

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Eden Place Arts Centre

1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

Overview

Established in 1993, Eden Place Arts Centre is a thriving community arts hub located within Pilots Row Youth and Community Centre, which is situated within the Bogside area of Derry City. Historically a flashpoint area for violence during the troubles, the Bogside is an area which suffers significant social and economic deprivation. The area has many problems associated with poverty and the legacy of the past. Anti-social behaviour, sectarianism, drug and alcohol abuse and dissident activity are prevalent. Eden Place Arts Centre (EPAC) is funded in kind by Pilots Row Centre, which is itself a joint provision between Derry City and Strabane District Council and the Education Authority, and by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland through their Lottery Project Funding Programme. Other income is from course fees and in-house fund raising.

Aims and Purpose

Eden Place Arts Centre Constitution 2. Objectives: *2.1: The group is established to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the arts in the north-west area of Northern Ireland by the provision of support, advice, education, training and facilities.*

The primary aim of EPAC is to provide access to the arts for all sections of our community. Through the provision of a wide range of arts and crafts classes, awareness raising arts projects and regular exhibitions, we engage with individuals of all ages, both able bodied and non-able bodied, marginalised groups and groups of adults and young people with wide ranging needs. We encourage participation in the arts for those who may not normally have that opportunity. This year we have worked with groups such as: Skeoge Community Hub, The Act Group, Tuned In and Praxis Care Connects. Each year we focus on projects for Human Rights Day and International Women's Day.

Our core activities normally consist of arts and crafts classes offering tuition in different art forms such as: Painting, Woodcarving, Pottery, Printmaking, Sketching, Photography, Spinning and Weaving and Mosaic Art. We normally run these classes throughout weekdays and evenings for 26 weeks in the year, over 3 terms - Winter, Spring and Summer. These classes are funded by highly discounted fees from participants (on average £5.50 per two-hour

class) and by our ACNI grants. The classes attract participants of all ages, including those with a range of disabilities, from the immediate Bogside area, as well as from Derry City and counties Derry, Tyrone and Donegal. In addition, we normally run extra courses and workshops (free admission) for specific marginalised groups such as Aware, The Act Group, Praxis Care Connects, Youth Clubs and Tuned In.

Our 'Art for Good Health Course' runs for 26 weeks throughout the year. It is free to anyone suffering from any type of health issue, that feels art would enhance their life.

Our space within Pilots Row, as well as its use for classes, is also a gallery space which we use to promote and support local artists, some of whom may not otherwise have the opportunity to access exhibition space. On average, we have a different exhibition each month. We also use this space to exhibit work by individual artists, charities and local groups and to showcase projects undertaken during the year. At the end of each term we have an exhibition of work by the participants in our courses.

Purposes and Benefits

The direct benefits from our aims are the reduction in stress, anxiety, isolation and loneliness of our participants, through their involvement in creative activities, as well as boosting confidence and self-esteem as a result of achievement in new skills and knowledge along with awareness and appreciation of the arts. These benefits are demonstrated through positive end of term feedback from course participants and from their continued interest in enrolling for our classes.

We continue to educate the public on issues through our arts projects throughout the year. We encourage young people to use art as a tool to effect change in the world around them. Examples of these are our Human Rights arts workshops that we run in conjunction with the local branch of Amnesty International. We actively reach out to marginalised groups to work with on these projects.

Public Benefit

Eden Place Arts Centre aims to bring Art to the Heart of the community.

Eden Place Arts Centre contributed to positive mental health and increased sense of wellbeing within the community by providing 2 terms of recreational arts courses throughout the reporting period. These courses are open to all in the community at a very low cost to enable access to the arts for all. We find that these courses provide:

- A life line to people suffering from loneliness and isolation.
- A safe space for creative expression.
- A place to make new friends.
- A time out from the stresses of life.
- Access to an arts community

At the end of each term, we provide a platform for each individual who took part in our term time courses to showcase their work. The showcase proves to be a major confidence boost for all participants.

Below is an outline of activity from 1st April 2024-31st March 2025. Please note some of our projects are ongoing until the end of June 2025.

Spring Term of Courses

Our **Spring Term** ran for 6 weeks in April-June 2024, in the following media:

Painting, Ceramics, Wood Sculpture, Mosaic, Landscape Painting, Abstract Acrylics, Recreational Art, Sketching, Printmaking, Mosaic Art, Black and White Photography,

Plein Air Painting Workshop, Palette Knife Painting Workshop.

Art for Good Health ran as a 6-week crafts course, April-June 2024.

Exhibitions April 2024-31st March 2025:

Summer Students' Exhibition 17th-19th June 2024. This exhibition contained work created in the term running up to the exhibition.

Multi Media Exhibition by The Rossville Group 20th Sept-18th October 2024, an exhibition of paintings and prints by a group of students with special needs.

Christmas Students' Exhibition 11th-13th December 2024, this exhibition contained work created in the term running up to the exhibition.

Photographic Exhibition by Clodagh O'Leary: 27th Jan-17th Feb 2025

International Women's Day Exhibition, Fragments of Palestine by local artists, 3rd-26th March 2025

Autumn Term of Courses

Our **Autumn Term of 10-week courses** ran from September -December 2024 in the following media: Woodsculpture, Ceramics, Oil Painting for Beginners, Landscape Painting, Recreational Art, Painting in Egg Tempera, Printmaking, Mosaic Art, Painting with Indian Ink, Portrait Painting.

Art for Good Health 10-week course in Sketching and Painting; Sept-Dec 2024: This is a free course offered to people suffering from ill health to alleviate isolation and promote mental health and wellbeing.

Projects

Christmas Crafts: 6-week project with Children in Pilots Row Youth Club took place over Oct/Nov 2024

Write for Rights: 4-week **Comic Style Card Making Workshops** ran over 3 sessions in Nov 2024 with Pilots Row Youth Club. The cards were then sent to prisoners of conscience supported by Amnesty International.

Mosaic Project with ‘Tuned In’ special needs group took place as an outreach project over 8 weeks in Oct/Nov 2024

Christmas Ceramics Workshops with Praxis Care Connects ran 8 sessions from October-December 2024

‘The Bud Club’ Climate Emergency Project ran for 6-weeks in February/March 2025 as an outreach project.

New Year Term of 10-week courses ran from Jan-March 2025 in the following media: Woodsculpture, Ceramics, Oil Painting for Beginners, Inner Landscapes, Landscape Painting, Recreational Art, Painting in Egg Tempera, Printmaking, Mosaic Art. B&W Photography. Life Drawing. Portraiture.

The **Art for Good Health Course** continued with a 10-week term in: Sketching and Painting from Jan-March 2025.

Crosóg Bride/ St Brigid’s Cross Making Workshop took place on Friday 31st January 2025.

Our yearly programme comprises three main areas – 1. Term Time Courses, 2. Workshops and Community Projects, 3. Exhibitions. These are planned with reference to previous years’

experiences. Term Time Courses are a response to community demand. The term time courses also provide the Arts Centre with important revenue. Times and dates for every part of our project are planned a year in advance and a budget worked out accordingly with agreement between Pilots Row Centre Manager and Eden Place Management Committee so that as soon as we receive confirmation of our grant aid we can start advertising. We plan our projects with the needs of our local community in mind and we target marginalised groups to help give a voice to the voiceless in our community. We build on previous relationships while also forging new partnerships thus providing quality arts experiences for all.

Eden Place Arts Centre's Management Committee, comprised of 12 local representatives, has a wealth of managerial, artistic and community experience. It meets bi-monthly. At Management Committee meetings reports are presented by the Chair, Arts Centre Co-ordinator and Treasurer. The Chair reports on general organisational matters. The Co-ordinator reports on the progress of courses, workshops, events and exhibitions, tutor involvement, audiences and student participation. All aspects of the Arts Centre are discussed and future events approved. The Treasurer presents income and expenditure spreadsheets and bank and petty cash reconciliations. A sub-committee of the Arts Co-ordinator, Finance Officer, Chair and Treasurer meet on a regular basis to deal with day-to-day running of the Centre. Three times a year the Management Committee is informed of the results of a satisfaction survey carried out by staff. Each project is managed by the Arts Centre Co-ordinator and overseen by the Management Committee. Eden Place has an established constitution with which all committee members are familiar. Many members of EPAC Management Committee and our Arts Centre Co-ordinator have received NICVA governance training.

The financial running of Eden Place Arts Centre is in the first instance undertaken by the Finance Officer and the Arts Co-ordinator and supervised by the Treasurer on an ongoing basis. As detailed in the attached Financial Policy, best practice is followed in the handling of all financial transactions, in making payments to staff, tutors and suppliers, and in the maintenance of appropriate financial records. Monthly reconciliations are made of the bank account and petty cash. The financial records are examined by the Management Committee at the bi-monthly meetings. At the end of the financial year (31st March), all records are passed for checking to the Centre's accountants, who then produce an official Receipts and Payments Statement for production at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM is normally held in late April each year.

Achievements

This year we have grown audiences in the arts and introduced many new participants to our arts activities. Due to our increased online presence, through our website and social media

we are attracting more and more participants. We have also introduced new tutors and artforms to our arts centre through our many activities and projects. We have provided a platform for young artists to exhibit their work, helping them to grow in confidence with their artistic careers.

Our exhibitions have been varied and have inspired many.

Eden Place Arts Centre Management Committee Established April 2011

Majella Heaney Chairperson (Trustee)

Retired Further Education College Lecturer and course co-ordinator with 34 years experience.

Aileen Mac Manus Treasurer (Trustee)

Retired Company Secretary/Director-Derry Journal Ltd

Stephen Ross Secretary

A former Quantity Surveyor with more than eleven years professional experience

Aideen Corr

Former P.R and Events Manager for Derry City Council

Members:

Gus Hastings

Former manager of Pilots Row Centre

Mary Kennedy

Local Artist

Lorraine McElhinney (Trustee)

Retired primary school teacher, lecturer, counsellor

Kevin Abbott

Science teacher and FE lecturer. Member of Foyle Amnesty International and current chair.

Eibhlin Morrison

Painter and artist educator based in Derry with experience of working in art galleries such as Void. Currently working as Project Co-Ordinator for Feile, delivering cultural and creative activities in the community.

Clíodhna Kennedy

A native Irish speaker, Clíodhna worked in television and radio broadcasting for almost 20 years

Rebeca Infante

Rebeca has been involved in an international women's group, collaborating towards numerous International Women's Day art exhibitions.

Nora Church

Nora is currently a Creative Healthy City Task force member and Reducing Inequality Alliance Founding Member.

Eden Place Arts Centre

Pilots Row Centre, Rossville Street, Derry

Tel no: 07902172080

Email: info@edenplaceartscentre.com

Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland : NIC 100591

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Eden Place Arts Centre is in possession of the following groups of assets:

Office Furniture

Workshop Furniture

Darkroom and Camera Equipment

Pottery Equipment

Workshop Tools

Review of Financial for Year 2024-2025

Total Receipts on unrestricted funds were £23901 of which £22275 were course fees.

Restricted funds of £35392 were funded by Arts Council Northern Ireland.

Expenditure on running term time courses and community projects was £62453.

This is because Repair and Maintenance costs including new pugmill for pottery, were much higher than previous year.

The net result for the year was minus £3160.

Statement of receipts and payments - Year Ended 31 March 2024				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Grants		35,392	35,392	35,087
Donations	754		754	207
Fundraising Income			-	459
Course fees	22,275		22,275	19,265
Other income	872		872	590
Total Receipts	23,901	35,392	59,293	55,608
<u>Payments</u>				
Wages & Pensions		22,843	22,843	21,408
Tutor fees & Materials		29,581	29,581	25,886
Gallery expenses				-
Exhibition expenses	921		921	583
Volunteer expenses				-
Other costs	9,108		9,108	5,763
Total Payments	10,029	52,424	62,453	53,640
Net Receipts/(Payments)				
Transfers to/(from) funds			-3160.00	1,968
Surplus /(deficit) for the year				
Reconciliation 31.3.2024				
Cash at bank & in hand 31.3.2023			33,840	31,872
Surplus/(deficit) this year end			- 3,160	1,968
Cash at Bank & in hand 31.3.2024			30,680	33,840

EDEN PLACE ARTS CENTRE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

RECEIPTS	£	£
ARTS COUNCIL NI - LOTTERY FUND	35392.00	
DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DC	800.00	
COURSE FEES	22275.00	
EA - YOUTH CLUB	150.00	
OTHER INCOME	122.50	
DONATIONS	754.95	
		59294.45
PAYMENTS		
GROSS WAGES	21877.76	
EMPLOYER'S PENSION	965.47	
INSURANCES	902.36	
TUTOR FEES	25320.00	
TRAINING	120.00	
EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS	4261.95	
PUGMILL - POTTERY	3456.00	
EXHIBITION EXPENSES	921.23	
STATIONERY & OFFICE SUPPLIES	591.24	
EA - YOUTH CLUB PROJECT	114.20	
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	745.50	
KILN PACKING	245.00	
ADVERTISING & MARKETING	1871.86	
PETTY CASH - MISCELLANEOUS	101.04	
BANK FEES AND WEBSITE COSTS	466.07	
ACCOUNTANCY FEES	480.00	
NORTHWEST COMMUNITY FEE	15.00	
		62454.68
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD		-3160.23
BANK BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR		33839.63
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		-3160.23
BANK AND CASH BALANCES AT END OF YEAR		30679.40



EDEN PLACE ARTS CENTRE

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Eden Place Arts Centre

We report on the Receipts and Payments Account of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on page 1.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether any particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

We have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

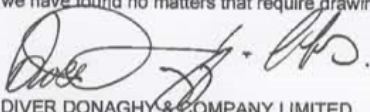
Our examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

Our role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, we have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



DIVER DONAGHY & COMPANY LIMITED
ACCOUNTANTS AND TAX CONSULTANTS
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18th APRIL 2024

