

We are the Minorities. Arts Charity. Annual Report November 2022 – November 2023



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Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It has been a productive and energetic year for We Are the Minories. We have celebrated reopening the Minories Gallery, welcomed diverse artists and audiences, and deepened our impact on the community.

This report highlights our achievements and the strides we have made towards our mission of enriching lives through the arts.

I commend the imagination, dedication, and pure grit of our staff, Emma Howe, Emma Barrow and Francesca Lombardi, our trustees, our volunteers, and our tenants for making the last year so successful and rewarding. I am very proud to serve as your chair.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Ben Coode-Adams



Photo: Jayne Lloyd

About us

MISSION

Our mission is not just a statement; it's a commitment.

We will use our building, garden, collection and archive as a catalyst to connect with our region and communities through a high-quality and widely accessible creative programme.

VISION

Empowering our communities to access the life-changing power of art

VALUES

Our core values are:

Financial Stability

Inclusivity

Diversity

Creativity

Environmental Sustainability



Major Achievements

EXHIBITIONS

We hosted six exhibitions featuring over 150 artists.

EVENTS

We organised four events, including artist talks, community celebrations and live music.

VENUE HIRE

We took 16 bookings for the use of our spaces.

ARTIST FAIRS

We ran two artist fairs with over 20 stallholders.

PARTNERSHIPS

We established new partnerships with local people, community groups, businesses, and non-profits.



Financial Summary

Donations and legacies (excluding Endowments Received)

£19179

Charitable activities

£95119

Other trading activities

£41965

Investments

£31

Other

£0



Photo: Jayne Lloyd

Programmes and Initiatives

The year has been characterised by re-invigoration and dynamism, with new staff Director Emma Howe appointed May 2023, Gallery and Programme Manager Emma Barrow appointed June 2023, and Francesca Lombardi taking charge of front-of-house duties from October 2023.

We are profoundly grateful to Jade Fothergill, who left us in March 2023. We wish her all the best for the future. Jade worked with us from December 2020 until March 2023. She delivered our Cultural Recovery Fund grant, an ambitious programme to support freelance creative professionals through the pandemic and deliver top-class creative work. She operated our gallery in Trinity Square until the end of December 2021, found our space on Long Wyre Street, oversaw its refurbishment and installed the We Are Commoners exhibition.

We began the year with a bang, delivering our Festival of Commoning in Priory Walk. Organised by Jade in collaboration with Craftspace, we delivered a weekend of workshops and celebrations with our neighbours on Priory Walk, including Colchester Arts Centre, Bridgeway, African Families in the UK, Colchester Food Co-operative Leaf Café run by En-form, Level Best and Community 360. We worked with artists Megan Neko from Stitch and Bitch, Alinah Azadeh, Shane Waltener and

Professor Freddie Robins.

We were successful in being accepted into the Steps to Sustainability programme run by the Social Enterprise Academy. This programme supported us in developing our innovative, sustainable wedding offer, which is bearing fruit now.

We successfully applied for a grant to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for a governance development programme. To devise our long-term strategy, we ran sessions for our staff and board with facilitator Dr Torange Khonsari until June.

Jack Fellows joined the staff in January 2023 to help develop our earned income. He oversaw multiple repairs to our building, including the roof, the plumbing and heating systems, to ensure we could open to the public. He also developed a fruitful collaboration with Crisp Events.

We began to use our building to generate income by renting out spaces. Our first tenant was the British Origami Society, which now stores its internationally significant archive in our building.

We opened our building for the first time since March 2020, with Potfest in February 2023. We saw over 1,000 visitors through the doors over three days. The Essex Photography Prize was equally busy. In April we were delighted to be able to host the informative and erudite Colchester

Archaeological Trust Roman wall exhibition. CAT held a number of hugely popular workshops with local people sorting and labelling finds.

Meanwhile, we were running exhibitions out of space on Long Wyre Steet. Our programme Arable, devised to support artists working with our collection and funded by the Hervey Benham Charitable Trust, continued. Deborah Lander curated the intriguing exhibition 'Moments' in January, showcasing moving image works by five early career artists. In February, Arable artists Clare Sams and Mary Pullen Deacon held an exhibition with workshops and talks.

We supported Deborah Lander's successful application for a Developing Your Creative Practice Arts Council Grant. The culmination of that work was the sparkling 'In Memoria' exhibition, which ran from July to August.

In the Spring of 2023, we ran workshops with artists Abbie Cairns, Gemma Garwood, Heidi Sharp, Tilly Hawkins and Iris Gunnarsdottir. We continued with our life drawing classes led by Sarah Hill.

In May we hosted 'Odes to the Ocean' an immersive listening event with music, accompanied by a film by Sally Child, movement by The Nose Collective, and a textile installation created through public workshops.

Programmes and Initiatives

Our connections with Creative Colchester strengthened – in June we hosted their networking event and Q&A, featuring Cllr David King (Leader of Colchester City Council) and Lindsay Barker (Executive Director Place) discussing future plans for culture in Colchester.

On 28th April, we were accepted to work towards Museum Accreditation. Although we have a great deal of work to undertake to achieve this accolade it is a major milestone to have been accepted into the programme.

We completed a fire risk assessment of the Minories building, alongside other building-related admin such as reinstating alarms and fixing the heating.

Lydi Martin generously gifted us books to add to our small but useful library.

We held the Colchester Institute BA(Hons) Fine Art exhibition 'You do You' in Long Wyre Street. This was a wonderfully varied and exciting exhibition across media. Congratulations to staff and students. Nice one.

We began redesigning our website and graphic identity with brilliant local designer Kate Goodall. Our new look was launched in September.

We initiated a venue hire offer at the Minories, starting with weekly Yoga classes

and going on to host a variety of events throughout the year, including birthday parties, album launches, and away days.

We reopened our building fully on August 19, 2023, launching with a feast of creativity by the often overlooked printmaker Michael Rothenstein, lent by Goldmark Gallery, who also kindly donated several prints to the Victor Batte-Lay Foundation. We celebrated Heritage Open Days with a Q&A with Colchester Graphic Designer, Paul Warren (of Warren Graphics), discussing his involvement in the original Rothenstein exhibition – held at The Minories in 1981.

Hot on the heels of this popular and successful exhibition, we hosted 'Essex Artists Past and Present', curated by Hayletts Gallery and 'Sargy Mann: Summer 1974' curated by Cobbold and Judd in our Ballroom. The former showed a broad and deep range of Essex artists, including Simon Carter, Elizabeth Morris, Chloe Cheese and James Dodds. The latter presented work by artist Sargy Mann, painted at Thorington Street in Suffolk. As a result of the second exhibition a work of art by Sargy Mann was donated to the VBLF collection.

In August we also started delivering a project co-produced with patients and NHS/EPUT staff of The Lakes Unit, Ipswich Road, Colchester consisting of nine fortnightly art workshops led by a selection of local artists. This project went on to win

an NHS Innovation Award.

In October we hosted our first PRINTFEST, a selling fair for printmaking, featuring seven local artists selling their works.

New connections in our community led to us hosting the vibrant 'More than History' Fashion show for Colchester Black History Month in October.

October also saw Colchester's first Street Art exhibition, delivered in collaboration with CRISP events and EYE-SAW, a local street artist.

Our funding from the Hervey Benham Charitable Trust allowed us to deliver an artist residency by Clare Iles, a sculptor based at Cuckoo Farm Studios just north of Colchester. Clare created a menagerie of farmyard animals with visitors to the gallery old and young in response to paintings of prize animals by artist John Vine in the Victor Batte-Lay Foundation Collection.

We hosted work by emerging artists from local educational establishments. Both the ACL Level 2 Art and Design Showcase and the 'Generator' pop-up exhibition of work from Level 3 Foundation Diploma Art & Design students at Colchester Institute took place at Long Wyre Street.

Common Ground Colchester, a community cooperative, moved into our café space supported by our JustGiving campaign. Our

Programmes and Initiatives

café reopened, serving hearty plant-based seasonal food sourced from local suppliers. They now have over 300 cooperative members. We are incredibly thankful to everyone who donated to the campaign and helped us fit out the kitchen ready for their arrival.

In November we conceived of and hosted the innovative 'Alternative Fireworks Night' – An immersive light and sound experience in our garden co-created with local DJ Dave Goddard and Light Artist Extraordinaire 'The Octopus'.

We programmed rolling exhibitions featuring works from the VBLF collection.

We replaced the flooring in the upstairs space, sound-insulating it for the first time before renting it to Creative Co-op, a graphic design co-operative.

We ended this financial period with a strong start of 6,909 visitors.

Staff and Trustees attended the Heritage Compass Symposium, the Association of Independent Museums Conference, and the Steps to Sustainability Conference.

All staff undertook Rebuilding Heritage training sessions. Our premises successfully obtained its public entertainment licence, with Emma Howe passing the personal licencing test.

We welcomed new trustees Jevan Watkins Jones, artist gardener; Jessica Twyman, curator at the Art Exchange Essex University; Lesley Scordellis, a former trustee of the Guildford Institute and part of the Cannock Mill cohousing community; and Russell Walker, Artist Illustrator; Edmund Bacon facilities manager; Yasmin Carr community organiser.

Farewell, Dr Sarah Demelo and Clare Sams as Trustees. Thank you for your time and your valuable contributions.



Photo: Jayne Lloyd



Photo: Emma Gosling

ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

We worked with the Army and the Hurrell family to bring the Jac Van Someren sculpture 'Verwondering' to our Garden.

The sculpture was unveiled in a moving ceremony coinciding with and celebrating the anniversary of Operation Market Garden with the Parachute Regiment, Colchester Garrison, Lord Lieutenant Jenny Tolhurst, High Sheriff Charlie Bishop, the Mayor of Colchester.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Our 11 volunteers contributed over 2,000 hours of service.



Photo: Ben Coode-Adams

Future Outlook

Looking ahead, we aim to:

Apply to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a project focussed on making our building more accessible.

Increase our outreach and educational programmes, particularly in underserved communities.

Strengthen our financial sustainability through diversified funding sources.

Professionalise our processes as we prepare to apply for Museum Accreditation.

Assess the ecological landscape of our garden, then take active steps to improve the range of species and habitats present.

Ensure that environmental responsibility is a key consideration in everything we do.

Continue fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity in the arts.



Photo: Mads Pierce

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, volunteers, partners, and staff. Your unwavering support and dedication are the driving force behind our work, and we are deeply grateful for it. We are also hugely grateful to all our visitors who make everyday such a joy. Please keep coming. We will be doing more and better of everything.

KEY SUPPORTERS

We are immensely grateful to the previous Friends of the Minorities for 30 years spent caring for our garden.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Victor Batte-Lay Foundation

CONTACT US

We are the Minorities

The Minorities Gallery

74 High Street Colchester Essex CO1 1UE

Tel: 01206 582 067 Email: info@theminorities.org



Photo: Mads Pierce

**WE ARE THE MINORIES
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2023**

SAS Accounting Services Ltd
The Colchester Centre
Hawkins Road
Colchester
CO2 8JX

We Are The Minorities
Unaudited Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 30 November 2023

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We Are The Minories
Statement of Financial Position
As At 30 November 2023

Registered number: 13018113

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	4		10,322		-
			<u>10,322</u>		<u>-</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	5	6,148		-	
Debtors	6	2,800		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>3,573</u>		<u>8,254</u>	
		12,521		8,254	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	7	<u>(3,149)</u>		<u>(1,996)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)			<u>9,372</u>		<u>6,258</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>19,694</u>		<u>6,258</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>19,694</u>		<u>6,258</u>
Income Statement			<u>19,694</u>		<u>6,258</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			<u>19,694</u>		<u>6,258</u>

We Are The Minories
Statement of Financial Position (continued)
As At 30 November 2023

For the year ending 30 November 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The company has taken advantage of section 444(1) of the Companies Act 2006 and opted not to deliver to the registrar a copy of the company's Income Statement.

On behalf of the board

Amy Turnbull

Director

16th August 2024

The notes on pages 3 to 4 form part of these financial statements.

We Are The Minories

Notes to the Financial Statements

For The Year Ended 30 November 2023

1. General Information

We Are The Minories is a private company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 13018113. The registered office is The Minories, 74 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UE.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 section 1A Small Entities "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

2.2. Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts and value added taxes. Turnover includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services. Turnover is reduced for estimated customer returns, rebates and other similar allowances.

Sale of goods

Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods has transferred to the buyer. This is usually at the point that the customer has signed for the delivery of the goods.

Rendering of services

Turnover from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The stage of completion of a contract is measured by comparing the costs incurred for work performed to date to the total estimated contract costs. Turnover is only recognised to the extent of recoverable expenses when the outcome of a contract cannot be estimated reliably.

2.3. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures & Fittings	25% reducing balance
---------------------	----------------------

2.4. Stocks and Work in Progress

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads. Work-in-progress is reflected in the accounts on a contract by contract basis by recording turnover and related costs as contract activity progresses.

3. Average Number of Employees

3 Average number of employees, including directors, during the year was: 3 (2022: 1)

4. Tangible Assets

	Fixtures & Fittings £
Cost	
As at 1 December 2022	-
Additions	11,255
As at 30 November 2023	11,255
Depreciation	
As at 1 December 2022	-
Provided during the period	933
As at 30 November 2023	933
	...CONTINUED

We Are The Minories
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended 30 November 2023

Net Book Value

As at 30 November 2023

10,322

As at 1 December 2022

-

5. Stocks

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stock	6,148	-

6. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Due within one year		
Other debtors	2,800	-
	2,800	-

7. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,616	1,198
Other taxes and social security	174	624
Other creditors	359	174
	3,149	1,996

8. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
We Are The Minorities

On accounts for the year
ended

30/11/2023

Charity no
(if any)

1197486

Set out on pages

1 - 7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/11/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed:

Date: 27/09/2024

Name:

Tracy Bettany

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

N/A

Address:

29A Saville Street

Walton-on-the-Naze

CO14 8PJ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

N/A