



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)

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



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, Artsworld 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	69,380		-19,650		89,030	
	<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>11,721</u>		<u>729</u>		<u>10,992</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.

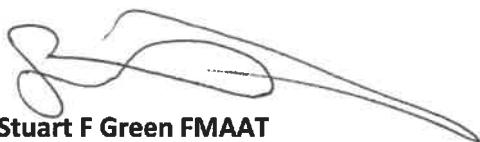
Basis of examiner's report.

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
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01908225544

ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE MILTON KEYNES

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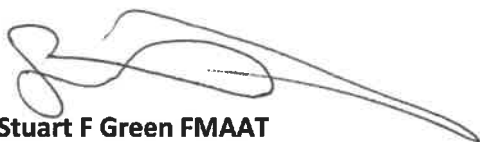
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