

Invisible Palace Charity Commission Report to end March 2022

INVISIBLE PALACE

Registered Charity 1165888

Trustees' Report



For the period from: 1st April 2021
To: 31st March 2022

Charity name: Invisible Palace

Charity registration number: 1165888

Registered/principal address: 23 Dulwich Wood Avenue
London
SE19 1HB

Trustees:

Initial period of appointment (years from 7th March 2016):

Michael George Sylvester Doiley	3	resigned & reappointed 24th February 2020
Rosalind (Rosie) Hunter	2	resigned & reappointed 2nd January 2019
Julianne (Jules) Hussey	3	resigned & reappointed 26th August 2020
Sonia Rai	3	reappointed 24th Feb 2020, resigned 1st April 2021
Helen Forde	3	appointed 26th August 2020, resigned 1st Jan 2022
Gail Rowe	3	appointed 26th August 2020

Following the year reported on, the following Trustees have been after an open recruitment process:

Abigail Lilly	1 st November 2022
Ayesha Begum	1 st November 2022
Eyo E Oku	1 st November 2022
Sarah Patterson	1 st November 2022
Isabelle Mae Skelly	1 st November 2022

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Report for the charity's sixth full year of operation.

Introduction

Invisible Palace is a charity based in South East London which brings people from a whole range of backgrounds together through shared interests for collective activity. Working across the five boroughs of Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, in the neighbourhoods that surround Crystal Palace Park, the charity focuses on:

1. The advancement of education in and appreciation and understanding of the arts, culture, heritage, history and sciences for the public benefit.
2. The promotion of equality and diversity and the promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

These objectives are achieved by:

Offering a programme of arts, cultural, heritage and educational activities and events, working with the local community, for individuals who live, work or study in the area whatever their background, and for the general public, with the aim of enabling people from diverse backgrounds to interact with each other.

The work of Invisible Palace takes a participant led approach, with the small team developing and running activities championing the needs of those taking part and creating programmes which respond to this need on a local and individual level. By targeting people who may be marginalised from what is already happening in the local area across age groups and backgrounds, people are brought together in a community of interest rather than having their demographic background or life stage be the main factor in defining them.

Invisible Palace prioritises working with those who are excluded or at risk of being excluded from society. They promote a broad definition of social exclusion, including those being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors:

- Unemployment
- Financial hardship
- Youth or old age
- Disability
- Ill health (physical or mental)
- Substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs
- Discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment
- Poor educational or skills attainment
- Relationship and family breakdown
- Poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards)
- Crime (as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).

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Covid delivery easing restrictions

April 2021 saw a gradual easing of Covid restrictions, the 'rule of six' had been re-introduced at the end of March and this was an opportunity to offer outdoor activities for small groups. By July most legal limits on social contact had been removed but for many people this made getting out and about harder as they felt at risk of infection. Invisible Palace continued to maintain close contact with valued partners such as Paxton Green Time Bank and Crystal Palace Community Trust to understand wider impacts for different people.

Following on from learning detailed in the conclusion of the 20-21 Trustees Report Invisible Palace had identified itself as an agile and responsive organisation, but with a need to clearly identify and explain its approach in order to build on its strengths.

Sculptures of Crystal Palace Park project

In April 2021 a project enquiry was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for work that would build on Sculpture Saturdays, a walking tour that had been adapted to digital delivery during the pandemic. 13 Sculpture Saturday posts across three channels attracted 7244 engagements and sparked 134 conversations.

The aim of the project was to continue the community conversations that began in the pandemic and work inclusively with local people to tell the stories of neglected sculptures in Crystal Palace Park. The project would build on existing partnerships and develop new ones, letters of support were received from Paxton Green Time Bank, Willow Learning for Life, and Crystal Palace Park Trust. In July NLHF awarded £78,400 for a 30-month project.

The project began in September with a researchers' meeting, then a launch event held at Crystal Palace Museum which included 3 short walks set up as community conversations. By the end of March 2022 36 hours of activity had been offered through 15 different meetings or events. 74 people had got involved with one or more event resulting in 323 hours of volunteer time being contributed to the project.

Evaluation and User Research were key elements of the funded work in order to support data gathering across all strands of the project and enable evidenced co-production at all stages. The project continues to winter 2024.





PHOTOS BY ANTHONY SPRATT, PAUL CROOK, SUE GIOVANNI, TANYA RHODES

Defy Gravity Social Circus in partnership with My Aerial Home

Invisible Palace (IP) is a delivery partner with Crystal Palace Community Trust (CPCT) on a 3-year Mayor's Young Londoners Fund project due to end December 2022. This work was severely disrupted by Covid so easing of restrictions from April 2021 was a chance to catch up with delivery.

In June and July Invisible Palace worked with My Aerial Home (MAH) to deliver a Summer Intensive programme of circus activities at St John's Primary in Penge. 44 children took part in the programme which included clowning, poi, hula hoop, tightwire, and aerial counterbalance. It was designed with social circus research in mind. This research evidences risk as a key factor linked to personal growth for social circus participants. Aerial was completely new for all participants and generated very interesting feedback. The aerial disciplines in particular were challenging, often uncomfortable but fun and rewarding. It was clear that students were working through this dilemma as can be seen in the word cloud feedback below.



During the summer holidays IP and MAH worked with CPCT to deliver circus activities in a youth work setting as part of a play scheme. 35 children took part in activities included hula hoop, juggling, and tightwire.

In February 2022 MAH invited CPCT Youth to an Aerial Taster session at their premises in Bell Green, Sydenham, 16 young people took part with some surprising results. At the session two

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CPCT Youth club members had shown particular aptitude despite having issues around confidence and self-esteem. Both were offered to join regular MAH sessions at a heavily discounted rate. CPCT Youth provided case studies on this work which made a demonstrable difference to the wellbeing of both young people.

Reflection on feedback from all sessions this year resulted in a clear direction for the social circus work that includes a pathway for progression for participants. New work is currently being developed on this basis.



Vicar's Oak gardening activities

From mid-April onwards the gardening was funded by the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF). Gardening sessions took place every fortnight with additional watering sessions in between during warm weather. In addition, 2 fundraising plant sales were held. There were also a new addition of 3 garden and exhibition visits for volunteers.

Over the year 17 people got involved with at least one gardening activity. The May plant sale that took place just as Covid restrictions were easing was very popular with 63 people attending. The sale in September had approximately 44 visitors. The sales raised in total £621.

This year one volunteer moved on to full time employment and one to a more permanent volunteer role. During this period the type of people volunteering with the project started to change with less retired people and a greater number looking for training or work experience. This became a stronger trend later in 2022 though there is still a core of 5 regular volunteers.

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Throughout this year 67 hours of gardening activity was offered, and 245 hours of volunteer time was donated to the project. New plants purchased for the beds were paid for out of funds raised at plant sales.

User research and evaluation work funded by NLCF has resulted in improved data collection and evidence of the benefit of this work.

Volunteer comments

Gardening and working with other people has given me pleasure and helped me to connect with other gardening enthusiasts, feeling less isolated during the pandemic

I've been working with the group for almost 2 years and I find it lovely to take care of the green spaces and also create friendships in the area.

The garden is beautiful in every season. I love watching the changes. Volunteering here is often the highlight of the week. Getting involved with the people and nature in a friendly but controlled and safe environment is a real tonic. Honestly it has been a saviour during COVID. Thank you!

Passer-by comments

Superb - good work! Brightens up the palace experience - lovely addition - thank you!!

I love this community garden. It always cheers me up when I pass it. I love the selection of plants and the countryside feel it gives. You are doing a great job with it. Please don't stop.

Beautiful Garden! Inspires others into gardening! THANK YOU!



Summary

This year Covid restrictions eased. Participation in projects changed as many went back to work while others reassessed and made changes. Invisible Palace initially focussed on outdoor activities where possible as people rebuilt confidence in social settings.

Between April 2021 and the end of March 2022

- 135 hours of activity was offered to different groups across 76 events
- over 230 people got involved in face-to-face activities either as volunteers or participants
- 15 freelancers were employed
- 1 volunteer moved on to full time employment and others joined projects looking for work or training experience
- local amenity the Vicar's Oak flower beds were maintained

Building on learning from the peak of the Covid pandemic Invisible Palace emerged with focus, purpose, and confidence.

One fundraising aim was to seek multi-year funding where possible which proved successful with the National Lottery Heritage Fund supporting the Sculptures of Crystal Palace Park project.

Last year Invisible Palace identified a need to improve how working practice and outcomes are evidenced and reported. This work began in 2021 and quickly reaped benefits by simplifying complex project narratives. The work was further developed as the Sculptures project began. Next year Invisible Palace will report on emerging principles for co-creative practice developed during Phase 1 of the Sculptures project.

Financial Review

The charity's Financial Statements form page 10 of this report.

The Receipts and Payments accounts show total receipts of **£61,369** during the financial year reported on; total payments of **£37,336** and a year-end position of **£28,978** held in assets (cash at bank).

The charity received trust funding of **£8,403** from the City Bridge Trust and a National Lottery Heritage Fund award of **£39,200**.

Overall funding for the year was more than doubled from the previous year. Funding for longer projects was also achieved this year.

The total restricted funds receipts by the Charity for the year were **£59,383**. Of this **£36,543** of restricted funds payments were made during the period. At the end of this period **£24,266** of restricted funds are held which includes the opening balance of **£1,426**.

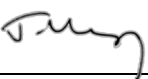
The total unrestricted funds received by the charity was **£1,986** with **£793** being spent this financial year and with the balance carried over from the previous year **£4,712** of unrestricted funds held at the end of the year.

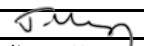
The finances this year were again independently examined by Stefan Bort a Chartered secretary for Bort Corporate Solutions Ltd.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above and the Financial report on page 10.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Julianne Hussey	Rosalind Hunter
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair)	Trustee	Trustee
Date	30th Jan 2023	30th Jan 2023

Invisible Palace	Registered Charity no. 1165888			
Receipts & Payments Account				
for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022				
The charity holds no endowment funds at present				
There are were no sales or purchases of assets or investments.				
		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
Receipts		£	£	£
Donations		0	1,986	1,986
City Bridges Trust		8,403	0	8,403
Power of one project/CPCT		11,280	0	11,280
local giving little award		500	0	500
National Lottery Heritage Fund		39,200	0	39,200
COVID-19 RESPONSE		0	0	0
				0
		59,383	1,986	61,369
Payments		£	£	£
Artists' and project management fees		29,425	0	29,425
Equipment and materials		3,472	219	3,691
Volunteers' Expenses		798	11	809
Publicity & promotion		2,404	0	2,404
Bank charges		0	96	96
Administration/Overheads		444	467	911
Total net payments for the period		36,543	793	37,336
		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
		£	£	£
Opening balance		1,426	3,519	4,945
Cash funds at end of period		24,266	4,712	28,978
Invisible Palace	Registered Charity no. 1165888			
Statement of Assets and Liabilities				
for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022				
Assets		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
		£	£	£
Restricted Funds held		24,266	4,712	28,978
Other monetary assets		0	0	0
Investment assets		0	0	0
Assets retained for the charity's own use		0	0	0
Liabilities				
any invoices outstanding at 31 March 2022		0	0	0
Total Assets at end of period		24,266	4,712	28,978
APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES ON				
Signed				
	Rosalind Hunter, trustee	date	13th November 2022	
Signed				
	Julianne Hussey, treasurer	date	13th November 2022	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Invisible Palace

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1165888

Set out on pages

10

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

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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

30 January 2023

Name:

Stefan Bort

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Associate member of the Corporate Governance Institute (formerly Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators)

Address:

3 Dulwich Wood Avenue, London SE19 1HB