

# WORDSMITH AWARDS

England & Wales · Charity number 1181088

## Details

---

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Other names | YOUNG IDENTITY  |
| Status      | Registered  |
| Legal form  | CIO   |
| Registered  | 2018-12-10  |
| Register    | <a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a> |

## Contact

---

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Address | 7 Brooks Road<br>Manchester<br>M16 9GG                                       |
| Phone   | 07925665039  |
| Email   | <a href="mailto:enquiries@youngidentity.org">enquiries@youngidentity.org</a> |
| Website | <a href="http://www.youngidentity.org">www.youngidentity.org</a>             |

## Activities

---

**Objects:** 1. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, IN THE STUDY AND APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS, IN PARTICULAR POETRY AND LITERATURE, INCLUDING BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY ORGANISING WORKSHOPS, PERFORMANCES AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AS DETERMINED BY THE TRUSTEES.2. TO ACT AS A RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO THE AGE OF 30 LIVING IN MANCHESTER BY ORGANISING POETRY WORKSHOPS 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

**Activities:** We develop literacy, critical thinking and active citizenship for young people, through experimenting with literature and combined arts. We nurture the talent of tomorrow. We empower disadvantaged and under-represented young people to fulfil their artistic potential. We do this through writing and performance workshops.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England

## Finances

| Period end | Income   | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £460,616 | £348,218    | -      | -         |
| 2024-03-31 | £401,228 | £344,728    | -      | -         |
| 2023-03-31 | £192,683 | £232,211    | -      | -         |
| 2022-03-31 | £233,045 | £192,236    | -      | -         |
| 2021-03-31 | £219,749 | £171,880    | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                         | Role | Appointed  |
|------------------------------|------|------------|
| Adeola Adetakun              |      | 2024-01-25 |
| Ekua Bayunu                  |      | 2024-01-25 |
| Emma Louise Mould            |      | 2024-01-25 |
| Emma Nicola Ford             |      | 2025-07-17 |
| MARY ELISABETH CORDINGLEY DR |      | 2018-02-27 |
| Muhammad Fazeel Babur        |      | 2024-01-25 |
| Nasima Begum                 |      | 2019-08-16 |
| SYLVIA LEE                   |      | 2018-02-23 |
| TOLULOLA AGBELUSI            |      | 2018-02-02 |
| Udokanma Ondwudike           |      | 2024-01-25 |

**WORDSMITH AWARDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181088

---

# Accounts

---



**Charity number 1181088**

**Annual report and financial statements  
For the period 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025**

Young Identity  
Reference and administrative information  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

**Charity number** 1181088

**Registered office and operational address** 7 Brooks Road Old Trafford Manchester M16 9GG

**Legal name:** Wordsmith Awards Trading as Young Identity

**Trustees** who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Jonah Earle (Completed term as Chair of Trustees – 6 November 2025)

Adeola Adelokun

Dr (Mary) Elisabeth Cordingley (Interim Chair, then Chair from 7 November 2025)

Ekua Bayunu

Emma Louise Mould

Jonathan Vincent McGrath (Resigned 21 Nov 2024)

Lucy Kathleen Jackson

Muhammad Fazeel Babur

Nasima Begum

Rosie Stuart (Completed term as Trustee – 17 July 2025)

Sylvia Lee

Tolulola Agbelusi

Udokanma Onwudike

Emma Ford (from 17 July 2025)

|                                 |                |  |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Key Management Personnel</b> | Jonah Earle    | Chair of Trustees (to 6 November 2025)   |
|                                 | Lis Cordingley | Chair of Trustees (from 7 November 2025) |
|                                 | Shirley May    | CEO & Artistic Director                  |
|                                 | Nicole May     | Executive Director                       |

**Bankers** National Westminster Bank  
438 Barlow Moor Road  
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy  
M21 0NN

**Independent examiner**  
Slade & Cooper Limited  
Beehive Mill  
Jersey Street  
Ancoats  
Manchester M4 6JG

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Reference and administrative information on page 1 form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

**Objectives and activities**

The trustees review the charity's aims, objectives and activities each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees confirm that throughout the planning and implementation of these activities, they have complied with their duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

**CHARITABLE PURPOSE**

Young Identity's objectives, as set out in its constitution, are to:

1. To advance the education of young people, in the study and appreciation of the arts, in particular poetry and literature, including but not exclusively, by organising workshops, performances and other educational programmes as determined by the trustees.

2. To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in Manchester by organising poetry workshops 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.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

## **VISION & MISSION**

Young Identity's vision is of a world in which every young person is equipped with creativity, confidence and self-expression gained through literature, the practice of poetry and performance.

Our mission is to nurture, develop and champion the voices and creativity of underrepresented young people through literature, writing and performance; by giving young people the skills and the platforms to speak out, telling their original stories, sharing their narratives with others and diversifying the arts sector.

Young Identity's voice cuts through the noise: We are unique, different and stand out.

We believe in the transformative power of the arts in young people's lives. We develop literacy, critical thinking and active citizenship for young people through experimenting with literature and combined arts.

We create a distinctive range of high-quality creative opportunities, writing and performance workshops, events and participatory work that supports young people from all backgrounds to progress creatively and realise their ambitions. Developing core skills that help young people be more employable, socially included, resilient and enterprising, becoming the writers, performance artists and theatre-makers of tomorrow.

Our ambition is to impact and inspire the artistic and cultural landscape of the North-West of England and further afield nationally and internationally.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Young Identity delivers its mission through three core strands: Community, Development and Productions. These strands empower young people through a youth-led, community-focused and partnership-driven approach, ensuring every activity is high-impact, inclusive and transformative.

### **Community**

We widen access to the arts through workshops, showcases and wellbeing sessions in schools and community settings. Partnering with education providers, youth services and specialist organisations, we reach young people who might otherwise miss creative opportunities while fostering intergenerational dialogue and personal growth.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

## Development

We nurture emerging artists to build sustainable creative careers. Specialist workshops, creating pathways training programme, mentoring and paid commissions equipping young people with skills, experience and funding opportunities to progress professionally and creatively.

## Productions

We platform young talent on local, national and international stages. Through our flagship poetry slam *One Mic Stand*, our publishing imprint *No Disclaimers* and collaborations with cultural organisations, we showcase creativity while expanding opportunities, visibility and professional credibility.

Together, these strands enable Young Identity to engage, inspire and empower young people, ensuring their voices are celebrated and their creative potential realised.

We achieve our mission through the following activities:

- **Running projects with underrepresented groups:** We actively work with communities that are often marginalised or under-represented, inspiring them to get involved in writing and performance. By doing so, we strive to make literature and the arts more inclusive of society in the UK.
- **Training the next generation of writers:** We are passionate about nurturing and developing young writers, both on the page and on the stage. Through our training programs, we equip them with the necessary skills and provide them with opportunities to showcase their work.
- **Diversifying the creative arts sector:** In order to foster a more diverse and inclusive creative arts sector, we focus on developing future producers, finance managers, and events coordinators from underrepresented communities. We provide training and support to help them succeed in their chosen fields.
- **Producing dynamic and provocative poetry productions:** We create and produce professional poetry productions, events, projects, and educational materials. Through these initiatives, we aim to stimulate critical thinking,

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

provoke discussions, and support educational institutions in their teaching of literature and combined arts.

- **Nurturing new artists:** We are committed to nurturing emerging artists and providing them with guidance and support. We facilitate individual and group artistic practice, developing progression pathways and offering initiatives and opportunities for their growth. We also assist artists in starting their own companies or collectives, empowering them to navigate the local, national, and international cultural sectors.
- **Increasing accessibility to the arts:** We actively work towards expanding access to the arts by reaching out to new and diverse audiences. Our aim is to break down barriers and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage with and enjoy artistic experiences. Through these activities, we strive to make a long-lasting impact on the artistic and cultural landscape, championing inclusivity, diversity, and creativity.

### **Achievements and performance**

The charity's principal activities are set out below. All charitable activities are carried out in furtherance of Young Identity's charitable purposes and for the public benefit.

Young Identity supports young people who are predominantly from ethnically diverse, LGBTQ+ and working-class backgrounds. Currently, 52% of participants are from ethnically diverse backgrounds; 43% identify as disabled; 54% as neurodivergent; 49% as LGBTQ+; and 55% live in areas ranked within the most deprived 30% nationally.

The charity has over 600 active members and engages hundreds of young people annually. Our award-winning work is recognised both nationally and internationally.

### **Over the past 12 months:**

Young Identity has continued to demonstrate strong demand for its work. The charity supported 603 active members, delivered over 200 workshops, facilitated more than 1,000 young people visits, and enabled over 50 young people to progress through structured development and progression pathways. In addition, Young Identity reached audiences of over 20,000 people annually through its public programmes and events.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

**Particular highlights include:**

**1. Voice.Sealed.Shut (Poetic Theatre Production)**

The development of Voice.Sealed.Shut, along with the wider poetic production strand, represented a significant artistic milestone for Young Identity. The project brought together a new cohort of emerging poets and performers who took part in a complete creative journey. This included script development, devising, rehearsal, ensemble building and public performance. The work drew on Young Identity's long-standing practice of nurturing young voices through poetry, performance and mentorship and it aligned with the organisation's mission to provide high-quality artistic opportunities for young people across Greater Manchester.

Voice.Sealed.Shut explored themes that resonated strongly with participants and audiences. These included ambition, apathy, emotional resilience and the lived experiences of students who are negotiating their futures within challenging social and educational landscapes. The creative approach encouraged young people to examine their personal narratives and to transform these reflections into a poetic theatrical piece. The depth of the writing and the honesty of the performances were praised by audience members, partners and the wider Young Identity community.

For many of the young poets involved, this was the first time they had the opportunity to perform a poetic theatrical piece in a professional theatre space. Z- Arts generously provided the venue as part of its commitment to supporting the creative development of young writers. This partnership with Young Identity made it possible for the group to rehearse, refine and present the work in an environment that valued youth-led creativity and artistic ambition.

Participant feedback reflected a strong sense of confidence gained through the process. Many reported that the project helped them to grow as writers, performers and collaborators. The production also contributed to Young Identity's broader programme of artistic development, showcasing the talent within the organisation and strengthening pathways into professional creative practice. Voice.Sealed.Shut demonstrated the power of poetry to connect communities, to reflect young people's realities with integrity and to offer a platform where new voices can emerge with clarity and purpose.

**One Mic Stand**

One Mic Stand continued to be one of Manchester's most influential platforms for youth spoken word, offering a welcoming space where emerging artists, alumni and professional poets come together to perform, learn and build community. The series has

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

become a cornerstone of Young Identity's artistic identity, reflecting our commitment to nurturing new voices and celebrating the diversity of contemporary poetry.

A significant highlight of the year was the special edition of One Mic Stand delivered in London at Tara Theatre. This event was part of our expanding national reach and demonstrated the growing reputation of Young Identity within the wider literary landscape. Young people from Manchester shared the stage with London-based poets, alumni who have progressed into professional creative practice, and established spoken word artists who recognised the importance of platforms that champion youth-led expression. The atmosphere reflected the spirit of One Mic Stand, which centres authenticity, creative freedom and intergenerational exchange.

The partnership with the Forward Prizes Youth Summit further elevated the work. Young Identity collaborated closely with Forward Arts Foundation to engage young writers in workshops, masterclasses and performance opportunities. A key moment of pride was the Youth Summit Slam, which was won by a Young Identity member. This achievement highlighted the quality of our development programmes and affirmed the organisation's leadership in cultivating original voices who can compete and excel on national stages. Participants described the summit as inspiring, encouraging and transformative, with many recognising it as an important stepping stone in their creative journeys.

Across the year Young Identity continued to produce four One Mic Stand events, with one designed as a national or international night that connects our community with wider networks of poets and cultural partners. These events showcase the vibrancy of Manchester's spoken word scene and create opportunities for collaboration, artistic growth and visibility for young people who may not otherwise access professional platforms.

One Mic Stand remains a vital part of Young Identity's mission. It strengthens confidence, develops performance skills, builds audience engagement and affirms the power of the spoken word to bring people together. The growth of the platform, both locally and nationally, demonstrates the lasting impact of sustained investment in youth creativity.

## **2. Creating Connections Hubs: Deepened Quality and Artistic Growth**

Creative Connections continued to play an important role in Young Identity's mission to widen access to high-quality creative opportunities for young people. Over the past twelve months, the programme has delivered a series of creative writing and performance workshops in Central Library (AIU), HOME, OT Creative Space.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Additionally, through our partnership with Respect and Dignity Arts, we support the delivery of creative workshops for young people in Nelson.

These Creative writing and performance hubs have created consistent points of engagement that supported young people who might not otherwise encounter poetry or spoken word.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have recognised a significant change in the nature of arts participation and in the ways young people engage with the cultural sector.

Although attendance dipped slightly during some terms, the smaller group sizes allowed facilitators to concentrate more fully on individual development. This created an environment where thoughtful critique, attentive mentoring and close reading of original work could flourish.

Each hub followed a twelve-week structure that enabled facilitators to guide participants through a well-paced creative curriculum. Workshops explored writing techniques, performance skills, storytelling, emotional expression and critical reflection. Young people were encouraged to draw from their lived experience and to use poetry as a space for personal growth. As a result, the writing produced within the programme became increasingly refined, and there was a noticeable strengthening of artistic quality across all hubs.

Creative Connections also provided important pathways into the wider Young Identity ecosystem. Participants were signposted to opportunities such as One Mic Stand, editorial projects, commissions, festivals and the Young Producers Group. Several young people progressed from their hub into further development programmes, demonstrating the value of sustained engagement and consistent mentorship. Facilitators reported increased confidence among participants, greater willingness to take creative risks and stronger bonds within the groups.

The programme contributed to Young Identity's broader commitment to community-rooted artistic practice. It created safe spaces for dialogue, encouraged peer support and fostered a sense of belonging. Creative Connections remains a key strand of our work, offering young people the chance to build skills, develop their craft and grow as writers and performers within a supportive network of artists, facilitators and partners.

### **3. Creating Wordsmiths: Young Identity's Schools Programme**

Young Identity's schools work continued to grow in depth and impact over the past twelve months, with significant outcomes for young people participating in the Creative Wordsmiths Programme. This programme remained central to the charity's schools delivery, providing high-quality poetry and spoken word workshops that supported

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

students to develop confidence, imagination and critical thinking. Engagement extended across a range of partner schools including: William Hulme's Grammar School, Altrincham Grammar School, Trinity Church of England School, St Paul's and Moorlands Junior School. Each school received a tailored programme designed to meet the specific needs of its students, delivered through assemblies, classroom workshops and extended creative projects.

Workshops encouraged young people to explore identity, climate change, equality, heritage and personal storytelling. Facilitators created safe and supportive spaces in which students were encouraged to reflect on their lived experiences and articulate their ideas with clarity and creative confidence. This approach reflects Young Identity's long-standing ethos of nurturing young writers through active listening, high-quality teaching and thoughtful mentorship. Teachers consistently reported positive impacts on literacy confidence, presentation skills and emotional expression, particularly among students who had previously struggled to find a voice within traditional classroom settings.

A range of skilled facilitators contributed to this strand of delivery. Poets from Young Identity's progression pathways played an important role in leading sessions and modelling professional creative practice for students. They were supported by members of the core staff team and guest freelance poets who brought a wide range of styles and artistic perspectives into schools. This combination of early-career artists and experienced practitioners enriched the learning environment and demonstrated clear progression routes for young people wishing to continue their writing beyond the classroom.

Alongside classroom-based activity Young Identity delivered performances, assemblies and celebration events that enabled students to share their work with peers, parents and wider school communities. These events reinforced confidence building and demonstrated the transformative power of spoken word when young people take ownership of the stage and speak with authenticity. Partnerships with schools also extended to CPD training for teachers seeking to integrate creative writing more confidently into their teaching practice.

Overall, the Schools and Creative Wordsmiths Programme has become a vital route for widening access to the arts and strengthening the creative lives of young people across Greater Manchester and East Lancashire. Through consistent delivery high-quality facilitation and strong relationships with schools, this strand continues to inspire young writers and support the development of the next generation of confident communicators.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

#### **4. Creating Exchange: International Creative Exchanges**

Creating Exchange is Young Identity's international programme, which supports artists to develop their practice through meaningful exchange with practitioners and artists from around the world.

During 2024 - April 2025 Young Identity strengthened its international footprint through a series of high quality artistic exchanges, performances and partnerships. These activities formed part of our Creative Exchange and International Programme strands, which aim to broaden opportunities for young artists, deepen cultural understanding and build creative networks across borders. These activities sit within Young Identity's wider international programme which has a long history of producing globally minded artists who have performed and collaborated in locations such as Berlin, Amsterdam, New York and Rotterdam. The work is guided by a belief that creative exchange supports artistic excellence, encourages personal growth and builds cultural bridges that enrich both local and international communities.

Our vibrant programme of activity included representatives of One Mic Stand travelling to Berlin and Rotterdam to share work, collaborate with local partners and present performances influenced by Manchester's spoken word culture. These events placed young poets in dialogue with international artists and communities, encouraging cultural exchange, shared learning and inspiration. They also provided an important opportunity for emerging writers to showcase their talent in established European arts spaces and to build relationships that strengthen our long-term international connections.

Across the year, the impact of this strand has been clear. Young people gained confidence through travel and cultural exchange, partners recognised the professionalism and talent of our artists and audiences responded with enthusiasm to performances that reflect contemporary lived experience. The programme has shown that youth-driven poetry and performance can move with ease across countries and cultures. It has also demonstrated the value of sustained investment in opportunities that allow young people to learn, collaborate and create within a global context.

Young Identity enters the next year with strong international relationships and a growing reputation as a cultural organisation that supports young people to speak boldly on both national and world stages.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

## **5. Rhymes and Bars: EP, Workshops and Industry Showcase**

Rhymes and Bars, delivered in partnership with Youth Music and KYSO, became one of Young Identity's most ambitious cross-artform programmes of the year. The project supported young people to explore the meeting point between poetry, lyricism and music production. It offered a structured pathway into songwriting, vocal development, live performance and digital skills. Sessions were delivered by a blend of Young Identity facilitators, visiting producers and early career artists who guided participants through the process of shaping original work for recording and performance.

The programme opened space for young creatives who wished to deepen their artistic practice beyond the written page. Participants learned about studio etiquette, beat making, collaborative writing, mic technique and the creative use of digital audio tools. They also gained confidence in navigating professional music environments. Many of the young people involved described the project as transformative, noting that it provided space to express identity and emotion in ways they had not previously experienced.

Despite early logistical challenges, the project concluded with significant success. Young people recorded original tracks that reflected their voices and experiences. A public EP listening session allowed them to present this work to peers and industry guests. This was paired with an industry insight panel where music professionals shared guidance on career development, networking, creative resilience and entry routes into the sector. The event created an important bridge between youth creativity and real-world industry knowledge.

The final showcase became a major highlight of the year, attracting an audience of more than 70 young people along with parents, community members and partners. The atmosphere reflected the pride and energy of the group as they performed new work shaped through the project. The success of the event also demonstrated the value of Youth Music's support and the importance of creating accessible routes into music for young people who may face barriers to participation.

Rhymes and Bars strengthened Young Identity's commitment to cross-disciplinary artistic growth. The project produced high-quality creative outcomes, encouraged a new generation of performers and established a foundation for future music-based collaboration across Greater Manchester. It also highlighted the importance of partnership, with KYSO playing a central role in ensuring that young people had the tools, skills and encouragement needed to explore music and spoken word with confidence and purpose.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

## **Special thanks**

Special thanks to our funders: Arts Council England, National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, Youth Music, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Garfield Weston, The Goethe Institute (Cultural Bridge programme), L&Q Foundation, and commissioning partners (including Hyndburn Borough Council and Lancashire County Council in support of Respect & Dignity) and individual donations.

## **Financial review**

Throughout the financial year, Young Identity's financial team has diligently monitored and managed our resources, ensuring our stability. Our focus is on optimising operational efficiency, identifying new revenue streams, and making necessary adjustments to our expenditures to enhance our overall financial stability. We continuously assess our finances to prioritise initiatives that will foster long-term sustainability. Our commitment to financial discipline remains unwavering, and we proactively make adjustments to ensure a robust financial foundation for the future.

## **Financial Overview**

### **Year-End Financial Overview**

#### **1. Introduction**

The financial year remained stable, with income and expenditure closely aligned to projections. Our mixed revenue model, combining earned income and grants continued to effectively support our operations. No significant variances arose, and overall we stayed on track with regards to income and expenditure throughout the year.

#### **2. Revenue Overview**

Total income for the year was £460,616. Revenue is derived by earned income and grants, with 94% derived from grant funding and 6% from earned income.

- **Earned Income:** Our earned income remained consistent, contributing £29,317. This included revenue from commissions, book sales, donations & bank interest. We met our targets for these revenue streams, and performance was steady across the year.
- **Grants:** Grant funding for the year totalled £431,299. We successfully secured funding from Arts Council England (NPO), National Lottery (Reaching Communities), The National Foundation for Youth Music

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

(Trailblazer Fund), The Goethe Institute (Cultural Bridge programme) and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation (Arts Fund). These funds were directed towards our programme costs, operational costs and additional project work, contributing to the stability and growth of our operations.

**3. Expenditure Overview** Total expenditure for the year was £348,218. The budgeted costs were closely followed, with no unexpected major outlays.

- **Operational Costs:** Operational expenditures accounted for £265,586. This included operational expenses, such as salaries, office costs, programme delivery. These costs were in line with expectations and contributed to the smooth functioning of day-to-day activities.
- **Programme and Project Costs:** Programme-related spending made up £82,632. We successfully kept costs within the planned budget, ensuring that projects were delivered efficiently.

**4. Financial Performance and Stability** Throughout the year, our financial performance remained stable. We successfully balanced income and expenditure, with no unexpected fluctuations. The reserve position remains strong, and we are well-positioned to continue our operations without concern for liquidity or cash flow challenges.

- **Surplus/Deficit:** The overall financial result for the year was a surplus, which reflects our careful management of resources. This result takes into account the recognition of income, excluding deferred income, which will be recognised in the coming periods
- **Cash Flow and Liquidity:** Our cash flow position remains healthy and will support ongoing and upcoming activities. We have maintained adequate reserves to ensure that we can meet both our short-term obligations and long-term goals.

**5. Conclusion** In summary, this has been a year of financial stability, with income and expenditure tracking as expected. We successfully managed our mixed revenue model of earned income and grants, ensuring that our financial position remained strong and sustainable. We look forward to building on this foundation in the coming year.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

### **Acknowledgements and Advancements**

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our funders, customers and contributors for their unwavering support and commitment during this challenging period. We recognise the hurdles the arts sector faces and the UK as a whole and are confident in our collective ability to overcome them and emerge stronger.

As we approach the new financial year, our focus will be on implementing prudent financial practices, exploring new revenue opportunities, and strategically managing our expenses to restore and enhance our financial health. Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and financial prudence will remain steadfast as we strive for continued success.

### **Reserves policy and risk management**

The trustees review the level of reserves that is prudent for Wordsmith Awards to have when agreeing to the annual budget. Consideration is given to the future strategy, potential redundancy liabilities, and any other significant factors that should be taken into account if the charity were to wind up or move to new premises. The Trustees review the charity's reserves policy annually and have agreed that the minimum provision required for winding down is £52,944. The remaining unrestricted reserves are to support ongoing core activities and projects.

### **Our Commitment to Growth and Impact**

As a leading literature and performance organisation, Young Identity is dedicated to improving the quality and reach of our work while addressing contemporary trends in creativity, well-being, and inclusivity. Our plans for the next year reflect this commitment.

#### **Expanding Access to Creativity**

We aim to increase participation among young people from protected characteristics and lower socio-economic groups in *Creating Connections*, our weekly community creative writing and performance workshops. These workshops are designed to nurture creativity, self-expression, and a sense of belonging.

#### **Pathways to Arts Careers**

We remain committed to helping young people from diverse backgrounds progress into careers in the arts through our *Creating Pathways* programme. By offering practical support, mentoring and opportunities, we aim to equip young creatives with the skills and connections they need to succeed professionally.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

**Publishing Diverse Voices**

Through the continued development of No Disclaimer Press, Young Identity will strengthen the representation of diverse young artists within poetry publishing. The charity also aims to expand distribution beyond online sales by developing relationships with national and independent book retailers including Waterstones Blackwell's and specialist outlets. This will enable publications to be more widely accessible within Young Adult and Poetry sections. This approach responds to the growing popularity of poetry among 16 to 25-year-olds and ensures that Young Identity's work reaches broader and more diverse audiences.

**Inspiring Schools Through Poetry**

We plan to develop our *Creating Wordsmiths* schools programme, providing students with greater access to poetry and performance in educational settings. By embedding creative writing and spoken word into the curriculum, we aim to inspire confidence, self-expression, and a lifelong appreciation for literature.

**Strengthening Financial Sustainability**

We will continue to focus on securing additional grant funding and increasing earned income to ensure the organisation's long-term financial health and sustainability.

**Structure, governance and management**

Young Identity is a charitable incorporated organisation administered by eleven trustees and governed by its constitution dated 27th November 2018. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 10th December 2018.

All trustees are appointed by a vote by the trustees for a minimum term of three years. Trustees are permitted to be reappointed for a maximum of two terms (six years). The minimum number of trustees permitted under the constitution is three, and there is no maximum.

The trustees are charity members; nonetheless, this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily in their capacity as trustees and receive no benefits for this role. Certain trustees received payments for services provided to the charity outside of their trustee duties. These payments are disclosed, along with any expenses reclaimed from the charity, in note 8 to the accounts.

The trustees of Young Identity perform the usual duties of trustees, including appointing and managing the Artistic Director and Executive Director, setting the strategy, and ensuring compliance with financial and other obligations.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

During the 2024/25 financial year, day-to-day management of the organisation was delegated to the artistic director and executive director, who were responsible for ensuring the charity operations are managed efficiently. The Artistic Director, Executive Director and trustees are responsible for:

- Setting strategic direction in order to fulfil goals agreed upon.
- Employing staff, setting remuneration, and related HR matters;
- Setting and oversight budgets.

**Remuneration policy for key management personnel, participants and freelancers**

The trustees set the remuneration for the Artistic Director & Executive Director in discussion at a full board meeting and review annually.

**Risk Management**

The board of trustees and key management personnel maintain a robust and active approach to risk management. Risk management is embedded within Young Identity's operational and governance framework and supports the organisation's ability to deliver its charitable objectives responsibly and sustainably.

The organisation's risk register is reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure that it remains current, relevant and responsive to both internal and external factors. These reviews take place as part of scheduled board meetings, where risk management is a standing agenda item. The board considers emerging risks, reviews existing controls and agrees on actions to mitigate potential impacts on delivery, governance, finance and safeguarding.

In assessing risk, Young Identity takes into account its appetite for different forms of risk. This includes balancing financial prudence with the creative and artistic risks inherent in supporting young people to develop new work, test ideas and take part in public-facing activity.

This considered approach enables informed decision-making, supporting innovation while maintaining appropriate safeguards. Young Identity's risk management practice reflects its commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and resilient environment for young people, staff, freelancers and audiences. Through regular review and adaptation of its risk management processes, the organisation seeks to anticipate challenges, respond

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

effectively to change and continue to fulfil its mission within the literature and arts sector.

**Key Risks and Mitigation Measures**

Risk Assessment Period: April 2024 to March 2025

**Cost of Living Pressures and Changes in Engagement**

During the reporting period, the ongoing cost-of-living pressures continued to affect both participant engagement and audience behaviour. An increasing number of young people involved in Young Identity's programmes are balancing paid employment alongside education and caring responsibilities.

This has resulted in less predictable attendance patterns and the need for greater flexibility in programme delivery. Audience engagement has also shifted, with a noticeable increase in late or last-minute booking for events. This reflects wider sector trends and ongoing financial uncertainty for audiences, impacting advance planning and income forecasting.

*Mitigation and Management Actions*

Flexible delivery models have been embedded across the organisation's programmes. Sessions are offered at varied times, including evenings and occasional weekends, with a combination of in person and online formats to improve accessibility for participants with work or study commitments.

Where funding allows, Young Identity continues to offer bursaries, travel support and paid progression opportunities to reduce financial barriers for young people, particularly those from lower income households. Audience development and communications activity have been adapted to reflect changing booking behaviours. This includes responsive marketing, targeted outreach through community networks and digital platforms, and clearer messaging around access, pricing and value. These approaches aim to sustain engagement while recognising the financial realities facing audiences. The organisation will continue to monitor this risk closely, reviewing data, participant feedback and audience insights to ensure that mitigation measures remain effective and proportionate.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

## **Financial Sustainability**

While securing significant funding, including Arts Council England's NPO status and a multi-year grant from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, we face the challenge of developing a mixed-income business model to ensure financial sustainability and support expansion.

### *Mitigation Strategies:*

- **Diversified Income Streams:** Explore additional revenue sources such as merchandise sales, online content monetisation, and corporate partnerships.
  
- **Strategic Planning:** Implement a comprehensive strategy to meet commissioning income targets, with regular reviews and adjustments based on performance and market conditions.
  
- **Cost Management:** Monitor and control operational expenses to maintain financial health without compromising programme quality.  
By addressing these areas with informed strategies, we aim to navigate the evolving landscape effectively, ensuring the continued success and impact of our organisation.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

**Statement of responsibilities of the trustees**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practices and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose the financial position of the charity with reasonable accuracy at any time and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Name: Lis (Mary Elisabeth) Cordingley  
Title: Chair

Independent examiner's report  
to the members of  
Young Identity

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 which are set out on pages 20 to 31.

**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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA  
Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants  
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street  
Manchester, M4 6JG

Date 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Wordsmith Awards  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the period ended 31 March 2025

|  | Note | Unrestricted funds<br>£ | Restricted funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>2025<br>£ | Total funds<br>2024<br>£ |
|--|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>  |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:   | 3    | 292,132                 | 166,299               | 458,431                  | 400,192                  |
| Investments  | 4    | 2,185                   | -                     | 2,185                    | 1,036                    |
| <b>Total income</b>  |      | <b>294,317</b>          | <b>166,299</b>        | <b>460,616</b>           | <b>401,228</b>           |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>   |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:   | 5    | 242,667                 | 105,551               | 348,218                  | 344,728                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>   |      | <b>242,667</b>          | <b>105,551</b>        | <b>348,218</b>           | <b>344,728</b>           |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments</b> |      | 51,650                  | 60,748                | 112,398                  | 56,500                   |
| Realised gains/(losses) on investments                                   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>                             | 6    | <b>51,650</b>           | <b>60,748</b>         | <b>112,398</b>           | <b>56,500</b>            |
| Transfer between funds   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>                                |      | <b>51,650</b>           | <b>60,748</b>         | <b>112,398</b>           | <b>56,500</b>            |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>   |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Total funds brought forward  |      | 105,928                 | 37,584                | 143,512                  | 87,012                   |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>                                       |      | <b>157,578</b>          | <b>98,332</b>         | <b>255,910</b>           | <b>143,512</b>           |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Wordsmith Awards  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2025

|   | Note | 2025           |                | 2024           |                |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|   |      | £              | £              | £              | £              |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                   |      |                |                |                |                |
| Debtors   | 10   | 6,623          |                | 2,928          |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                |      | 278,140        |                | 150,274        |                |
|   |      | <hr/>          |                | <hr/>          |                |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                             |      | <b>284,763</b> |                | <b>153,202</b> |                |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                      |      |                |                |                |                |
| Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year    | 11   | (28,853)       |                | (9,690)        |                |
|   |      | <hr/>          |                | <hr/>          |                |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                               |      |                | <b>255,910</b> |                | <b>143,512</b> |
|   |      |                | <hr/>          |                | <hr/>          |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>            |      |                | 255,910        |                | 143,512        |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | -    |                | -              |                | -              |
|   |      |                | <hr/>          |                | <hr/>          |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                       |      |                | <b>255,910</b> |                | <b>143,512</b> |
|   |      |                | <hr/> <hr/>    |                | <hr/> <hr/>    |
| <b>Funds of the charity:</b>                            |      |                |                |                |                |
| Restricted income funds                                 | 13   |                | 98,332         |                | 37,584         |
| Unrestricted income funds                               | 14   |                | 157,578        |                | 105,928        |
|   |      |                | <hr/>          |                | <hr/>          |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                              |      |                | <b>255,910</b> |                | <b>143,512</b> |
|   |      |                | <hr/> <hr/>    |                | <hr/> <hr/>    |

The notes on pages 23 to 31 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 23/01/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Lis (Mary Elisabeth) Cordingley (Chair)

## **1 Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

### **a Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair view' and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019, rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Wordsmith Awards meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

### **b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

There are no key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

### **c Income**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

### **d Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

## Wordsmith Awards

### Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

#### **e Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

#### **f Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### **g Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### **h Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### **i Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### **j Financial instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## **2 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

## Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

### 3 Income from charitable activities

| <b>Current reporting period</b>   | Unrestricted<br>£        | Restricted<br>£        | Total 2025<br>£        |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Commissions   | 22,519                   | -                      | 22,519                 |
| National Lottery Community Fund (Reaching Communities NW Region)        | -                        | 91,177                 | 91,177                 |
| The National Foundation for Youth Music                                 | -                        | 722                    | 722                    |
| Goethe Institute (Cultural Bridges)                                     | -                        | 4,400                  | 4,400                  |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation  | -                        | 70,000                 | 70,000                 |
| Arts Council England NPO grant  | 250,000                  | -                      | 250,000                |
| Garfield Weston   | 15,000                   | -                      | 15,000                 |
| Other income  | 4,613                    | -                      | 4,613                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>292,132</b>           | <b>166,299</b>         | <b>458,431</b>         |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b>  | <i>Unrestricted</i><br>£ | <i>Restricted</i><br>£ | <i>Total 2024</i><br>£ |
| <i>Commissions</i>  | <i>39,401</i>            | <i>-</i>               | <i>39,401</i>          |
| <i>National Lottery Community Fund (Reaching Communities NW Region)</i> | <i>-</i>                 | <i>91,177</i>          | <i>91,177</i>          |
| <i>The National Foundation for Youth Music</i>                          | <i>-</i>                 | <i>13,713</i>          | <i>13,713</i>          |
| <i>Arts Council England NPO grant</i>                                   | <i>250,000</i>           | <i>-</i>               | <i>250,000</i>         |
| <i>Other income</i>   | <i>5,901</i>             | <i>-</i>               | <i>5,901</i>           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>295,302</b>           | <b>104,890</b>         | <b>400,192</b>         |

### 4 Investment income

|                      | 2025<br>£    | 2024<br>£    |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bank interest income | 2,185        | 1,036        |
|                      | <b>2,185</b> | <b>1,036</b> |

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. All investment income is unrestricted.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

**5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

|  | Total 2025<br>£ | Total 2024<br>£ |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Salaries, Freelance, other staff costs | 291,393         | 279,474         |
| Insurance                              | 1,935           | 1,269           |
| Marketing                              | 7,566           | 11,831          |
| Office expenses                        | 24,088          | 23,475          |
| Activity costs                         | 11,897          | 19,664          |
| Professional fees                      | 8,421           | 6,878           |
| Governance costs                       | 2,918           | 2,137           |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
|  | 348,218         | 344,728         |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>     | <hr/> <hr/>     |
|  | 2025<br>£       | 2024<br>£       |
| Restricted expenditure                 | 105,551         | 89,949          |
| Unrestricted expenditure               | 242,667         | 254,779         |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
|  | 348,218         | 344,728         |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>     | <hr/> <hr/>     |

**6 Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

| This is stated after charging/(crediting):    | 2025<br>£   | 2024<br>£   |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Independent examiner's fee - accountancy fee  | 1,500       | 1,400       |
| Independent examiner's fees - examination fee | 425         | 400         |
|   | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

## Wordsmith Awards

### Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

#### 7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

|                       | 2025<br>£      | 2024<br>£     |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Wages and salaries    | 209,085        | 51,780        |
| Social security costs | 8,461          | 54            |
| Pension costs         | 4,835          | 1,335         |
|                       | <u>222,381</u> | <u>53,169</u> |

Staff have gradually been employed on contract from December 2023, having previously worked freelance.

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2024: Nil).

The average number of staff employed was 7 (2024: 5).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed was 5.4 (2024 from December 2023: 4.2).

The key management personnel of the charity are the Chair of trustees, the CEO and Artistic Director and the Executive Director.

The total employee benefits (including employer NI and pension costs) of the key management personnel of the charity were £104,437 (2024 (trustees only): £nil)

#### 8 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Three (2024:3) trustees received travel and subsistence expenses totalling £465 during the year (2024:£577).

Two trustees (Nasima Begum and Tolu Agbelusi) received fees of £4,525 and £300 respectively as workshop facilitators during this period (2024:£5,675 and £600 respectively). Tolu Agbelusi also received £300 for support with a funding bid (2024: nil).

Toluwa Productions, a company run by Tolu Agbelusi, was paid £4,500 in this period for legal support (2024: nil).

Toluwa Productions paid in £1,346 of co-production fees on the Young Poets Summit project. There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

#### 9 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

#### 10 Debtors

|                                | 2025<br>£    | 2024<br>£    |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Prepayments and accrued income | <u>6,623</u> | <u>2,928</u> |
|                                | <u>6,623</u> | <u>2,928</u> |

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

**11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                    | 2025          | 2024         |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                    | £             | £            |
| Other creditors and accruals       | 6,509         | 3,628        |
| Deferred income                    | 17,070        | 4,000        |
| Taxation and social security costs | 5,274         | 2,062        |
|                                    | <u>28,853</u> | <u>9,690</u> |

**12 Deferred income**

|   | 2025          | 2024         |
|---|---------------|--------------|
|   | £             | £            |
| Deferred grant brought forward                | 4,000         | -            |
| Grant received                                | 17,070        | 4,000        |
| Released to income from charitable activities | (4,000)       | -            |
|   | <u>17,070</u> | <u>4,000</u> |

### 13 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

|   | Balance<br>at 1 April<br>2024<br>£           | Income<br>£           | Expenditure<br>£         | Transfers<br>£         | Balance at 31<br>March 2025<br>£          |
|---|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| National Lottery Community Fund<br>(Reaching Communities NW Region)         | 24,838                                       | 91,177                | (92,133)                 | -                      | 23,882                                    |
| The National Foundation for Youth Music<br>Trailblazer Fund                 | 12,746                                       | 722                   | (13,043)                 | -                      | 425                                       |
| The Goethe Institute Cultural Bridge<br>Programme                           | -  | 4,400                 | (375)                    | -                      | 4,025                                     |
| The Paul Hamlyn Foundation  | -  | 70,000                | -                        | -                      | 70,000                                    |
|   | <b>37,584</b>                                | <b>166,299</b>        | <b>(105,551)</b>         | <b>-</b>               | <b>98,332</b>                             |
| <b><i>Previous reporting period</i></b>                                     | <i>Balance<br/>at 1 April<br/>2023<br/>£</i> | <i>Income<br/>£</i>   | <i>Expenditure<br/>£</i> | <i>Transfers<br/>£</i> | <i>Balance at 31<br/>March 2024<br/>£</i> |
| <i>National Lottery Community Fund<br/>(Reaching Communities NW Region)</i> | <i>22,643</i>                                | <i>91,177</i>         | <i>(88,982)</i>          | <i>-</i>               | <i>24,838</i>                             |
| <i>The National Foundation for Youth Music<br/>Trailblazer Fund</i>         | <i>-</i>                                     | <i>13,713</i>         | <i>(967)</i>             | <i>-</i>               | <i>12,746</i>                             |
|   | <b><i>22,643</i></b>                         | <b><i>104,890</i></b> | <b><i>(89,949)</i></b>   | <b><i>-</i></b>        | <b><i>37,584</i></b>                      |

#### Name of restricted fund

National Lottery Community Fund  
(Reaching Communities NW Region)

The National Foundation for Youth Music  
Trailblazer Fund

The Goethe Institute Cultural Bridge  
Programme

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation

#### Description, nature and purposes of the fund

The National Lottery's Reaching Communities fund provides grants to organisations that work to improve lives and strengthen communities across the UK. It supports projects that address social challenges, promote inclusion, and empower people by funding initiatives that create positive, lasting change.

The National Foundation for Youth Music's Trailblazer Fund provides grants to support innovative, short-term projects that give children and young people access to music-making opportunities. It funds organisations testing new ideas, developing creative approaches, and reaching those who might otherwise miss out on engaging with music.

Funding from the Cultural Bridge Programme enabled UK and German young artists and students to collaborate through art film screenings, discussions on creative techniques, and a memoir writing workshop, deepening their artistic practice and international connections.

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation supports Young Identity's core work, its partnership with Respect & Dignity Arts, and the development of new programmes across Greater Manchester and East Lancashire.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

**14 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds**

|                                  | Balance<br>at 1 April<br>2024<br>£                        | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | As at 31<br>March 2025<br>£ |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| General fund                     | 105,928   | 294,317        | (242,667)        | -              | 157,578                     |
|                                  | <u>105,928</u>  | <u>294,317</u> | <u>(242,667)</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>157,578</u>              |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b> |   |                |                  |                |                             |
|                                  | Balance<br>at 1 April<br>2023<br>£                        | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | As at 31<br>March 2024<br>£ |
| General fund                     | 64,369  | 296,338        | (254,779)        | -              | 105,928                     |
|                                  | <u>64,369</u>   | <u>296,338</u> | <u>(254,779)</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>105,928</u>              |
| <b>Name of fund</b>              | <b>Description, nature and purposes of the fund</b>       |                |                  |                |                             |
| General fund                     | The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds |                |                  |                |                             |

**15 Analysis of net assets between funds**

| <b>Current Reporting Period</b>        | General<br>fund<br>£ | Designated<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total<br>£     |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Tangible fixed assets                  | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Fixed asset investments                | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | 157,578              | -                        | 98,332                   | 255,910        |
| Creditors of more than one year        | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <u>157,578</u>       | <u>-</u>                 | <u>98,332</u>            | <u>255,910</u> |
| <b>Previous Reporting Period</b>       |                      |                          |                          |                |
|  | General<br>fund<br>£ | Designated<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total<br>£     |
| Tangible fixed assets                  | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Fixed asset investments                | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | 105,928              | -                        | 37,584                   | 143,512        |
| Creditors of more than one year        | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <u>105,928</u>       | <u>-</u>                 | <u>37,584</u>            | <u>143,512</u> |

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

**16 Prior Year Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)**

|  | Note | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total funds<br>2023<br>£ |
|--|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>                          |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:                       | 3    | 295,302                    | 104,890                  | 400,192                  | 192,621                  |
| Investments                                  | 4    | 1,036                      | -                        | 1,036                    | 62                       |
| <b>Total income</b>                          |      | <b>296,338</b>             | <b>104,890</b>           | <b>401,228</b>           | 192,683                  |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                       |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:                       | 5    | 254,779                    | 89,949                   | 344,728                  | 232,211                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                     |      | <b>254,779</b>             | <b>89,949</b>            | <b>344,728</b>           | 232,211                  |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b> | 6    | <b>41,559</b>              | <b>14,941</b>            | <b>56,500</b>            | (39,528)                 |
| Transfer between funds                       |      | -                          | -                        | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>    |      | <b>41,559</b>              | <b>14,941</b>            | <b>56,500</b>            | (39,528)                 |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>               |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Total funds brought forward                  |      | 64,369                     | 22,643                   | 87,012                   | 126,540                  |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>           |      | <b>105,928</b>             | <b>37,584</b>            | <b>143,512</b>           | 87,012                   |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**WORDSMITH AWARDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181088

---

# Accounts

---



**Charity number 1181088**

**Annual report and financial statements  
For the period 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024**

Young Identity  
Reference and administrative information  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

**Charity number** 1181088

**Registered office and operational address** 7 Brooks Road Old Trafford Manchester  
M16 9GG

**Legal name:** Wordsmith Awards Trading as Young Identity

**Trustees** who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Jonah Earle (Chair)  
Adeola Adelakun  
Dr Mary Elisabeth Cordingley  
Ekua Bayunu  
Emma Louise Mould  
Guy Perry (Resigned 21 Dec 2023)  
Jonathan Vincent McGrath (Resigned 14 Nov 2024)  
Lucy Kathleen Jackson  
Muhammad Fazeel Babur  
Nasima Begum  
Robert Croll (Resigned 21 Dec 2023)  
Rosie Stuart  
Sylvia Lee  
Tolulola Agbelusi  
Udokanma Onwudike

**Key management**

**personnel** Jonah Earle (Chair of Trustees)

**Bankers** National Westminster Bank  
438 Barlow Moor Road  
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy  
M21 0NN

**Independent examiner**

Slade & Cooper Limited  
Beehive Mill  
Jersey Street  
Ancoats  
Manchester  
M4 6JG

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Reference and administrative information on page 1 form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

**Objectives and activities**

The trustees review the charity's aims, objectives and activities each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees confirm that throughout the planning and implementation of these activities, they have complied with their duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

**CHARITABLE PURPOSE**

Young Identity's objectives, as set out in its constitution, are to:

1. To advance the education of young people, in the study and appreciation of the arts, in particular poetry and literature, including but not exclusively, by organising workshops, performances and other educational programmes as determined by the trustees.

2. To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in Manchester by organising poetry workshops 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;

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

(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

### **VISION & MISSION**

Young Identity's vision is of a world in which every young person is equipped with creativity, confidence and self-expression gained through literature, the practice of poetry and performance.

Our mission is to nurture, develop and champion the voices and creativity of underrepresented young people through literature, writing and performance; by giving young people the skills and the platforms to speak out, telling their original stories, sharing their narratives with others and diversifying the arts sector.

Young Identity's voice cuts through the noise. We are unique, different and stand out. We believe in the transformative power of the arts in young people's lives. We develop literacy, critical thinking and active citizenship for young people through experimenting with literature and combined arts.

We create a distinctive range of high-quality creative opportunities, writing and performance workshops, events and participatory work that supports young people from all backgrounds to progress creatively and realise their ambitions. Developing core skills that help young people be more employable, socially included, resilient and enterprising, becoming the writers, performance artists and theatre-makers of tomorrow.

Our ambition is to impact and inspire the artistic and cultural landscape of the North West of England and further afield nationally and internationally.

### **ACTIVITIES**

Young Identity has three main strands which encompass all of our activities:

**In the community:** We run poetry and performance workshops for young people in communities and schools. We work with schools, services, community champions and groups to engage young people who wouldn't normally access the arts. We run showcases and events for young people to perform for their communities in ways which provoke community and intergenerational cohesion and dialogue. We work with specific

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

groups of young people through partnerships e.g. the probation service, to offer workshops to young offenders. We offer wellbeing activities for Young Identity members to provide space to discuss concerns that surfaced in workshops and young people's lives.

**Development:** We offer specialist classes and developing your practice workshops for young people who want to develop their writing and performance. We offer development pathways for young people to train as performers, facilitators, producers, publishing and arts management professionals. We support Young Identity members to work through our organisation to obtain and deliver commissions as individuals and groups or to apply for funding to pursue artistic development. We mentor YI members taking their first steps into their careers.

**Performances, events and publishing:** – We run Young Identity's flagship poetry slam (One Mic Stand) three times a year. We present shows produced by ourselves and/ or as co-productions with leading artists and arts organisations. We perform at events and festivals across the UK and internationally. We publish writers under Young Identity's Publishing House 'No disclaimers'. We present writers digitally on Young Identity's social media and YouTube, as well as through the creation of new poetic videos. Young Identity members are commissioned individually and collectively to devise and perform poetry at festivals, events, tours and for TV programmes and adverts across different mediums.

We achieve our mission through the following activities:

- **Running projects with underrepresented groups:** We actively work with communities that are often marginalised or under-represented, inspiring them to get involved in writing and performance. By doing so, we strive to make literature and the arts more inclusive of society in the UK.
- **Training the next generation of writers:** We are passionate about nurturing and developing young writers, both on the page and on the stage. Through our training programs, we equip them with the necessary skills and provide them with opportunities to showcase their work.
- **Diversifying the creative arts sector:** In order to foster a more diverse and inclusive creative arts sector, we focus on developing future producers, finance managers, and events coordinators from under-represented communities. We provide training and support to help them succeed in their chosen fields.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

- **Producing dynamic and provocative poetry productions:** We create and produce professional poetry productions, events, projects, and educational materials. Through these initiatives, we aim to stimulate critical thinking, provoke discussions, and support educational institutions in their teaching of literature and combined arts.
- **Nurturing new artists:** We are committed to nurturing emerging artists and providing them with guidance and support. We facilitate individual and group artistic practice, developing progression pathways and offering initiatives and opportunities for their growth. We also assist artists in starting their own companies or collectives, empowering them to navigate the local, national, and international cultural sectors.
- **Increasing accessibility to the arts:** We actively work towards expanding access to the arts by reaching out to new and diverse audiences. Our aim is to break down barriers and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage with and enjoy artistic experiences. Through these activities, we strive to make a long-lasting impact on the artistic and cultural landscape, championing inclusivity, diversity, and creativity.

### **Achievements and performance**

The charity's main activities are described below. All its charitable activities are undertaken to further Young Identity's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The impact of Covid reduced the number of commissions and audiences attending events and productions that Young Identity was involved in at the beginning of 2021. However, with the support of our outreach teams, we are beginning to see participants returning, and there has been a steady growth in people attending activities and events.

### **Over the past 12 months, Young Identity has:**

- Collaborated with 25 organisations ranging from the BBC, Manchester Literature Festival, Manchester Histories, AUIET, HOME, Poetic Justice Values, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Afro-Caribbean Care group.
- Worked with 12 schools, colleges and universities, delivering bespoke literature and performance programmes and guest lectures at educational institutions such

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

as Lostock High, MEA Central, St.Anns, Chorlton High School and Xaverian College.

- The number of people who have benefitted from our work this year until March 2024 includes 362 registered young members, 1,078 school participants. Our social media collectively engages over 70k; our Instagram reach has grown by 773% from last year. Our YI performances (including both Young Identity and partner events) have engaged 9k + audiences.

**Particular highlights include:**

**Cities Untold Residency**

Young Identity, in partnership with Manchester Literature Festival and Danish festivals LiteratureXchange (Aarhus) and Ordkraft (Aalborg), launched *Cities Untold*. This dynamic project brought together 6 emerging writers to explore and uncover the hidden narratives of Manchester, Aarhus and Aalborg.

The writers embarked on three-week residencies across the three cities, immersing themselves in their distinct yet interconnected cultural undercurrents. They collaborated, shared skills, and researched the vibrant underbelly of these urban landscapes, focusing on the rhythm and pulse that define each city.

The project culminated in a powerful anthology that not only highlighted the unique identities of Manchester, Aarhus, and Aalborg but also explored their shared essence: the raw, untold stories that emerge from their people, places, and histories. The anthology reflected how each city, despite its differences, thrives on creativity, resilience, and the collective heartbeat of its communities.

Their works were showcased at major festivals in 2023: Aalborg (April), Aarhus (June), and Manchester (October) celebrating a shared artistic vision born from the depths of these vibrant cities.

**Going Places: Exploring Poetic Values**

At Cambridge University's *Going Places* conference, inspired by Lemn Sissay OBE's iconic poem, Young Identity took centre stage. The two-day hybrid event explored the role of poetry in fostering spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development in schools, addressing the historical biases in the curriculum and the diminishing presence

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

of poetry in education. Shirley May (CEO & Artistic Director) and Nicole May (Executive Director) presented Young Identity's transformative work. 3 poets from Young Identity, contributed as keynote speakers, alongside panellists exploring spirituality, poetry and British values; an inspiring dialogue about poetry's role in shaping society.

**Jawdance XL at Rich Mix**

Young Identity was invited to London's premier spoken word night, *Jawdance XL*, for a poetic showdown with Apples and Snakes. Young Identity had 5 poets representing Manchester squaring off against London's poets. Hosted by Yomi Sode and Kat Francois, the evening featured electrifying headliners Roger Robinson and Malika Booker. This poetic playoff, with its nod to the World Cup, highlighted the creative rivalry between London and Manchester, leaving the audience captivated.

**Creating Connections: Respect & Dignity Arts**

Young Identity has established a new *Creating Connections* hub in East Lancashire in partnership with Respect & Dignity Arts, fostering writing and performance among ethnically diverse young people. Through the *Those from Distant Lands* project, 25 young participants attended 40 creative writing workshops, producing a poetic film, a published anthology, and a public performance at The Landmark in Burnley. This initiative underscores Young Identity's commitment to amplifying underrepresented voices through creativity.

**Special thanks**

Special thanks to our funders the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Youth Music and commissioning partners and individual donations.

**Financial review**

Throughout the financial year, Young Identity's financial team has diligently monitored and managed our resources, ensuring our stability. Our focus is on optimising operational efficiency, identifying new revenue streams, and making necessary adjustments to our expenditures to enhance our overall financial stability. We continuously assess our finances to prioritise initiatives that will foster long-term sustainability. Our commitment to financial discipline remains unwavering, and we proactively make adjustments to ensure a robust financial foundation for the future.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

## Financial Overview

### Year-End Financial Overview

**1. Introduction** The financial year has been marked by stability, with both income and expenditure largely in line with projections. Our mixed revenue model, which includes earned income and grants, has continued to support our operational goals effectively. There were no significant surprises in terms of income generation or expenditure, and overall, we have remained on track.

**2. Revenue Overview** Total income for the year was £401,228. Revenue continues to be derived from a combination of earned income and grants, with 12% derived from earned income and 88% from grant funding.

- **Earned Income:** Our earned income remained consistent, contributing £46,338. This included revenue from commissions, book sales, donations & bank interest. We met our targets for these revenue streams, and performance was steady across the year.
- **Grants:** Grant funding for the year totalled £354,890. We successfully secured funding from Arts Council England (NPO), National Lottery (Reaching Communities) The National Foundation for you Music (Trailblazer Fund) & The Goethe Institution (Cultural Bridge programme). These funds were directed towards our programme costs, operational costs and additional project work, contributing to the stability and growth of our operations.

**3. Expenditure Overview** Total expenditure for the year was £344,728. The budgeted costs were closely followed, with no unexpected major outlays.

- **Operational Costs:** Operational expenditures accounted for £232,213. This included operational expenses, such as salaries, office costs, program delivery. These costs were in line with expectations and contributed to the smooth functioning of day-to-day activities.
- **Program and Project Costs:** Program-related spending made up £112,515. We successfully kept costs within the planned budget, ensuring that projects were delivered efficiently.

**4. Financial Performance and Stability** Throughout the year, our financial performance remained stable. We successfully balanced income and expenditure, with no unexpected fluctuations. The reserve position remains strong, and we are well-

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

positioned to continue our operations without concern for liquidity or cash flow challenges.

- **Surplus/Deficit:** The overall financial result for the year was a surplus, which reflects our careful management of resources. This result takes into account the recognition of income, including deferred income, which will be recognised in the coming periods
- **Cash Flow and Liquidity:** Our cash flow position remains healthy and will support ongoing and upcoming activities. We have maintained adequate reserves to ensure that we can meet both our short-term obligations and long-term goals.

**5. Conclusion** In summary, this has been a year of financial stability, with income and expenditure tracking as expected. We successfully managed our mixed revenue model of earned income and grants, ensuring that our financial position remained strong and sustainable. We look forward to building on this foundation in the coming year.

### **Acknowledgements and Advancements**

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our funders, customers and contributors for their unwavering support and commitment during this challenging period. We recognise the hurdles the arts sector faces and the UK as a whole and are confident in our collective ability to overcome them and emerge stronger.

As we approach the new financial year, our focus will be on implementing prudent financial practices, exploring new revenue opportunities, and strategically managing our expenses to restore and enhance our financial health. Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and financial prudence will remain steadfast as we strive for continued success.

### **Reserves policy and risk management**

The trustees will consider the level of reserves that is prudent for Wordsmith Awards to have when agreeing to the annual budget. Consideration will be given to future strategy, potential redundancy liabilities, and any other significant factors that should be taken into account if the charity were to wind up or move to new premises. The specific reserve amount will be agreed upon by trustees on an annual basis, currently set at £52,944. Current unrestricted reserves stand at £105,928.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

**Our Commitment to Growth and Impact**

As a leading literature and performance organisation, Young Identity is dedicated to improving the quality and reach of our work while addressing contemporary trends in creativity, well-being, and inclusivity. Our plans for the next year reflect this commitment

**Expanding Access to Creativity**

We aim to increase participation among young people from protected characteristics and lower socio-economic groups in *Creating Connections*, our weekly community creative writing and performance workshops. These workshops are designed to nurture creativity, self-expression, and a sense of belonging.

**Fostering Personal Growth Through Writing**

Our well-being programme will focus on the cathartic and empowering nature of writing, helping young people explore and express their best qualities through learnt creative practices. Writing will serve as a tool to support resilience, empathy, and personal reflection, fostering positive growth and self-discovery.

**Pathways to Arts Careers**

We remain committed to helping young people from diverse backgrounds progress into careers in the arts through our *Creating Pathways* programme. By offering practical support, mentoring, and opportunities, we aim to equip young creatives with the skills and connections they need to succeed professionally.

**Amplifying Diverse Voices in Publishing**

Through the continued development of *No Disclaimer Press*, we will ensure greater representation of diverse young artists in poetry publications. Additionally, we aim to expand the distribution of our books beyond online sales, working to establish relationships with bookstores such as Waterstones and Blackwells, as well as specialist outlets, to make our publications accessible in their Young Adult and Poetry sections. This aligns with the growing popularity of poetry among 16 to 25-year-olds, ensuring our work reaches a wider audience.

**Inspiring Schools Through Poetry**

We plan to develop our *Creating Wordsmiths* schools programme, providing students with greater access to poetry and performance in educational settings. By embedding

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

creative writing and spoken word into the curriculum, we aim to inspire confidence, self-expression, and a lifelong appreciation for literature.

**Strengthening Financial Sustainability**

We will continue to focus on securing additional grant funding and increasing earned income to ensure the organisation's long-term financial health and sustainability.

**Delivering Impactful Partnerships**

Meeting the outcomes outlined in funders' and partners' agreements will remain a key priority, ensuring that we deliver meaningful programmes and measurable results.

By prioritising creativity, representation, and collaboration, we aim to continue fostering an inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable creative community. These initiatives will further Young Identity's mission to inspire and empower the next generation of writers and performers.

**Structure, governance and management**

Young Identity is a charitable incorporated organisation administered by eight trustees and governed by its constitution dated 27th November 2018. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 10th December 2018.

All trustees are appointed by a vote by the trustees for a minimum term of three years. Trustees are permitted to be reappointed for a maximum of three terms (nine years). The minimum number of trustees permitted under the constitution is three, and there is no maximum.

The trustees are charity members; nonetheless, this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts.

The trustees of Young Identity perform the usual duties of trustees, including appointing and managing the Artistic Director, setting the strategy, and ensuring compliance with financial and other obligations.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

During the 2023/24 financial year, day-to-day management of the organisation was delegated to the artistic director, who was responsible for ensuring the charity operations are managed efficiently. The CEO/Artistic Director is responsible for:

- Setting strategic direction in order to fulfil goals agreed upon by the Trustee Trustees;
- Employing staff, setting remuneration, and related HR matters;
- Sourcing and managing office space;
- Setting and oversight budgets.

**Remuneration policy for key management personnel,**

**The trustees** set the remuneration for the artistic director in discussion at a full board meeting and review annually.

**Risk management**

The board of trustees and key management personnel have a rigorous approach to risk management. The organisation's key risks and risk register are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Young Identity's risk management is a vital component of the organisation's overall operational framework. The risk register is reviewed quarterly to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in addressing potential risks. These reviews are conducted during quarterly board meetings, where risk management is given attention as a regular agenda item.

During these meetings, the board members also establish procedures aimed at mitigating potential risks. This proactive approach allows the organisation to identify and address risks before they escalate and negatively impact its mission and objectives. When assessing risks, Young Identity takes into consideration its appetite for various types of risks. This helps the organisation strike a balance between financial risks and artistic risks. By carefully evaluating these risks, Young Identity can determine the level of tolerance it has for each and make informed decisions regarding when to take risks and when to exercise caution.

The risk management implemented by Young Identity reflects its commitment to fostering a safe and sustainable operating environment. By regularly reviewing and adapting its risk management practices, the organisation can navigate potential

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

challenges effectively and ensure the fulfilment of its mission to support young talent in the literature and arts sector.

**The key risks and steps taken to avoid or mitigate them at the point of signing this report are:**

**Risk Assessment: April 2023 – March 2024**

**1. Evolving Impact of COVID-19**

With COVID-19 now under control and downgraded from a pandemic status, the immediate health risks have diminished. However, the pandemic has permanently altered working patterns, with a significant shift towards remote work. This transition necessitates the development of new policies to support a hybrid workforce, ensuring effective communication, collaboration, which will include wellbeing goals.

*Mitigation Strategies:*

- **Policy Development:** Implement comprehensive remote work policies addressing communication protocols, performance expectations, and data security.
- **Technology Investment:** Provide necessary tools and platforms to facilitate seamless remote and hybrid working environments.
- **Training and Support:** Offer training programmes to help staff adapt to new technologies and workflows, promoting productivity and engagement.

**2. Cost of Living Crisis and Shifts in Engagement**

The ongoing cost of living crisis has impacted participant and audience engagement. Many young individuals now balance employment with participation in our programmes, leading to irregular attendance. Additionally, audience booking behaviours have shifted, with a trend towards last-minute ticket purchases, reflecting broader consumer trends and financial uncertainties.

*Mitigation Strategies:*

- **Flexible Scheduling:** Adapt programme schedules to accommodate participants' work commitments, offering sessions at varied times and through multiple formats.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

- **Financial Support:** Provide bursaries or subsidies to alleviate financial barriers to participation.
- **Audience Engagement:** Implement dynamic marketing strategies to encourage earlier bookings and maintain audience interest.

### 3. Financial Sustainability

While securing significant funding, including Arts Council England's NPO status and a multi-year grant from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, we face the challenge of developing a mixed-income business model to ensure financial sustainability and support expansion.

*Mitigation Strategies:*

- **Diversified Income Streams:** Explore additional revenue sources such as merchandise sales, online content monetisation, and corporate partnerships.
- **Strategic Planning:** Implement a comprehensive strategy to meet commissioning income targets, with regular reviews and adjustments based on performance and market conditions.
- **Cost Management:** Monitor and control operational expenses to maintain financial health without compromising programme quality.  
By addressing these areas with informed strategies, we aim to navigate the evolving landscape effectively, ensuring the continued success and impact of our organisation.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024

**Statement of responsibilities of the trustees**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practices and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose the financial position of the charity with reasonable accuracy at any time and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 23 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Name: Lis (Mary Elisabeth) Cordingley

Title: (Interim Chair)

Independent examiner's report  
to the members of  
Young Identity

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 which are set out on pages 17 to 26.

**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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA  
Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants  
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street  
Manchester, M4 6JG

Date 30 January 2025

Wordsmith Awards  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the period ended 31 March 2024

|  | Note | Unrestricted funds<br>£ | Restricted funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total funds<br>2023<br>£ |
|--|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>  |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:   | 3    | 295,302                 | 104,890               | 400,192                  | 192,621                  |
| Investments  | 4    | 1,036                   | -                     | 1,036                    | 62                       |
| <b>Total income</b>  |      | <b>296,338</b>          | <b>104,890</b>        | <b>401,228</b>           | <b>192,683</b>           |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>   |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:   | 5    | 254,779                 | 89,949                | 344,728                  | 232,211                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>   |      | <b>254,779</b>          | <b>89,949</b>         | <b>344,728</b>           | <b>232,211</b>           |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments</b> |      | 41,559                  | 14,941                | 56,500                   | (39,528)                 |
| Realised gains/(losses) on investments                                   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>                             | 6    | <b>41,559</b>           | <b>14,941</b>         | <b>56,500</b>            | <b>(39,528)</b>          |
| Transfer between funds   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>                                |      | <b>41,559</b>           | <b>14,941</b>         | <b>56,500</b>            | <b>(39,528)</b>          |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>   |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Total funds brought forward  |      | 64,369                  | 22,643                | 87,012                   | 126,540                  |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>                                       |      | <b>105,928</b>          | <b>37,584</b>         | <b>143,512</b>           | <b>87,012</b>            |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Wordsmith Awards  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2024

|   | Note | 2024           |                | 2023          |               |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|   |      | £              | £              | £             | £             |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                   |      |                |                |               |               |
| Debtors   | 10   | 2,928          |                | 16,534        |               |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                |      | 150,274        |                | 74,823        |               |
|   |      | <hr/>          |                | <hr/>         |               |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                             |      | <b>153,202</b> |                | <b>91,357</b> |               |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                      |      |                |                |               |               |
| Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year    | 11   | (9,690)        |                | (4,345)       |               |
|   |      | <hr/>          |                | <hr/>         |               |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                               |      |                | <b>143,512</b> |               | <b>87,012</b> |
|   |      |                | <hr/>          |               | <hr/>         |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>            |      |                | <b>143,512</b> |               | <b>87,012</b> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | -    |                | -              |               | -             |
|   |      |                | <hr/>          |               | <hr/>         |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                       |      |                | <b>143,512</b> |               | <b>87,012</b> |
|   |      |                | <hr/> <hr/>    |               | <hr/> <hr/>   |
| <b>Funds of the charity:</b>                            |      |                |                |               |               |
| Restricted income funds                                 | 12   |                | 37,584         |               | 22,643        |
| Unrestricted income funds                               | 13   |                | 105,928        |               | 64,369        |
|   |      |                | <hr/>          |               | <hr/>         |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                              |      |                | <b>143,512</b> |               | <b>87,012</b> |
|   |      |                | <hr/> <hr/>    |               | <hr/> <hr/>   |

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 23/ 01/ 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Lis (Mary Elisabeth) Cordingley (Interim Chair)

## **1 Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

### **a Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair view' and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019, rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Wordsmith Awards meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

### **b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

There are no key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

### **c Income**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

### **d Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

## Wordsmith Awards

### Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

#### **e Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

#### **f Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### **g Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### **h Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### **i Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### **j Financial instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## **2 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

## Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

### 3 Income from charitable activities

| <b>Current reporting period</b>                                  | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total 2024<br>£ |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Commissions  | 39,401            | -               | 39,401          |
| National Lottery Community Fund (Reaching Communities NW Region) | -                 | 91,177          | 91,177          |
| The National Foundation for Youth Music                          | -                 | 13,713          | 13,713          |
| Arts Council England NPO grant                                   | 250,000           | -               | 250,000         |
| Other income   | 5,901             | -               | 5,901           |
|  | <hr/>             | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
| <b>Total</b>   | 295,302           | 104,890         | 400,192         |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>       | <hr/> <hr/>     | <hr/> <hr/>     |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b>                                 | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total 2023<br>£ |
| Commissions  | 55,912            | -               | 55,912          |
| National Lottery Community Fund (Reaching Communities NW Region) | -                 | 45,588          | 45,588          |
| Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed)                       | -                 | 43,155          | 43,155          |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation   | 44,000            | -               | 44,000          |
| Other income   | 3,966             | -               | 3,966           |
|  | <hr/>             | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
| <b>Total</b>   | 103,878           | 88,743          | 192,621         |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>       | <hr/> <hr/>     | <hr/> <hr/>     |

### 4 Investment income

|                      | 2024<br>£   | 2023<br>£   |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bank interest income | 1,036       | 62          |
|                      | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|                      | 1,036       | 62          |
|                      | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. All investment income is unrestricted.

## Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

### 5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

|  | Total 2024<br>£ | Total 2023<br>£ |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Salaries, Freelance, other staff costs | 279,474         | 200,727         |
| Insurance                              | 1,269           | 1,032           |
| Marketing                              | 11,831          | 1,500           |
| Office expenses                        | 23,475          | 6,217           |
| Activity costs                         | 19,664          | 14,815          |
| Professional fees                      | 6,878           | 6,000           |
| Governance costs                       | 2,137           | 1,920           |
|  | 344,728         | 232,211         |
|  | 2024<br>£       | 2023<br>£       |
| Restricted expenditure                 | 89,949          | 111,810         |
| Unrestricted expenditure               | 254,779         | 120,401         |
|  | 344,728         | 232,211         |
|  |                 |                 |

### 6 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

|   | 2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£ |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Independent examiner's fee - accountancy fee  | 1,300     | 1,140     |
| Independent examiner's fees - examination fee | 400       | 330       |
|   |           |           |

## Wordsmith Awards

### Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

#### 7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

|                       | 2024<br>£     | 2023<br>£ |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Wages and salaries    | 51,780        | -         |
| Social security costs | 54            | -         |
| Pension costs         | 1,335         | -         |
|                       | <u>53,169</u> | <u>-</u>  |

Staff are gradually being employed on contract from December 2023, having previously worked freelance.

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: Nil).

The average number of staff employed from December 2023 was 5 (2023: 0).

The average full time equivalent number of staff employed from December 2023 was 4.2 (2023: 0).

The key management personnel of the charity are the trustees.

#### 8 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Three (No) trustees received travel and subsistence expenses totalling £577 during the year (2023:£nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Two trustees (Nasima Begum and Tolu Agbelusi) received fees of £5,675 and £600 respectively as workshop facilitators during this period (2023:£2,641 and £650 respectively).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

#### 9 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

#### 10 Debtors

|                                | 2024<br>£    | 2023<br>£     |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Other debtors                  | -            | 8,631         |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 2,928        | 7,903         |
|                                | <u>2,928</u> | <u>16,534</u> |

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

**11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                    | 2024<br>£    | 2023<br>£    |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Other creditors and accruals       | 3,628        | 4,345        |
| Deferred income                    | 4,000        | -            |
| Taxation and social security costs | 2,062        | -            |
|                                    | <u>9,690</u> | <u>4,345</u> |

**12 Analysis of movements in restricted funds**

|   | Balance at<br>1 April<br>2023<br>£ | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance at 31<br>March 2024<br>£ |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| National Lottery Community Fund<br>(Reaching Communities NW Region) | 22,643                             | 91,177         | (88,982)         | -              | 24,838                           |
| The National Foundation for Youth Music                             | -                                  | 13,713         | (967)            | -              | 12,746                           |
|   | <u>22,643</u>                      | <u>104,890</u> | <u>(89,949)</u>  | <u>-</u>       | <u>37,584</u>                    |

**Previous reporting period**

|   | Balance at<br>1 April<br>2022<br>£ | Income<br>£   | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance at 31<br>March 2023<br>£ |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| National Lottery Community Fund<br>(Reaching Communities NW Region) | -                                  | 45,588        | (22,945)         | -              | 22,643                           |
| Arts Council England (Planning to<br>Succeed)                       | 24,734                             | 43,155        | (67,889)         | -              | -                                |
| Trafford Housing Trust  | 20,976                             | -             | (20,976)         | -              | -                                |
|   | <u>45,710</u>                      | <u>88,743</u> | <u>(111,810)</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>22,643</u>                    |

**Name of restricted fund**

National Lottery Community Fund  
(Reaching Communities NW Region)

The National Foundation for Youth Music

Arts Council England (Planning to  
Succeed)  
Trafford Housing Trust

**Description, nature and purposes of the fund**

The National Lottery's Reaching Communities fund provides grants to organisations that work to improve lives and strengthen communities across the UK. It supports projects that address social challenges, promote inclusion, and empower people by funding initiatives that create positive, lasting change.

The National Foundation for Youth Music's Trailblazer Fund provides grants to support innovative, short-term projects that give children and young people access to music-making opportunities. It funds organisations testing new ideas, developing creative approaches, and reaching those who might otherwise miss out on engaging with music.

Supported the continuation of Young Identity.

The funding allowed us to pilot a writing and performance workshop in the Trafford area for Trafford residents.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

**13 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds**

|                                  | Balance<br>at 1 April<br>2023<br>£           | Income<br>£           | Expenditure<br>£         | Transfers<br>£         | As at 31 March<br>2024<br>£          |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| General fund                     | 64,369                                       | 296,338               | (254,779)                | -                      | 105,928                              |
|                                  | <u>64,369</u>                                | <u>296,338</u>        | <u>(254,779)</u>         | <u>-</u>               | <u>105,928</u>                       |
|                                  | <u><u>64,369</u></u>                         | <u><u>296,338</u></u> | <u><u>(254,779)</u></u>  | <u><u>-</u></u>        | <u><u>105,928</u></u>                |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b> | <i>Balance<br/>at 1 April<br/>2022<br/>£</i> | <i>Income<br/>£</i>   | <i>Expenditure<br/>£</i> | <i>Transfers<br/>£</i> | <i>As at 31<br/>March 2023<br/>£</i> |
| General fund                     | 80,830                                       | 103,940               | (120,401)                | -                      | 64,369                               |
|                                  | <u>80,830</u>                                | <u>103,940</u>        | <u>(120,401)</u>         | <u>-</u>               | <u>64,369</u>                        |
|                                  | <u><u>80,830</u></u>                         | <u><u>103,940</u></u> | <u><u>(120,401)</u></u>  | <u><u>-</u></u>        | <u><u>64,369</u></u>                 |

**Name of fund**

**Description, nature and purposes of the fund**

General fund

The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds

**14 Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Current Reporting Period**

|  | General<br>fund<br>£  | Designated<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total<br>£            |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets                  | -                     | -                        | -                        | -                     |
| Fixed asset investments                | -                     | -                        | -                        | -                     |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | 105,928               | -                        | 37,584                   | 143,512               |
| Creditors of more than one year        | -                     | -                        | -                        | -                     |
|  | <u>105,928</u>        | <u>-</u>                 | <u>37,584</u>            | <u>143,512</u>        |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <u><u>105,928</u></u> | <u><u>-</u></u>          | <u><u>37,584</u></u>     | <u><u>143,512</u></u> |

**Previous Reporting Period**

|  | General<br>fund<br>£ | Designated<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total<br>£           |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets                  | -                    | -                        | -                        | -                    |
| Fixed asset investments                | -                    | -                        | -                        | -                    |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | 64,369               | -                        | 22,643                   | 87,012               |
| Creditors of more than one year        | -                    | -                        | -                        | -                    |
|  | <u>64,369</u>        | <u>-</u>                 | <u>22,643</u>            | <u>87,012</u>        |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <u><u>64,369</u></u> | <u><u>-</u></u>          | <u><u>22,643</u></u>     | <u><u>87,012</u></u> |

## Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

### 15 Prior Year Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)

|  | Note | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total funds<br>2022<br>£ |
|--|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>                          |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:                       | 3    | 103,878                    | 88,743                   | 192,621                  | 233,045                  |
| Investments                                  | 4    | 62                         | -                        | 62                       | -                        |
| <b>Total income</b>                          |      | <b>103,940</b>             | <b>88,743</b>            | <b>192,683</b>           | 233,045                  |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                       |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:                       | 5    | 120,401                    | 111,810                  | 232,211                  | 192,236                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                     |      | <b>120,401</b>             | <b>111,810</b>           | <b>232,211</b>           | 192,236                  |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b> | 6    | <b>(16,461)</b>            | <b>(23,067)</b>          | <b>(39,528)</b>          | 40,809                   |
| Transfer between funds                       |      | -                          | -                        | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>    |      | <b>(16,461)</b>            | <b>(23,067)</b>          | <b>(39,528)</b>          | 40,809                   |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>               |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Total funds brought forward                  |      | 80,830                     | 45,710                   | 126,540                  | 85,731                   |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>           |      | <b>64,369</b>              | <b>22,643</b>            | <b>87,012</b>            | 126,540                  |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**WORDSMITH AWARDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181088

---

# Accounts

---



Charity number 1181088

**Annual report and financial statements**  
**For the period 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023**

Young Identity  
Reference and administrative information  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

**Charity number** 1181088

**Registered office and operational address** 7 Brooks Road Old Trafford Manchester  
M16 9GG

**Legal name:** Wordsmith Awards Trading as Young Identity

**Trustees** who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Jonah Earle (Chair)

Tolu Agbelusi

Dr Mary Elisabeth Cordingley

Guy Perry

Sylvia Lee

Nasima Begum

Rosie Stuart

Robert Croll

**Key management** Shirley May Artistic Director

**Personnel** Nicole May Executive Director

**Bankers** National Westminster Bank  
438 Barlow Moor Road  
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy  
M21 0NN

**Independent examiner**

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA  
Slade & Cooper Limited  
Beehive Mill  
Jersey Street  
Manchester  
M4 6JG

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Reference and administrative information on page 1 form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

**Objectives and activities**

The trustees review the charity's aims, objectives and activities each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees confirm that throughout the planning and implementation of these activities, they have complied with their duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

**CHARITABLE PURPOSE**

Young Identity's objectives, as set out in its constitution, are to:

1. To advance the education of young people, in the study and appreciation of the arts, in particular poetry and literature, including but not exclusively, by organising workshops, performances and other educational programmes as determined by the trustees.

2. To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in Manchester by organising poetry workshops 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;

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

(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

### **VISION & MISSION**

Young Identity's vision is of a world in which every young person is equipped with creativity, confidence and self-expression gained through literature, the practice of poetry and performance.

Our mission is to nurture, develop and champion the voices and creativity of underrepresented young people through literature, writing and performance; by giving young people the skills and the platforms to speak out, telling their original stories, sharing their narratives with others and diversifying the arts sector.

Young Identity's voice cuts through the noise. We are unique, and different and stand out. We believe in the transformative power of the arts in young people's lives. We develop literacy, critical thinking and active citizenship for young people through experimenting with literature and combined arts.

We create a distinctive range of high-quality creative opportunities, writing and performance workshops, events and participatory work that supports young people from all backgrounds to progress creatively and realise their ambitions. Developing core skills that help young people be more employable, socially included, resilient and enterprising, becoming the writers, performance artists and theatre-makers of tomorrow.

Our ambition is to impact and inspire the artistic and cultural landscape of the North West of England and further afield nationally and internationally.

### **ACTIVITIES**

Young Identity has three main strands which encompass all of our activities:

**In the community:** We run poetry and performance workshops in communities and schools for young people. We work with schools, services, community champions and groups to engage young people who wouldn't normally access the arts. We run showcases and events for young people to perform for their communities in ways which

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

provoke community and intergenerational cohesion and dialogue. We work with specific groups of young people through partnerships e.g. the probation service, to offer workshops to young offenders. We offer wellbeing activities for Young Identity members to provide space to discuss concerns that surfaced in workshops and young people's lives.

**Development:** We offer specialist classes and developing your practice workshops for young people who want to develop their writing and performance. We offer development pathways for young people to train as performers, facilitators, producers, publishing and arts management professionals. We run an agency to support Young Identity members to obtain and deliver paid commissions as individuals and groups. We support young people to apply for funding to pursue artistic development and mentor YI members taking their first steps into their careers.

**Performances, events and publishing:** – We run Young Identity's flagship poetry slam (One Mic Stand) three times a year. We present shows produced by ourselves and/ or as co-productions with leading artists and arts organisations. We perform at events and festivals across the UK and internationally. We publish writers under Young Identity's Publishing House 'No disclaimers'. We present writers digitally on Young Identity's social media and YouTube, as well as through the creation of new poetic videos. Young Identity members are commissioned individually and collectively to devise and perform poetry at festivals, events, tours and for TV programmes and adverts across different mediums.

We achieve our mission through the following activities:

- **Running projects with under-represented groups:** We actively work with communities that are often marginalized or under-represented, inspiring them to get involved in writing and performance. By doing so, we strive to make literature and the arts more inclusive of society in the UK.
- **Training the next generation of writers:** We are passionate about nurturing and developing young writers, both on the page and on the stage. Through our training programs, we equip them with the necessary skills and provide them with opportunities to showcase their work.
- **Diversifying the creative arts sector:** In order to foster a more diverse and inclusive creative arts sector, we focus on developing future producers, finance managers, and events coordinators from under-represented communities. We provide training and support to help them succeed in their chosen fields.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

- **Producing dynamic and provocative poetry productions:** We create and produce professional poetry productions, events, projects, and educational materials. Through these initiatives, we aim to stimulate critical thinking, provoke discussions, and support educational institutions in their teaching of literature and combined arts.
- **Nurturing new artists:** We are committed to nurturing emerging artists and providing them with guidance and support. We facilitate individual and group artistic practice, developing progression pathways and offering initiatives and opportunities for their growth. We also assist artists in starting their own companies or collectives, empowering them to navigate the local, national, and international cultural sectors.
- **Increasing accessibility to the arts:** We actively work towards expanding access to the arts by reaching out to new and diverse audiences. Our aim is to break down barriers and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage with and enjoy artistic experiences. Through these activities, we strive to make a long-lasting impact on the artistic and cultural landscape, championing inclusivity, diversity, and creativity

### **Achievements and performance**

The charity's main activities are described below. All its charitable activities are undertaken to further Young Identity's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The impact of Covid reduced the number of commissions and audiences attending events and productions that Young Identity was involved in at the beginning of 2021. However, with the support of our outreach teams, we are beginning to see participants returning, and there has been a steady growth in people attending activities and events.

### **Over the past 12 months, Young Identity has:**

- Collaborated with 25 organisations ranging from the BBC, Manchester Literature Festival, Manchester Histories, AUIET, HOME, Poetic Justice Values, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Afro-Caribbean Care group.
- Worked with 12 schools, colleges and universities, delivering bespoke literature and performance programmes and guest lectures at educational institutions such

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

as Lostock High, MEA Central, St.Anns, Chorlton High School and Xaverian College.

- The number of people who have benefitted from our work this year until March 2023 includes 362 registered young members, 1,078 school participants. Our social media collectively engages over 70k; our Instagram reach has grown by 773% from last year. Our YI performances (including both Young Identity and partner events) have engaged 9k + audiences.

**Particular highlights include:**

- **Cities Untold. Residency**

Young Identity in partnership with the Manchester Literature Festival and Danish literature festivals LiteratureXchange (Aarhus) and Ordkraft (Aalborg) have commissioned young writers (Selina Rom Andersen, Saf Elsenossi, Billie Meredith, Marie Laurberg Nielsen, Cassandra Marie Sørensen & Silas Toft) for the Cities Untold project. They will be exploring Manchester, Aarhus and Aalborg's secrets and creating new work inspired by the city's untold narratives. The six young writers will spend three weeks together in Aarhus, Aalborg and Manchester. During the residencies, they will share skills, experience and research ideas for their commissions. The new works produced will be presented at each of the three festivals in 2023: Aalborg (April), Aarhus (June) and Manchester (October).

- **Going Places - Conferences. Poetic Justice Values University of Cambridge**

The 'Going Places' conference held at Cambridge University focused on exploring the Poetic Values inspired by the renowned poem 'Going Places' written by Lemn Sissay OBE. This two-day conference took place both online and in-person, allowing for a hybrid experience.

The main objective of the conference was to address the British government's requirement for English schools to incorporate spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development with an emphasis on British Values, commonly referred to as SMSC. It aimed to address the historical prejudices present in this curriculum. Additionally, due to the reduction of poetry in the GCSE curriculum caused by the impact of Covid-19, UK youth poet and journalist Kadish Morris emphasized the

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

importance of poetry in personal growth and urged not to deny it to the next generation. The conference served as a platform to unite young individuals, poets, educators, cultural organisations and policy-makers. Its primary goal was to foster a sense of community and encourage spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth.

The opening session featured special guest poets from Young Identity, while Shirley May (CEO & Artistic Director) and Nicole May (Executive Director) discussed the works of Young Identity as part of the conference program.

Maya, Saf S2E and P.A. Bitez (from Young Identity) were among the notable speakers who not only opened the conference but also participated in a panel discussion centred around spirituality, poetry and British values. Other renowned poets such as Nasima and Billie also attended the conference, further enriching the event with their presence.

- **JAWDANCE XL at RICH MIX**

Young Identity was invited to bring a team to perform at London's biggest spoken word night. The collaboration brought Young Identity poets for a five-a-side poetic playoff, with a slight nod to the World Cup. Bringing on the heat from London were the Team Apples and Snakes with Christy Ku, AJ King, Sugar Jay and Iftikhar. Manchester Young Identity team Billie Meredith, Nasima Bee, P.A Bitez, SAF - S2E. Two teams go head to head - London vs Manchester. The night was hosted by Yomi Sode and Kat Francois with headliners Roger Robinson and Malika Booker.

- Young Identity and Respect & Dignity Arts. We've successfully launched a new Creating Connections hub in East Lancashire, that explores writing and performance. Our goal was to increase participation among ethnically diverse young people, LGBTQI+, and lower socio-economic groups. Just like in our previous Young Identity activities, young participants had the opportunity to shape the program. In response, we created a project called Those from Distant Lands. We have engaged 25 young people, all from ethnically diverse backgrounds, to participate in 40 creative writing workshops and performances in Accrington and Pendle. The young people created 1 poetic film, published work in a new poetry anthology and showcased their new writing and film at The Landmark in Burnley.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

**Special thanks**

Special thanks to our funders the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, Arts Council England: National Lottery Project Grants, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Trafford Housing Trust, commissioning partners and individual donations.

**Financial review**

Throughout the financial year, Young Identity's financial team has diligently monitored and managed our resources, ensuring our stability. Our focus is on optimising operational efficiency, identifying new revenue streams, and making necessary adjustments to our expenditure to enhance our overall financial stability. We continuously assess our finances to prioritise initiatives that will foster long-term sustainability. Our commitment to financial discipline remains unwavering, and we proactively make adjustments to ensure a robust financial foundation for the future.

**Financial Overview**

Like most artistic organisations, YI faced financial challenges throughout 2022-23. We navigated a decrease in income and an increase in expenditure. Despite the obstacles, our commitment to financial prudence and strategic decision-making has allowed us to manage our resources effectively.

**Income**

Total revenue for the year experienced a decrease of 17%, totalling £192,683. This decline in income is primarily attributed to strategic planning, infrastructure building, irregularity in audience attendance, alongside other external influences.

This year, our work received crucial support from Arts Council England, the National Lottery, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and Trafford Housing. Notably, the National Lottery's Reaching Communities funding, granted for a three-year period, plays a pivotal role in sustaining the organisation. This long-term support is specifically directed towards covering the overall costs of running the charity, with a focused emphasis on engagement in the Trafford area.

**Expenditure**

Whilst budgeting our annual expenditure, we anticipated increases in our overall expenses. Activity and operational costs experienced an increase of 17% compared to

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

the previous year. Total expenditure amounted to £232,211. This increase is linked mostly to rising inflation costs across the UK.

### **Profitability and Challenges**

As a consequence of the income decrease and expenditure increase, our net loss for the year stands at £39,528, reflecting a 97% fall compared to the previous year. Despite these challenges, we are actively implementing strategies to address these issues and ensure a more resilient financial position moving forward.

### **Acknowledgments and Advancements**

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our funders, customers and contributors for their unwavering support and commitment during this challenging period. We recognise the hurdles the arts sector face and the UK as a whole and are confident in our collective ability to overcome them and emerge stronger.

As we approach the new financial year, our focus will be on implementing prudent financial practices, exploring new revenue opportunities, and strategically managing our expenses to restore and enhance our financial health. Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and financial prudence will remain steadfast as we strive for continued success.

### **Reserves policy and risk management**

The trustees will consider the level of reserves that is prudent for Wordsmith Awards to have when agreeing the annual budget. Consideration will be given to future strategy, potential redundancy liabilities, and any other significant factors that should be taken into account if the charity were to wind-up or move to new premises.

The specific reserves amount will be agreed by trustees on an annual basis, currently set at £23,300.

### **Plans for the future**

We are committed to improving the quality of our work as a literature and performance organisation. The charity has the following plans for the next year:

- To increase the number of young people from protected characteristics and lower socio-economic groups participating in Young Identity's Creating Connections - our community creative writing and performance workshops.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

- To enhance the well-being of young people through creative writing and performance.
- We aim to have more young people from protected characteristics and lower socio-economic groups progressing into careers in the arts sector via accessing our Creating Pathways programme.
- To develop Young Identity's No Disclaimer press in order to gain a greater representation of diverse young artists in poetry publications.
- To develop our Creating Wordsmiths schools work; to support young people's access to poetry and performance in educational settings.
- To secure further grant funding and earned income to support the organisation's financial sustainability.
- To deliver funders and partnership agreements outcomes.

**Structure, governance and management**

Young Identity is a charitable incorporated organisation administered by eight trustees and governed by its constitution dated 27th November 2018. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 10th December 2018.

All trustees are appointed by a vote by the trustees for a minimum term of three years. Trustees are permitted to be reappointed for a maximum of two terms (six years). The minimum number of trustees permitted under the constitution is three, and there is no maximum.

The trustees are charity members; nonetheless, this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 7 to the accounts.

The trustees of Young Identity perform the usual duties of trustees, including appointing and managing the Artistic Director, setting the strategy, and ensuring compliance with financial and other obligations.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

During the 2022/23 financial year, day-to-day management of the organisation was delegated to the artistic director, who was responsible for ensuring the charity operations are managed efficiently. The CEO/Artistic Director is responsible for:

- Setting strategic direction in order to fulfil goals agreed upon by the Trustee Trustees;
- Employing staff, setting remuneration, and related HR matters;
- Sourcing and managing office space;
- Setting and oversight budgets.

**Remuneration policy for key management personnel,**

**The trustees** set the remuneration for the artistic director in discussion at a full board meeting and review annually.

**Risk management**

The board of trustees and key management personnel have a rigorous approach to risk management. The organisation's key risks and risk register are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Young Identity's risk management is a vital component of the organisation's overall operational framework. The risk register is reviewed quarterly to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in addressing potential risks. These reviews are conducted during quarterly board meetings, where risk management is given attention as a regular agenda item.

During these meetings, the board members also establish procedures aimed at mitigating potential risks. This proactive approach allows the organisation to identify and address risks before they escalate and negatively impact its mission and objectives. When assessing risks, Young Identity takes into consideration its appetite for various types of risks. This helps the organisation strike a balance between financial risks and artistic risks. By carefully evaluating these risks, Young Identity can determine the level of tolerance it has for each and make informed decisions regarding when to take risks and when to exercise caution.

The risk management implemented by Young Identity reflects its commitment to fostering a safe and sustainable operating environment. By regularly reviewing and adapting its risk management practices, the organisation can navigate potential

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

challenges effectively and ensure the fulfilment of its mission to support young talent in the literature and arts sector.

**The key risks and steps taken to avoid or mitigate them at the point of signing this report are:**

**Impacts COVID-19** - If there is a resurgence of COVID-19 cases and subsequent lockdowns, there is a possibility of losing commission income due to cancelled or postponed work. To mitigate this risk, we have implemented various scenario planning options in our activities. For instance, we have devised hybrid in-person and online or online-only approaches to our work. We have factored in different public health scenarios based on COVID-19 and created a response plan that we can adapt accordingly.

**Cost of Living crisis and changing behaviour to participant and audience engagement**

Although we have increased the number of registered participants' engagement and growth in audience, there has been a changing behaviour post covid, especially in the participants' weekly frequency and the commitment to engagement in our programme of activities. When consulting with young people, they have outlined that due to the cost of living crisis, there has been an increase of young people who have to work; as a result, they can't attend every creating connections workshop each week like they did pre-COVID. To address this, we've offered small bursaries to young people when possible. We're also targeting younger participants to engage in a program of activities.

Regarding bookings, many events sell out. However, we've noticed that audience members' booking trends have changed. They now tend to book tickets a week before the show. This is a definite change in our audience behaviour, which is linked to consumer trends and the cost of living crisis across the cultural and commercial sectors. Pre-Covid more people booked 3 weeks in advance of our events.

**Financial sustainability** - Young Identity has been successful in generating a significant amount of revenue through its mixed-income model, which is largely based on commissions. The organisation has also achieved a major milestone by securing Arts Council England's NPO status and a multi-year grant from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, which will provide support for its core costs. However, the

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

challenge ahead lies in continuing to develop a mixed-income business model that not only ensures the financial sustainability of the organisation but also enables it to expand its operations to meet the increasing demand. We have developed a new strategy to try to address our commissioning income targets that will be implemented over the next few years.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

**Statement of responsibilities of the trustees**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practices and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on their behalf by

Name: Jonah Earle

Title: (Chair)

Independent examiner's report

to the members of

Young Identity

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 which are set out on pages 16 to 25.

**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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA  
Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants  
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street  
Manchester, M4 6JG

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Wordsmith Awards  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the period ended 31 March 2023

|  | Note | Unrestricted funds<br>£ | Restricted funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total funds<br>2022<br>£ |
|--|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>  |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Donations and legacies   | -    | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| Charitable activities:   | 3    | 103,878                 | 88,743                | 192,621                  | 233,045                  |
| Investments  | 4    | 62                      | -                     | 62                       | -                        |
| <b>Total income</b>  |      | <b>103,940</b>          | <b>88,743</b>         | <b>192,683</b>           | <b>233,045</b>           |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>   |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:   | 5    | 120,401                 | 111,810               | 232,211                  | 192,236                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>   |      | <b>120,401</b>          | <b>111,810</b>        | <b>232,211</b>           | <b>192,236</b>           |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments</b> |      | <b>(16,461)</b>         | <b>(23,067)</b>       | <b>(39,528)</b>          | <b>40,809</b>            |
| Realised gains/(losses) on investments                                   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>                             | 6    | <b>(16,461)</b>         | <b>(23,067)</b>       | <b>(39,528)</b>          | <b>40,809</b>            |
| Transfer between funds   |      | -                       | -                     | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>                                |      | <b>(16,461)</b>         | <b>(23,067)</b>       | <b>(39,528)</b>          | <b>40,809</b>            |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>   |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Total funds brought forward  |      | 80,830                  | 45,710                | 126,540                  | 85,731                   |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>                                       |      | <b>64,369</b>           | <b>22,643</b>         | <b>87,012</b>            | <b>126,540</b>           |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Wordsmith Awards  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2023

|   | Note | 2023          |               | 2022           |                |
|---|------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|   |      | £             | £             | £              | £              |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                   |      |               |               |                |                |
| Debtors   | 9    | 16,534        |               | 768            |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                |      | 74,823        |               | 127,092        |                |
|   |      | <hr/>         |               | <hr/>          |                |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                             |      | <b>91,357</b> |               | <b>127,860</b> |                |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                      |      |               |               |                |                |
| Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year    | 10   | (4,345)       |               | (1,320)        |                |
|   |      | <hr/>         |               | <hr/>          |                |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                               |      |               | <b>87,012</b> |                | <b>126,540</b> |
|   |      |               | <hr/>         |                | <hr/>          |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>            |      |               | 87,012        |                | 126,540        |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | -    |               | -             |                | -              |
|   |      |               | <hr/>         |                | <hr/>          |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                       |      |               | <b>87,012</b> |                | <b>126,540</b> |
|   |      |               | <hr/> <hr/>   |                | <hr/> <hr/>    |
| <b>Funds of the charity:</b>                            |      |               |               |                |                |
| Restricted income funds                                 | 11   |               | 22,643        |                | 45,710         |
| Unrestricted income funds                               | 12   |               | 64,369        |                | 80,830         |
|   |      |               | <hr/>         |                | <hr/>          |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                              |      |               | <b>87,012</b> |                | <b>126,540</b> |
|   |      |               | <hr/> <hr/>   |                | <hr/> <hr/>    |

The notes on pages 18 to 25 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Jonah Earle (Chair)

## 1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

### a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair view' and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019, rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Wordsmith Awards meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

### b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

There are no key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

### c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

### d Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

## Wordsmith Awards

### Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

#### **e Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

#### **f Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### **g Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### **h Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### **i Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### **j Financial instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## **2 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

**3 Income from charitable activities**

| <b>Current reporting period</b>            | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total 2023<br>£ |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Commissions                                | 55,912            | -               | 55,912          |
| National Lottery                           | -                 | 45,588          | 45,588          |
| Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed) | -                 | 43,155          | 43,155          |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation                     | 44,000            | -               | 44,000          |
| Other income                               | 3,966             | -               | 3,966           |
|  | <hr/>             | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | 103,878           | 88,743          | 192,621         |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>       | <hr/> <hr/>     | <hr/> <hr/>     |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b>           | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total 2022<br>£ |
| Commissions                                | 67,444            | -               | 67,444          |
| Arts Council England                       | 1,920             | -               | 1,920           |
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community) | -                 | 3,955           | 3,955           |
| Arts Council England Culture Recovery      | -                 | 5,884           | 5,884           |
| Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed) | -                 | 43,156          | 43,156          |
| Trafford Housing Trust                     | -                 | 25,000          | 25,000          |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation                     | 40,000            | -               | 40,000          |
| Sustainability Fund                        | 35,000            | -               | 35,000          |
| Other income                               | 10,686            | -               | 10,686          |
|  | <hr/>             | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | 155,050           | 77,995          | 233,045         |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>       | <hr/> <hr/>     | <hr/> <hr/>     |

**4 Investment income**

|                      | 2023<br>£   | 2022<br>£   |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bank interest income | 62          | -           |
|                      | <hr/>       | <hr/>       |
|                      | 62          | -           |
|                      | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. All investment income is unrestricted.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

**5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

|  | Total 2023<br>£ | Total 2022<br>£ |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Freelance                                | 200,727         | 162,687         |
| Insurance                                | 1,032           | 746             |
| Marketing                                | 1,500           | 8,919           |
| Office expenses                          | 6,217           | 4,182           |
| Prizes                                   | -               | 299             |
| Activity costs                           | 14,815          | 3,080           |
| Traveling and subsistence                | -               | 1,247           |
| Venue hire                               | -               | 1,800           |
| Professional fees                        | 6,000           | 7,500           |
| Governance costs (Accountancy & IE fees) | 1,920           | 1,776           |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
|  | 232,211         | 192,236         |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>     | <hr/> <hr/>     |
|  | 2023<br>£       | 2022<br>£       |
| Restricted expenditure                   | 111,810         | 55,296          |
| Unrestricted expenditure                 | 120,401         | 136,940         |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
|  | 232,211         | 192,236         |
|  | <hr/> <hr/>     | <hr/> <hr/>     |

## Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 6 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

| This is stated after charging/(crediting):    | 2023<br>£         | 2022<br>£         |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Independent examiner's fee - accountancy fee  | 1,140             | 1,005             |
| Independent examiner's fees - examination fee | 330               | 315               |
|   | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

### 7 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

No (Two) trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year (2022: £109).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Two trustees Nasima Begum and Tolu Agbelusi received fees, £2,641 and £650 respectively as workshop facilitators during this period.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

### 8 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

**9 Debtors**

|                                | 2023<br>£     | 2022<br>£  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Other debtors                  | 8,631         | -          |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 7,903         | 768        |
|                                | <u>16,534</u> | <u>768</u> |

**10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                              | 2023<br>£    | 2022<br>£    |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Other creditors and accruals | 4,345        | 1,320        |
|                              | <u>4,345</u> | <u>1,320</u> |

**11 Analysis of movements in restricted funds**

|  | Balance at<br>1 April<br>2022<br>£ | Income<br>£   | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance at 31<br>March 2023<br>£ |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| National Lottery - Reaching Communities    | -                                  | 45,588        | (22,945)         | -              | 22,643                           |
| Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed) | 24,734                             | 43,155        | (67,889)         | -              | -                                |
| Trafford Housing Trust                     | 20,976                             | -             | (20,976)         | -              | -                                |
|  | <u>45,710</u>                      | <u>88,743</u> | <u>(111,810)</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>22,643</u>                    |

**Previous reporting period**

|  | Balance at<br>1 April<br>2021<br>£ | Income<br>£   | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance at 31<br>March 2022<br>£ |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community)                 | 20,555                             | 3,955         | (20,559)         | (3,951)        | -                                |
| Arts Council England Culture Recovery                      | (1,729)                            | 5,884         | (4,155)          | -              | -                                |
| Trafford Housing Trust                                     | -                                  | 25,000        | (4,024)          | -              | 20,976                           |
| National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund (CCSF) | 12,207                             | -             | (8,136)          | (4,071)        | -                                |
| Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed)                 | -                                  | 43,156        | (18,422)         | -              | 24,734                           |
|  | <u>31,033</u>                      | <u>77,995</u> | <u>(55,296)</u>  | <u>(8,022)</u> | <u>45,710</u>                    |

**Name of**

**Description, nature and purposes of the fund**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed) | Supported the continuation of Young Identity.  |
| National Lottery - Reaching Communities    | Support made a significant contribution to the survival of our organisation during COVID and project activity. |
| Trafford Housing Trust                     | The funding allows us to pilot a writing and performance workshop in the Trafford area for Trafford residents. |

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

**12 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds**

|                                  | Balance<br>at 1 April<br>2022<br>£ | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | As at 31 March<br>2023<br>£ |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| General fund                     | 80,830                             | 103,940        | (120,401)        | -              | 64,369                      |
|                                  | <u>80,830</u>                      | <u>103,940</u> | <u>(120,401)</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>64,369</u>               |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b> | Balance<br>at 1 April<br>2021<br>£ | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | As at 31 March<br>2022<br>£ |
| General fund                     | 54,698                             | 155,050        | (136,940)        | 8,022          | 80,830                      |
|                                  | <u>54,698</u>                      | <u>155,050</u> | <u>(136,940)</u> | <u>8,022</u>   | <u>80,830</u>               |

| Name of      | Description, nature and purposes of the fund              |
|--------------|---|
| General fund | The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds |

**13 Analysis of net assets between funds**

| Current Reporting Period               | General<br>fund<br>£ | Designated<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total<br>£     |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Tangible fixed assets                  | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Fixed asset investments                | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | 64,369               | -                        | 22,643                   | 87,012         |
| Creditors of more than one year        | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Total                                  | <u>64,369</u>        | <u>-</u>                 | <u>22,643</u>            | <u>87,012</u>  |
| <b>Previous Reporting Period</b>       | General<br>fund<br>£ | Designated<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total<br>£     |
| Tangible fixed assets                  | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Fixed asset investments                | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | 80,830               | -                        | 45,710                   | 127,092        |
| Creditors of more than one year        | -                    | -                        | -                        | -              |
| Total                                  | <u>80,830</u>        | <u>-</u>                 | <u>-</u>                 | <u>127,092</u> |

Wordsmith Awards  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the period ended 31st March 2022

|  | Note | Unrestricted funds<br>£ | Restricted funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>2022<br>£ | Total funds<br>2021<br>£ |
|--|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>                          |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Donations and legacies                       | -    | -                       | -                     | -                        | 1,382                    |
| Charitable activities:                       | 3    | 155,050                 | 77,995                | 233,045                  | 218,367                  |
| <b>Total income</b>                          |      | <b>155,050</b>          | <b>77,995</b>         | <b>233,045</b>           | <b>219,749</b>           |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                       |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:                       | 5    | 136,940                 | 55,296                | 192,236                  | 171,880                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                     |      | <b>136,940</b>          | <b>55,296</b>         | <b>192,236</b>           | <b>171,880</b>           |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b> | 6    | <b>18,110</b>           | <b>22,699</b>         | <b>40,809</b>            | <b>47,869</b>            |
| Transfer between funds                       |      | 8,022                   | (8,022)               | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>    |      | <b>26,132</b>           | <b>14,677</b>         | <b>40,809</b>            | <b>47,869</b>            |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>               |      |                         |                       |                          |                          |
| Total funds brought forward                  |      | 54,698                  | 31,033                | 85,731                   | 37,862                   |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>           |      | <b>80,830</b>           | <b>45,710</b>         | <b>126,540</b>           | <b>85,731</b>            |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**WORDSMITH AWARDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181088

---

# Accounts

---

Charity number 1181088



Wordsmith Awards trading as  
**Young Identity**

Annual report and financial statements  
For the period 1st April 2021- 31st March 2022

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Young Identity: Reference and administrative information for the period ended  
**31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**Charity number** 1181088

**Registered office and operational address** 7 Brooks Road Old Trafford Manchester  
M16 9GG

**Legal name:** Wordsmith Awards

**Trustees** who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Jonah Earle (Chair)

Tolu Agbelusi

Dr Mary Elisabeth Cordingley

Guy Perry

Sylvia Lee

Nasima Begum

Rosie Stuart

Robert Croll

**Key management** Shirley May Artistic Director  
**personnel**

**Bankers** Natwest Bank  
438 Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton-Cum-Hardy, M21 0NN

**Independent examiner** Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA, Slade & Cooper Limited  
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Reference and administrative information on page 1 form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

**Objectives and activities**

The trustees review the charity's aims, objectives and activities each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees confirm that throughout the planning and implementation of these activities, they have complied with their duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

**CHARITABLE PURPOSE**

Young Identity's objectives, as set out in its constitution, are to:

1. To advance the education of young people, in the study and appreciation of the arts, in particular poetry and literature, including but not exclusively, by organising workshops, performances and other educational programmes as determined by the trustees.
2. To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in Manchester by organising poetry workshops 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,

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons

**VISION & MISSION**

Young Identity's vision is of a world in which every young person is equipped with creativity, confidence and self-expression gained through literature, the practice of poetry and performance.

Our mission is to nurture, develop and champion the voices and creativity of underrepresented young people through literature, writing and performance; by giving young people the skills and the platforms to speak out, telling their original stories, sharing their narratives with others and diversifying the arts sector.

Young Identity's voice cuts through the noise. We are unique, different and stand out. We believe in the transformative power of the arts in young people's lives. We develop literacy, critical thinking and active citizenship for young people through experimenting with literature and combined arts.

We create a distinctive range of high-quality creative opportunities, writing and performance workshops, events and participatory work that supports young people from all backgrounds to progress creatively and realise their ambition. Developing core skills that help young people be more employable, socially included, resilient and enterprising becoming the writers, performance artists and theatre-makers of tomorrow.

Our ambition is to impact and inspire the artistic and cultural landscape of the North West of England and further afield nationally and internationally.

**ACTIVITIES**

The pandemic has shown that our service is crucial for the young people involved. We have given young people stability and kept them engaged and focused during a world in crisis. This year we moved our services back into communities and concentrated on working in areas like Trafford and Accrington in small community hubs. We kept one of our workshops online and in person, allowing young people to still participate in workshops, especially those suffering from social anxiety. We have encouraged alumni to train as workshop facilitators and freelancers. We are giving former participants the skills to develop and facilitate workshops for the organisation and other partners and

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

stakeholders in Manchester. We work in partnership with partner organisations to showcase our work locally and nationally.

We achieve our mission through the following activities:

- Running projects with under-represented groups, inspiring them to engage with writing and performance, ensuring that literature becomes more representative of society in the UK
- Training the next generation of writers on the page and on the stage
- Diversifying the creative arts sector as a whole, developing future producers, finance managers, and events coordinators, supporting them through training and support
- Producing dynamic and provocative professional poetry productions, events, projects and educational support to the education sector through the use of combined arts
- Nurturing new artists, supporting individual and group artistic practice and sustaining artistic longevity through developing progression pathways and initiatives/opportunities, and supporting artists to start up their new companies/collectives and have a greater understanding of local, national and international strategic plans in the cultural sector.
- Increasing accessibility to the arts by reaching and engaging new and diverse audiences

### **Achievements and performance**

The charity's main activities are described below. All its charitable activities are undertaken to further Young Identity's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The impact of Covid reduced the number of commissions and audiences attending events and productions that Young Identity was involved in at the beginning of 2021. However, with the support of our outreach teams, we are beginning to see participants returning, and there has been a steady growth in people attending activities and events.

### **Over the past 12 months, Young Identity has:**

- Collaborated with 17 national and local organisations ranging from the BBC, Ripples of Hope Festival, Comino Foundation, Sick! Festival, Manchester International Festival, Alexandra Park Arts Forum, Z-arts, St. Johns, AUIET, Kathe

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Locke, Probation. We produced, co-produced and delivered projects, events and productions online and in person.

- Worked across a range of educational providers including eleven schools, colleges and universities, delivering bespoke literature and performance programmes and guest lectures at educational institutions such as The Valley Star Academies, The Hollins, Chorlton High School and Xaverian College.
- The number of people who have benefitted from our work this year until March 2022 includes 306 active young members, 813 school participants. Audiences for our events have included 1641 school students, 1231 YI event attendees, 6489 wider festival/partner/event attendees and digital audiences totalling 72,809 individuals (followers, page likes and views). This gives a total of 83,289.

**Key highlights include:**

- **Manchester International Festival's Little Amal-The Walk**  
Little Amal-The Walk was an extensive public art project produced by Stephen Daldry, David Lan, Tracey Seaward and Naomi Webb for Good Chance, co-producers of the critically-acclaimed The Jungle, in association with Handspring Puppet Company, world-famous creators of the horse puppets in War Horse. It was led by Good Chance's Artistic Director Amir Nizar Zuabi. It involved an extraordinary journey from Gaziantep in Turkey to Europe of a 3.5 metre puppet of nine-year-old refugee, Little Amal. The Manchester stage of the walk formed part of a finale event at Manchester International Festival which commissioned Young Identity poets to write, respond and perform to Little Amal-The Walk.
- **Manchester International Festival's Dele Sosimi and Young Identity**  
Young Identity poets participated in an Afrobeat workshop led by Dele Sosimi and the band. From the workshop five out of 15 Young Identity artists had the opportunity to perform with Dele Sosimi and the band at The Blues Kitchen, Manchester.
- **150 years Birthday celebration of Alexandra Park - Make your voice heard**  
Young Identity performed protest poetry at Make your Voice heard, celebrating 150 years past and present of Alexandra Park. The event highlighted that as long as the park has existed for the people of the city it has been a park of protest and expression of opinion.
- **Young Identity Poets Esther Koch and Saf S2E closing ceremony for BBC**

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**Olympic Homecoming team GM**

Greg James and Clara Amfo host an incredible night of music and entertainment to welcome home the stars of Team GB. The epic show featured a stellar line-up with the best British artists, including Esther Koch and Saf S2E poets from Young Identity. To a live audience at Wembley to over 8,000 families, key workers and athletes.

- **Inherited Resilience - British Council DICE Fund (International Online residency)**

A community of like-minded black and dual heritage women from Oudtshoorn (in the Klein Karoo area of South Africa's Western Cape) and Moston & Harpurhey (in Manchester in the UK) embarked on a virtual four-part journey to listen, share, and learn from each other's stories in a series of stimulating workshops and conversations. Young Identity working in partnership with SICK! Festival, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival and Empa theatre. The project culminated in a poetry anthology with works written by participants and facilitators, and we also produced a short film where the writers discuss their experiences

**Feedback from Partners, Commissioners and Participants highlighting Young Identity's public benefit**

**Cabaret for Freedom Manchester**

*"Young Identity and the Literature Festival has been co-presenting Cabaret for Freedom with St John's Church. The Cabaret for Freedom event it was conceived as a celebration of the life and work of Maya Angelou and a tribute to the 1960 Cabaret for Freedom in New York organised by Young Identity and other local artists and special guests including Tolu Agbelusi and Yomi Sodes. Over the past 5 years, the Cabarets have also provided a platform for artists to respond to and reflect upon the unprecedented times we have been living through. The Cabaret for Freedom series has become an important part of the MLF annual programme and brings together a diverse audience of local people from Old Trafford and general festival goers. We really cherish our partnership with Young Identity and value the talent, passion and commitment they bring to Cabaret for Freedom."*

**Cathy Bolton, Festival Co-director**

**SICK! Festival**

*"Young Identity were an exceptional partner on Inherited Reliance, a UK-South Africa collaboration project funded by the British Council."*

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

*Young Identity is instrumental in bringing a community of like-minded women from Oudtshoorn, South Africa and Manchester together to embark on a journey to listen, share and learn from each other's stories before producing a collection of poetry celebrating their individual and shared experiences. Young Identity understood the group perfectly, providing high-quality facilitation and supporting the group to bond and work productively together using processes and methods inspired by their own collaborative theatre and performance backgrounds.*

*We were delighted at how Young Identity brought these two communities together and allowed them the space and agency to take the project where they wanted to, which is, for us, a truly unique and inspiring process, and we were very delighted with the outcome."*

**Helen Medland CEO**

**Ripples of Hope Festival**

*"Young Identity was a fundamental ingredient in the Ripples of Hope Festival, bringing intelligence, clarity and artistic activism to all parts of their work. They were youthful wise critical friends as well as superb performers. It's a great charity with outstanding leadership."*

**Jude Kelly CBE, Artistic Director Ripples of Hope Festival**

**Comino Foundation**

*"Comino Foundation is a charitable foundation which supports change in a number of policy areas, including education. We work with a group of schools across Greater Manchester to broker projects which set curriculum learning in 'authentic' contexts by working with partners from the creative, cultural and social justice sectors using truly collaborative approaches. During the academic year 2020/21 and over several periods of national lockdown, we worked with Young Identity to develop a ground-breaking online poetry programme for young people and their teachers in Comino schools, which saw each child working in isolation from home, inspired mentored and motivated through the journey from ideas to publishing by inspirational Young Identity poets. Poems which explored young people's experiences of human rights went on to be showcased during the Education Day of the luminary Robert F Kennedy Human Rights festival held in Manchester in September 2021, and again during a live performance on Human Rights Day at Bury Met in December 2021, where Young Identity is also involved in both performance and production roles. Without a doubt, the experience of being involved in this project gave young people inspiration and hope at a very dark time in their lives; in particular, the skills, energy and passion that Young Identity poets' brought to the project motivated these young people to find their own voice during this critical time in their lives."*

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**Deborah Davidson, Consultant Programme Director, North West Comino Creative Consortium**

**Creative Development, HOME**

*“Young Identity are a cherished partner organisation at HOME, providing much-needed safe space for young people to explore their own creativity and passion for writing, poetry and performance. What this group do is much more than that. They create an environment where young people from different backgrounds come together and make their own space, creating an equitable forum for possibility and change. These young people know they can explore the world around them and be heard.”*

**Lisa Allen, Head of Creative Development, HOME**

**Manchester City of Literature**

*“Young Identity continues to be a vital part of the UNESCO City of Literature story in Manchester - from supporting in the shaping the original bid through to being an active partner in the current network.*

*Their work in supporting young people to find and develop their voices is exceptional. We recently collaborated on a UNESCO Cities of Literature project called Slam-O-Vision, where we hosted a slam to find the representative of Manchester in an international competition.*

*Young Identity also worked on our Festival of Libraries 2022 project, providing us with wonderfully talented writers for a residency at a local high school.*

*Young Identity is held in great affection in the city of Manchester and beyond for its pioneering work in supporting and platforming emerging young talent.”*

**Reece Williams, Community Engagement Manager, Manchester City of Literature**

**Participants' testimonials:**

*‘I've been a part of Young Identity for around two years. Here, I'm learning new things all the time, on performance, structure and how to edit my work. It's definitely increased my confidence, it's a safe space that makes me feel more comfortable sharing what I write. It has already brought me performance opportunities and even the things I do outside of writing, YI has helped me to have the drive to pursue those things, and I use those skills across the board.’ [Workshop attendee, aged 19 ]*

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

*'Being a part of Young Identity has improved my writing. I feel like YI makes me justify my writing decisions which has improved my writing so much; I focus on details like technique so much more.'* Workshop attendee, aged 16

*'I feel like groups like YI are beneficial because it has young people come together and HOME and craft their work, and the people that are editing your work and giving you mentorship are close enough in age to you so it doesn't feel as scary. It gives that sense of community and friendship whilst also improving your practice. Because of YI, I performed at Manchester International Festival; they liked my work. I'm now MIF Artist, which has opened me up to so many other opportunities, including music. If you have the talents, you can use YI to platform them. YI has definitely improved my confidence in terms of performance; they taught me the importance of taking up space. A lot of confidence had been embedded in my practice, which has only helped my other arts goals in music and performance.'* Workshop attendee, aged 22

*'I've been coming to Young Identity HOME since January. I enjoy coming here; I come every week. It's about having a poetry community; I've been writing poetry for so many years and I've never had a place where I can just come and write with other people in a space like this. YI has helped me in how I read poetry and break down the words I'm using. I definitely think YI has benefitted me. Although poetry is just a hobby, it improves so much of my art and enjoyment of it.'* Workshop attendee, aged 25

**Special thanks**

Special thanks to our funders the Arts Council England: National Lottery Project Grants, Trafford Housing Trust, Paul Hamlyn, Necessity Fund Commissioning partners and individual donations.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**Financial Review**

Reserves brought forward from 2020-2021 amounted to £85,731, of which £31,033 was restricted and £54,698.

At the end of the year, we had a total of £127,092 cash in the bank. This is made up of £45,710 restricted funding, £81,382 unrestricted funds, not including prepayments and accruals.

Our Statement of Financial Activities shows a total net income for the year of £40,809, with £22,699 restricted and £18,110 unrestricted funds. The Board of Trustees are happy with the charity's position at the end of the year.

**Reserves policy**

The charity currently has a basic reserves policy that ensures 10% of the annual budget is kept as reserves (currently c. £23,300). As the charity grows in size and complexity, this policy will be reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

**Plans for the future**

We are committed to improving the quality of our work as a literature and performance organisation. The charity has the following plans for the next year:

- To increase the number of young people from protected characteristics and lower socio-economic groups participating in Young Identity's Creating Connections - our community creative writing and performance workshops.
- To enhance the well-being of young people through creative writing and performance.
- We aim to have more young people from protected characteristics and lower socio-economic groups progressing into careers in the arts sector via accessing our Creating pathways programme.
- To develop Young Identity's No disclaimer press in order to gain a greater representation of diverse young artists in poetry publications.
- To develop our Creating Wordsmiths schools work; to support young people's access to poetry and performance in educational settings.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

- To secure further grant funding and earned income to support the organisational financial sustainability.
- To deliver funders and partnership agreements outcomes.

**Structure, governance and management**

Wordsmith Awards t/a Young Identity is a charitable incorporated organisation administered by eight trustees and governed by its constitution dated 27th November 2018. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 10th December 2018.

All trustees are appointed by a vote by the trustees for a minimum term of three years. Trustees are permitted to be reappointed for a maximum of two terms (six years). The minimum number of trustees permitted under the constitution is three, and there is no maximum.

The trustees are charity members; nonetheless, this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 7 to the accounts.

The trustees of Young Identity perform the usual duties of trustees, including appointing and managing the Artistic Director, setting the strategy, and ensuring compliance with financial and other obligations.

During the 2021/22 financial year, day-to-day management of the organisation was delegated to the artistic director, who was responsible for ensuring the charity operations are managed efficiently. The CEO/Artistic Director is responsible for:

- Setting strategic direction in order to fulfil goals agreed upon by the Trustee Trustees;
- Employing staff, setting remuneration, and related HR matters;
- Sourcing and managing office space;
- Setting and oversight budgets.

**Remuneration policy for key management personnel,**

The trustees set the remuneration for the artistic director in discussion at a full board meeting and review annually.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**Risk management**

The board of trustees and key management personnel have a rigorous approach to risk management. The organisation's key risks are reviewed on an ongoing basis, with mitigating actions put in place to minimise the continuing threat to the charity.

**The key risks at the point of signing this report are:**

**Impacts Covid** - If the scale of COVID-19/ lockdown reoccurs again, we could potentially lose commission income if work is cancelled or postponed. We have implemented several scenario planning options in our activities, e.g. hybrid in-person and online or online-only approaches to our work. We have factored in various public health scenarios based on COVID-19.

**Financial sustainability** – Young Identity has thrived from a mixed-income model, gaining a large percentage of income from commissions. The challenge will be to continue developing a mixed-income business model to ensure the organisation's financial sustainability and ability to expand its operations to meet demand.

**Organisational restructure** - We aim to restructure the organisation; if we secured core funding. Although core funding will be positive, this could disrupt operations and staff morale, as there will be a shift in the organisational culture as we move from freelance to full-time and part-time salaried employment.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**Statement of responsibilities of the trustees**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practices and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the trustees on 12/01/2023 and signed on their behalf by,

Jonah Earle (Chair)

Independent examiner's report  
to the members of  
Young Identity

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 which are set out on pages 15 to 23.

**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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA  
Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants  
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street  
Manchester, M4 6JG

Date 27/01/2023

Wordsmith Awards  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the period ended 31 March 2022

|  | Note | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>2022<br>£ | Total funds<br>2021<br>£ |
|--|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>                          |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Donations and legacies                       | 3    | -                          | -                        | -                        | 1,382                    |
| Charitable activities:                       | 4    | 155,050                    | 77,995                   | 233,045                  | 218,367                  |
| <b>Total income</b>                          |      | <b>155,050</b>             | <b>77,995</b>            | <b>233,045</b>           | <b>219,749</b>           |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                       |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:                       | 5    | 136,940                    | 55,296                   | 192,236                  | 171,880                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                     |      | <b>136,940</b>             | <b>55,296</b>            | <b>192,236</b>           | <b>171,880</b>           |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b> | 6    | <b>18,110</b>              | <b>22,699</b>            | <b>40,809</b>            | <b>47,869</b>            |
| Transfer between funds                       |      | 8,022                      | (8,022)                  | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>    |      | <b>26,132</b>              | <b>14,677</b>            | <b>40,809</b>            | <b>47,869</b>            |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>               |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Total funds brought forward                  |      | 54,698                     | 31,033                   | 85,731                   | 37,862                   |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>           |      | <b>80,830</b>              | <b>45,710</b>            | <b>126,540</b>           | <b>85,731</b>            |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Wordsmith Awards  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2022

|  | Note | 2022           |                | 2021          |               |
|--|------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|  |      | £              | £              | £             | £             |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                |      |                |                |               |               |
| Debtors  | 9    | 768            |                | 495           |               |
| Cash at bank and in hand                             |      | 127,092        |                | 86,496        |               |
|  |      |                |                |               |               |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                          |      | <b>127,860</b> |                | <b>86,991</b> |               |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                   |      |                |                |               |               |
| Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year | 10   | (1,320)        |                | (1,260)       |               |
|  |      |                |                |               |               |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                            |      |                | <b>126,540</b> |               | <b>85,731</b> |
|  |      |                |                |               |               |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                    |      |                | <b>126,540</b> |               | <b>85,731</b> |
|  |      |                |                |               |               |
| <b>Funds of the charity:</b>                         |      |                |                |               |               |
| Restricted income funds                              | 11   |                | 45,710         |               | 31,033        |
| Unrestricted income funds                            | 12   |                | 80,830         |               | 54,698        |
|  |      |                |                |               |               |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                           |      |                | <b>126,540</b> |               | <b>85,731</b> |
|  |      |                |                |               |               |

The notes on pages 17 to 23 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 12/01/2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Jonah Earle (Chair)

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2022

**1 Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

**a Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair view' and have departed from the

Wordsmith Awards meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

**b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

There are no key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

**c Income**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

**d Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

## Wordsmith Awards

### Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

#### e Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

#### f Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### g Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### h Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### i Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### j Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## 2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

**3 Income from donations and legacies**

| <b>Current reporting period</b>  | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total 2022<br>£ |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Donations                        | -                 | -               | -               |
| <b>Total</b>                     | -                 | -               | -               |
| <br>                             |                   |                 |                 |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b> | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total 2021<br>£ |
| Donations                        | 1,252             | 130             | 1,382           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | 1,252             | 130             | 1,382           |

**4 Income from charitable activities**

| <b>Current reporting period</b>                            | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total 2022<br>£ |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Commissions  | 67,444            | -               | 67,444          |
| Arts Council England                                       | 1,920             | -               | 1,920           |
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community)                 | -                 | 3,955           | 3,955           |
| Arts Council England Culture Recovery                      | -                 | 5,884           | 5,884           |
| Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed)                 | -                 | 43,156          | 43,156          |
| Trafford Housing Trust                                     | -                 | 25,000          | 25,000          |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation                                     | 40,000            | -               | 40,000          |
| Sustainability Fund  | 35,000            | -               | 35,000          |
| Other income   | 10,686            | -               | 10,686          |
| <b>Total</b>   | 155,050           | 77,995          | 233,045         |
| <br>   |                   |                 |                 |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b>                           | Unrestricted<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total 2021<br>£ |
| Commissions  | 52,505            | -               | 52,505          |
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community)                 | -                 | 25,332          | 25,332          |
| Arts Council England Culture Recovery                      | -                 | 52,960          | 52,960          |
| Arts Council England (Emergency Fund)                      | -                 | 34,460          | 34,460          |
| Manchester City Council                                    | -                 | -               | -               |
| National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund (CCSF) | -                 | 45,970          | 45,970          |
| Trafford Housing Grant                                     | -                 | 5,890           | 5,890           |
| Other income   | 1,250             | -               | 1,250           |
| <b>Total</b>   | 53,755            | 164,612         | 218,367         |

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

**5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

|  | Total 2022<br>£ | Total 2021<br>£ |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Freelance                                | 162,687         | 139,946         |
| Insurance                                | 746             | 595             |
| Marketing                                | 8,919           | 5,471           |
| Office expenses                          | 4,182           | 21,604          |
| Prizes                                   | 299             | 501             |
| Show expenses                            | 3,080           | 1,697           |
| Traveling and subsistence                | 1,247           | 6               |
| Venue hire                               | 1,800           | -               |
| Professional fees                        | 7,500           | 800             |
| Governance costs (Accountancy & IE fees) | 1,776           | 1,260           |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
|  | 192,236         | 171,880         |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
|  | 2022            | 2021            |
|  | £               | £               |
| Restricted expenditure                   | 55,296          | 152,275         |
| Unrestricted expenditure                 | 136,940         | 19,605          |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |
|  | 192,236         | 171,880         |
|  | <hr/>           | <hr/>           |

## Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

### 6 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

| This is stated after charging/(crediting):    | 2022<br>£         | 2021<br>£         |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Independent examiner's fee - accountancy fee  | 1,005             | 960               |
| Independent examiner's fees - examination fee | 315               | 300               |
|   | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

### 7 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Two trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £109 (2021: £Nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Two trustees Nasima Begum and Tolu Agbelusi received fees, £2,920 and £300 respectively as workshop facilitators during this period.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

### 8 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

**9 Debtors**

|                                | 2022<br>£  | 2021<br>£  |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Other debtors                  | -          | -          |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 768        | 495        |
|                                | <u>768</u> | <u>495</u> |

**10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                              | 2022<br>£    | 2021<br>£    |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Other creditors and accruals | 1,320        | 1,260        |
|                              | <u>1,320</u> | <u>1,260</u> |

**11 Analysis of movements in restricted funds**

|  | Balance at<br>1 April<br>2021<br>£ | Income<br>£   | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance at 31<br>March 2022<br>£ |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community)                 | 20,555                             | 3,955         | (20,559)         | (3,951)        | -                                |
| Arts Council England Culture Recovery                      | (1,729)                            | 5,884         | (4,155)          | -              | -                                |
| Trafford Housing Trust                                     | -                                  | 25,000        | (4,024)          | -              | 20,976                           |
| National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund (CCSF) | 12,207                             | -             | (8,136)          | (4,071)        | -                                |
| Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed)                 | -                                  | 43,156        | (18,422)         | -              | 24,734                           |
|  | <u>31,033</u>                      | <u>77,995</u> | <u>(55,296)</u>  | <u>(8,022)</u> | <u>45,710</u>                    |

**Name of**

**Description, nature and purposes of the fund**

Arts Council England (Planning to Succeed) Supported the continuation of Young Identity.

Trafford Housing Trust The funding allows us to pilot a writing and performance workshop in the Trafford area for Trafford residents.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

**12 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds**

|              | Balance<br>at 1 April<br>2021<br>£ | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | As at 31 March<br>2022<br>£ |
|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| General fund | 54,698                             | 155,050        | (136,940)        | 8,022          | 80,830                      |
|              | <u>54,698</u>                      | <u>155,050</u> | <u>(136,940)</u> | <u>8,022</u>   | <u>80,830</u>               |

| <b>Name of</b> | <b>Description, nature and purposes of the fund</b>       |
|----------------|---|
| General fund   | The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds |

**13 Analysis of net assets between funds**

| <b>Current Reporting Period</b>        | General<br>fund<br>£ | Designated<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total<br>£     |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | 80,830               | -                        | 45,710                   | 126,540        |
| Total                                  | <u>80,830</u>        | <u>-</u>                 | <u>45,710</u>            | <u>126,540</u> |

**WORDSMITH AWARDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181088

---

# Accounts

---

Charity number 1181088



## Young Identity

**Annual report and financial statements  
For the period 1st April 2020- 31st March 2021**

Young Identity  
Reference and administrative information  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**Charity number** 1181088

**Registered office and operational address** 7 Brooks Road Old Trafford Manchester M16 9GG

**Legal name:** Wordsmith Awards

**Trustees** Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Jonah Earle            Chair  
Tolu Agbelusi  
Dr Mary Elisabeth Cordingley  
Guy Perry  
Sylvia Lee  
Nasima Begum  
Rosie Stuart  
Robert Croll

**Key management personnel**            Shirley May    Artistic Director

**Bankers**                                        Natwest Bank  
438 Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton-Cum-Hardy, M21 0NN

**Independent examiner**            Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA Slade & Cooper Limited  
Beehive Mill, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 6JG

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

### **Objectives and activities**

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees confirm that throughout the planning and implementation of these activities, they have complied with their duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

### **CHARITABLE PURPOSE**

Young Identity's objectives as set out in its constitution are to:

1. To advance the education of young people, in the study and appreciation of the arts, in particular poetry and literature, including but not exclusively, by organising workshops, performances and other educational programmes as determined by the trustees.

2. To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in Manchester by organising poetry workshops 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

### **VISION & MISSION**

Young Identity's vision is of a world where everyone has access to literature and performance. Our mission is to empower young people – particularly those who are disadvantaged and

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

underrepresented - by giving them the skills and the platforms to speak out, to tell their own stories and share their stories with others.

In doing, Young Identity is creating a more diverse cultural landscape in which literature and the arts are for everyone and developing core skills that help young people be more employable, socially included, resilient and enterprising, and creative thinkers and doers.

We believe there is a writer in every one of us, regardless of class, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality or access. We eradicate barriers to access to literature and performance. Young Identity's voice cuts through the noise. We are unique, different and stand out.

We believe in the transformative power of the arts in young peoples' lives. We develop literacy, critical thinking and active citizenship for young people through experimenting with literature and combined arts. We nurture the talent of tomorrow.

We empower disadvantaged and under-represented young people to fulfil their artistic potential. We equip young people in Greater Manchester and beyond by bridging the equality gap and giving them the fundamentally necessary to improve their life and social standing.

We provide the people of Manchester, Greater Manchester and the wider world with a distinctive range of high-quality writing workshops and events and participatory work that stimulates, challenges, entertains and encourages creativity. Our ambition is to impact on and inspire the artistic and cultural landscape of the Northwest England and further afield, both nationally and internationally.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The pandemic has shown that the service we provide is crucial for the young people involved; We have given them stability and kept them engaged and focused during a worldwide crisis. We quickly moved our services online, allowing young people to still participate in workshops, training and shows.

We achieve our mission through the following activities:

- Running projects with under-represented groups, inspiring them to engage with writing and performance, ensuring that literature becomes more representative of society in the UK
- Training the next generation of writers on the page and on the stage
- Diversifying the creative arts sector as a whole, developing future producers, finance managers, events coordinators supporting them through training and support
- Producing dynamic and provocative professional poetry productions, events, projects and educational support to the education sector through the use of combined arts
- Nurturing new artists, supporting individual and group artistic practice and sustaining artistic longevity through developing progression pathways and initiatives/opportunities, and supporting artists to start up their new companies/ collectives and have a greater understanding of local, national and international strategic plans in the cultural sector.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31st March 2021

- Increasing accessibility to the arts by reaching and engaging new and diverse audiences

### **Achievements and performance**

The charity's main activities and who it tries to help are described below. All its charitable activities are undertaken to further Young Identity's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The impact of Covid reduced the number of commissions, events and productions that Young Identity could have potentially been involved in and produced due to cancellations or postponing activities for a post-pandemic world. As a result, critically impacting the organisation, we had to streamline our core team and activities, moving our provision online.

Over the past 12 months Young Identity has:

- Collaborated with 18 organisations ranging from the Ripples of Hope Foundation, Sick!Festival, Manchester International Festival, KYSO project; we produced, co-produced and delivered projects, events and productions online and in-person.
- Had significant international exposure, co-producing international online artist residency - Mindscapes - Streets of poetry as well as our regular weekly workshops; reaching and engaging international participants and audiences.
- Worked with 11 schools, colleges and universities delivering bespoke literature and performance programmes to guest lecturing working educational institutions such as Sacred Heart RC, The Hollins, Xaverian College.
- We ran weekly creative writing and performance workshops online and in person; with 112 active members totalling 175 workshops across 4 sites HOME, Old Trafford, The Hollins and CONTACT (Theatre) for the year.

Particular highlights include:

- **One Mic Stand Black Minds Matter fundraiser Special**  
One Mic Stand is Young Identity's flagship poetry slam and music event. The #BlackLivesMatter special edition, celebrated some of our most incredible artists in Manchester. This edition of One Mic Stand steered away from our competitive slam format and brought you a showcase of talent whilst raising money for Black Minds Matter UK. Black Minds Matter UK is a charity which aims to make mental health topics relevant and accessible for all black people in the UK. Given the current circumstances after the murder of George Floyd and the worldwide reverberation of the Black Lives Matter movement, we believed that it is vital to support the Black Minds Matter cause.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

- **Speak Out in partnership with Manchester International Festival and Xaverian College**  
a new collaborative project, set up to empower young people to 'speak out' on the issues that affect them most. Over six weeks participants from Young Identity, MIF's Young People's Forum and Xaverian College participated in online weekly workshops to explore the art of speechwriting and making. The group will explore how to research, plan and deliver a powerful public address and hear from inspirational people who regularly speak out on issues from Black Lives Matter to Climate Change, about how they do it and what really makes an impact. Working with activists and artists
  
- **BBC Radio 1Xtra, BBC Asian Network and BBC Contains Strong Language presents BBC Words First 2020 partnership Young Identity, Apples & Snakes and Neu! Reekie!**  
BBC Words First is a talent development scheme for spoken word artists to find the best emerging spoken word talent in the UK. The artists write and perform spoken word, poetry or rap. Young artists were given the chance to attend digital workshops and work with established artists and mentors to develop their work and were then given a platform to perform their own work at digital showcases. A highlight as well as an indicator of our commitment and success for Young Identity was the fact that out of the 600 applicants, 96 artists were selected to be involved in the programme, 12 shortlisted, 6 finalists 3 of whom were Young Identity members.
  
- **Wellbeing Programme**  
During the pandemic, it was evident that Black, Asian and Ethnically diverse people were disproportionately affected by Covid-19. Our recognition of this issue, as well as the ongoing repercussions and trauma of the world witnessing the murder of George Floyd led us to develop and launch a pilot well-being programme. We realised that our project activity needed to incorporate group and individual creative therapeutic activity, exploring and gaining new resilience and mindfulness techniques, plus the power of journaling, without having a targeted outcome. The sessions were facilitated by a qualified mental health practitioner, a youth worker, and renowned poet Zena Edwards.
  
- **Resistance is My Mother Tongue presented Manchester UNESCO City of Literature as part of the Mother Tongue programming**  
This event was led by Ali Al-Jamri from Young Identity's Young Producers Programme with support from the Young Identity team. Ali successfully produced "Resistance is My mother Tongue" a kaleidoscope of poetry and conversation, examining what emotions are unique to mother languages that cannot be expressed in English. Young Identity poets performed bilingual poetry featuring young performers hailing from Asian, African and South American communities as well as those who speak in Gaelic languages in the UK.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**Table showing the participants/beneficiaries for the year 2020**

| Participants/Beneficiaries                             | No. of People |
|--|---------------|
| Young Identity workshops Participants (Active members) | 112           |
| School Participants/college/university/Participants    | 519           |
| School Audiences                                       | 1,148         |
| Participants from partnership projects                 | 108           |
| Festival/Event Audiences (views)                       | 4,021         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>5908</b>   |
|  |               |
| <b>Online engagement/social media</b>                  |               |
| <b>Facebook</b>  |               |
| Young Identity (Following)                             | 1574          |
| One Mic Stand (Following)                              | 673           |
| Young Identity (Members)                               | 417           |
| <b>Instagram (Following)</b>                           | <b>1715</b>   |
| <b>YouTube</b>   |               |
| Subscribers  | 331           |
| Views (Lifetime)                                       | 61,037        |
| Twitter (Following)                                    | 2696          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>68,443</b> |

**Participant Testimonials**

*'It has done so much for my confidence as a writer, but our groups are also one of the rare places I feel able to truly express myself as I am. It is such a rare and special thing to hear everybody being so candid and vulnerable with each other, truly creating a place of integrity and family, you will never find such an accepting atmosphere anywhere else.'* **Participant 18**

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

*'It's a place where you can feel safe and can fit into. It's helped me feel like my existence matters.'*

**Participant 21**

*'The pandemic has been a strain on my mental health so being part of this writing group has helped with that. Having this creative outlet that I can enjoy with other people has been a very valuable highlight for me during lockdown.'* **Participant 19**

**Feedback from Partners, Commissioners and Participants highlighting Young Identity's public benefit:**

**Partners endorsement**

**SICK! Festival**

*SICK! Festival was delighted to work with Young Identity on two projects over the past year: Streets of Poetry, delivered as part of our MINDSCAPES programme in collaboration with Dutch Culture, and Inherited Resilience, delivered with partners in South Africa as part of the British Council's DICE programme. We work with Young Identity because of their unique expertise in combining outstanding poetic practice with urgent social agendas. They bring art form specialism that SICK! Festival lacks and an ethos that resonates powerfully with our own.*

*We felt confident handing over delivery of Streets of Poetry to Young Identity, and the project was delivered in public spaces in North and Central Manchester with great care and effectiveness. The knowledge, understanding and sensitivity that they bring enabled us to connect in a powerful and meaningful way with people living in North Manchester who had experienced migration to the city.*

*We developed and secured funding for the DICE project on the basis that we would step back from the process in order to create a space where young black women in Manchester and Oudtshoorn, South Africa, could take a lead. This was a potentially risky strategy and was only possible due to the high level of trust that we have with Young Identity. The results that were developed within this framework were fantastic, both in terms of the process undertaken with participants, and the public outcomes which exceeded our expectations for the project.*

*Young Identity have been an outstanding partner both artistically and in terms of their practical delivery of project and we look forward to working with them again in the future.'*

**Tim Harrison, Creative Director**

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

## **HOME**

*Young Identity are always one of the most exciting companies we work with at HOME continually provoking and surprising with their soaring poems and scintillating stage presence. Over the past 18 months, despite Covid-19, we have worked with them on two book launches which have thoroughly captivated all in attendance as the collective tackle the world around them as only they can – with words, words that have the ability to strike a chord with everyone lucky enough to be there to listen. It's a joy knowing Young Identity are an associate company at HOME as I know we will continue to be enlivened with their presence for some time to come."*

**Kevin Jamieson, HOME, Head of Programme**

## **Manchester City of Literature**

*Young Identity has been a vital part of the UNESCO City of Literature story in Manchester - from shaping the original bid through to being an active partner in the current network. Their work in supporting young people to find and develop their voice is exceptional. And I was delighted when YI were able to extend their contribution to International Mother Language Day with the online presentation of *Resistance is My Mother Tongue*. A formidable organisation who we are lucky to count as close partners and collaborators.*

**Ivan Wadeson, Executive Director, Manchester City of Literature**

## **MIF**

*I worked with Shirley May and the Young Identity team on *Catch a Fire* - a collaboration for MIF21 with Dele Sosimi's Afrobeat quartet, curated by Cerys Matthews. The four young poets who performed in the final performance – Yoursalem Okbamichael, Arinola Adegbite, Isaiah Hull and Jova Guayaba - were a highlight of the event, demonstrating huge energy, talent and creativity. We had incredible feedback from audiences, and the other artists involved including Dele Sosimi and Cerys Matthews. They were brilliantly supported in rehearsal by associate director Courtney Hayles, who brought valuable focus and confidence to their performances. I was especially grateful for the support and collaboration of Shirley and Nicole May in the planning stages for the collaboration, especially the level of care and belief that they show in the young people, and how they go above and beyond to create incredible opportunities for them to develop their talent and artistry.*

**Katherine Wilde, Associate Producer, MIF**

## **BBC**

*BBC Words First is a talent development scheme hosted by BBC Radio 1Xtra, BBC Asian Network and BBC Contains Strong Language to find the best emerging spoken word talent in the UK. Since*

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

*we took over the production of the talent development scheme in 2019 we have chosen to work with Young Identity on every occasion. BBC Words First takes place over a number of months and involves working with a number of external partners in order to work effectively with emerging artists across the UK. Young Identity are involved in promoting the scheme, shortlisting applications, holding/programming a series of workshops with our artists, creating and editing a showcase of their work and then assisting the BBC in their judging panel. Young Identity helps aid us in the development of the talent development scheme, always putting the needs and satisfaction of the emerging artists first. When looking for artists audio broadcast on networks such as Radio 4, Young Identity are always our first port of call when looking for artists to work with. The amount of work and development that Young Identity put into their artists is clear to see in the work that they produce. Young Identity are an outstanding partner to work with and set an example to others. They work tirelessly and consistently to deliver on time and take real pride in what they do.*

**Elise Gallagher**

**Culture, Arts, & Music Audio – Junior Production Manager**

### **Financial review**

The Covid-19 pandemic caused a lot of disruption to our planned activities during the financial year. Postponements, cancellations and uncertainties made us assess the how, when and where of how to deliver our workshops/projects in a safe effective fashion.

Thanks to funding made available by the Arts Council and Big lottery we were able to keep our workshops and the majority of our projects running, with minimal interruptions.

Our Statement of Financial Activities show a total net income for the year of £47,869, with £35,402 unrestricted funds and £12,467 restricted.

At the end of the year, we had a total of £85,731 funds, £31,033 restricted funding, £54,698 unrestricted funds, this including prepayments and accruals.

The Board of Trustees are happy with the charity's position at the end of the year.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity currently has a basic reserves policy that ensures 10% of the annual budget is kept as reserves (currently c. £17,200). As the charity grows in size and complexity this policy will be reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### **Plans for the future**

During the pandemic and the high levels of uncertainty, it was challenging to plan for the future. We moved all our provisions online, and when safe in line with COVID- 19 guidelines, we delivered activity in person. Our plans for the next year:

- To continue to deliver our workshops, poetics productions, events taking a hybrid approach in person and online where suitable.
- To secure core funding to develop our organisational systems and processes further and move towards a mixed business model combining earned income and grant funding.
- To develop our schools work to support our sustainability plans.

### **Structure, governance and management**

Young Identity is a charitable incorporated organisation administered by eight trustees and governed by its constitution dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

All trustees are appointed by vote by the trustees for a minimum term of three years. Trustees are permitted to be reappointed for a maximum of two terms (six years). The minimum number of trustees permitted under the constitution is three, and there is no maximum.

The trustees are members of the charity; nonetheless, this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 7 to the accounts.

The trustees of Young Identity perform the usual duties of trustees, including appointing and managing the Artistic Director, setting the strategy, and ensuring compliance with financial and other obligations.

During the 2020/21 financial year, day to day management of the organisation was delegated to the artistic director, who was responsible for ensuring the operations of the charity are managed efficiently. She is responsible for:

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

- Setting strategic direction in order to fulfil goals agreed by Trustee board;
- Employing staff, setting remuneration, and related HR matters;
- Sourcing and managing office space; and,
- Setting and oversight of budgets.

### **Remuneration policy for key management personnel**

The trustees set the remuneration for the artistic director in discussion at a full board meeting and review annually.

### **Risk management**

The board of trustees and key management personnel have a rigorous approach to risk management. The organisation's key risks are reviewed on an ongoing basis, with mitigating actions put in place to minimise the continuing threat to the charity.

The key risks at the point of signing this report are:

- Impacts of COVID-19 – Young Identity has had to transition from primarily in-person to solely digital delivery in the short to medium term. However, moving forward, Young Identity is taking a hybrid approach to all of its work, delivering activity online and in-person.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Young Identity's earned income from commissioners was cancelled or postponed. However, having successfully secured emergency funding from Arts Council England Emergency Grant and Cultural recovery and the National Lottery Community Fund, allowed the organisation to adapt and continue its activity.

We have implemented several scenario planning options in all of our different activities factoring in various public health scenarios. The emotional, economic, and health effects of COVID-19 make Young Identity's work even more important for young people; despite the challenging situation.

- Financial sustainability – Young Identity has demonstrated its impressive ability to secure considerable earned operating income from commissions and events and this will be key to its ongoing financial sustainability. The challenge in the medium term is to develop a business model including core grant funding which ensures the organisation's financial sustainability and its ability to expand its operations to meet demand.

Young Identity  
Trustees' annual report  
for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**Statement of responsibilities of the trustees**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practices and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice 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 operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report was approved by the trustees on 27 / 01 /2022 and signed on their behalf by,



Jonah Earle (Chair)

Independent examiner's report  
to the members of  
Young Identity

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 which are set out on pages 15 to 23.

**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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

*Jennifer Daniel*

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants  
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street  
Manchester, M4 6JG

Date. 28/01/2022.....

Wordsmith Awards  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the period ended 31 March 2021

|  | Note | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total funds<br>2021<br>£ | Total funds<br>2020<br>£ |
|--|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income from:</b>                          |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Donations and legacies                       | 3    | 1,252                      | 130                      | 1,382                    | 5,850                    |
| Charitable activities:                       | 4    | 53,755                     | 164,612                  | 218,367                  | 147,798                  |
| <b>Total income</b>                          |      | <b>55,007</b>              | <b>164,742</b>           | <b>219,749</b>           | <b>153,648</b>           |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                       |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Charitable activities:                       | 5    | 19,605                     | 152,275                  | 171,880                  | 115,786                  |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                     |      | <b>19,605</b>              | <b>152,275</b>           | <b>171,880</b>           | <b>115,786</b>           |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b> | 6    | <b>35,402</b>              | <b>12,467</b>            | <b>47,869</b>            | <b>37,862</b>            |
| Transfer between funds                       |      | 14                         | (14)                     | -                        | -                        |
| <b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>    |      | <b>35,416</b>              | <b>12,453</b>            | <b>47,869</b>            | <b>37,862</b>            |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>               |      |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| Total funds brought forward                  |      | 19,282                     | 18,580                   | 37,862                   | -                        |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>           |      | <b>54,698</b>              | <b>31,033</b>            | <b>85,731</b>            | <b>37,862</b>            |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Wordsmith Awards  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2021

|  | Note | 2021          |               | 2020          |               |
|--|------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|  |      | £             | £             | £             | £             |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                |      |               |               |               |               |
| Debtors  | 9    | 495           |               | 554           |               |
| Cash at bank and in hand                             |      | 86,496        |               | 38,568        |               |
|  |      | <b>86,991</b> |               | <b>39,122</b> |               |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                   |      |               |               |               |               |
| Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year | 10   | (1,260)       |               | (1,260)       |               |
|  |      | <b>85,731</b> |               | <b>37,862</b> |               |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                            |      |               | <b>85,731</b> |               | <b>37,862</b> |
| <b>Net assets</b>                                    |      |               | <b>85,731</b> |               | <b>37,862</b> |
| <b>Funds of the charity:</b>                         |      |               |               |               |               |
| Restricted income funds                              | 11   |               | 31,033        |               | 18,580        |
| Unrestricted income funds                            | 12   |               | 54,698        |               | 19,282        |
|  |      |               | <b>85,731</b> |               | <b>37,862</b> |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>                           |      |               | <b>85,731</b> |               | <b>37,862</b> |

The notes on pages 17 to 23 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 27/01/2022 and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
Jonah Earle (Chair)

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2021

**1 Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

**a Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair view' and have departed from the

Wordsmith Awards meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

**b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

There are no key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

## Wordsmith Awards

### Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

#### **c Income**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

#### **d Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

#### **e Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

#### **f Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

## Wordsmith Awards

### Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

#### g Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### h Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### i Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### j Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## 2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

## 3 Income from donations and legacies

| <b>Current reporting period</b>  | Unrestricted<br>£         | Restricted<br>£         | Total 2021<br>£         |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Donations                        | 1,252                     | 130                     | 1,382                   |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1,252</b>              | <b>130</b>              | <b>1,382</b>            |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b> | <i>Unrestricted<br/>£</i> | <i>Restricted<br/>£</i> | <i>Total 2020<br/>£</i> |
| <i>Donations</i>                 | <i>5,850</i>              | <i>-</i>                | <i>5,850</i>            |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>5,850</b>              | <b>-</b>                | <b>5,850</b>            |

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

**4 Income from charitable activities**

| <b>Current reporting period</b>                            | Unrestricted<br>£         | Restricted<br>£         | Total 2021<br>£         |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Commissions  | 52,505                    | -                       | 52,505                  |
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community)                 | -                         | 25,332                  | 25,332                  |
| Arts Council England Culture Recovery                      | -                         | 52,960                  | 52,960                  |
| Arts Council England (Emergency Fund)                      | -                         | 34,460                  | 34,460                  |
| National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund (CCSF) | -                         | 45,970                  | 45,970                  |
| Trafford Housing Grant                                     | -                         | 5,890                   | 5,890                   |
| Other income   | 1,250                     | -                       | 1,250                   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>53,755</b>             | <b>164,612</b>          | <b>218,367</b>          |
| <b>Previous reporting period</b>                           | <b>Unrestricted<br/>£</b> | <b>Restricted<br/>£</b> | <b>Total 2020<br/>£</b> |
| Commissions  | 90,886                    | -                       | 90,886                  |
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community)                 | -                         | 19,320                  | 19,320                  |
| Arts Council England (Imprint)                             | -                         | 12,600                  | 12,600                  |
| Foyle Foundation   | -                         | 6,000                   | 6,000                   |
| Manchester City Council                                    | -                         | 500                     | 500                     |
| Other income   | -                         | -                       | -                       |
| Income transferred from association                        | 18,492                    | -                       | 18,492                  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>109,378</b>            | <b>38,420</b>           | <b>147,798</b>          |

**5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

|  | Total 2021<br>£ | Total 2020<br>£ |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Freelance                                | 139,946         | 104,702         |
| Insurance                                | 595             | 104             |
| Marketing                                | 5,471           | 1,833           |
| Office expenses                          | 21,604          | 591             |
| Prizes                                   | 501             | 240             |
| Show expenses                            | 1,697           | 794             |
| Traveling and subsistence                | 6               | 5,742           |
| Venue hire                               | -               | 520             |
| Professional fees                        | 800             | -               |
| Governance costs (Accountancy & IE fees) |                 |                 |
|  | 1,260           | 1,260           |
|  | 171,880         | 115,786         |
|  | 2021<br>£       | 2020<br>£       |
| Restricted expenditure                   | 152,275         | 19,840          |
| Unrestricted expenditure                 | 19,605          | 95,946          |
|  | 171,880         | 115,786         |

## Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

### 6 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

| This is stated after charging/(crediting):    | 2021<br>£   | 2020<br>£   |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Independent examiner's fee - accountancy fee  | 960         | 960         |
| Independent examiner's fees - examination fee | 300         | 300         |
|   | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

### 7 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the management committee nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration or reimbursed expenses during the year (2020: Nil).

No members of the management committee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year. (2020: £Nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Two trustees Nasima Begum and Tolu Agbelusi received fees, £1350 and £1750 respectively as workshop facilitators during this period.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

### 8 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

**9 Debtors**

|                                | 2021<br>£  | 2020<br>£  |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Other debtors                  | -          | 110        |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 495        | 444        |
|                                | <u>495</u> | <u>554</u> |

**10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                              | 2021<br>£    | 2020<br>£    |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Other creditors and accruals | 1,260        | 1,260        |
|                              | <u>1,260</u> | <u>1,260</u> |

**11 Analysis of movements in restricted funds**

|  | Balance at<br>1 April<br>2020<br>£ | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance at 31<br>March 2021<br>£ |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community)                 | 18,580                             | 25,462         | (23,487)         | -              | 20,555                           |
| Arts Council England Culture Recovery                      | -                                  | 52,960         | (54,689)         | -              | (1,729)                          |
| Arts Council England (Emergency Fund)                      | -                                  | 34,460         | (34,446)         | (14)           | -                                |
| National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund (CCSF) | -                                  | 45,970         | (33,763)         | -              | 12,207                           |
| Trafford Housing Grant                                     | -                                  | 5,890          | (5,890)          | -              | -                                |
|  | <u>18,580</u>                      | <u>158,852</u> | <u>(146,385)</u> | <u>(14)</u>    | <u>31,033</u>                    |

**Name of**

**Description, nature and purposes of the fund**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Arts Council England (YI in the Community)                 | Arts Council England funding for writing development programme for people aged 15-25 years old.                |
| Arts Council England (Imprint)                             | A project grant for Hatch imprint show at HOME's Push festival.  |
| Arts Council England (Culture Recovery)                    | Grant was critical for our longer-term survival for the Young Identity during COVID.                           |
| Arts Council England (Emergency Fund)                      | Supported the continuation of Young Identity.  |
| National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund (CCSF) | Support made a significant contribution to the survival of our organisation during COVID and project activity. |
| Trafford Housing Trust                                     | The funding allows us to pilot a writing and performance workshop in the Trafford area for Trafford residents. |

Wordsmith Awards

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

**12 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds**

|              | Balance<br>at 1 April<br>2020<br>£ | Income<br>£          | Expenditure<br>£       | Transfers<br>£   | As at 31 March<br>2021<br>£ |
|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| General fund | 19,282                             | 55,007               | (19,605)               | 14               | 54,698                      |
|              | <u>19,282</u>                      | <u>55,007</u>        | <u>(19,605)</u>        | <u>14</u>        | <u>54,698</u>               |
|              | <u><u>19,282</u></u>               | <u><u>55,007</u></u> | <u><u>(19,605)</u></u> | <u><u>14</u></u> | <u><u>54,698</u></u>        |

| <b>Name of</b> | <b>Description, nature and purposes of the fund</b>       |
|----------------|---|
| General fund   | The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds |

**13 Analysis of net assets between funds**

| <b>Current Reporting Period</b>        | General<br>fund<br>£ | Designated<br>funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | Total<br>£           |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Other net current assets/(liabilities) | 54,698               | -                        | 31,033                   | 85,731               |
|  | <u>54,698</u>        | <u>-</u>                 | <u>31,033</u>            | <u>85,731</u>        |
| Total                                  | <u><u>54,698</u></u> | <u><u>-</u></u>          | <u><u>31,033</u></u>     | <u><u>85,731</u></u> |