
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Financial Year Ending 16/08/2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name: Co Align

Registered charity number: 1210408

Registered address: 5 Brayford Square, London, E1 0SG

Legal structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association)

Date of registration: 9 October 2024

Trustees: Jennifer Farmer (Chair), Eleanor Swan, Cristyn Sharkey (as at the date of approval of this report). There were no other trustees during the financial year.

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

The objects of Co Align are to advance the arts for the public benefit by the promotion in particular, but not exclusively, of the art of opera. Co Align was founded in 2024 by PJ Harris and Hannah Kumari with the mission of reaching new audiences for opera.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

Overview

Co Align's primary focus during the year has been the development of *Displaced: A Woolwich Arsenal Opera*, a new opera set in Woolwich in 1913, exploring themes of displacement, identity and belonging. The production is scheduled for performance in February 2027. Much of the community activity undertaken this year supports the development of this work and the building of relationships with the communities whose stories it tells. Two main strands of community workshop activity were delivered during the year:

1. Roots: Royal Borough of Greenwich Community Arts Fund Project

Co Align delivered *Roots*, a programme of community songwriting and creative workshops, funded by the Royal Borough of Greenwich Community Arts Fund (£3,000).

Six workshops took place between February and March 2025 at Tramshed, Woolwich. This was the first time using Tramshed, which enabled the workshops to be rooted in the heart of old Woolwich. Eighteen participants took part, with a closed sharing session at the final workshop.

Participants reflected a diverse cross-section of the Woolwich community, including students from Trinity Laban and local residents from both old and new Woolwich. The material produced was of a high standard and authentically represented the changing face of Woolwich. Key partnerships included Tramshed Theatre and Royal Borough of Greenwich. Trinity Laban and Blackheath Halls contributed participants through their mailing list.

Participant feedback included:

- *"I really enjoyed the session, it was great to talk about Woolwich and make a song."*
- *"I really enjoy the singing, it was excellent. I look forward to the next session."*
- *"I had a really nice time. It was nice meeting others too."*

A key learning from this strand was that Co Align wishes to focus on community participation that is integrated into its main stage work, rather than standalone projects. Relationships built through Roots will continue to be developed as part of the *Displaced* programme.

2. Islington Community Singing Workshops: Peabody Community Foundation

Co Align delivered a programme of community singing workshops in Islington, funded by the Peabody Community Foundation (£4,815), which started in February 2025 and is ongoing.

The workshops were held at Hugh Cubitt Community Centre and were delivered in partnership with 'Help on your Doorstep' Each session lasts 1 hour. Sessions were designed to engage residents with the story of *Displaced* and introduce the community to singing.

Outcomes for participants included increased confidence in using their voice, new friendships, engagement with the art form of opera, and signposting to further opportunities on the *Displaced* project. The programme also built skills and improved access to employment, addressed mental health and wellbeing, and contributed to stronger community cohesion. Co Align developed a clear structure and framework for future session delivery and grew its local network of residents interested in future work.

Participant feedback included:

"I feel a huge difference since attending. Not just with singing technique which has I think improved quite a lot, but mainly the breathing techniques and all the emotional resilience that comes with this and with overcoming challenges, group cohesion, etc. The tutor was very engaging and created a non-judgemental playful set of sessions."

FINANCIAL REVIEW

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
Income				
Peabody Community Foundation		4,815		4,815
Royal Borough of Greenwich		3,000		3,000
Golsoncott Trust	1,000			1,000
The Leche Trust		4,000		4,000
Total Income	1000	11,815	0	12,815
Expenditure				
Freelance artist fees & facilitators		11,240		11240
Workshop Materials		24		24
Venue Hire Costs		525		525
Marketing		26		26
Total Expenditure	60	11,815	0	11,875
Cash funds this year end	940	0	0	940

IN KIND SUPPORT

Co Align received in-kind support during the year with an estimated value of £360. This comprised use of Hugh Cubitt Community Centre, provided through the Peabody Community Foundation at an estimated value of £30 per hour for 12 hours. This support is not included in the financial statements.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Co Align's primary objective for the coming year is the continued development and production of *Displaced: A Woolwich Arsenal Opera*, scheduled for performance in London in February 2027. This will include continued community engagement workshops in Woolwich, developing delivery partnerships with venue Woolwich Works and the BBC Concert Orchestra, and the

recruitment of community performers to perform alongside professional singers in the production.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed. The principal risks identified include funding dependency on one-off grants, the capacity of co-directors Hannah Kumari and PJ Harris to deliver the day-to-day activity. Systems and procedures have been put in place to manage these risks, including the exploration of new funding strategies, the future benefit of Theatre Tax Relief after the charity's first full production in February 2027 and the partnerships with larger organisations such as Woolwich Works & the BBC Concert Orchestra. The charity is also offsetting the workload of the co-directors by appointing PR, Marketing, Producing and Accounting freelancers/consultants to support.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Co Align is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association), registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 9 October 2024. The charity is governed by its constitution adopted on that date. The charity is managed by its board of trustees, who are responsible for the strategic oversight and financial management of the organisation. Day-to-day operations are led by co-founders and co-directors PJ Harris and Hannah Kumari. Trustees are appointed by the membership of the CIO in accordance with the charity's Constitution.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The trustees confirm that the financial statements give a true and accurate view of the charity's receipts and payments and its cash balances for the period ending 16 August 2025, and have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Receipts and Payments basis.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Name: Jennifer Farmer

Position: Chair of Trustees

Date: 16/06/2026