



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/09/2022 to 31/08/2023

Charity name: Creative Opps CIO

Charity registration number: 1190916

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The object of the CIO is to advance in life and relieve the needs of young people aged 6-30, with a focus on young people who are socially and/or economically disadvantaged, through:</p> <p>(a) facilitating their access to knowledge, learning opportunities and experience;</p> <p>(b) providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as responsible individuals.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Through our 2023 Mentoring Programme, we matched 12 young people from underrepresented communities with creative professionals to work together on the next steps for their creative industry and academic goals. Mentors and mentees met for two hours a month either remotely or in person, over a six-month period. We provided both parties with training and ongoing support, as well as food and travel costs for those who met in-person.</p> <p>We also brokered paid creative industry work placements for 10 young people facing barriers to participation in the creative industries. We partnered with organisations including Box to Box Films, DRIFT Studio, Voices Radio, Woodburner Music, Poet in the City and Orbital Sound. We secured an expansion of the Box to Box internship offer from 4-week part-time to 6-month full-time placements and worked with Islington Giving to provide 200-hour long placements for young people from the borough.</p> <p>Building upon our strategic aim to deliver user-led programmes, designed by and for young people, our staff team, Trustees and Youth Board engaged in sociocracy training, and we have secured funding to pay our five Youth Board members to continue to develop our strategic vision for the year ahead.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Through our 2023 mentoring programme, mentees took part in activities ranging from attending photography events, gigs and exhibitions to BBC work shadowing and running on film shoots. Mentees have consistently reported increased levels of confidence and emphasised how the programme has given them the means to pursue their creative dreams, which they wouldn't otherwise have had access to. Through their participation, multiple mentees have gone on to secure paid work in film and non-profit sector organisations, as well as enrolling on university courses and producing their own creative output.</p> <p>Our work placements have primarily been offered to young people living in Islington, which ranks within the top 16.7% most deprived local authorities (IMD 2019). The difference made to participants circumstances is evidenced not only through several young people gaining paid roles in the film and music industries but in how they have taken the skills and confidence gained through the placements back into their own communities. For example, one participant is now helping to provide guidance and support to another young person who is passionate about documentary making. Another participant recently founded a mutual support group for black and queer people interested in music production and poetry. Our five Youth Board members continue to be instrumental in driving Creative Opps' strategic vision, supporting with recruitment, interviews and safeguarding training, as well as researching potential partner organisations. As they continue to build upon their previous experience and develop leadership and decision-making capabilities, we are confident that they will take these skills into wider society.</p>

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The remaining funds for this reporting period are designated for completion of our 2023 Mentoring Programme, funding of the CEO's salary and to sustain our reserves. We actively seek to diversify our income streams and have a robust strategy in place to ensure that we are financially sustainable. The key areas we consider in this regard are grants from trusts and foundations, partnerships with creative industry employers to generate charitable income and regular donations. The Trustees are confident that we can continue to maximise our impact and deliver sustainable programmes that serve the young people we work with.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees have established a reserves policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should be kept at the equivalent of three months running costs. At this level, the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding. If this happens, it would then be necessary to consider how the funding would be replaced or activities changed.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£9,500
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The Trustees are confident that there are no ongoing concerns and will be able to sustain the organisation.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	We're incredibly grateful for the support from the following funders who have enabled us to grow our work over this reporting period: The Blagrove Trust, National Lottery Awards for All England, Zing, The Lovington Foundation, Islington Community Chest, Islington Giving & Owl Inc.
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	CIO

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>The charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed.</p> <p>A new trustee is selected via an open recruitment process, whereby a specific role (for example, Chair) is advertised. Applicants take part in an interview, and one person is selected provided there is a quorum of the sitting Board.</p> <p>The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before their first appointment:</p> <p>(a) A copy of the constitution and any amendments made to it.</p> <p>(b) A copy of the CIO's latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.</p>
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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Creative Opps CIO
Other name the charity uses	Creative Opps
Registered charity number	1190916
Charity's principal address	MILDMAY COMMUNITY CENTRE WOODVILLE ROAD LONDON N16 8NA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lucy Rolington	Co-Chair		
2	Edi Whitehead	Co-Chair		
3	Joshua Pugh			
4	Emer May Morris			
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/a
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/a
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/a

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/a

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

<i>EDI WHITEHEAD</i>	
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Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

<i>CO-CHAIR</i>	
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Date

<i>25 JANUARY 2024</i>



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Creative Opps CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1190916

Set out on pages

1-3

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

25/01/2024

Name:

Genevieve Jones

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

Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

71 St Marks Avenue

Gravesend Kent
DA11 9LN

Section B

Disclosure

N/a

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A