is representative of our community.










REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Review of Activities:

The impact of Covid-19 has continued, making 2021/22 a difficult year for the sector. Major venues such as MK Theatre and MK Gallery did not open until Autumn 2021. Audience and visitor confidence remained a challenge, with many venues suffering major losses in income. Staff returning from furlough, difficulty with recruitment and the drop off in volunteer numbers meant that organisations operated below capacity for much of the year. Much of AHA-MK's work remained online, with forums and member meetings taking place via Zoom.

We collect data from our members as below, but the April 2021 to March 2022 data below reflects the challenges described above for a cultural sector in recovery, in a year still impacted by Covid-19.

Data share (information shared from 15 organisations)

<p>Inspiring Cultural Events</p>  <p>2746</p>	<p>Cultural Visits</p>  <p>1,243,354</p>	<p>Participants</p>  <p>57,465</p>
<p>Volunteering Opportunities</p>  <p>1075</p>	<p>Creative and Cultural Jobs</p>  <p>1837</p>	<p>Cultural Workshops</p>  <p>215,111</p>
<p>Sector Turnover</p>  <p>£20,513,272</p>	<p>Investment into MK</p>  <p>£2,632,418</p>	<p>Grants and Donations</p>  <p>£266,949</p>



MK Theatre re-opened in summer 2021

A New Business Plan

In June 2021, AHA-MK trustees signed off a new strategic business plan for the organisation. The plan outlines activity for 2021-2024, and includes a fundraising plan for development. It is to be a living document, regularly reviewed by the board.

It identified four main strands of work: 1) Cultural Advocacy 2) Cultural Inclusion and Diversity 3) MAKE, Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership 4) Membership Services

1. Cultural Advocacy

- AHA-MK advocates the social, wellbeing and economic value that culture and creativity bring to those living, learning, working and playing in Milton Keynes to the Milton Keynes Council, stakeholders and decision makers.
- AHA-MK supports its members to advocate and argue for the benefits that culture has to society and the economy.
- AHA-MK was invited to present a report to the **Milton Keynes Council Task and Finish Group on The impact of Covid-19 on the Milton Keynes Cultural Sector and our community** October 4th 2021. It followed up with a further paper in response to questions.
- Advocacy for **Cultural Inclusion and Diversity** is central to the work of AHA-MK. In 2021/22 we continued our work that was awarded a large strategic grant from MK Community Foundation in 2020. Through a series of training and networking events, and the start of our programme of six artist co-commissions with different local communities, AHA-MK developed its position as a bridge organisation that links the cultural sector to diverse and underrepresented communities.



Our Chair Francesca Skelton and Trustee Hannah Olarewaju receive a Black History Month Award on behalf of AHA-MK for 'Organisation Which Seeks to Engage the Black Community the Most', October 2021

- AHA-MK advocates for **Cultural Education and the wellbeing of children and young people through MAKE**, the MK Cultural Education Partnership (MKCEP). MAKE champions the impact of creativity and creative thinking across the curriculum on children and young people's skills, employability and wellbeing. This is a partnership of arts organisation, schools, MK College and local stakeholders, set up in response to the Arts Council England Cultural Education Challenge. Artswork, based in Southampton, is the ACE bridge organisation to support the development of local CEPs in the South East region (currently 13).

Our thanks to Ruth Taylor, Strategic Manager at Artswork, for her support and to Milton Keynes Council for the funding for 2021/22 which has enabled Milton Keynes to continue to be part of this national network of CEPs, and to develop the MK CEP. MAKE appointed a new Chair in September 2021, Jez Bennett. Jez is the Principal of the Leadership and Training Centre at the Five Dimensions Trust, and brings much knowledge of education and culture to the role. As the independent Chair of MAKE he gives his time generously.

- AHA-MK is a member of **SEMLEP Creative and Cultural Industries Group** where cultural colleagues in the region share issues, achievements and challenges, in support of culture at the heart of placemaking and growth, and its impact on the economy and quality of life of this key strategic area.

Commissioned and Supported Programmes and Projects:

2. Cultural Inclusion and Diversity

After an intensive period of research investigating inclusion and diversity in the arts and heritage sector, AHA-MK published its report Rethinking Inclusion and Diversity: A Call to Action for Milton Keynes in November 2020. Our key recommendation was that a commitment to inclusion and diversity should be a core strategic ambition of each cultural organisation, regardless of capacity: this is central to survival. Other recommendations were made around the following areas: a) Training b) Recruitment c) Engagement d) Communication e) Sustainability.

Using these recommendations, AHA-MK developed two successful funding applications 1) MK Community Foundation where we were awarded a large strategic grant of £90K in October 2020 and 2) Milton Keynes Council for a new offer of cultural apprenticeships.

Our main achievements in this area between April 2021 and April 2022 are as follows:

- **Artist Commissions**

In summer 2021 we began to work with six different communities (Abrahamic Women MK, Middle Eastern Cultural Group, African Diaspora Foundation, Conniburrow Big Local, Camphill Community, and MK Hindu Association) to co-commission artists to work with each. Based on their identity and need, the communities decided the theme for their project, worked up an artist brief with AHA-MK, put a call out for an artist who had an interest in the chosen theme as well as a similar background to

the collective identity of the community group. Together with AHA-MK the groups interviewed selected applicants, and chose the artist they wanted to work with.



Artist Shefali Wardell ran a series of intergenerational workshops with the MK Hindu Association around the theme of yoga.

In spring 2022, all six artists were in the research and development phase of the project, consulting with the communities as they progressed. This allows the communities to have a true grasp of the process, where their cultural assets frame and drive the work. The aim was for the groups to build new relationships with the cultural sector by visiting sites for workshops and final exhibitions/showing of work. This programme will help AHA-MK and the sector to establish an in-depth understanding of the local (and wider) history of these communities, their socio-economic needs, their demographics, heritages and cultures, faiths and languages. Through these projects, the groups are gaining cultural and creative agency.

LGBTQ+

As a result of our March 2022 forum which focussed on LGBTQ+ perspectives in the arts and heritage sector, we connected with a LGBTQ+ artist who will help us develop these connections through project work in summer/autumn 2022.

3. MAKE, the Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership.



MAKE's priorities are as follows:

- Work towards creating greater happiness and health for young people;
- Support children and young people to develop their own creativity;
- Support access to careers in the cultural sector and the development of life-long transferable skills.

In April 2021 MK Council awarded AHA-MK £15,000 to manage MAKE.

Main achievements for MAKE, April 2021-April 2022

The Big MAKE

The Big Make was a project MAKE launched in the Covid-19 lockdown year 2020 to celebrate the amazing creativity there is in Milton Keynes. Offset Projects was lead project partner for Big MAKE 2 in 2021 and collaborated with a group of young people aged 14-16 as The Big Make Team. Throughout July The Big Make invited all MK children and young people to make, create, and share, by: trying a new art form; learning a new skill; or testing out a new idea. Participants could take part independently, with friends or family, via school, youth group, or participating venue. Everyone who took part received a special e-certificate. There were 1,114 submissions in total. 27 schools registered for The Big Make, some submitting work, and some receiving activity boxes that were designed by the team. On the activity boxes, one teacher fed back:

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for the hampers, they are fantastic. [We] have used the items to create a wellbeing table in sixth form...I have shown them to our school counsellor and we are going to suggest something similar for staff be put together after such a tricky year." - Alison Butterfield, Lord Grey Academy



In September 2021 MK Community Foundation invited AHA-MK to present at the Lord-Lieutenant Countess Howe's 'Seeing is Believing' event – an opportunity for her to learn more about how funding from MK Community Foundation has helped city wide organisations. MK Arts Centre hosted the visit on behalf of AHA-MK.

Schools Connect

Schools Connect was a Continuing Professional Development Programme for teachers, funded by Artswork (£20,000), commissioned by MAKE, and delivered by Artis, a specialist in cultural education. Teachers in 10 primary schools developed their skills in cultural education delivery, enabling children to explore and express emotions in a healthy way. Artis submitted its final report and evaluation in February 2022. All children participating showed an improvement in wellbeing, and all teachers rated the experience excellent or good. The major legacies from this programme are:

- New relationships with schools have been fostered and nurtured, and the CEP has grown as a result. All of these teachers are on the MAKE mailing list, and some have continued to engage very well with the work of the CEP.
- 23 teachers took part in the CPD sessions which they can take forward with pupils in future years.
- Three schools created a toolbox that could be carried across the school as a whole.
- Artis has been contracted by one of the schools to deliver ongoing weekly workshops.

New Teachers' Networks

In spring 2021 MAKE formed a new network with schools that have signed up to Artsmark. The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools and education settings, accredited by Arts Council England. 13 teachers attended the first meeting and 5 came to the May 2021 meeting. Schools said that they would like the opportunity to meet the local arts and heritage organisations. We collected other feedback on what they would find the meetings useful for and shared it in a document with the group. MK's three NPOs attended the May meeting and Westbury Arts Centre and The Music Hub attended the September 2021 meeting. Eleanor Markland from Artswork (our ACE appointed bridge organisation for MAKE) works with MAKE to run these sessions.

One of the recommendations from our Schools Relationship Manager's report (submitted in January 2021) was to set up a Creative and Cultural Subject Teachers' Network that would be closely linked to MAKE. It is encouraging evidence of the partnership working that Jess Granger (Head of Art) and Sarah Robinson (drama teacher) from The Radcliffe School volunteered to work directly with MAKE to run this group. The group focusses on two areas: i) producing and sharing a creative and cultural events calendar which links national events (e.g. Black History Month) with local events, and ii) sharing practice around creativity across the curriculum, such as resources, training and projects. Together, these approaches aim to support innovative cross curricular teaching and learning, whilst reflecting AHA-MK's Programme of Change around inclusion and diversity. Meetings are attended by a mix of primary and secondary teachers, with representation from Artswork and arts organisations.

Inclusion and Diversity in Education

In May 2021, MAKE, with Shenley Brook End and Hazeley Academy, facilitated 'Diverse City', an online symposium on diversity in education in Milton Keynes. Using arts and heritage as the main focus, the event demonstrated how cultural education can improve inclusion and diversity in the curriculum. MAKE invited the Cowper and Newton Museum, MK Gallery, and Spectrum Performing Arts to present at the symposium, and invited a member of the MK LitFest committee to help to choose a winner for the poetry prize. The event was student-led, and expertly presented by Shenley Brook End's Head Boy and Head Girl, Benji Asare and Neha Sureshkumar. The MAKE web page is now host to MK focussed diversity in education resources: <https://aha-mk.org/develop/make/diversity-in-education-in-milton-keynes-schools/>



Poetry competition winner Maureen Onwunali. You can see Maureen reciting her winning poem [here](#)

In June 2021 Artsworld invited MAKE to speak at an event held for south east CEPs as an exemplar that is making progress in inclusion and diversity. MAKE shared the research that AHA-MK undertook in 2019/2020 to understand the current state of inclusion and diversity practices in the arts and heritage sector. With a focus on how AHA-MK and MAKE have incorporated inclusion and diversity into their strategies, MAKE gave examples of how its strategy has been actioned so far. Oxford-based artist Euton Daley also spoke, sharing examples of institutional racism that exist in the education system and curriculum.

Also in June 2021, MAKE presented at 'Climate of Change: understanding the importance of work around race, equality and diversity in schools', organised by the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team and the Inclusion and Diversity Team at Milton Keynes Council.

National CEP Network

Until June 2021 MAKE attended online training sessions for CEP leads, funded by the Arts Council. Run by *People Make It Work* it was a peer learning programme, and aims to raise successes and challenges that CEPs are experiencing nationally. Topics covered in these sessions include: Theory of Change; Inclusion and Diversity; Youth Voice; Advocacy, and attendees were offered two one-to-one mentoring sessions with mentor Graeme Russell.

- **STEM to STEAM Symposium, Creativity Across the Curriculum**

In October 2021 this online event was created in partnership with [ARTiculation](#), (a public speaking initiative designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of visual culture for young people aged 14-23), and the newly launched Buckinghamshire LCEP. The session built on findings in the Durham Commission's [Creativity and Education](#) report and the RSA's [Arts-Rich Schools](#) paper, which show how vital the arts and creativity are in equipping young people with the skills they need for the 21st century - such as creative thinking, critical analysis, teamwork, flexibility and problem solving. Speakers included Professor Simon James, Principal Investigator for the ACE initiated Durham Commission on Creativity in Education and Emily Santos, from ARTiculation's Alumni. Attendance was strong with 37 attendees, mainly from secondary schools, but also from primary schools, Artswork and LCEPs.

4) Membership Services

AHA-MK provides professional development and networking platforms to develop the impact of the arts and heritage sector to the benefit of the public. Our aim is also to build connections and relationships to support the cultural sector and open doors for new opportunities.

AHA-MK Forums 2021/22 took place on Zoom due to Covid-19.

Forums are opened up to members and wider stakeholders to build the conversation around how to ensure we are building a thriving and inclusive cultural and creative Milton Keynes.

Our June forum covered three aspects of inclusion and diversity: recruitment; programming, and leadership. Our speakers included Kath Geraghty, Workforce Development Manager at the National Theatre, An-Ting Chang, Artistic Director of Chinese Arts Now, Michaela Nutt, Cultural Partnership Co-Ordinator Luton Borough Council and Jenny Williams of RevoLuton Arts.

Our September forum focussed on methods of building successful new relationships through outreach work. Speakers included Bob Ramdhanie (based in Birmingham, but who joined us from Trinidad), a great advocate of African and Caribbean dance with 40 years of experience in the creative industries; Amanda Molcher, Trustee Cowper & Newton Museum; Ophelia Cole, Secretary, Sierra Leone Community - Milton Keynes & Director, Action Speaks; and Dr Rowan Mackenzie, the founder of Shakespeare UnBard who has worked with marginalised communities including people in prison, people with mental health issues, learning disabilities, substance misuse issues and who have experienced homelessness.

Our March 2022 forum addressed LGBTQ+ perspectives in the arts and heritage sector. Speakers from Queer Britain, New Queers on the Block (a collective of Queer producers creating LGBTQ+ focussed work), Rosemary Hill from The Play's The Thing Theatre Company who worked with an LGBTQ+ group on her project Invisible-Visible, and Clare Summerskill, an academic and performance maker who created a project with Syrian refugees who identified as LGBTQ+.

Member meetings 2021/22

Member only meetings are held to discuss city wide strategies and initiatives, and member and business issues for our sector alliance

Online AHA-MK Newsletter and AHA-MK Twitter Account

AHA-MK sends out a monthly online newsletter, inviting members to share news of developments, successes, challenges, opportunities for professional development and good practice with their colleagues and key interested parties.

Our Alliance runs the Facebook page and the Instagram Page for MAKE to promote and celebrate cultural education and opportunities for children and young people and schools.

Thanks

AHA-MK thanks its members, funders, stakeholders and new friends for your ongoing support this financial year.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2022

**GPG (Milton Keynes) Ltd
GPG House
Walker Avenue
Wolverton Mill
Milton Keynes
MK12 5TW**

**ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 5TH APRIL 2022**

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Trade Debtors	1,450			
HMRC - PAYE/NIC	117			
Cash at bank and in hand	109,666		95,812	
	<u>111,232</u>		<u>95,812</u>	
Creditors				
Deferred income	3,650			
Other creditors	49			
	<u>3,699</u>		<u>0</u>	
Total Assets		<u>107,533</u>		<u>95,812</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted Funds		7,101		6,371
Restricted Funds				
MAKE Pif 1	2,868		3,128	
MAKE Young Creatives	17,553		38,803	
MAKE Strategic Development	2,869		6,801	
The Big MAKE	1,383		16,295	
MAKE Film Project	584		0	
MAKE Schools Connect	0		0	
	<u>25,257</u>		<u>65,027</u>	
EDI Pilot Project	-285		4,414	
EDI Pof C	49,460		20,000	
EDI Traineeships	26,000		0	
	<u>75,176</u>		<u>24,414</u>	
Total Restricted Funds		<u>100,433</u>		<u>89,441</u>
Total Funds		<u>107,533</u>		<u>95,812</u>

**ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2022**

	Total 2022		Unrestricted 2022		Restricted 2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Membership	2,125		2,125		0	
Speaking Fees	200		200		0	
Donations	1,113		10		1,103	
Fundraising	247		247		0	
Grants Received	<u>117,250</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>117,250</u>	
		120,935		2,582		118,353
Direct Costs						
Project Delivery	<u>69,380</u>		<u>-19,650</u>		<u>89,030</u>	
		69,380		-19,650		89,030
Overheads						
Staff costs	30,002		17,114		12,888	
Office costs	705		705		0	
Consultancy	8,166		2,722		5,444	
Insurance	342		342		0	
Forum Costs	534		534		0	
Training	<u>85</u>		<u>85</u>		<u>0</u>	
		39,834		21,502		18,332
Net surplus for the year	<u><u>11,721</u></u>		<u><u>729</u></u>		<u><u>10,992</u></u>	

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ARTS &
HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the period ended 5th April 2022

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

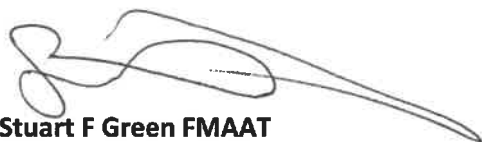
Basis of examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the treasurer and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Charities Act;

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stuart F Green FMAAT
Accountant

22nd December 2022

GPG House,
Walker Avenue
Milton Keynes
MK12 5TW

gpg
Business & Accountancy
GPG (Milton Keynes) Limited
GPG House, Wolverton Mill
Milton Keynes, MK12 5TW
01908225544

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2022

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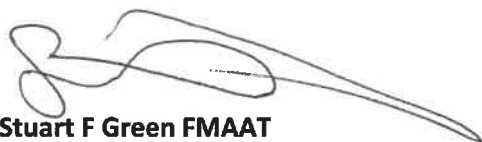
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Stuart F Green FMAAT
Accountant

22nd December 2022

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01908225544

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

England & Wales - Charity number 1158874

Accounts



Arts & Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 5th April 2021

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

AHA-MK:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Charity Number:	1158874
Principal Office:	Acorn House, 351 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 3HP
Trustees at 5/4/21	Francesca Skelton (Chair) Emma Courtney (Vice Chair) Laura Keen (Honorary Treasurer) Amanda Farr Kay Greenhalgh (resigned May 2020) Rob Gifford Laxman Kastala Victoria Mayes Hannah Olarewaju Yvonne Owuor

Financial

S Green FMAAT, Accountant and Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians, was the independent examiner for 2020/21. Based on his examination, no matter has come to his attention.

The Honorary Treasurer, Laura Keen, is a qualified Chartered Accountant.

Bank: Metro Bank, 44-46, Midsummer Arcade, Midsummer Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 3BB

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Arts & Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is governed by its constitution dated July 2014, with an amendment February 2018 and January 2020.

A full list of the trustees is provided above. The maximum number of trustees is ten and the minimum is five. Trustees are recruited through an open call, AHA-MK contacts and membership; their appointment is confirmed at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees met four times a year as a board 2020/21: 20 May; 23 September; 1 December 2020, 18 March 2021. The AGM 2019/20 was held on January 21 2021.

Staff

Elizabeth Howard was on a freelance contract as a Programme and Partnerships Manager for AHA-MK. In July 2020 Elizabeth became the first employee for AHA-MK when she was given a part-time employment contract for 4 days a week. The trustees would like to thank Elizabeth for her hard

work and her passionate advocacy for culture, cultural education and cultural inclusion. She has worked with great commitment to manage the major strands of our work: 1) Cultural Advocacy 2) Cultural Inclusion and Diversity 3) MAKE, the MK Cultural Education Partnership 4) Support of AHA-MK members. She fundraises, builds networks and partnerships, and seeks new opportunities to promote culture in Milton Keynes.

Risk

The Board of Trustees review the areas of risk that may affect the organisation.

OBJECTIVES

The Objects of AHA-MK are:

To promote the arts and heritage for the benefit of the public in Milton Keynes in particular but not exclusively by supporting and representing the arts and heritage sector through promotion, representation and development and by working in partnership with other like-minded organisations to achieve joint goals that further the CIO's charitable purposes.

AHA-MK champions the rich heritage and creative future of Milton Keynes.

AHA-MK is also the lead partner for **MAKE, the Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership**, with its vision to work together to nourish and support the creative skills and cultural wellbeing of Milton Keynes children and young people. This is part of a national movement of Cultural Education Partnerships to deliver creative thinking at the heart of education.

The Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit is at the forefront of our work (section 17 of the Charity Act 2011). The trustees comply with their duty to have due regard to the charity commission's public benefit guidance when exercising powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision: Milton Keynes as an international cultural destination

Mission: As the unified, independent voice for Milton Keynes culture, AHA-MK is a cultural leader and pioneering, place-making partnership. We work collaboratively and strategically through our members and partners to position culture as a catalyst for Milton Keynes to be an outstanding and inspiring place to live, work and visit.

Values

- **Creative:** perceiving the world in new ways, imagining and innovating.
- **Outward-looking:** championing the role and impact of Milton Keynes culture across the local, regional, national and international strategic context and seeking inspiration and best practice from all sectors.
- **Collaborative:** working together we are greater than the sum of our parts, driving forward the cultural future of Milton Keynes.
- **Empowering:** we are fiercely supportive of our members and invest in nurturing and sharing knowledge, skills and confidence to innovate and develop the sector.
- **Entrepreneurial:** we invest in the ideas, assets and skills within and beyond our membership towards solving common challenges and shared goals.
- **Committed to Excellence and Equality:** excellence as the driving force of everything we do and deliver; equality in its widest sense, as we strive for inclusion and diversity to ensure our Milton Keynes cultural sector is representative of our community.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

1) Advocacy 2) Milton Keynes Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Programme of Change 3) MAKE, the MK Cultural Education Partnership 4) Supporting AHA-MK Members

With the first lockdown in March 2020 the period covered by this report, 5th April 2020 to April 5th 2021, was severely impacted by Covid-19 with many AHA-MK members having to close venues, furlough staff, cancel contracts, and find ways of sustaining their businesses and cultural offer.

AHA-MK quickly adopted Zoom to maintain its collaborative work. This included: Advocacy for Culture; AHA-MK Forums; AHA-MK Member Meetings; the launch of our Rethinking Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Report; the Inclusion Consultation Group and related online meetings; MAKE (MK Cultural Education Partnership) Executive and Partnership Meetings. The biggest AHA-MK cultural offer was the summer Big MAKE project.

The determination and creativity of the arts and heritage sector has been impressiver, finding new ways to offer cultural opportunities for engagement through the digital platform.

1) Cultural Advocacy

AHA-MK advocates for the social, health and wellbeing, and economic value that culture and creativity bring to those living, learning, working and playing in Milton Keynes to the Milton Keynes Council, stakeholders and decision makers.

- Advocacy for **Cultural Inclusion and Diversity** is central to the work of AHA-MK. After an intensive period of research investigating inclusion and diversity in the arts and heritage sector 2019/20, AHA-MK wrote up the findings and launched the report *Rethinking Inclusion and Diversity: A Call to Action for Milton Keynes* in November 2020. To take forward the Action Plan of a Programme of Change, in October 2020 we were awarded a large strategic grant of £90k from MK Community Foundation for a two-year programme to develop our work as a bridge organisation that links the cultural sector to diverse communities. Milton Keynes Council also awarded funding to take forward a cultural traineeship and apprenticeship programme.



- AHA-MK advocates for **Cultural Education and the wellbeing of children and young people through MAKE**, the MK Cultural Education Partnership (MKCEP). MAKE champions the impact of creativity and creative thinking across the curriculum on children and young people's transferable skills, employability and wellbeing. This is a partnership of arts organisation, schools, MK College and local stakeholders, set up in response to the Arts Council England's Cultural Education Challenge.

Artswork, based in Southampton, is the ACE bridge organisation to support the development of local CEPs in the South East region (currently 13). Our thanks to Ruth Taylor, Strategic Manager at Artswork, for her consistent invaluable support, and to Milton Keynes Council for the funding for 2020/21, which has enabled Milton Keynes to continue to be part of this national network of CEPs, and to develop the MAKE, the MK CEP. And finally our continued thanks to Jill Stansfield, who gives generously of her time as independent Chair of MAKE.

- AHA-MK is a member of **SEMLEP Creative and Cultures Industries Group Meeting** where cultural colleagues in the region share issues, achievements and challenges and advocate for culture at the heart of placemaking and growth and for its impact on the economy and quality of life of this key strategic region.
- Our Arts & Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes consistently acts as a collective advocate for culture as a driver of the economy, health and wellbeing and transferable skills.
 - When Covid-19 hit the UK in spring 2020, AHA-MK collated information from its members to produce a report to demonstrate the impact the pandemic had on the MK cultural sector.
 - AHA-MK meets regularly with a group of cultural leaders running the large venues: Bletchley Park, MK Arts Centre, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes Museum, MK Theatre, The Stables and The Parks Trust. A letter was sent to Milton Keynes Council leaders and MPs outlining the impact of Covid-10 on cultural businesses and the sector generally. Council Leader Cllr Peter Marland wrote expressing his support. We are grateful for the support of Milton Keynes Council and of the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund, distributed by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
 - AHA-MK gave extensive feedback to the MK2050 Strategy to advocate 1) that culture must be one of the Big Seven Ambitions for Milton Keynes in 2050 as it is central to future placemaking and to Milton Keynes being a creative, cultural and competitive city. 2) that creative and cultural education is essential to develop creative thinking and transferable skills. Our advocacy included a presentation to the Council Cabinet when the draft strategy was discussed. Both Monica Ferguson, Chief Executive of The Stables, and the AHA-MK Chair addressed the meeting.

We were delighted that the final **MK2050 Strategy** published January 2021 stated:

Big Ambition 2: *Make Milton Keynes a LEADING GREEN AND CULTURAL city - by global standards.*

Big Ambition 6: *Offer better opportunities for everyone TO LEARN and develop their skills.*

Chapter 8, Healthy and Creative Places, it states:

We aim to provide better creative and cultural education in schools so that we build the creative thinking and skills that will help our future workers adapt to new challenges. As automation in the workplaces increases, creativity will become even more important in future job roles. (Page 68)

MAKE, our MK Cultural Education Partnership is specifically referenced on page 88.

Taking forward the research and report, AHA-MK consistently advocates cultural inclusion and diversity. Chapter 8, Healthy and Creative Places also states: *We will use the recommendations from a recent report by MK Arts and Heritage Alliance to make sure that everyone feels able to engage in the city's cultural offer.*

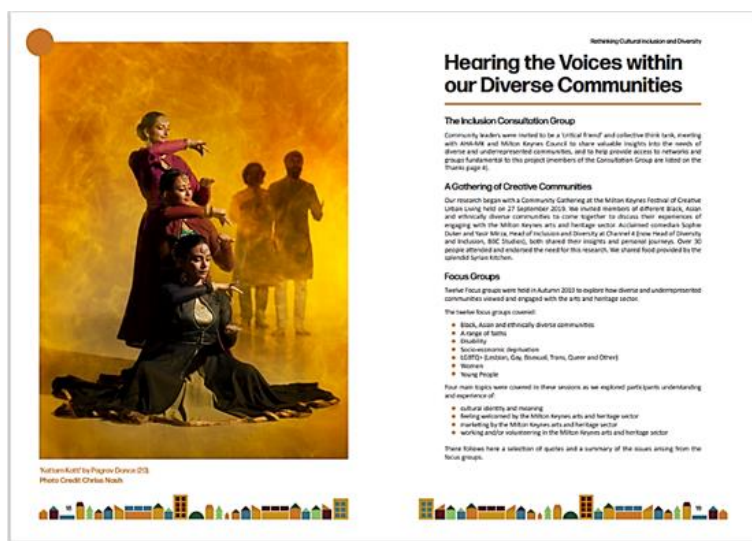
2) Milton Keynes Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Programme of Change

Commissioned and Supported Programmes and Projects:

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN September 2020

After an intensive period of research investigating inclusion and diversity in the arts and heritage sector 2019/20 AHA-MK wrote up the findings and launched the report *Rethinking Inclusion and Diversity: A Call to Action for Milton Keynes* in November 2020. Our key recommendation was that a commitment to inclusion and diversity should be a core strategic ambition of each cultural organisation, regardless of capacity: this is central to survival. Moving from a project-by-project approach to delivering inclusion and diversity throughout an organisation will lead to sustainable change. Realising this ambition to be enabled by organisations working together to share training, expertise, networks, challenges, successes, all leading to best practice, and to support smaller voluntary providers to develop strategies for inclusion. Other recommendations were made around the following areas: a) Training b) Recruitment c) Engagement d) Communication e) Sustainability.

Using these recommendations, AHA-MK developed two successful funding applications to 1) MK Community Foundation and 2) Milton Keynes Council to develop its work in this area.



Our main achievements in this area between April 2020 and April 2021 are as follows:

Development of AHA-MK's Cultural Inclusion Consultation Group.

After many months of searching for representation from the LGBTQ+ community, we secured Alice Boland-Rhodes as a member of the Cultural Inclusion Consultation Group. In January we recruited Jessica Butler as a young person for the group and we are working to recruit two more young people.

Linking the Sector to Diverse Communities to develop relationships and collaboration

In October 2020 AHA-MK linked Cowper and Newton's Amazing Grace commemoration project to local black community groups. The community groups have shown great interest in becoming involved in this work. In December 2020 we organised a Zoom meeting to link diverse communities with the We Are MK Too exhibition at MK Museum. Over 30 representatives from different community groups attended. They spoke to Museum Director Bill Griffiths about their ideas for the upcoming exhibition.

In February 2021 we linked Inter-Action MK with different diverse communities for its Cook Club/Book Club. As a result, the Cook Club featured 3 MK-based guest chefs from different cultural backgrounds, including Chinese, Punjabi, and Caribbean.

Promoting Inclusion and Diversity through Communications and Events

In October 2020 AHA-MK developed Inclusion and Diversity section in its newsletter to highlight initiatives. AHA-MK's newsletter is emailed to over 300 people (including arts and heritage organisations and those from diverse communities) on a monthly basis.

In November 2020 AHA-MK officially launched its report: *Rethinking Inclusion and Diversity: A Call to Action for Milton Keynes*. 135 tickets were booked for this online event, with 103 people tuning in on the evening. Abid Hussain, Director of Diversity at Arts Council England, was the special guest speaker. The audience included representatives of many different communities as well as arts and heritage practitioners. There was a breakout room session where communities and cultural organisations could meet. It was a very participatory session, with singers and story tellers from different backgrounds, representative speakers from various diverse communities and a Bollywood hand dance flash mob with Sanjeev Jimmy broadcasting live all the way from India.

In December 2020 AHA-MK delivered a Forum on post-Covid recovery for the cultural sector, *Strategies for Recovery*, with inclusion and diversity as one of 3 strands. Alan Lane from Slung Low Theatre Company in Leeds shared his experience of running a venue and producing art that engages the working class and immigrant community where the company operates from in Holbeck, Leeds. That same month AHA-MK was invited to present the process and findings of its Rethinking Cultural Inclusion and Diversity report to Arts Council England South East Team. We shared the plans for future work. This was received very well by the ACE team.

In March 2021 we began working with Shenley Brook End School and Hazeley Academy to deliver a Diversity Symposium in May 2021. AHA-MK planned to deliver a section on cultural inclusion and diversity at this symposium. We linked the organisers to different cultural organisations (such as Cowper and Newton's Amazing Grace Commemorations) that are working towards projects that use local stories to promote inclusion and diversity in the curriculum.

Also in March, AHA-MK presented at SEMLEP Creative and Cultural Industries Group. We shared the findings of our report and future plans. We called for inclusion and diversity to be a rolling action on the group's agenda, and for the group to establish an action team to take inclusion priorities forward. The group includes representatives from regional organisations, covering Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Buckinghamshire.

Making Strategic Change

In January 2021 we launched a city-wide Cultural Inclusion manifesto for AHA-MK members. Members have responded positively and promised to take the pledges that they feel they can fulfil in the short term and write them into their organisational strategies for the months ahead. One member has said it will print and frame the manifesto and hang it in the venue's entry hall.

In March 2021 AHA-MK launched a draft of a new business plan with trustees with Cultural Inclusion and Diversity as one of its major strands of its operation. MAKE (the MK Cultural Education Partnership led by AHA-MK) has incorporated Inclusion and Diversity into its 3-year strategy, and this will influence priorities and actions going forward.

We would like to thank: our AHA-MK members for working together on this journey of Cultural Inclusion; our Inclusion and Diversity Consultation Group for their consistent engagement, enthusiasm and support; all those who continued to engage with our sector so positively despite

this challenging first year of Covid; and Gamiel Yafai, MD of Diversity Marketplace who has been a constant support on this journey giving generously of his time advising, challenging and guiding.

3) MAKE, the Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership



Working in partnership to enhance the lives of children and young people in Milton Keynes through outstanding and inclusive cultural education and creative enrichment.

MAKE's priorities are as follows:

- Exploring, Discovering and Enabling Creativity
- Happier and Healthier Young People
- Careers, Skills and Opportunities

We are very grateful to Milton Keynes Council for awarding AHA-MK £15,000 in April 2020 to manage and develop MAKE.

Main achievements for MAKE, April 2020-April 2021

New MAKE Strategy, 2021-2023

In autumn 2020 MAKE developed a new strategy which was published in spring 2021. (<https://aha-mk.org/make-cultural-education-strategy-2021-2024/>). In summary, this sets out MAKE's commitment to:

- Build capacity to create a well financially-resourced CEP, that has a strong sense of partnership working, and a brand name that is recognisable to all schools, arts and heritage organisations, and children and young people in Milton Keynes.
- Develop partnerships to strengthen capacity for cost-effective cultural education projects and services in Milton Keynes that engage citywide cross sector stakeholders and achieve shared objectives.
- Deliver a systematic, realistic programme that meets MAKE's aims and priorities for children and young people, promotes partnership working, and advocates for the network.
- Support schools, teachers and the arts and heritage sector to create better pathways for communication; help teachers and schools to feel more confident and resourced to deliver high quality cultural education; and develop a sector with well-staffed learning teams.

Launching the MAKE Brand and Logo

The MAKE brand was softly launched in April 2020, and officially launched at our symposium *Arts in the Right Place* in October 2020 (see below for more information). Since the launch, MAKE members have used the logo on their websites and strategically mentioned the partnership in funding applications. The MAKE story was approved by the MAKE partnership in January/February 2021 and now appears on the MAKE webpage. MAKE worked with videographer Willie Robb and students from Shenley Brook End School, Brooklands Farm Primary, and Two-Mile Ash to create a video that features on the webpage alongside the MAKE story. AHA-MK staff and trustees use the MAKE logo in their email signatures. <http://aha-mk.org/develop/make/>

The Big MAKE



While Covid put a halt to most of MAKE's in person programme delivery, we responded to 2020's first national lockdown, by launching The Big MAKE. 13 schools and over 600 children and young people responded to celebrate creativity in all forms, shared via social media. An optional Big MAKE fundraiser also invited children and young people to sell their creations; do a sponsored 'MAKE'; or set a fundraising challenge.

It raised £1,296. 120 Quest Boxes containing story-making activities for Year 6 pupils were commissioned to explore the theme of 'transition' through creative writing. Designed by artist Jonny Clapham, these were distributed to pupils unable to return to school due to Covid-19.

Developing Inclusion and Diversity in the Network

Through The Big MAKE we worked with DREAMSAI, the Indian community-led organisation that delivered care packages to those in need during the pandemic. The schools involved in The Big MAKE represent a wide range of different ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. We met with the local Artsmark schools to discuss how MAKE can help them deliver the Artsmark Quality Principle #4 'Ensuring a positive and inclusive experience'. Our Schools Connect Programme (a drama-based programme that encourages healthy expression of emotion and includes CPD for teachers) is working with special needs school, Slated Row. AHA-MK's recent funding for the progression of its inclusion and diversity work will be strategically linked to the work of MAKE.

MAKE Fundraising and Development Group

A group of five MAKE organisations worked with fundraising consultants Adapt for Arts to develop the partnership. After a successful bid to Milton Keynes Council, the group worked on a successful application to Arts Council England to support The Big MAKE, and contributed to the successful application made to MK Community Foundation for cultural inclusion and diversity. A plan to develop future bids was also written. Feedback from the group showed that knowledge of fundraising was increased and their skills had been developed. This will contribute greatly to the ongoing success of the partnership. Adapt for Arts presented at the MAKE partnership meeting in October and delivered a final report in December 2020. Significant learning from this process was that a group like this needs to understand how their own organisations will benefit from partnership working.

MAKE Cultural Education Symposium

In October 2020 MAKE and the Leadership and Training Centre at Shenley Brook End School organised a very successful online cultural education symposium called *Arts in the Right Place*. The symposium was aimed at an audience of teachers, heads, governors, artists and arts and heritage organisations. Michael Bracey, Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Council opened the event. Over 60 people attended, 34 of which were teachers, which was an impressive outcome. This demonstrated the need for events, where people come together and share ideas about cultural education. There were many calls for another symposium that could take place in person when the Covid pandemic has passed.



Image: MOTUS Dance

MAKE created a booklet which featured information about the cultural education offers from 22 different arts and heritage organisations, and distributed it to all attendees. The booklet now sits on the MAKE webpage. After the symposium, Shenley Brook End School expressed a keen interest to become more heavily involved in the strategic delivery of MAKE. Our Artswork colleagues (Artswork is the South East Bridge organisation that supports the cultural education partnerships) were very positive about the event, and said it could be used as a blueprint for other CEPs to promote and advocate cultural education in their areas.

Ongoing Partnerships and Engagement:

As well as managing quarterly MAKE Partnership meetings and MAKE Executive meetings, our School Relationship Manager held individual and group networking meetings with over 30 teachers around Milton Keynes. These sessions have not only informed teachers about MAKE and cultural education locally, but also encouraged partnership working between schools regarding their Artsmark progress.

MAKE worked closely with Cowper and Newton Museum to gain understanding of what is needed for the educational aspect of its Amazing Grace commemorations in 2022. With Cowper and Newton, MAKE created and distributed a survey to teachers (with 14 replies) to determine what the need was and what teachers would be interested in sharing with pupils.

In a generous show of partnership working, the City Discovery Centre offered 2 days of videographer Willie Robb's time to develop a video for the MAKE story with students from 3 schools across MK. CDC had employed Willie Robb for another project funded by the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund, distributed through The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and shared this time with MAKE.

The AHA-MK Programme and Partnerships Manager was invited to join the National Leadership Training Programme for Cultural Education Partnerships. This nationwide programme funded by the Arts Council brings together CEP leads in order to discuss different ways of working and encourage mutual learning. This is both extending the knowledge, contacts and networks of the Programme and Partnerships Manager, which is valuable for the both the local, regional and national advocacy so important to place cultural education and creative thinking back at the heart of the school curriculum.

MAKE worked with The Music Hub to understand how both organisations can work together in stronger partnership. They organised a very productive and informative meeting with the Isle of Wight CEP and Music Hub to discuss different models of how CEPs and Hubs work together. Together we met with the Milton Keynes Council councillors holding the portfolio for culture, education and youth services in February 2021 to influence the city-wide impact cultural education can have in MK. This resulted in increased commitment to and understanding of MAKE from Milton Keynes Council.

MAKE has developed a newsletter which is published twice a term. The first two were published in the Autumn term of 2020. It features information about MAKE and cultural education in Milton Keynes.



MAKE programmes taking place in schools and MK College had to be halted April 2020 to April 2021

Young Creatives With the closure and ongoing uncertainty, MK College and the Young Creative students were disappointed to have to suspend the work with Cohort 2 of Young Creatives May 2020. It was hoped to resume this earlier but as time went on the logistical challenges and priorities for the College necessitated delaying the restart until the next financial year 2021/22.

Image: Cohort 1 at MK Gallery

Artis were working with teachers on the Schools Connect programme but this too had to be delayed.

4. Supporting AHA-MK Members and building networks

AHA-MK provides professional development and networking platforms to develop the impact of the arts and heritage sector to the benefit of the public. Our aim is also to build connections and relationships to support the cultural sector and open doors for new opportunities.

AHA-MK Forums 2020/21 on Zoom in this Covid-19 year

AHA-MK curates 4 Forums each year. Forums are opened up to members and wider stakeholders to build the conversation around how to ensure we are building a thriving and inclusive cultural and creative Milton Keynes. AHA-MK quickly adapted to Zoom for these gatherings and in this time of relative isolation, it was good to see so many members and new contacts attend. One of the advantages of Zoom, as we all learnt this year, is how easy it is to introduce speakers from far and wide.

- On the 10th June we focused on the very relevant issue of **Health and Wellbeing in the Arts and Heritage Sector**. Hayley Youell from the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance was the keynote speaker, and joined our meeting from her home in Barnsley.
- The theme for the 16th September was **Cultural Education and Creative Thinking**. Igniting creative thinking in schools goes through cultural education inspires new generations of Milton Keynes Citizens who can equip the city with the progressive skills it needs to move forward.
- The 9th December 2020 AHA-MK Forum was **Strategies for Recovery**. Speakers included Alan Lane from the Slung Low Theatre in Leeds who shared how they engaged with their local community.
- The 3rd of March 2021 *Marketing and Reconnecting to Audiences*.

Member meetings 2019/20

Member only meetings are held to discuss city wide strategies and initiatives, and member and business issues for our sector alliance

Online AHA-MK Newsletter and AHA-MK Twitter Account

AHA-MK sends out a monthly online newsletter, inviting members to share news of developments, successes, challenges, opportunities for professional development and good practice with their colleagues and key interested parties.

Our Alliance runs the Facebook page for MAKE to promote and celebrate cultural education and opportunities for children and young people and schools.

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED****5th APRIL 2021**

RECEIPTS	Note	2021	2020
Grants			
Artswork- MAKE Schools Connect Programme		6,000	10,000
MK Council - MAKE Development Grant		15,000	20,000
Artswork - Big MAKE Project		1,000	0
Engage - Big MAKE Project		200	0
MK Community Foundation - Cultural I&D Programme of Change		20,000	0
MK Council - Young Creatives Programme		0	0
Artswork - MAKE Transition Support		1,350	7,650
MK Council - Cultural Inclusion & Diversity Project		5,000	0
ACE - Big MAKE 2		13,499	0
North Bucks Arts Society - Big MAKE 2		1,500	0
Artswork Part of MAKE PIF Final Payment		0	7,358
MAKE Transition Support		500	0
Arts training award contribution		400	100
Local giving receipts re The Big MAKE		1,298	0
MK Community Foundation - Car raffle		93	0
Forum contributions		62	10
Membership		4,610	1,400
Total Receipts		70,512	46,518
PAYMENTS			
Forum expenses		653	554
Insurance		1,066	335
Rent		60	400
Programme & Partnership Management costs		6,774	28,086
Programme & Partnerships Manager Employment costs		22,498	0
Website and IT		566	165
Schools connect		6,000	10,000
Young Creatives Programme		13,150	35,510
Travel costs		0	147
Training costs		118	329
MAKE PIF1 project		1,830	9,885
MAKE Transition Support		3,300	3,239
MAKE Strategic Development		833	3,608
Big MAKE costs		1,202	0
Cultural Inclusion & Diversity project		2,100	3,079
Sundry costs		58	46
Total Payments		60,208	95,383
Excess of payments over receipts		10,304	-48,865
Opening Bank Balance		85,509	134,374
Closing Bank Balance		95,812	85,509
Earmarked Funds			
MAKE Schools Connect		0	1,250
Cultural Inclusion & Diversity Project		4,414	4,306
MAKE Young Creatives Programme		38,803	51,954
Big MAKE 1 and 2		16,295	0
MAKE Development Project		3,751	0
Cultural Inclusion & Diversity Programme of Change		20,000	0
MAKE PIF1 Project		3,128	6,208
MAKE Strategic Development		3,050	5,918
MAKE Transition Support		0	3,723
Restricted Funds		89,441	73,359
Unrestricted Funds		6,371	12,150
Total Funds		95,812	85,509

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ARTS &
HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the period ended 5th April 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the treasurer and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Charities Act;

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Stuart F Green FMAAT
Accountant

23rd September 2021

GPG House,
Walker Avenue
Milton Keynes
MK12 5TW

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