



Poetic Unity

Reports and Financial Statements

Period Ended 31st December 2021

Charity number: 1171832

Company number: 09882990

Poetic Unity

Contents of the Financial Statements for period ended 31st December 2021

	Page
Company Information	1
Report of the Trustee's	2-7
Report of the Independent Examiner	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11
Income and Expenditure Account	12

Poetic Unity

Company Information for period ended 31st December 2021

Trustees: Sasha Shantel Bennett
Naomi Louise McLean
Lucrecia Seline Augustin
Temwani Melida Mwale

Secretary: Ryan Junior Matthews-Robinson

Chief Executive: Ryan Junior Matthews-Robinson

Registered Address: 1 Windrush Square, Brixton, London, SW2 1EF

Registered Company Number: 09882990

Registered Charity Number: 1171832

Independent Examiner: Mr. P Okusi LCIE AFA MIPA

Poetic Unity

Report of Trustee's for Period Ended 31st December 2021

Incorporation and Registration

Poetic Unity was incorporated on 20th November 2015 and registered with charity commission on 1st March 2017.

Structure, Governance and Management

Poetic Unity is governed by the board of trustees who are also the directors and supported by dedicated staff and volunteers to provide the following objects for our beneficiaries.

1. To advance the education of young people through the subject of poetry and spoken word
2. To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in London by organising workshops programmes and events as a means of:
 - (a) advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities, and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature, and responsible individuals.
 - (b) providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, disability, poverty, or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

Poetic Unity works with children and vulnerable adults and has safeguarding and child protection policies in place to ensure our activities are conducted in a safe and friendly environment.

The trustee board ensures Poetic Unity is run in a legal way and is in line with charity commission law. The board, staff and volunteers work together to make sure the objects carried out in the community are done so effectively and responsibly.

Objectives and Activities

Poetic Unity started off 2021 in similar fashion to how 2020 finished with our services continuing to be delivered online due to the Covid-19 outbreak and lockdowns. Our online services Virtual Poetry, The Poets Corner Online, Still Locked up and Mental Health Matters programmes which we delivered on Instagram and Zoom continued to be very popular and had great uptake from young people across the UK. In February 2021 Poetic Unity turned 6 years old and it was the first time we celebrated our birthday online instead of in person due to the pandemic. We had over 200 people from the community join Zoom to celebrate Poetic Unity's birthday. In the same month Poetic Unity was featured on channel 5 news highlighting the support we have provided young people since the beginning of the pandemic. Throughout 2021 Poetic Unity partnered with several organisations such as Warner Bros, We Are Parable, London South Bank University, Prince's Trust, London Nautical School, British Film Institute, Salix Finance, St Georges University, Streatham Space Project, Brixton Project, Lambeth Council, Penguin Books UK and WOW Foundation to help extend our impact and support more young people across the UK. Poetic Unity's most significant partnership in 2021 was the Poetic Relief Project with long standing partners Black Cultural Archives and Theatre Peckham. Poetic Unity led on this project citing the long term effects the pandemic will have on young people's mental health and employment status. The Poetic Relief Project serves to support young people's mental health, personal development, and community cohesion for the next 3 years. Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund this project also gave rise to the Cultural Leaders Youth Employment Scheme which allows Poetic Unity, Black Cultural Archives and Theatre Peckham to hire six young people every six months for three years to give them paid work in the charity sector. Alongside the National Lottery Community Fund, Poetic Unity also received funding from Arts Council, Leathersellers and DCMS to support our projects and beneficiaries. In May 2021 an ease on lockdown restrictions allowed Poetic Unity's services to regularly be delivered in person again. Poetic Unity continued to deliver several online services as there was still a great uptake and it allowed us to reach more young people outside of London. Although based in London, Poetic Unity reached young people across the UK including cities such as Leeds, Glasgow, Manchester, Coventry, Birmingham, Brighton, and Bristol. From January-December 2021, Poetic Unity delivered 155 services online and in person which is down on the number of services we provided last year. This is due to it being logistically easier in 2020 to run more services as all of our services had to be moved online in 2020. 2021 was another transformative year for Poetic Unity having to adapt to providing a hybrid service of online and in person programmes and providing our first youth employment scheme.

Achievements and Performance

Poetic Unity directly supported 730 young people in 2021 and it's estimated that over 7,000 young people aged between 10-30 years old benefited from our services in total in 2021. However, the impact of our work far exceeds the young people we help directly which includes relieving stress on the friends and family of the young people we work with and building community cohesion in boroughs such as Lambeth which has some of the highest rates of youth violence in London. These services generally provided alternative education, personal development, safe and friendly environments, and mental health support.

Financial Review

As we went in to 2021 Poetic Unity was in a healthy financial position due to being provided crisis funding to support young people and provide stability during the pandemic. Although our finances were stable at the beginning of the year, we were still unsure what the future held for Poetic Unity and the young people we support due to the state of the economy. Although there was a potential light at the end of the tunnel for the pandemic to ease, the financial ramifications for society in general were going to have long lasting effects. Fortunately, Poetic Unity's finances have grown more significantly in 2021 than in any previous year. This is largely due to receiving £360k (£120k per year) from the National Lottery Community Fund to be split over 3 years between Poetic Unity, Black Cultural Archives and Theatre Peckham for the Poetic Relief Project. This funding has given Poetic Unity financial stability for the next 3 years and has ensured we can provide regular services for young people in the community. The need for our services continues to grow as the cost of living goes up which has a detrimental effect on young people's mental health and general wellbeing. Poetic Unity has continued to have a good balance of restricted funding and unrestricted funding in 2021. Although our restricted funding is greater through receiving funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, Arts Council and DCMS. It's still important for the financial health of Poetic Unity that we continue growing our partnerships with organisations like the Prince's Trust, the Brixton Project, Streatham Space Project, and We Are Parable to receive unrestricted funding that can support Poetic Unity's core costs and reserves. Poetic Unity has continued to receive regular donations and regular donors who support the work we do. Poetic Unity's financial forecast is healthy, and we expect to see more financial growth in 2022 with the need for our services continuing to grow.

Public Benefit

All the charity's activities are primarily aimed at the development of young people. In creating activities and providing services, the board have taken note of the guidance provided by charity commission on public benefit.

Risk Management

The Board has taken into consideration the major strategic risks, operational risks, and the vulnerability of our beneficiaries. We can confirm our systems have been established to ensure our policies are up to date and reports can be produced when necessary to lessen these risks.

Financial Controls

The trustees act as the management committee and have control of the Charity and funds. The financial statements show the current state of finances, which the Trustees consider to be sound. The Charity's bankers are Barclays Bank PLC.

Financial Reserves Policy

The board has agreed to keep 3 months of core funding as reserves to ensure our main operations can continue for this period. This policy will be reviewed annually and whenever there are any significant changes affecting our finances.

Approved by the board on 18/07/22
and signed on their behalf by



.....
Naomi McLean

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF POETIC UNITY ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021.

Respective responsibilities of the directors who are also the trustees.

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The directors consider that an audit is not required for this year.

It is our aim to:

- examine the accounts;
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent report

Our review was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by Companies House. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company 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 you as directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide any of the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent statement

In connection with my inspection, no matter has come to my attention.

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention shown be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Thompson & Co
Approved Independent Examiner
& Financial Accountants
336-338 London Road
Cricket Green
CR4 3UD

POETIC UNITY
Statement of Financial Activities
01 January - 31 December 2021

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Income				
Arts Council	-	13,050	13,050	-
Beyond the Box Consultants	675	-	675	-
Birkbeck University	500	-	500	-
Change Grow Live LTD	200	-	200	-
London Community Fund	-	-	-	10,000
City Bridge Trust	-	-	-	10,000
Donation	787	-	787	955
Lambeth Council	690	-	690	3,333
Leathersellers	1,000	-	1,000	-
London South Bank University	1,000	-	1,000	-
National Lottery and DCMS	-	2,500	2,500	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	120,000	120,000	10,000
Other Income	567	-	567	-
Penguin Books UK	1,500	-	1,500	-
Princes Trust	4,075	-	4,075	18,200
Salix Finance	1,000	-	1,000	-
St Georges University	350	-	350	-
Streatham Space Project	1,500	-	1,500	-
The Brixton Project	720	-	720	-
The Poets Corner	2,690	-	2,690	-
Workshop	0	-	0	4,475
We Are Parable	2,373	-	2,373	-
SYLA	-	-	-	4,650
St Gabriels College	-	-	-	700
Theatre Peckham	-	-	-	600
Total Income	19,627	135,550	155,177	62,913
Expenditures				
Accountancy	469	-	469	-
Advertising/Promotional	-	2,275	2,275	1,479
Black Cultural Archives	-	30,000	30,000	-
Cultural Leader	-	5,581	5,581	-
Insurances	309	-	309	304
Legal	13	-	13	-
Office/General Administrative Expenses	446	288	734	569
Other Professional Services	11,295	16,970	28,265	25,430
Pension	-	1,875	1,875	-
Taxes	-	7,418	7,418	-
Wages	-	23,333	23,333	-
Poetry In Motion	-	150	150	-
Theatre Peckham	-	30,000	30,000	-
Travel	-	-	-	2,426
Training	-	913	913	194
Venue Hire	657	-	657	-
Total Expenditures	13,189	118,804	131,993	30,402
Net Surplus for the year.	6,438	16,746	23,184	
Funds brought Forward.	23,361	13,946	37,305	
Balancing Adj		5,328	5,328	
Fund Balances, 31st December 2021.	29,798	36,020	65,818	

**POETIC UNITY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Note	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	66,413	37,305
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	595	475
NET CURRENT ASSETS	65,818	36,830
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	65,818	36,830
FUNDS		
TOTAL FUNDS	65,818	36,830

The directors are satisfied that the Charity is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the directors have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
- these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
- These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on the 29/09/2022 and are signed on their behalf by:



Naomi McLean

**Poetic Unity
Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31st December 2021.**

1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, following the recommendations of the Statement of Recommended Practice FRS 102.

2 Accounting Policies

a) Income

All income is accounted for on an accrual basis, except for voluntary donations, which are taken into account when received.

Grants are recognised in full during the year that they are received.

Incoming receipts from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

b) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost and depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life.

Computer equipment and office equipment 25% straight line basis.

It is the Charity's policy to capitalise fixed assets that are above a de minimus level of £250.

c) Funds held for restricted purposes

Restricted funds represent income received by the Charity for specific purposes or areas.

d) Resources expended

Resources are accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is apportioned to cost categories based on the amount attributable during the year, including the cost of generating funds and charitable activities.

Governance costs include legal costs and Trustee meetings only.

e) Recognition of Liabilities

These financial statements recognise all liabilities that the charity has responsibility for. The charity is not aware of any contingent liabilities.

3 Trustee Expenses

No expenses were claimed by Trustees in their role as Trustees, but some are also volunteers supporting the youth and raising funds through events.

4.

Restricted Grants.

	Arts Council		City Bridge Trust		London Community Foundation		National Lottery (Small Grants)		National Lottery and DCMS		National Lottery Community Fund		TOTAL
Grant received	£	13,050.00	£	0.00	£	0.00	£	0.00	£	2,500.00	£	120,000.00	£ 135,550.00
Grant Expenses	£	0.00	£	2,586.39	£	10,013.15	£	1,950.00	£	2,500.00	£	101,754.08	£ 118,803.62
Net Surplus / deficient	£	13,050.00	-£	2,586.39	-£	10,013.15	-£	1,950.00	£	0.00	£	18,245.92	£ 16,746.38

5. Donations.

	Unrestricted Funds
Income	£
Beyond the Box Consultants	675.00
Birkbeck University	500.00
Change Grow Live LTD	200.00
Donation	786.86
Lambeth Council	690.00
Leathersellers	1,000.00
London South Bank University	1,000.00
Other Income	567.10
Penguin Books UK	1,500.00
Prince's Trust	4,075.00
Salix Finance	1,000.00
St Georges University	350.00
Streatham Space Project	1,500.00
The Brixton Project	720.00
The Poets Corner	2,690.00
We Are Parable	<u>2,373.00</u>
Total Income	<u>19,626.96</u>

6. CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE