

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100808

Details

Known as	The MAC
Status	Received
Registered	2014-11-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	10 Exchange Street Belfast Bt1 2nj BT1 2NJ
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Website	www.themaclive.com

Activities

Purposes: The Company is established for charitable purposes only namely the advancement of education in Northern Ireland in relation to the arts and in particular by the provision of a centre for use in instruction in the various arts (visual, performing, musical and literary) and which may also be used for training in any such activities or for the performances, readings or exhibits and so that the policy governing the use of the centre shall not discriminate on grounds of religion, political opinion, race, colour, ethnic origin, sex or age.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Arts, Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Education/training, Sport/recreation, Urban development, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,986,762	£3,302,232	£-436,025	108

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Louise O'boyle		
Mr Eugene Campbell		
Mr Ross Hickey		
Mr Shane Quinn		
Ms Catherine Fearon		
Ms Elizabeth Skelcher		
Ms Htaik Htaik Win		
Ms Kim- Marie Spence		
Ms Megan Magill		
Ms Nicola Browne		
Ray Hutchinson		

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100808

Accounts



**THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Colm Devine (resigned 25 October 2024)
Raymond Hutchinson (Chairman)
Louise O'Boyle
Dorothy Wilson-Longfils (resigned 28 August 2024)
Kim-Marie Spence
Nicola Brown (appointed 11 March 2025)
Eugene Campbell (appointed 11 March 2025)
Catherine Fearon (appointed 11 March 2025)
Megan Magill (appointed 11 March 2025)
Shane Quinn (appointed 11 March 2025)
Elizabeth Skelcher (appointed 11 March 2025)
Htaik Win (appointed 11 March 2025)
Ross Hickey (appointed 13 May 2025)

Registered office

10 Exchange Street West
Belfast
BT1 2NJ

Solicitors

Edwards & Co. Solicitors
28 Hill St
Belfast
BT1 2LA

Bank

Ulster Bank Limited
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Registered auditors

HM Chartered Accountants
6th Floor, East Tower
Lanyon Plaza
8 Lanyon Place
Belfast
BT1 3LP

Recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs under number

XR26229

Company number

NI022945

Charity registration number

NIC100808

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report)

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The company was incorporated on 26 July 1989 as The Old Museum Arts Centre and changed its name to The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) on 14 October 2010. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and is registered under company number NI22945. It is accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under reference XR26229.

The company has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 3 November 2014 under registration number NIC100808.

The charitable objective of the company as stated in its Articles of Association is:
"the advancement of education in Northern Ireland in relation to the arts and in particular by the provision of a centre for use in instruction in the various arts (visual, performing, musical and literary) and which may also be used for training in any such activities or for the performances, readings or exhibits and so that the policy governing the use of the centre shall not discriminate on the grounds of religion, political opinion, race, colour, ethnic origin, sex or age."

There have been no amendments to the governing documents in the year.

Governance Structure

The MAC (Charity) Board is comprised of up to 15 trustees who meet at least 4 times per year. The trustees are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law. The term of office for trustees is 4 years, with the option to serve a maximum of 2 terms. The Board's key responsibilities include setting out the vision, mission and values of the MAC, agreeing the strategy to deliver the vision and mission, agreeing the charity's governance structure and policies and ensuring the protection of the capital asset.

The Charity has established a wholly owned subsidiary, the MAC Trading Company Ltd (TradeCo), a company limited by shares which has a service level agreement with the Charity which provides a licence to TradeCo to carry out artistic programmes and ancillary trading in the building and sets out the commercial relationship between the two companies. Any profits are gifted to the charity in their entirety.

The Board has set clear delegated authorities for sub-committees, officers, the Director and staff, and monitors performance, upholding accountability, probity and transparency.

In 2024–25, seven new trustees were appointed, and the Board operated seven sub-committees: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Fundraising (Core, Trusts & Foundations); Strategic Development & Stakeholder Engagement; HR, Training & Transformation; Building & Equipment; Audit & Risk/Finance; and Remuneration & Nominations. All sub-committees comprise non-executive directors and report to the Board.

The Audit & Risk/Finance subcommittee meets monthly, with at least four of the meetings each year being audit and risk focused. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Treasurer who has significant recent, relevant financial experience. The sub-committee includes at least two other members from the Boards, neither of whom is the Chair of the Charity.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (Cont'd)

The Remuneration & Nominations sub-committee meets as required on an ad-hoc basis. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Chair, includes the TradeCo Chair and at least two other Charity Board members, one with significant HR skills and experience.

2. Objectives and Activities

Executive Summary

The trustees are pleased to present a successful year of transformation for the organisation. Following a period of significant transition, including financial challenges, governance changes and staff turnover, a new leadership structure was established. This team has stabilised the organisation, rebuilt stakeholder confidence and laid the foundations for strategic growth, resilience and impact.

In 2024–25 we delivered a curated programme across four strands that attracted and inspired over 200,000 visitors, many for the first time. During this year, the MAC brought internationally acclaimed artists to Northern Ireland while also platforming emerging, mid-career and established local artists. We worked with national partners and communities to explore social inequalities and injustices through art and creativity.

1. **Live Events:** Over 600 theatre, dance, comedy & music performances annually showcasing local, regional and international talent with affordable ticket pricing.
2. **Creative Learning & Engagement:** We address pressing local and global issues, advocate for a society where people and the planet are respected and cared for by collaborating with artists, community partners and people. Our work is rooted in collaboration, creativity, and social change, ensuring that art remains a powerful tool for education, activism, and engagement.
3. **Visual Arts:** Exhibitions by local, national and international artists, curated to reflect societal issues, inspire conversation and reflect developments in contemporary visual art practice, with consideration of our increasingly diverse audiences.
4. **Income Generation:** Fundraising, sponsorship, trusts and foundations, CaféBar, and artistic and commercial hires for private, public and third-sector clients.

2024–25 was a defining year for the MAC. After breaking a long cycle of deficits, we set a clear goal: to deliver a trading surplus and a transformation plan. In a challenging cultural and economic climate, we renewed our purpose, strengthened resilience and pursued creative ambition. The MAC reaffirmed its role as a vital civic space for the arts, a place where ideas are exchanged, creativity flourishes and communities connect.

Our annual theme, “Space for Everyone”, shaped both our programme and our organisational approach. It pushed us to ask who we reach, how our spaces are used, and what barriers still stand in the way of engagement with the arts.

Our galleries presented landmark exhibitions, placing artists from Northern Ireland alongside internationally recognised names. Our theatres buzzed with drama, comedy, dance and music, from community-led productions introducing new talent to acclaimed professional companies pushing creative boundaries.

Through MACTivate and our expanded Creative Learning & Engagement programmes, we worked over a longer timescale with artists, Artist-Teachers, civil-society organisations and communities to build deeper relationships and more impactful outcomes.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (Cont'd)

We strengthened governance, introduced a leaner, more agile leadership structure and embedded sustainability across our work. We earned Green Tourism accreditation and advanced capital projects to reduce our environmental footprint.

This progress has been underpinned by:

- A leaner and more agile staffing model, reducing permanent posts from 46 to 38 and embedding ~£400k annual savings.
- Governance renewal with the appointment of 7 new trustees via a values-led process, increasing diversity and strengthening expertise.
- A shift in organisational culture towards openness, inclusivity, and collaboration, as recognised by artists, partners, and funders.

Our strategic direction was refreshed through comprehensive stakeholder engagement and the near-completion of our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan. This plan sets five priorities: **Creativity, Participation, Learning, Social Relevance and Sustainability**. Annual programming themes, beginning with **Climate in Action** in 2025/26, will ensure focus and coherence across artistic, operational and community work.

Our priorities are clear: to champion creativity, widen access, foster learning, ensure social relevance and secure the MAC's long-term sustainability.

We extend our thanks to our funders, partners, staff, volunteers, artists, audiences, and Board for their unwavering support and commitment.

3. Achievements and Performance

3.1 Live Events

In 2024/25 the MAC delivered 628 live activities to more than 78,000 attendances. This was achieved in a challenging environment for touring productions. The programme balanced new commissions, visiting work and strategic hires, and was developed with local, national and international partners. Programming decisions were informed by contemporary artistic practice and by current cultural, social and political context. The aim was to maintain artistic ambition, broaden audiences and support artists at all stages of their careers.

Theatre remained central. Highlights included the MAC's own Christmas production, *The Adventures of Red Riding Hood*, which took a contemporary approach to a classic story and used an open casting process that informed more inclusive production practice. Community engagement was strong, with *Pride of the Shore* introducing many people to theatre for the first time and exceeding targets for artistic quality and attendance. New writing featured through Tinderbox Theatre Company's *I Have Always Liked the Name Marcus*, which centred lesser-heard voices and resonated with audiences. Summer activity brought energy across the building through youth and training programmes including Bruiser's Start and Graduate Academies, Belfast Boys Summer Dance Project, and youth theatre projects by New Lodge Arts, BSPA and Ravara. The first Belfast Ballet Festival drew new audiences and created opportunities for future collaboration.

Comedy continued to perform well, with sold-out shows by Jessica Fostekew, Sean Walsh and Miles Jupp. Ruby Wax presented an honest and engaging event on mental health and praised the MAC's welcome. Music and dance activity grew in ambition and diversity. Belfast Ensemble's *The Doppler Effect* showcased the main stage's technical and acoustic range. Luail's *Impasse* launched a new all-island dance company in Northern Ireland. Family audiences were served by CBeebies' Nick Cope, which required an additional performance due to demand. A new partnership with Tradfest brought a main stage concert with Seán Maguire in July, a period that is typically quiet for live performance.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (Cont'd)

Festival partnerships remained a core element of reach and profile. The MAC worked with Belfast International Arts Festival, Belfast Children's Festival, NI Science Festival, Outburst Queer Arts, Belfast Pride, Belfast Media Festival and the Deaf Arts Festival, presenting multidisciplinary work and attracting diverse audiences.

Artist development continued through multiple routes. The MAC partnered with Tinderbox Theatre Company on its INCUBATE programme, which supported seven artists over an eight-month process and culminated in a spring 2025 performance showcase. Space to Play provided approximately 75 artists with free or low-cost rehearsal, R and D time and practical advice. Through Ulster Touring Opera, young people aged 8 to 18 received weekly voice, acting and movement training. The Theatre Works Fest NI, led by Amadan and hosted by the MAC, attracted artists from across Ireland, the UK and Europe. The Gap Day scheme, in partnership with Dublin Fringe, offered supported research time for artists for a third consecutive year. New Jazzlife Jam Sessions with David Lyttle launched in January 2025, mixing international talent with emerging local musicians and offering under-18s opportunities to participate. Strong audience response led to a decision to continue the sessions until the end of November 2025.

Audience experience remained a priority. Our post visit surveys undertaken by Indigo rated show venue experience at 4.6 out of 5 and accessibility at 4.3 out of 5, both above UK benchmarks. Net Promoter Score was 71. Pricing remained accessible and the mix of co-presentations and hires enabled a broad range of voices and genres while protecting financial resilience.

3.2 Creative Learning

The year-round Creative Learning and Engagement programme reached more than 22,000 participants through three core strands: MACTivate, Growing Up with the MAC and Study Abroad. Activity was co-designed with artists, partners and communities and was rooted in creativity, collaboration and social justice. The focus was on participation, learning and impact over time rather than on isolated events.

MACTivate uses art to address social inequality in partnership with human rights and community organisations, including Participation and the Practice of Rights, the Rainbow Project, Alliance for Choice, Action Mental Health and Extern. In 2024/25 the MAC co-designed events and projects with migrant women, climate and mental health activists, peacemakers and LGBTQIA communities. Pride-related activity included queer zine-making, banner-making for families, a 'Get Ready for Pride' day for children and families with Young at Art, and a queer artists' meet-up. The team also co-presented a sold-out talk by Motaz Azaiza, the internationally recognised Palestinian photojournalist, which drew an audience of 343 people. As part of Khaled Barakeh's exhibition *The Shake*, a movement piece was created and performed in the galleries with 11 women who have experienced inequality. Further events included an Art and Activism forum delivered with Create, Ireland's development agency for collaborative practice, and a partnership event with Social Change Initiative and Politics in Action that explored the future of Northern Ireland.

Growing Up with the MAC supports early years, children and families. MAC Baby Time, led by artists Genevieve Swift and Stephen Beggs, provided sell-out sensory sessions that supported 180 babies and their parents. The MAC appointed its first Children's Artist in Residence, Rachel Fitzpatrick, whose programme promoted wellbeing, creativity and skills development, engaging 982 children. Forty-four artist-led workshops and events ran across the year, including natural pigment printmaking with Ruth Osborne, edible flowers sessions with Erin Bunting and a high-energy drumming circle with Jo Loughlin. A free integrated drop-in for d/Deaf and hearing families was supported by a BSL interpreter. The first Children's Summer Art Camp took place, and feedback highlighted the quality of facilitation and the inclusive environment. Two imagination-station art carts and a free playroom, stocked with books, activity sheets, art materials and toys, were available six days a week and were used by approximately 21,000 children and families across the year.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (Cont'd)

New Visions is a three-year programme supported by the Freelands Foundation that reimagines post-primary art education with six partner schools: St Louise's Comprehensive College Belfast, Cullybackey College, St Benedict's College Randalstown, St Conor's College Clady, Hazelwood Integrated College Newtownabbey and Newry High School. The programme combines Artist-Teacher Fellowships, a Schools in Residence model and long-term collaborations between artists and schools through MAC School Satellites. In 2024/25 the six schools moved art classes to the MAC for 20 days, and 506 students participated. A symposium in March 2025 drew 80 teachers, artists and educators, with a keynote from Freelands Foundation Chief Executive Dr Henry Ward. Feedback indicated increased confidence among teachers to integrate their artistic practice into classrooms.

Study Abroad activity continued to grow. The MAC welcomed Professor Peggy Stafford and 13 students from the State University of New York at Purchase for a four-week accredited module on socially engaged art-making in a post-conflict context. The cohort worked with academic and artistic facilitators, created artistic responses presented in the Upstairs Theatre and subsequently established a Peace-Forum at their home institution. A bespoke NYU peacebuilding residency also took place.

Across all strands the programme prioritised access, inclusion and the removal of barriers. Co-design with partners and communities ensured relevance, and the blend of paid opportunities and in-kind support helped sustain the local creative workforce.

3.3 Visual Arts

The visual arts programme presented a sequence of ambitious exhibitions that placed artists from Northern Ireland alongside internationally recognised practitioners and historical work. The curatorial approach combined profile-raising opportunities for artists based here, rigorous thematic inquiry and meaningful public engagement.

mother tongue ran from April to July 2024 and was guest-curated by Ciara Hickey and Alissa Kleist. The exhibition featured 21 artists based in Northern Ireland who participated in the Freelands Artist Programme between 2018 and 2023. Works in sculpture, installation, painting, photography, audio and film explored ideas of language, land, belonging, family and the body. The project highlighted the quality and breadth of contemporary practice in the region and was supported by PS², the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Freelands Foundation and the Esmé Mitchell Trust.

The Weight of Light, presented from August to October 2024, brought together the practices of Derry-based artists Conor McFeely and Pascale Steven. The presentation examined meaning within experiences of loss and the potential for adaptive change, offering audiences an intimate view of a long-standing artistic partnership and raising the profile of both artists.

Khaled Barakeh: The Shake ran in parallel and explored public art, contested histories and reconciliation, taking inspiration from Maurice Harron's *Hands Across the Divide* in Derry and considering how public sculptures function as markers of memory within evolving social and political landscapes. The project combined gallery presentation with socially engaged activity delivered with local partners. It was supported by the Henry Moore Foundation and by Cultural Bridge, a partnership between UK and German funders that supports bilateral artistic collaboration.

I See His Blood Upon the Rose ran from November 2024 to March 2025 and traced floral imagery from botanical study and seventeenth-century still life to political symbol, protest and contemporary practice. The exhibition created purposeful juxtapositions across centuries. Central to the narrative were the contributions of Rachel Ruysch and Mary Delany, shown alongside internationally recognised contemporary artists

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (Cont'd)

including Alvaro Barrington, Tracey Emin, Robert Mapplethorpe and John Currin, and Northern Ireland-based artists including Jennifer Trouton, Ted Pim and Paola Bernardelli. The exhibition attracted more than 12,000 visitors and a sold-out public programme of masterclasses, talks and workshops. Loans and support were secured from leading public and private collections and galleries. These included the British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, the National Gallery of Ireland, White Cube, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Sadie Coles HQ, Worcester Art Museum, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Collection, the British Council and Queen's University Belfast. Grant support included £30,000 from Garfield Weston and Art Fund.

Across the programme, exhibition-specific talks, screenings and tours supported interpretation and participation. The curatorial approach strengthened the MAC's reputation as a trusted institution that contributes to national and international discourse while connecting audiences with significant historical and contemporary work.

3.4 Income Generation

Income generation combined trading activity, fundraising, trusts and foundations, sponsorship and hires. Performance improved despite sector-wide funding pressures, with significant growth in trading income and surpluses in the café and bar, catering and venue hire. Ticket sales totalled £824,421. The MAC implemented new payment systems and introduced a booking fee to support transaction costs and invest in the customer experience. Corporate cultivation was strengthened through targeted events and relationship management, and relationships with funders, sponsors and partners were maintained and expanded.

Trusts and foundations underpinned key strands of work. The Freelands Foundation's £399,000, three-year investment in New Visions enabled a comprehensive schools programme and sector-wide learning through the 2025 symposium. Visual arts activity benefited from project grants, including £30,000 from Garfield Weston and Art Fund for *I See His Blood Upon the Rose* and support from the Henry Moore Foundation and Cultural Bridge for *The Shake*. These awards leveraged further in-kind support and high-profile loans from UK and international lenders, enhancing programme reach and visibility.

Artistic and commercial hires remained an important part of the model. Strategic partnerships with festivals and like-minded organisations increased throughput across quieter periods and diversified audiences. Corporate and private events contributed to food and beverage performance and introduced new audiences to the building.

The MAC continued to invest in access, inclusion and workforce development alongside commercial activity. Twenty active volunteers contributed more than 2,000 hours across front-of-house and engagement roles. Twenty-nine percent of staff and volunteers identified as having a disability or hidden disability. A cross-organisational working group advanced accessibility improvements, and audience ratings reflected progress, with venue experience at 4.6 out of 5 and accessibility at 4.3 out of 5. Net Promoter Score was 71, indicating strong advocacy and loyalty.

The income strategy supports the Board's financial objectives. These include building unrestricted reserves to policy target, strengthening commercial resilience across all trading areas, maintaining a balanced profile across performing arts, visual arts and creative learning, addressing building maintenance and infrastructure renewal, embedding sustainability across operations and programming, strengthening the platform for artists based in Northern Ireland while building national and international collaborations, and using data-led audience engagement to grow and diversify reach. The year's performance demonstrates progress against these objectives and provides a platform for continued investment in artistic excellence and public value.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (Cont'd)

4. Looking Ahead

As the MAC enters 2025–26, we will consolidate our reputation as Northern Ireland's leading contemporary arts centre, building on the momentum of recent transformation. Our focus will be to showcase the best of local creativity within an international context, expand socially engaged learning, and strengthen long-term resilience.

Artistic Programme

We will deliver an ambitious programme across all strands. Visual Arts will feature eight major exhibitions, including Aisling O'Beirn, Steve McQueen (*Grenfell & The State of Belfast*), Marie Hanlon, William McKeown, Niamh Seana Meehan and *The Lost Paintings Project*. Live Events will include more than 187 performances, such as *Murder for Two* (Bruiser), *The Upside-Down House* (Tinderbox), *Animal Farm*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, and partnerships with Kabosh Theatre and major festivals. Creative Learning & Engagement will continue through MACTivate, New Visions, early years programmes and cross-border youth collaborations.

Financial Growth

We will diversify income streams, grow trading and philanthropy, and safeguard core funding. A data-led marketing strategy will attract new visitors, deepen loyalty and extend reach into underrepresented communities.

Sustainability

Sustainability remains central. Guided by our Environmental Policy, we are working towards reducing our carbon footprint by 2027 and diverting 85% of waste from landfill by 2026. Our Green Team will continue to lead energy-efficiency initiatives, sustainable procurement, biodiversity projects and public engagement.

Strategic Direction 2025–28

Our new plan sets five priorities: **Creativity, Participation, Learning, Social Relevance and Sustainability**. Annual programming themes will ensure coherence:

- 2025/26: *Climate in Action*
- 2026/27: *Race and Equality*
- 2027/28: *A World View*

Focus for 2025–26

- Support artists to take creative risks and present work of local and international significance.
- Grow audiences through targeted, inclusive marketing.
- Strengthen resilience through increased trading income and partnerships.
- Deepen socially engaged practice with communities and schools.
- Lead in sustainable practice across operations and programming.

At the core of the MAC's mission is partnership. Through collaboration with artists, communities, cultural organisations and funders, we will continue to be a safe, inclusive and inspiring cultural hub for Belfast and beyond.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (Cont'd)

5. Financial Review

Total operating income for the year was £2.939m, with a substantial contribution from public funding and trusts and foundations (ACNI £1,100,500; BCC £120,000; Trusts/Foundation £173,134). Total operating expenditure of £2.928m for the year delivered an operating surplus of £10,621. A depreciation charge of £10,000 on unrestricted assets resulted in unrestricted reserves at year-end of £166,958, against a target of £750,000.

Robust cost control and stronger commercial performance underpinned this result. Key income drivers included: Café Bar sales, Event Catering, Artistic Venue Hire and Theatres and Galleries Tax Relief, which all achieved over target.

Restricted reserves at year end comprised the written down value of restricted assets, £12,636,596, and grant income received in advance to be recognised as operating income in the following year of £47,894, totalling £12,684,490

Trustees remain confident in going concern status, with risk management strategies in place.

Public funding and sustainability

Our focus remains on developing a more commercially resilient model, while securing additional support from trusts, foundations and private sources. We continue to build unrestricted reserves and raise funds for critical infrastructure repairs and renewals.

The MAC now operates with a leaner staffing structure. Despite challenges in fundraising and sponsorship delivery, we have grown trading income and embedded an organisation-wide commitment to income generation. As we look ahead, our three-year Strategic Plan will guide activity and mitigate short-, medium- and long-term risks across income, marketing, operations and financial sustainability.

However, the Trustees remain mindful of the risks to long-term stability. The MAC continues to operate in an environment where core funding has been eroded in real terms and annual funding models make future planning challenging.

Corporate Support

We continue to expand our relationships and partnerships with Friends of the MAC, donors and sponsors. With their support we create space for thousands of people to imagine, enjoy, participate in, and create art.

Public Funding

Our core funders – We are very appreciative of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council's continued support, enabling us to deliver our mission vision and public purpose.

Trusts and Foundations

We are grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who fund us, supporting hundreds of artists through artistic residencies, commissioning of their work, free space in which to experiment, development funding, mentoring support, and employment. We will continue to deepen our relationship with these funders and seek out new funding opportunities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (Cont'd)

Risk Management

The company has a risk management strategy which comprises an annual review of the risks the company and its subsidiary may face, the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks, and implementation of procedures designed to minimise potential impact should those risks materialise.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also the directors of the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosures of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the trustees on

16th September 2025

By order of the trustees



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Eugene Campbell
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the parent charitable company Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the parent charitable company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in note 2 to the financial statements concerning the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The conditions explained in note 2 to the financial statements, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the group and the parent charitable company were unable to continue as a going concern.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group and charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Cont'd)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of HM Chartered Accountants

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors**

**6th Floor, East Tower
Lanyon Plaza
8 Lanyon Place
Belfast
BT1 3LP**

16/4/25

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	2025			2024		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	5	136,940	1,321,528	1,458,468	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933
Investments	5	3,320	-	3,320	1,452	-	1,452
Other trading activities	5	1,424,869	-	1,424,869	1,307,434	-	1,307,434
Other income	5	100,105	-	100,105	87,294	-	87,294
Total		1,665,234	1,321,528	2,986,762	1,666,180	1,686,933	3,353,113
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	290,942	1,637,619	1,928,561	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872
Cost of raising funds: Commercial trading activities		1,373,671	-	1,373,671	1,280,849	-	1,280,849
Total		1,664,613	1,637,619	3,302,232	1,790,067	2,019,654	3,809,721
Net income/(expenditure)		621	(316,091)	(315,470)	(123,887)	(332,721)	(456,608)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		621	(316,091)	(315,470)	(123,887)	(332,721)	(456,608)
Total funds brought forward		166,337	13,000,581	13,166,918	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526
Total funds carried forward		166,958	12,684,490	12,851,448	166,337	13,000,581	13,166,918

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 20 to 32 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
OF THE CHARITY ALONE**

Notes	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	201,866	1,321,528	1,523,394	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933
Investments	3,320	-	3,320	1,452	-	1,452
Other trading activities	86,222	-	86,222	114,034	-	114,034
Total	291,408	1,321,528	1,612,936	385,486	1,686,933	2,072,419
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	290,942	1,637,619	1,928,561	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872
Total	290,942	1,637,619	1,928,561	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872
Net movement in funds	466	(316,091)	(315,625)	(123,732)	(332,721)	(456,453)
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	466	(316,091)	(315,625)	(123,732)	(332,721)	(456,453)
Total funds brought forward	166,492	13,000,581	13,167,073	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526
Total funds carried forward	166,958	12,684,490	12,851,448	166,492	13,000,581	13,167,073

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 20 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	12,698,767	13,044,968
		12,698,767	13,044,968
Current assets			
Stock		14,377	13,711
Debtors	13	155,865	179,102
Cash at bank and in hand		418,464	394,564
		588,706	587,377
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	14	(436,025)	(465,427)
Net current assets		152,681	121,950
Total assets less current liabilities		12,851,448	13,166,918
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	16	166,958	166,337
Restricted funds	15	12,684,490	13,000,581
Total funds		12,851,448	13,166,918

The financial statements on pages 15 to 32 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 16th September 2025 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Eugene Campbell
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 20 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	12,698,767	13,044,968
Investments	12	1	1
		12,698,768	13,044,969
Debtors	13	95,325	167,261
Cash at bank and in hand		201,322	201,064
		296,647	368,325
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	14	(143,967)	(246,221)
Net current assets		152,680	122,104
Total assets less current liabilities		12,851,448	13,167,073
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	16	166,958	166,492
Restricted funds	15	12,684,490	13,000,581
Total funds		12,851,448	13,167,073

The financial statements on pages 15 to 32 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on

16th September 2025 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Eugene Campbell
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 20 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

			2025			2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities							
Cash generated from operations	22		48,374			144,325	
Investing activities							
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(27,794)		(38,388)			
Interest received		<u>3,320</u>		<u>1,452</u>			
Net cash (used in) investing activities			<u>(24,474)</u>			<u>(36,936)</u>	
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			23,900			107,389	
Cash and cash equivalents of beginning of year			394,564			287,175	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>418,464</u>			<u>394,564</u>	
Relating to:							
Bank balances and short term deposits			418,464			394,564	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Nature of organisation

The Charity is an incorporated company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. The registered office is 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast. The subsidiary is a company limited by shares.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The principal accounting policies, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty are set out below.

The trustees consider that these accounting policies are suitable, have been consistently applied and are supported by reasonable and prudent judgment and estimates.

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Charity alone has been presented on page 14.

All financial statements are made up to 31 March 2025. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the group.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The MAC was planned and built as a space that requires a certain level of public subsidy to provide the benefits it was built to deliver. In particular, the ongoing support of its funders, Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC) is relied upon by the MAC to continue its operations.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies, (Cont'd)

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis (Cont'd)

At the date of approving the financial statements, funding from both funders has been guaranteed for the next financial year. Although this support allows the MAC to continue its operations, this funding is currently based on single-year commitments. In the absence of multi-annual commitments, certainty over long-term stability is limited.

The trustees consider that in preparing the financial statements they have taken into account all information that could reasonably be expected to be available and recognise that the circumstances described above represent a material uncertainty that can cast doubt on the ability of the group and the parent charitable company to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered these circumstances, alongside proposals for future sustainability, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group and the parent charitable company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Income and endowments

(a) Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies includes all incoming resources generated from gifts, donations and grants, and is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

Grants which have been restricted for use by the donor or which relate to capital expenditure are treated as restricted income and are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when they are receivable and when all conditions have been met.

(b) Investments

Investment income represents interest receivable during the year on bank deposits.

(c) Other trading activities

This includes income receivable for services provided, income from activities undertaken to raise funds to undertake charitable activities, and income from the operation of the MAC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Expenditure

(a) Charitable activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity when working to meet its charitable objectives. This includes support costs allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on those activities.

(b) Commercial trading activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary in operating the MAC.

(c) Governance costs

Governance costs include the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the Charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of resources. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets comprise the costs associated with acquiring the liquor licence, and is valued at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments of each asset over its estimated useful economic life of 5 years.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition, net of any VAT recoverable.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Land and buildings	- 2% per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-10% - 25% per annum straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the group and the parent charitable company review the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group and the parent charitable company estimate the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment annually, and whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

Financial assets

The group and the parent charitable company have elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets are recognised in the group's and the parent charitable company's statement of financial position when the group and the parent charitable company become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Loans and receivables

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the group's and parent charitable company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group and parent charitable company are demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Taxation

As a registered charity, The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is not liable to either Income Tax or Corporation Tax.

Fund accounting

The Charity has two types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. Definitions of the funds are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds

Grants, donations and other income received which are earmarked by the funder or donor for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Charity.

(b) Unrestricted funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees, for the general purposes of the Charity. In addition, funds may be held in order to finance capital investments and working capital.

3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's and parent charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Going concern

The trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements. As explained more fully in Note 2, there is a material uncertainty that can cast doubt on the group's and parent charitable company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered the circumstances, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the group and parent charitable company are unable to continue as a going concern.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining life of the asset and the estimated value in use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

4 Financial performance of the Charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary which operates the arts facility. The financial performance of the Charity alone is shown on page 16.

5 Income and endowments

	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	Total £	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Donations and legacies						
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Capital Works	-	-	-	-	30,490	30,490
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	-	1,100,500	1,100,500	-	1,587,838	1,587,838
Belfast City Council Grants	120,000	-	120,000	150,000	-	150,000
Garfield Weston	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Ireland Fund	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Henry Moore Foundation	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	-
Social Change Initiative	-	-	-	-	4,500	4,500
Bank of Ireland Begin Together	-	-	-	-	4,300	4,300
Creative Ireland	-	5,963	5,963	-	-	-
PHA	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Fuel Theatre - Fly the Flag	-	-	-	-	45,380	45,380
Cultural Bridge	-	19,500	19,500	-	8,072	8,072
Dormant Accounts	-	28,500	28,500	-	-	-
Art Fund	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
Art Fund Weston Loan Programme	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Freelands Foundation	-	125,815	125,815	-	1,000	1,000
Adrian Swire Trust	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Freeland Travel	-	1,250	1,250	-	-	-
Theatres Trust	-	-	-	-	4,933	4,933
Other gifts and donations	16,940	-	16,940	-	420	420
	136,940	1,321,528	1,458,468	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933
Investments						
Interest receivable	3,320	-	3,320	1,452	-	1,452
Other trading activities						
Sponsorship	24,150	-	24,150	48,821	-	48,821
Gifts and donations	-	-	-	19,474	-	19,474
Rental income	34,772	-	34,772	16,233	-	16,233
Commercial trading operations	1,365,947	-	1,365,947	1,222,906	-	1,222,906
	1,424,869	-	1,424,869	1,307,434	-	1,307,434
Other income						
Theatre & Museum & Gallery tax relief	100,105	-	100,105	87,294	-	87,294
Total	1,665,234	1,321,528	2,986,762	1,666,180	1,686,933	3,353,113

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

6 Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure

	Support Costs	Other Direct Costs	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Core costs	159,819	1,404,747	1,564,566	2,160,309
Capital Project – The MAC	363,995	-	363,995	368,563
Total resources expended	523,814	1,404,747	1,928,561	2,528,872

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Premises	141,525	-	141,525	173,924
Financial costs	734	7,560	8,294	7,260
Depreciation	373,995	-	373,995	376,410
Total support costs	516,254	7,560	523,814	557,594

7 Net incoming resources

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation – owned assets	373,995	376,410
Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit of financial statements of the group and parent charitable company	6,500	6,500
Audit of the parent charitable company's subsidiary	5,500	5,500

There are no other material costs not already disclosed in notes 6 to 10.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

8 Income from trading activities

The wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited is incorporated in Northern Ireland (company number NI604239) and pays all of its profits to the Charity under the gift aid scheme. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited operates the arts facility and all commercial trading operations carried on at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) premises. The summary financial performance of the subsidiary alone is:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Turnover	2,638,752	2,880,694
Cost of sales	(632,848)	(588,038)
Administration costs	(1,797,717)	(2,121,943)
Distribution costs	(143,106)	(170,868)
Other income	-	-
	65,081	(155)
Net profit		
Donation to the Charity	(64,926)	-
	155	(155)
(Loss)/profit before taxation		
Tax	-	-
	155	(155)
Retained in subsidiary		

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary alone were:

Total assets	382,786	501,705
Total liabilities	(382,785)	(501,859)
	1	(154)
Total net assets		
	1	(154)
Aggregate share capital and reserves		

9 Employee information

	2025	2024
Staff costs	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,204,256	1,530,495
Redundancy costs	-	160,389
Social security costs	101,664	133,440
Pension costs	31,773	40,082
	1,337,693	1,864,406
Average number of employees	88	86

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

9 Employee Information (Cont'd)

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel in the period was £150,147 (2024: £192,870). The Charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the Director, Head of Finance and Creative Director Visual Arts.

10 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees received no emoluments during the year. Directors in the trading subsidiary received £1,640 (2024: £2,526) for reimbursement of travel expenses.

11 Tangible fixed assets

Group and charitable company

	Land & Buildings	Fittings & Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	16,594,196	538,589	17,132,785
Additions	3,782	24,012	27,794
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	16,597,978	562,601	17,160,579
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2025	3,750,714	337,103	4,087,817
Charge for year	331,960	42,035	373,995
Released on disposal	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	4,082,674	379,138	4,461,812
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	12,515,304	183,463	12,698,767
At 31 March 2024	12,843,482	201,486	13,044,968

12 Investments

The Charity holds one share of £1 in its wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited, which is incorporated in Northern Ireland. This is the only share allotted, called up and fully paid. The activities and results of this company are summarised in note 8.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

13 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	83,256	145,391	1,500	27,240
Prepayments and accrued income	72,609	32,571	68,027	28,296
Other debtors	-	1,140	25,798	111,725
	<u>155,865</u>	<u>179,102</u>	<u>95,325</u>	<u>167,261</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	120,196	90,874	25,334	3,655
Other tax and social security	14,169	28,267	3,399	2,475
Accruals	120,515	146,971	49,549	67,224
Other creditors	181,145	199,315	756	799
Intercompany balance	-	-	64,929	172,068
	<u>436,025</u>	<u>465,427</u>	<u>143,967</u>	<u>246,221</u>

15 Restricted funds of the Charity

	Restated Balance 1 April 2024	Movement in resources incoming	Movement in resources outgoing	Transfer between funds	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset funds					
Capital Project	13,000,581	-	(363,985)	-	12,636,596
Subtotal	<u>13,000,581</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(363,985)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,636,596</u>
Other net assets funds					
Core costs	-	1,321,528	(1,273,634)	-	47,894
Subtotal	<u>-</u>	<u>1,321,528</u>	<u>(1,273,634)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,894</u>
Total	<u>13,000,581</u>	<u>1,321,528</u>	<u>(1,637,619)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,684,490</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

The fixed asset funds represent funds provided for the purchase of tangible fixed assets. The fund is represented by fixed assets and is reduced by the depreciation charge on the assets.

The core costs balance at 31 March 2025 represents funds received from the Freelands Foundation to be allocated against expenditure in the 25/26 financial year.

16 Unrestricted funds of the Group

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Net incoming resources for year	Transfer between funds	Total
General reserve	86,838	80,120	-	166,958
Designated - Garfield Weston	79,499	(79,499)	-	-
Total	166,337	621	-	166,958

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted funds	12,636,596	47,894	12,684,490
Unrestricted funds	<u>62,171</u>	<u>104,787</u>	<u>166,958</u>
	<u>12,698,767</u>	<u>152,681</u>	<u>12,851,448</u>

18 Related party transactions

Under the control of the Board of Trustees, the MAC Trading Co. Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, charged the Charity expenses of £1,200,000 (2024: £1,600,000) and transferred to the Charity under Gift Aid a donation of £64,926 (2024: £NIL). At 31 March 2025 a balance of £64,929 (2024: £172,068) was owed by the Charity to the subsidiary. There were no other transactions or outstanding balances with related parties.

19 Contingencies

A portion of grants received may become repayable if the Charity fails to comply with the terms of letter of offer.

20 Corporation taxation

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received. HM Revenue and Customs reference number XR26229. Its subsidiary is subject to corporation taxation on its income and capital gains.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

21 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate company financial statements for The MAC Limited

Details of the company's subsidiaries at 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
The MAC Trading Co. Limited	As above	Operation of arts facilities	Ordinary shares	100	-

22 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the year	(315,470)	(456,608)
Depreciation & amortisation	373,995	376,785
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(29,401)	79,898
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	23,237	145,959
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(666)	(257)
Interest received	<u>(3,320)</u>	<u>(1,452)</u>
Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from operating activities	<u>48,375</u>	<u>144,325</u>

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100808

Accounts



**THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Colm Devine
David Gavaghan (resigned 23 June 2023)
Raymond Hutchinson (Chairman)
Louise O'Boyle
Karen Shaw (resigned 14 August 2023)
Dorothy Wilson-Longfils (resigned 28 August 2024)
Kim Spence

Registered office

10 Exchange Street West
Belfast
BT1 2NJ

Solicitors

Edwards & Co. Solicitors
28 Hill St
Belfast
BT1 2LA

Bank

Ulster Bank Limited
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Registered auditors

Harbinson Mulholland
Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
BT2 8HS

Recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs under number

XR26229

Company number

NI022945

Charity registration number

NIC100808

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report)

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The company was incorporated on 26 July 1989 as The Old Museum Arts Centre and changed its name to The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) on 14 October 2010. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and is registered under company number NI22945. It is accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under reference XR26229.

The company has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 3 November 2014 under registration number NIC100808.

The charitable objective of the company as stated in its Articles of Association is:

“the advancement of education in Northern Ireland in relation to the arts and in particular by the provision of a centre for use in instruction in the various arts (visual, performing, musical and literary) and which may also be used for training in any such activities or for the performances, readings or exhibits and so that the policy governing the use of the centre shall not discriminate on the grounds of religion, political opinion, race, colour, ethnic origin, sex or age.”

There have been no amendments to the governing documents in the year.

Governance Structure

The MAC (Charity) Board is comprised of up to 15 trustees who meet at least 4 times per year. The trustees are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law. The term of office for trustees is 4 years, with the option to serve a maximum of 2 terms. The Board's key responsibilities include setting out the vision, mission and values of the MAC, agreeing the strategy to deliver the vision and mission, agreeing the charity's governance structure and policies and ensuring the protection of the capital asset.

The Charity has established a wholly owned subsidiary, the MAC Trading Company Ltd (TradeCo), a company limited by shares which has a service level agreement with the Charity which provides a licence to TradeCo to carry out artistic programmes and ancillary trading in the building and sets out the commercial relationship between the two companies. Any profits are gifted to the charity in their entirety.

The Board has set out the functions of sub-committees, officers, the chief executive and other staff in clear delegated authorities and monitors their performance. In carrying out their responsibilities, trustees remain mindful of their commitment to upholding the values of accountability to stakeholders, probity and transparency.

Sub-committees

Audit and Risk/Finance and Remuneration and Nominations sub-committees are in place to deal with specific issues as required.

The Audit and Risk/Finance sub-committee meets monthly with at least 4 of the meetings each year being audit and risk focussed. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Treasurer who has significant, recent and relevant financial experience. The sub-committee includes two other members from the Boards, neither of whom is the Chair of the Charity.

The Remuneration and Nominations sub-committee meets as required on an ad hoc basis. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Chairman, includes the Chairman of TradeCo and at least two other members drawn from the Charity Board one of whom has significant HR skills and experience.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Objectives and Activities

The MAC aims to contribute to the ongoing transformation of Northern Ireland through the creation of, participation in and appreciation of outstanding art.

We seek to achieve this overarching goal by supporting artists in the creation of excellent art and by delivering programmes which make this art accessible to as many people as possible. Our artistic programme aims to entertain, connect people to art, and address social issues relevant to the people we work with, and the people of Northern Ireland.

In 2023/2024 we delivered a curated programme of artistic events across (i) Visual Art, (ii) Creative Learning & Engagement and (iii) Live Events which attracted and inspired over 191,000 visitors. During this year the MAC brought internationally acclaimed artists to Northern Ireland to share their artwork with local people, at the same time as platforming emerging, mid-career and acclaimed local artists. We worked with national partners and communities to explore social inequalities and injustices through art and creativity.

As we grow back audiences post covid, The MAC 's Audience Development Plan worked towards re-engaging audiences and generating new visitors through our brand led '**Space for/to**' campaign. Our nomination as Art Fund Museum of the Year 2024 also gave the MAC a fantastic opportunity to showcase ourselves in a major way, to both old and new audiences, celebrating all that has been achieved in the past 12 years and garnering support and nationwide press coverage highlighting this momentous achievement.

An overview of 23/24

- The MAC has continued rebuilding audiences after the disruption caused by Covid. We anticipated this would take several years. The number of paid ticket bookers for 2023/24 is at 85% of pre-Covid levels.
- Sustaining ticket sales at pre-pandemic levels and explored potential for further growth, expanding the MAC's commitment to access for all.
- Annual footfall for 2023/24 was 191,000 which was slightly lower than the footfall from previous year, however Ron Mueck in 2022 had a huge impact on footfall. The blockbuster exhibition 'I see his blood upon the rose' was moved from 23/24 to 24/25 where we would have seen large numbers through the doors, but we look forward to that impact in the coming year.

The MAC is in the business of imagination

We value creativity on our stages and galleries and in everything we do.

Visual Art

In 2023/24 the MAC presented exhibitions which created significant profile-raising opportunities for Northern Irish artists at a critical stage of their careers including Louise Wallace and Sharon Kelly.

We also strengthened our relationship with our MACTivate Associate Partners: Participation and the Practice of Rights, Alliance for Choice, The Rainbow Project, Action Mental Health, and Extern through our exhibition and participatory programme around At the Table.

We curated a major presentation of internationally renowned artist Korakrit Arunanondchai, a video and multimedia artist originally from Bangkok who now splits his time between New York and Bangkok.

In addition to international relationships developed over 2023/24 we also collaborated with our colleagues in the South of Ireland through Niamh McCann's exhibition 'someone decides, hawk or dove' a commissioned part of the programme for ART:2023, a Decade Of Centenaries supported by The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

At The Table 7 April - 23 July

At The Table brought socially and politically engaged practices into our core gallery programming. It is our first major exhibition developed from MACtivate.

The exhibition showcased the work we co-designed with our Associate Partners who work to combat some of society's most pressing issues and inequalities – Alliance for Choice, Action Mental Health, The Rainbow Project, Extern and Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR).

A community table cut through the length of the gallery acting as an invitation to actively participate in the programme - whilst also providing a space for social interaction and communal dining.

Louise Wallace: Midnight Feast 7 April - 26 November 2023

This exhibition was a significant profile-raising opportunity for Belfast based artist Louise Wallace. Wallace produces work that is deliberately provocative, utilising a palette of lush colour to create images that draw on abstraction and Surrealism to transform the suburban into scenes that hover between the familiar and the uncanny.

The exhibition positioned painting as a field of enquiry rather than a medium-specific condition. A febrile sense of colour is instrumental to holding relationships across media and into the gallery space. Wallace's painting practice is reimagined across drawing, collage and three-dimensional objects.

Wallace's practice is improvisational; one move generates the next whether the medium is painting, drawing or assemblages. The exhibition installation was an extension of Wallace's studio where she displays a range of objects and manipulates them to extend the compositional space of painting.

Louise Wallace made a number of sales through the exhibition and her work is now in the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Ulster University and is being considered for inclusion in the Government Art Collection.

Wallace's work is currently in the offices of Investec as part of our Art Leasing Scheme.

Sharon Kelly: Red-to-Red 7 April - 26 November 2023

This exhibition was another significant opportunity to present the work of a Northern Irish artist created during the Arts Council of Northern Ireland supported Fellowship at the British School at Rome where the work was completed over the period of the artists residency.

Kelly drew on her observances and encounters from her time in Rome and created work, externally affirmative and universally connective in nature.

Her sensibility to the body and in particular the fragmented body, the torso and broken gesture featured strongly in works created in response to her original residency period and in the intervening three years. With its generative force emanating from personal encounters with severe illness and its aftermath, her work also embraced ideas of liminality and transformation.

A marker for warning or impending danger. Red is the colour symbolising authority, or status; generals in the days of the Roman Empire had their bodies painted red to celebrate victory. Red was also the colour of protective amulets. Red may indicate energy, vibrancy - the longest-lasting and most dominant of the colours of the Etruscan fresco wall-paintings. These red figurative images, fragmented over time, depict life, death, and the transitional space.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Korakrit Arunanondchai: No History in a Room Filled with People with Funny Names 5 29 August 2023 - 26 November 2023

This was the first exhibition in Ireland by Korakrit Arunanondchai, a video and multimedia artist originally from Bangkok who now splits his time between New York and Bangkok.

This new exhibition serves as a reconfiguration of Korakrit Arunanondchai's continuous conversations and collaborations with two artists, Alex Gvojcic and Tosh Basco.

Opening with the myth of "Ghost Cinema", a tradition in North East Thailand that grew out of remnants from the occupation of the US military during the Cold War, Korakrit Arunanondchai weaves together a story about possession and the dependency between the caretaker and the care receiver. The filmic installation is charged with the idea of community and questions what holds it together – among humans and non-humans.

Niamh McCann: 'someone decides, hawk or dove' 8 December 2023 7 April 2024

'someone decides, hawk or dove' was a commissioned work by artist Niamh McCann as part of the programme for ART:2023, a Decade Of Centenaries supported by The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The title of the exhibition 'someone decides, hawk or dove' is a line from the poem Hairline Crack in Belfast poet Ciaran Carson's 1989 collection Belfast Confetti. Hairline Crack is also the title of a film central to this exhibition which comprises of three acts with two musical interludes. An eyeless dog guides us through three separate landscapes: one bucolic, one musicological and one socio-political, in an odyssey along the border region of Northern Ireland. Like a mythological seer, this eyeless dog perceives and interprets obscure truths, through philosophical musings on Man's long hubristic dominion over beasts, places, people.

The exhibition featured a sculpture/structure Turn Again developed by Niamh McCann in collaboration with architect Peter Carroll, bespoke seating by architect Peter Carroll, and a commissioned ensemble and specially composed music by Grammy-nominated artist Iarla Ó Lionáird (The Gloaming).

Work from 'someone decides, hawk or dove' – or iterations of same – has been shown at the Rudolf-Scharpf-Galerie, Ludwigshafen, Germany (hosted by Wilhelm-Hack-Museum), at Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, StableArts, Washington DC (hosted by Solas Nua), and at The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, Meath, Ireland.

'someone decides, hawk or dove' was curated by Belinda Quirke, Director Solstice Arts Centre.

Live Events

Despite ongoing challenges in the sector in 23/24, the MAC sought to present an artistically ambitious, innovative, and balanced core programme alongside strategic Festivals and likeminded artistic partners who co-presented or hired the theatre spaces.

The programme covered a diverse range of art forms presented in collaboration with local, national, and international partners with programming choices reflecting contemporary artistic practice, sectoral, cultural, political, and social issues comprising new and extant work from emerging and established artists and organisations.

The programme of work and associated schemes contained a practical commitment to the development of artists and companies across all live event disciplines, at every stage in their career, providing a platform for NI based artists to develop and present their work. Simultaneously, the MAC engaged with and presented work from the national and international arena.

Featuring highly was the presentation of theatrical work produced and centred in and of the Belfast and Northern Irish experience, including *The Daughters of Roisin* by Sole Purpose, *Billy Boy* by Eastside Arts, *Float* by Crybaby Productions, *10 Things I Hate about You* by Brunswick Productions, *Tribe* by Replay Theatre Co, *Teechers* by Bruiser and Mikel Murphy's *Mysterious Case of Kitsy Rainey*.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Two popular and well received Christmas theatre productions were also NI produced - family focused *The Night Before Christmas*, was produced in house and featured in The Stage' top 50 shows in the UK of the year. In the Upstairs theatre CCurran Productions lifted adult spirits with *Are Yule Being Served*.

In contemporary dance we presented *Wasteland* by the Gary Clarke Company which included a local community cast of musicians and dancers, internationally acclaimed *Chotto Desh* by the Akram Khan Company and *Gutter* by Off the Rails. Local dance training opportunities were provided through the Six Collective and by DU Dance's *Unanimous*.

Comedy at the MAC included Bridget Christie, Mark Thomas, Jenny Éclair, Keiran Hodgson and Tom Davies. In spoken word, *Poetry with Pride* celebrating queer writers from Belfast and beyond featuring Sarah Clancy, Mary Montague, Sacha White and Tiegan Johnston was presented as part of Belfast Pride.

Musical talent also featured heavily with NI based NI Opera staging a *Salon Series* of 7 concerts, a dramatically staged concert by Peter Corry's *Thank You for the Musicals*. Contemporary and mainstream audiences also enjoyed concerts from UK and international artists such as Cherish the Ladies, The Highstool Prophets and Briana Corrigan.

The MAC supported the development of Northern Irish artists through schemes providing space, funding, and professional support. Through *Space to Create*, the MAC provided 30 live event artists with over 70 days of free space to facilitate the development of new work. Louise Matthews, Fergus Wachala-Kelly and Colm McCready were our three HATCH artists, who along with Artist in Residence, former Derry Girl Ma, actor and writer, Tara Lynne O'Neill provided with bursaries, free workspaces in venue and mentoring and advice from MAC staff and associates.

The MAC also presented a significant number of multi-disciplinary art form events as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival, the Belfast Children's Festival and the Northern Ireland Science Festival programmes. Other Festivals included the Outburst Queer Arts, Belfast Pride, and Belfast Media Festivals. Over the summer months the MAC welcomed youth and community theatre productions from companies such as New Lodge Arts, Belfast School of Performing Arts, and Ravara Productions.

Creative Learning & Engagement

The MAC Creative Learning team focus on three core areas:

- MACtivate where we use art to address social inequality with associate partners.
- Growing Up with the MAC which enables babies and children to learn with us.
- Arts and Peacebuilding study abroad programmes for international universities and groups.

MACtivate

At The Table, was a participatory co-designed exhibition showcased projects co-designed with our MACtivate Associate Partners who work to address social inequalities. To realise this exhibition, we commissioned four socially engaged artists who collaborated with our Associate Partners:

- **Dumbworld** collaborated with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** campaigners to *Future Garden* which asked how the needs & rights of humans for shelter can coexist with our need to care for the planet we live on.
- **Sam's Eden Overload** by Thomas Wells in collaboration with **The Rainbow Project** is a new queer publication project which explored queer visibility in cultural spaces.
- **Action Mental Health** participants collaborated with visual artist **Kerrie Hanna** to create images of hope which were presented on billboards during Mental Health Awareness week.
- Artist and activist **Khaled Barakeh** addressed the rights of people in the asylum system by collaborating with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** and Anaka Women's Collective.
- To position this exhibition, we commissioned artist **Laura Nelson** and **Duncan Ross**.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Over the duration of the exhibition 15,680 people visited the gallery; 1500 people participated in workshops/events/talks/commissions exploring social inequality; 600+ people created and exhibited their art on the community art wall, and 5 chefs living in the asylum system catered for 360 people attending events.

Growing Up with the MAC

Our Growing Up with the MAC programme was attended by 950 children and their families and delivered by local artists and facilitators. These workshops ranged across visual and performance artforms, including highlights such as comic book drawing, sculpture, drumming, and interactive storytelling. Through our workshops we engaged with themes covered in our exhibitions, as well as themes around the environment, mental health, bullying and social issues. During **At the Table**, we hosted a kindergarten for families in the asylum system, which was regularly attended by 15 families, and held family-friends' events for **Belfast Pride**. We also revived our baby sensory workshops, which have been exceedingly popular since their return in December. We provided a mix of ticketed and drop-in workshops and programmed two events in collaboration with the **Deaf Arts Festival NI**.

We delivered our **MAC in a Box** programme, facilitating schools to attend and creatively engage with our exhibitions and Christmas show. 181 students participated in our Gallery in a Box programme, exploring our galleries and learning new art skills. 147 students participated in Theatre in a Box, engaging in creative workshops, learning about the MAC, and enjoying our show *The Night Before Christmas*. These programmes especially benefitted schools with SEN groups or in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage. Additionally, our Passport to the MAC programme enabled eight schools to attend *The Night Before Christmas*, removing the barrier of transportation costs.

Arts and Peacebuilding study abroad programmes

During summer 2023 we delivered *Socially Engaged Artmaking in Northern Ireland*, a one-month study abroad programme with SUNY Purchase College. Thirteen under-graduate students explored how art has been used to address the Troubles. They met and engaged with local artists, creatives, activists and academics. This opportunity was personally and academically transformational for the students.

The MAC is in the business of Belfast

We will help build Belfast's reputation as one of the world's most creative cities.

The critical value of social arts spaces in cities' placemaking aspirations has been well researched and articulated internationally and has been one of the charity's key functions in the period. The MAC's social, economic and cultural impact (placemaking's main considerations) have been evidenced through a series of independent reviews. The MAC is one of Northern Ireland's iconic cultural landmarks and is a valuable capital asset which the Board of Trustees and MAC team protect, maintain and preserve. Each year the building is used by and visited by thousands of people. It is our responsibility to ensure all elements of the building are serviced, maintained and safe for everyday use, and protected for the long-term.

The MAC continues to review and develop its Sustainability Policy. This year we secured funding to install a building energy monitoring system. This system enables real time monitoring of energy usage including gas, electric and water. Plant and equipment controls updated to reduce running times and reduce costs

The MAC became a member of The Gallery Climate Coalition. We partnered with Queens university to facilitate 5 student placements, who led the organisation in gaining a Green Tourism accreditation

River ridge recycling appointed to manage waste collections, with zero to land fill status

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Public funding and sustainability

Our continued focus is on developing a more commercially resilient model and securing additional funding from trusts, foundations, and private sources. We continue to build unrestricted reserves and secure funds for critical infrastructure repairs and renewals.

Corporate Support

We continue to expand our relationships and partnerships with Friends of the MAC, donors and sponsors. With their support we create space for thousands of people to imagine, enjoy, participate in, and create art.

Public Funding

Our core funders – We are very appreciative of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council's continued support, enabling us to deliver our mission vision and public purpose.

Trusts and Foundations

We are grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who fund us, supporting thousands of artists through artistic residencies, commissioning of their work, free space in which to experiment, development funding, mentoring support, and employment.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also the directors of the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Disclosures of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the trustees on 3rd September, 2024

By order of the trustees



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the parent charitable company Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the parent charitable company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in note 2 to the financial statements concerning the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The conditions explained in note 2 to the financial statements, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the group and the parent charitable company were unable to continue as a going concern.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group and charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Cont'd)


In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors**

Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8H

3/9/24

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	2024			2023		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	5	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments	5	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities	5	1,280,694	-	1,280,694	1,292,052	-	1,292,052
Other income	5	114,034	-	114,034	7,984	-	7,984
Total		1,666,180	1,686,933	3,353,113	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Cost of raising funds: Commercial trading activities		1,280,849	-	1,280,849	1,090,554	-	1,090,554
Total		1,790,067	2,019,654	3,809,721	1,639,040	1,754,242	3,393,282
Net income/(expenditure)		(123,887)	(332,721)	(456,608)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(123,887)	(332,721)	(456,608)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Total funds brought forward		290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225
Total funds carried forward		166,337	13,000,581	13,166,918	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
OF THE CHARITY ALONE**

Notes	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities	114,034	-	114,034	209,482	-	209,482
Total	385,486	1,686,933	2,072,419	580,551	1,433,478	2,014,029
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Total	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Net movement in funds	(123,732)	(332,721)	(456,453)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(123,732)	(332,721)	(456,453)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Total funds brought forward	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,255
Total funds carried forward	166,492	13,000,581	13,167,073	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

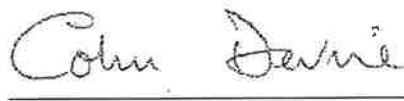
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	-	375
Tangible assets	12	13,044,968	13,382,991
		13,044,968	13,383,366
Current assets			
Stock		13,711	13,454
Debtors	14	179,102	325,061
Cash at bank and in hand		394,564	287,174
		587,377	625,689
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(465,427)	(385,529)
Net current assets		121,950	240,160
Total assets less current liabilities		13,166,918	13,623,526
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	166,337	290,224
Restricted funds	16	13,000,581	13,333,302
Total funds		13,166,918	13,623,526

The financial statements on pages 14 to 32 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 3rd September, 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

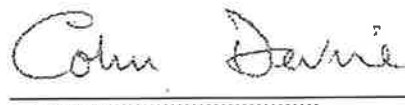
	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	-	375
Tangible assets	12	13,044,968	13,382,991
Investments	13	1	1
		13,044,969	13,383,367
Debtors	14	167,261	354,003
Cash at bank and in hand		201,064	202,781
		368,325	556,784
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(246,221)	(316,625)
Net current assets		122,104	240,159
Total assets less current liabilities		13,167,073	13,623,526
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	166,492	290,224
Restricted funds	16	13,000,581	13,333,302
Total funds		13,167,073	13,623,526

The financial statements on pages 14 to 32 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on

..... and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	£	2024	£	£	2023	£
Cash flows from operating activities							
Cash generated from operations	23		144,325			46,102	
Investing activities							
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(38,388)		(290,737)			
Interest received		<u>1,452</u>		<u>1,069</u>			
Net cash (used in) investing activities			(36,936)			(289,668)	
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents							
Cash and cash equivalents of beginning of year			287,175			530,741	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			394,564			287,175	
Relating to:							
Bank balances and short term deposits			394,564			287,175	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Nature of organisation

The Charity is an incorporated company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. The registered office is 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast. The subsidiary is a company limited by shares.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The principal accounting policies, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty are set out below.

The trustees consider that these accounting policies are suitable, have been consistently applied and are supported by reasonable and prudent judgment and estimates.

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Charity alone has been presented on page 14.

All financial statements are made up to 31 March 2024. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the group.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The continued operation of the MAC is dependent on the ongoing support of its funders, Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC). The MAC was planned and built as a space that requires a certain level of public subsidy in order to provide the benefits it was built to deliver

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies, (Cont'd)

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis (Cont'd)

The financial performance for the year is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on pages 14 to 15 and described in the Trustees Report. The charity's expenditure exceeded income within unrestricted resources by £123,732 for the year. This result decreased unrestricted reserves from £290,224 to £166,492 at the year end. The directors are forecasting an unrestricted surplus of £14,611 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trustees are encouraged by the extensive dialogue and closer working relationship with the MAC's funders and we continue to work collaboratively in delivering a sustainable break-even business model in 2024/25.

The trustees consider that in preparing the financial statements they have taken into account all information that could reasonably be expected to be available and recognise that the circumstances described above represent a material uncertainty that casts doubt on the ability of the group and the parent charitable company to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered these circumstances, alongside proposals for future sustainability, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group and the parent charitable company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Income and endowments

(a) Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies includes all incoming resources generated from gifts, donations and grants, and is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

Grants which have been restricted for use by the donor or which relate to capital expenditure are treated as restricted income and are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when they are receivable and when all conditions have been met.

(b) Investments

Investment income represents interest receivable during the year on bank deposits.

(c) Other trading activities

This includes income receivable for services provided, income from activities undertaken to raise funds to undertake charitable activities, and income from the operation of the MAC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

1 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Expenditure

(a) Charitable activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity when working to meet its charitable objectives. This includes support costs allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on those activities.

(b) Commercial trading activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary in operating the MAC.

(c) Governance costs

Governance costs include the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the Charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of resources. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets comprise the costs associated with acquiring the liquor licence, and is valued at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments of each asset over its estimated useful economic life of 5 years.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition, net of any VAT recoverable.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Land and buildings	- 2% per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-10% - 25% per annum straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the group and the parent charitable company review the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group and the parent charitable company estimate the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment annually, and whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

Financial assets

The group and the parent charitable company have elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets are recognised in the group's and the parent charitable company's statement of financial position when the group and the parent charitable company become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Loans and receivables

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the group's and parent charitable company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group and parent charitable company are demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Taxation

As a registered charity, The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is not liable to either Income Tax or Corporation Tax.

Fund accounting

The Charity has two types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. Definitions of the funds are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds

Grants, donations and other income received which are earmarked by the funder or donor for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Charity.

(b) Unrestricted funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees, for the general purposes of the Charity. In addition, funds may be held in order to finance capital investments and working capital.

3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's and parent charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Going concern

The trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements. As explained more fully in Note 2 there is a material uncertainty regarding the group's and parent charitable company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered the circumstances, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the group and parent charitable company are unable to continue as a going concern.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining live of the asset and the estimated value in use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

4 Financial performance of the Charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary which operates the arts facility. The financial performance of the Charity alone is shown on page 15.

5 Income and endowments

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies						
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Capital Works	-	30,490	30,490	-	25,064	25,064
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	-	1,587,838	1,587,838	-	1,246,426	1,246,426
Belfast City Council Grants	150,000	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	-	-	-	75,000	75,000
Ulster Garden Villages	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Garfield Weston	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-	100,000
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	-	-	120,000	-	120,000
Belfast Harbour	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Social Change Initiative	-	4,500	4,500	-	3,950	3,950
Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund	-	4,300	4,300	-	5,500	5,500
Community Foundation NI	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
British Council	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Fuel Theatre - Fly the Flag	-	45,380	45,380	-	1,650	1,650
Cultural Bridge	-	8,072	8,072	-	-	-
Dormant Accounts	-	-	-	-	9,888	9,888
Art Fund	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-
Freelands Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Adrian Swire Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Theatres Trust	-	4,933	4,933	-	-	-
Other	-	420	420	-	-	-
	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments						
Interest receivable	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities						
Sponsorship	48,821	-	48,821	25,346	-	25,346
Gifts and donations	19,474	-	19,474	69,598	-	69,598
Rental income	16,233	-	16,233	19,031	-	19,031
Commercial trading operations	1,222,906	-	1,222,906	1,178,077	-	1,178,077
	1,307,434	-	1,307,434	1,292,052	-	1,292,052
Other income						
Theatre & Museum & Gallery tax relief	87,294	-	87,294	7,984	-	7,984
Total	1,666,180	1,686,933	3,353,113	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

6 Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure

	Support Costs	Other Direct Costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Core costs	189,031	1,971,278	2,160,309	1,926,901
Capital Project – The MAC	368,563	-	368,563	375,827
Total resources expended	557,594	1,971,278	2,528,872	2,302,728

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Premises	173,924	-	173,924	145,738
Financial costs	760	6,500	7,260	4,802
Depreciation	376,410	-	376,410	381,125
Total support costs	551,094	6,500	557,594	531,665

7 Net incoming resources

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation – owned assets	376,410	381,125
Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit of financial statements of the group and parent charitable company	4,750	4,750
Audit of the parent charitable company's subsidiary	6,500	6,500

There are no other material costs not already disclosed in notes 6 to 10.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

8 Income from trading activities

The wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited is incorporated in Northern Ireland (company number NI604239) and pays all of its profits to the Charity under the gift aid scheme. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited operates the arts facility and all commercial trading operations carried on at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) premises. The summary financial performance of the subsidiary alone is:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover	2,880,694	2,661,729
Cost of sales	(712,387)	(710,972)
Administration costs	(2,121,943)	(1,845,884)
Distribution costs	(46,519)	(33,699)
Other income	-	-
	(155)	71,174
Net profit	(155)	71,174
Gift aided to the Charity	-	(71,174)
	(155)	-
(Loss)/profit before taxation	(155)	-
Tax	-	-
	(155)	-
Retained in subsidiary	(155)	-
The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary alone were:		
Total assets	501,705	406,498
Total liabilities	(501,859)	(406,497)
	(154)	1
Total net assets	(154)	1
	(154)	1
Aggregate share capital and reserves	(154)	1

9 Employee information

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	1,530,495	1,343,869
Redundancy costs	160,389	-
Social security costs	133,440	119,351
Pension costs	40,082	35,693
	1,864,406	1,498,913
Average number of employees including trustees	86	83
Employees earning between £70,000 and £80,000	1	1

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel in the period was £195,269 (2023: £192,870). The Charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the Chief Executive, Commercial Director, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Creative Director.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

10 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees received no emoluments during the year. Two directors in the trading subsidiary received £2,526 (2023: £1,214) for reimbursement of travel expenses.

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Group	Charitable Company
Cost	£	£
At 1 April 2023	31,364	1,874
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2024	31,364	1,874
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	30,989	1,499
Amortisation charged for the year	375	375
At 31 March 2024	31,364	1,874
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	-	-
At 31 March 2023	375	375

12 Tangible fixed assets

Group and charitable company

	Land & Buildings	Fittings & Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2023	16,594,196	500,201	17,094,397
Additions	-	38,388	38,388
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	16,594,196	538,589	17,132,785
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	3,418,830	292,576	3,711,406
Charge for year	331,884	44,526	376,410
Released on disposal	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	3,750,714	337,102	4,087,816
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	12,843,482	201,486	13,044,968
At 31 March 2023	13,175,366	207,625	13,382,991

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

13 Investments

The Charity holds one share of £1 in its wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited, which is incorporated in Northern Ireland. This is the only share allotted, called up and fully paid. The activities and results of this company are summarised in note 8.

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	145,391	102,251	27,240	30,660
Prepayments and accrued income	32,571	216,563	28,296	216,563
Other debtors	1,140	6,247	111,725	106,780
	<u>179,102</u>	<u>325,061</u>	<u>167,261</u>	<u>354,003</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	90,874	96,806	3,655	28,645
Other tax and social security	28,267	7,000	2,475	4,650
Accruals	146,971	110,023	67,224	55,635
Other creditors	199,315	171,700	799	1,218
Intercompany balance	-	-	172,068	226,477
	<u>465,427</u>	<u>385,529</u>	<u>246,221</u>	<u>316,625</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

16 Restricted funds of the Charity

	Restated Balance 1 April 2023	Movement in resources incoming	Movement in resources outgoing	Transfer between funds	Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset funds					
Capital Project	13,333,302	35,842	(368,563)	-	13,000,581
Subtotal	13,333,302	35,842	(368,563)	-	13,000,581
Other net assets funds					
Core costs	-	1,651,091	(1,651,091)	-	-
Subtotal	-	1,651,091	(1,651,091)	-	-
Total	13,333,302	1,686,933	(2,019,654)	-	13,000,581

Fixed asset funds

The fixed asset funds represent funds provided for the purchase of tangible fixed assets. The fund is represented by fixed assets and is reduced by the depreciation charge on the assets.

17 Unrestricted funds of the Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Net incoming resources for year	Transfer between funds	Total
	£			
General reserve	210,725	(123,887)	-	86,838
Designated - Garfield Weston	79,499	-	-	79,499
Total	290,224	(123,887)	-	166,337

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted funds	13,000,581	-	13,000,581
Unrestricted funds	44,387	121,950	166,337
	13,044,968	121,950	13,166,918

19 Related party transactions

Under the control of the Board of Trustees, the MAC Trading Co. Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, charged the Charity expenses of £1,600,000 (2023: £1,500,000) and transferred to the Charity under Gift Aid a donation of £NIL (2023: £71,174). At 31 March 2024 a balance of £172,068 (2023: £226,478) was owed by the Charity to the subsidiary. There were no other transactions or outstanding balances with related parties.

20 Contingencies

A portion of grants received may become repayable if the Charity fails to comply with the terms of letter of offer.

21 Corporation taxation

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received. HM Revenue and Customs reference number XR26229. Its subsidiary is subject to corporation taxation on its income and capital gains.

22 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate company financial statements for The MAC Limited

Details of the company's subsidiaries at 31 March 2024 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
The MAC Trading Co. Limited	As above	Operation of arts facilities	Ordinary shares	100	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

23 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the year	(456,608)	(288,699)
Depreciation & amortisation	376,785	382,835
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	79,898	(199,433)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	145,959	156,070
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(257)	(3,602)
Interest received	(1,452)	(1,069)
Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from operating activities	144,325	46,102

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100808

Annual report



**THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Colm Devine
David Gavaghan (resigned 23 June 2023)
Raymond Hutchinson (Chairman)
Louise O'Boyle
Karen Shaw (resigned 14 August 2023)
Dorothy Wilson-Longfils (resigned 28 August 2024)
Kim Spence

Registered office

10 Exchange Street West
Belfast
BT1 2NJ

Solicitors

Edwards & Co. Solicitors
28 Hill St
Belfast
BT1 2LA

Bank

Ulster Bank Limited
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Registered auditors

Harbinson Mulholland
Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
BT2 8HS

Recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs under number

XR26229

Company number

NI022945

Charity registration number

NIC100808

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report)

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The company was incorporated on 26 July 1989 as The Old Museum Arts Centre and changed its name to The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) on 14 October 2010. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and is registered under company number NI22945. It is accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under reference XR26229.

The company has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 3 November 2014 under registration number NIC100808.

The charitable objective of the company as stated in its Articles of Association is:

“the advancement of education in Northern Ireland in relation to the arts and in particular by the provision of a centre for use in instruction in the various arts (visual, performing, musical and literary) and which may also be used for training in any such activities or for the performances, readings or exhibits and so that the policy governing the use of the centre shall not discriminate on the grounds of religion, political opinion, race, colour, ethnic origin, sex or age.”

There have been no amendments to the governing documents in the year.

Governance Structure

The MAC (Charity) Board is comprised of up to 15 trustees who meet at least 4 times per year. The trustees are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law. The term of office for trustees is 4 years, with the option to serve a maximum of 2 terms. The Board's key responsibilities include setting out the vision, mission and values of the MAC, agreeing the strategy to deliver the vision and mission, agreeing the charity's governance structure and policies and ensuring the protection of the capital asset.

The Charity has established a wholly owned subsidiary, the MAC Trading Company Ltd (TradeCo), a company limited by shares which has a service level agreement with the Charity which provides a licence to TradeCo to carry out artistic programmes and ancillary trading in the building and sets out the commercial relationship between the two companies. Any profits are gifted to the charity in their entirety.

The Board has set out the functions of sub-committees, officers, the chief executive and other staff in clear delegated authorities and monitors their performance. In carrying out their responsibilities, trustees remain mindful of their commitment to upholding the values of accountability to stakeholders, probity and transparency.

Sub-committees

Audit and Risk/Finance and Remuneration and Nominations sub-committees are in place to deal with specific issues as required.

The Audit and Risk/Finance sub-committee meets monthly with at least 4 of the meetings each year being audit and risk focussed. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Treasurer who has significant, recent and relevant financial experience. The sub-committee includes two other members from the Boards, neither of whom is the Chair of the Charity.

The Remuneration and Nominations sub-committee meets as required on an ad hoc basis. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Chairman, includes the Chairman of TradeCo and at least two other members drawn from the Charity Board one of whom has significant HR skills and experience.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Objectives and Activities

The MAC aims to contribute to the ongoing transformation of Northern Ireland through the creation of, participation in and appreciation of outstanding art.

We seek to achieve this overarching goal by supporting artists in the creation of excellent art and by delivering programmes which make this art accessible to as many people as possible. Our artistic programme aims to entertain, connect people to art, and address social issues relevant to the people we work with, and the people of Northern Ireland.

In 2023/2024 we delivered a curated programme of artistic events across (i) Visual Art, (ii) Creative Learning & Engagement and (iii) Live Events which attracted and inspired over 191,000 visitors. During this year the MAC brought internationally acclaimed artists to Northern Ireland to share their artwork with local people, at the same time as platforming emerging, mid-career and acclaimed local artists. We worked with national partners and communities to explore social inequalities and injustices through art and creativity.

As we grow back audiences post covid, The MAC 's Audience Development Plan worked towards re-engaging audiences and generating new visitors through our brand led '**Space for/to**' campaign. Our nomination as Art Fund Museum of the Year 2024 also gave the MAC a fantastic opportunity to showcase ourselves in a major way, to both old and new audiences, celebrating all that has been achieved in the past 12 years and garnering support and nationwide press coverage highlighting this momentous achievement.

An overview of 23/24

- The MAC has continued rebuilding audiences after the disruption caused by Covid. We anticipated this would take several years. The number of paid ticket bookers for 2023/24 is at 85% of pre-Covid levels.
- Sustaining ticket sales at pre-pandemic levels and explored potential for further growth, expanding the MAC's commitment to access for all.
- Annual footfall for 2023/24 was 191,000 which was slightly lower than the footfall from previous year, however Ron Mueck in 2022 had a huge impact on footfall. The blockbuster exhibition 'I see his blood upon the rose' was moved from 23/24 to 24/25 where we would have seen large numbers through the doors, but we look forward to that impact in the coming year.

The MAC is in the business of imagination

We value creativity on our stages and galleries and in everything we do.

Visual Art

In 2023/24 the MAC presented exhibitions which created significant profile-raising opportunities for Northern Irish artists at a critical stage of their careers including Louise Wallace and Sharon Kelly.

We also strengthened our relationship with our MACTivate Associate Partners: Participation and the Practice of Rights, Alliance for Choice, The Rainbow Project, Action Mental Health, and Extern through our exhibition and participatory programme around At the Table.

We curated a major presentation of internationally renowned artist Korakrit Arunanondchai, a video and multimedia artist originally from Bangkok who now splits his time between New York and Bangkok.

In addition to international relationships developed over 2023/24 we also collaborated with our colleagues in the South of Ireland through Niamh McCann's exhibition 'someone decides, hawk or dove' a commissioned part of the programme for ART:2023, a Decade Of Centenaries supported by The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

At The Table 7 April - 23 July

At The Table brought socially and politically engaged practices into our core gallery programming. It is our first major exhibition developed from MACtivate.

The exhibition showcased the work we co-designed with our Associate Partners who work to combat some of society's most pressing issues and inequalities – Alliance for Choice, Action Mental Health, The Rainbow Project, Extern and Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR).

A community table cut through the length of the gallery acting as an invitation to actively participate in the programme - whilst also providing a space for social interaction and communal dining.

Louise Wallace: Midnight Feast 7 April - 26 November 2023

This exhibition was a significant profile-raising opportunity for Belfast based artist Louise Wallace. Wallace produces work that is deliberately provocative, utilising a palette of lush colour to create images that draw on abstraction and Surrealism to transform the suburban into scenes that hover between the familiar and the uncanny.

The exhibition positioned painting as a field of enquiry rather than a medium-specific condition. A febrile sense of colour is instrumental to holding relationships across media and into the gallery space. Wallace's painting practice is reimagined across drawing, collage and three-dimensional objects.

Wallace's practice is improvisational; one move generates the next whether the medium is painting, drawing or assemblages. The exhibition installation was an extension of Wallace's studio where she displays a range of objects and manipulates them to extend the compositional space of painting.

Louise Wallace made a number of sales through the exhibition and her work is now in the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Ulster University and is being considered for inclusion in the Government Art Collection.

Wallace's work is currently in the offices of Investec as part of our Art Leasing Scheme.

Sharon Kelly: Red-to-Red 7 April - 26 November 2023

This exhibition was another significant opportunity to present the work of a Northern Irish artist created during the Arts Council of Northern Ireland supported Fellowship at the British School at Rome where the work was completed over the period of the artists residency.

Kelly drew on her observances and encounters from her time in Rome and created work, externally affirmative and universally connective in nature.

Her sensibility to the body and in particular the fragmented body, the torso and broken gesture featured strongly in works created in response to her original residency period and in the intervening three years. With its generative force emanating from personal encounters with severe illness and its aftermath, her work also embraced ideas of liminality and transformation.

A marker for warning or impending danger. Red is the colour symbolising authority, or status; generals in the days of the Roman Empire had their bodies painted red to celebrate victory. Red was also the colour of protective amulets. Red may indicate energy, vibrancy - the longest-lasting and most dominant of the colours of the Etruscan fresco wall-paintings. These red figurative images, fragmented over time, depict life, death, and the transitional space.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Korakrit Arunanondchai: No History in a Room Filled with People with Funny Names 5 29 August 2023 - 26 November 2023

This was the first exhibition in Ireland by Korakrit Arunanondchai, a video and multimedia artist originally from Bangkok who now splits his time between New York and Bangkok.

This new exhibition serves as a reconfiguration of Korakrit Arunanondchai's continuous conversations and collaborations with two artists, Alex Gvojic and Tosh Basco.

Opening with the myth of "Ghost Cinema", a tradition in North East Thailand that grew out of remnants from the occupation of the US military during the Cold War, Korakrit Arunanondchai weaves together a story about possession and the dependency between the caretaker and the care receiver. The filmic installation is charged with the idea of community and questions what holds it together – among humans and non-humans.

Niamh McCann: 'someone decides, hawk or dove' 8 December 2023 7 April 2024

'someone decides, hawk or dove' was a commissioned work by artist Niamh McCann as part of the programme for ART:2023, a Decade Of Centenaries supported by The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The title of the exhibition 'someone decides, hawk or dove' is a line from the poem Hairline Crack in Belfast poet Ciaran Carson's 1989 collection Belfast Confetti. Hairline Crack is also the title of a film central to this exhibition which comprises of three acts with two musical interludes. An eyeless dog guides us through three separate landscapes: one bucolic, one musicological and one socio-political, in an odyssey along the border region of Northern Ireland. Like a mythological seer, this eyeless dog perceives and interprets obscure truths, through philosophical musings on Man's long hubristic dominion over beasts, places, people.

The exhibition featured a sculpture/structure Turn Again developed by Niamh McCann in collaboration with architect Peter Carroll, bespoke seating by architect Peter Carroll, and a commissioned ensemble and specially composed music by Grammy-nominated artist Iarla Ó Lionáird (The Gloaming).

Work from 'someone decides, hawk or dove' – or iterations of same – has been shown at the Rudolf-Scharpf-Galerie, Ludwigshafen, Germany (hosted by Wilhelm-Hack-Museum), at Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, StableArts, Washington DC (hosted by Solas Nua), and at The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, Meath, Ireland.

'someone decides, hawk or dove' was curated by Belinda Quirke, Director Solstice Arts Centre.

Live Events

Despite ongoing challenges in the sector in 23/24, the MAC sought to present an artistically ambitious, innovative, and balanced core programme alongside strategic Festivals and likeminded artistic partners who co-presented or hired the theatre spaces.

The programme covered a diverse range of art forms presented in collaboration with local, national, and international partners with programming choices reflecting contemporary artistic practice, sectoral, cultural, political, and social issues comprising new and extant work from emerging and established artists and organisations.

The programme of work and associated schemes contained a practical commitment to the development of artists and companies across all live event disciplines, at every stage in their career, providing a platform for NI based artists to develop and present their work. Simultaneously, the MAC engaged with and presented work from the national and international arena.

Featuring highly was the presentation of theatrical work produced and centred in and of the Belfast and Northern Irish experience, including *The Daughters of Roisin* by Sole Purpose, *Billy Boy* by Eastside Arts, *Float* by Crybaby Productions, *10 Things I Hate about You* by Brunswick Productions, *Tribe* by Replay Theatre Co, *Teechers* by Bruiser and Mikel Murphy's *Mysterious Case of Kitsy Rainey*.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Two popular and well received Christmas theatre productions were also NI produced - family focused *The Night Before Christmas*, was produced in house and featured in The Stage' top 50 shows in the UK of the year. In the Upstairs theatre CCurran Productions lifted adult spirits with *Are Yule Being Served*.

In contemporary dance we presented *Wasteland* by the Gary Clarke Company which included a local community cast of musicians and dancers, internationally acclaimed *Chotto Desh* by the Akram Khan Company and *Gutter* by Off the Rails. Local dance training opportunities were provided through the Six Collective and by DU Dance's *Unanimous*.

Comedy at the MAC included Bridget Christie, Mark Thomas, Jenny Éclair, Keiran Hodgson and Tom Davies. In spoken word, *Poetry with Pride* celebrating queer writers from Belfast and beyond featuring Sarah Clancy, Mary Montague, Sacha White and Tiegan Johnston was presented as part of Belfast Pride.

Musical talent also featured heavily with NI based NI Opera staging a *Salon Series* of 7 concerts, a dramatically staged concert by Peter Corry's *Thank You for the Musicals*. Contemporary and mainstream audiences also enjoyed concerts from UK and international artists such as Cherish the Ladies, The Highstool Prophets and Briana Corrigan.

The MAC supported the development of Northern Irish artists through schemes providing space, funding, and professional support. Through *Space to Create*, the MAC provided 30 live event artists with over 70 days of free space to facilitate the development of new work. Louise Matthews, Fergus Wachala-Kelly and Colm McCready were our three HATCH artists, who along with Artist in Residence, former Derry Girl Ma, actor and writer, Tara Lynne O'Neill provided with bursaries, free workspaces in venue and mentoring and advice from MAC staff and associates.

The MAC also presented a significant number of multi-disciplinary art form events as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival, the Belfast Children's Festival and the Northern Ireland Science Festival programmes. Other Festivals included the Outburst Queer Arts, Belfast Pride, and Belfast Media Festivals. Over the summer months the MAC welcomed youth and community theatre productions from companies such as New Lodge Arts, Belfast School of Performing Arts, and Ravara Productions.

Creative Learning & Engagement

The MAC Creative Learning team focus on three core areas:

- MACtivate where we use art to address social inequality with associate partners.
- Growing Up with the MAC which enables babies and children to learn with us.
- Arts and Peacebuilding study abroad programmes for international universities and groups.

MACtivate

At The Table, was a participatory co-designed exhibition showcased projects co-designed with our MACtivate Associate Partners who work to address social inequalities. To realise this exhibition, we commissioned four socially engaged artists who collaborated with our Associate Partners:

- **Dumbworld** collaborated with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** campaigners to *Future Garden* which asked how the needs & rights of humans for shelter can coexist with our need to care for the planet we live on.
- **Sam's Eden Overload** by Thomas Wells in collaboration with **The Rainbow Project** is a new queer publication project which explored queer visibility in cultural spaces.
- **Action Mental Health** participants collaborated with visual artist **Kerrie Hanna** to create images of hope which were presented on billboards during Mental Health Awareness week.
- Artist and activist **Khaled Barakeh** addressed the rights of people in the asylum system by collaborating with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** and Anaka Women's Collective.
- To position this exhibition, we commissioned artist **Laura Nelson** and **Duncan Ross**.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Over the duration of the exhibition 15,680 people visited the gallery; 1500 people participated in workshops/events/talks/commissions exploring social inequality; 600+ people created and exhibited their art on the community art wall, and 5 chefs living in the asylum system catered for 360 people attending events.

Growing Up with the MAC

Our Growing Up with the MAC programme was attended by 950 children and their families and delivered by local artists and facilitators. These workshops ranged across visual and performance artforms, including highlights such as comic book drawing, sculpture, drumming, and interactive storytelling. Through our workshops we engaged with themes covered in our exhibitions, as well as themes around the environment, mental health, bullying and social issues. During **At the Table**, we hosted a kindergarten for families in the asylum system, which was regularly attended by 15 families, and held family-friends' events for **Belfast Pride**. We also revived our baby sensory workshops, which have been exceedingly popular since their return in December. We provided a mix of ticketed and drop-in workshops and programmed two events in collaboration with the **Deaf Arts Festival NI**.

We delivered our **MAC in a Box** programme, facilitating schools to attend and creatively engage with our exhibitions and Christmas show. 181 students participated in our Gallery in a Box programme, exploring our galleries and learning new art skills. 147 students participated in Theatre in a Box, engaging in creative workshops, learning about the MAC, and enjoying our show *The Night Before Christmas*. These programmes especially benefitted schools with SEN groups or in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage. Additionally, our Passport to the MAC programme enabled eight schools to attend *The Night Before Christmas*, removing the barrier of transportation costs.

Arts and Peacebuilding study abroad programmes

During summer 2023 we delivered *Socially Engaged Artmaking in Northern Ireland*, a one-month study abroad programme with SUNY Purchase College. Thirteen under-graduate students explored how art has been used to address the Troubles. They met and engaged with local artists, creatives, activists and academics. This opportunity was personally and academically transformational for the students.

The MAC is in the business of Belfast

We will help build Belfast's reputation as one of the world's most creative cities.

The critical value of social arts spaces in cities' placemaking aspirations has been well researched and articulated internationally and has been one of the charity's key functions in the period. The MAC's social, economic and cultural impact (placemaking's main considerations) have been evidenced through a series of independent reviews. The MAC is one of Northern Ireland's iconic cultural landmarks and is a valuable capital asset which the Board of Trustees and MAC team protect, maintain and preserve. Each year the building is used by and visited by thousands of people. It is our responsibility to ensure all elements of the building are serviced, maintained and safe for everyday use, and protected for the long-term.

The MAC continues to review and develop its Sustainability Policy. This year we secured funding to install a building energy monitoring system. This system enables real time monitoring of energy usage including gas, electric and water. Plant and equipment controls updated to reduce running times and reduce costs

The MAC became a member of The Gallery Climate Coalition. We partnered with Queens university to facilitate 5 student placements, who led the organisation in gaining a Green Tourism accreditation

River ridge recycling appointed to manage waste collections, with zero to land fill status

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Public funding and sustainability

Our continued focus is on developing a more commercially resilient model and securing additional funding from trusts, foundations, and private sources. We continue to build unrestricted reserves and secure funds for critical infrastructure repairs and renewals.

Corporate Support

We continue to expand our relationships and partnerships with Friends of the MAC, donors and sponsors. With their support we create space for thousands of people to imagine, enjoy, participate in, and create art.

Public Funding

Our core funders – We are very appreciative of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council's continued support, enabling us to deliver our mission vision and public purpose.

Trusts and Foundations

We are grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who fund us, supporting thousands of artists through artistic residencies, commissioning of their work, free space in which to experiment, development funding, mentoring support, and employment.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also the directors of the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Disclosures of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the trustees on 3rd September, 2024

By order of the trustees



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the parent charitable company Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the parent charitable company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in note 2 to the financial statements concerning the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The conditions explained in note 2 to the financial statements, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the group and the parent charitable company were unable to continue as a going concern.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group and charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Cont'd)


In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors**

Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8H

3/9/24

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	2024			2023		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	5	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments	5	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities	5	1,280,694	-	1,280,694	1,292,052	-	1,292,052
Other income	5	114,034	-	114,034	7,984	-	7,984
Total		1,666,180	1,686,933	3,353,113	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Cost of raising funds: Commercial trading activities		1,280,849	-	1,280,849	1,090,554	-	1,090,554
Total		1,790,067	2,019,654	3,809,721	1,639,040	1,754,242	3,393,282
Net income/(expenditure)		(123,887)	(332,721)	(456,608)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(123,887)	(332,721)	(456,608)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Total funds brought forward		290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225
Total funds carried forward		166,337	13,000,581	13,166,918	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
OF THE CHARITY ALONE**

Notes	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities	114,034	-	114,034	209,482	-	209,482
Total	385,486	1,686,933	2,072,419	580,551	1,433,478	2,014,029
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Total	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Net movement in funds	(123,732)	(332,721)	(456,453)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(123,732)	(332,721)	(456,453)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Total funds brought forward	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,255
Total funds carried forward	166,492	13,000,581	13,167,073	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

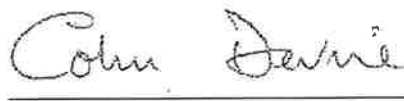
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	-	375
Tangible assets	12	13,044,968	13,382,991
		<u>13,044,968</u>	<u>13,383,366</u>
Current assets			
Stock		13,711	13,454
Debtors	14	179,102	325,061
Cash at bank and in hand		394,564	287,174
		<u>587,377</u>	<u>625,689</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	<u>(465,427)</u>	<u>(385,529)</u>
Net current assets		<u>121,950</u>	<u>240,160</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>13,166,918</u>	<u>13,623,526</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	166,337	290,224
Restricted funds	16	13,000,581	13,333,302
Total funds		<u>13,166,918</u>	<u>13,623,526</u>

The financial statements on pages 14 to 32 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 3rd September, 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945


The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

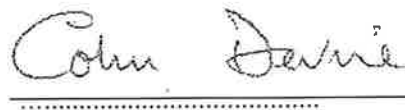
	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	-	375
Tangible assets	12	13,044,968	13,382,991
Investments	13	1	1
		13,044,969	13,383,367
Debtors	14	167,261	354,003
Cash at bank and in hand		201,064	202,781
		368,325	556,784
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(246,221)	(316,625)
Net current assets		122,104	240,159
Total assets less current liabilities		13,167,073	13,623,526
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	166,492	290,224
Restricted funds	16	13,000,581	13,333,302
Total funds		13,167,073	13,623,526

The financial statements on pages 14 to 32 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on

..... and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

			2024			2023	
	Notes	£		£	£		£
Cash flows from operating activities							
Cash generated from operations	23		144,325			46,102	
Investing activities							
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(38,388)		(290,737)			
Interest received		<u>1,452</u>		<u>1,069</u>			
Net cash (used in) investing activities			(36,936)			(289,668)	
			<hr/>			<hr/>	
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			107,389			(243,566)	
Cash and cash equivalents of beginning of year			287,175			530,741	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<hr/>			<hr/>	
			394,564			287,175	
Relating to:							
Bank balances and short term deposits			394,564			287,175	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Nature of organisation

The Charity is an incorporated company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. The registered office is 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast. The subsidiary is a company limited by shares.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The principal accounting policies, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty are set out below.

The trustees consider that these accounting policies are suitable, have been consistently applied and are supported by reasonable and prudent judgment and estimates.

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Charity alone has been presented on page 14.

All financial statements are made up to 31 March 2024. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the group.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The continued operation of the MAC is dependent on the ongoing support of its funders, Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC). The MAC was planned and built as a space that requires a certain level of public subsidy in order to provide the benefits it was built to deliver

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies, (Cont'd)

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis (Cont'd)

The financial performance for the year is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on pages 14 to 15 and described in the Trustees Report. The charity's expenditure exceeded income within unrestricted resources by £123,732 for the year. This result decreased unrestricted reserves from £290,224 to £166,492 at the year end. The directors are forecasting an unrestricted surplus of £14,611 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trustees are encouraged by the extensive dialogue and closer working relationship with the MAC's funders and we continue to work collaboratively in delivering a sustainable break-even business model in 2024/25.

The trustees consider that in preparing the financial statements they have taken into account all information that could reasonably be expected to be available and recognise that the circumstances described above represent a material uncertainty that casts doubt on the ability of the group and the parent charitable company to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered these circumstances, alongside proposals for future sustainability, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group and the parent charitable company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Income and endowments

(a) Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies includes all incoming resources generated from gifts, donations and grants, and is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

Grants which have been restricted for use by the donor or which relate to capital expenditure are treated as restricted income and are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when they are receivable and when all conditions have been met.

(b) Investments

Investment income represents interest receivable during the year on bank deposits.

(c) Other trading activities

This includes income receivable for services provided, income from activities undertaken to raise funds to undertake charitable activities, and income from the operation of the MAC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

1 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Expenditure

(a) Charitable activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity when working to meet its charitable objectives. This includes support costs allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on those activities.

(b) Commercial trading activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary in operating the MAC.

(c) Governance costs

Governance costs include the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the Charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of resources. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets comprise the costs associated with acquiring the liquor licence, and is valued at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments of each asset over its estimated useful economic life of 5 years.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition, net of any VAT recoverable.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Land and buildings	- 2% per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-10% - 25% per annum straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the group and the parent charitable company review the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group and the parent charitable company estimate the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment annually, and whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

Financial assets

The group and the parent charitable company have elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets are recognised in the group's and the parent charitable company's statement of financial position when the group and the parent charitable company become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Loans and receivables

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the group's and parent charitable company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group and parent charitable company are demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Taxation

As a registered charity, The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is not liable to either Income Tax or Corporation Tax.

Fund accounting

The Charity has two types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. Definitions of the funds are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds

Grants, donations and other income received which are earmarked by the funder or donor for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Charity.

(b) Unrestricted funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees, for the general purposes of the Charity. In addition, funds may be held in order to finance capital investments and working capital.

3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's and parent charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Going concern

The trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements. As explained more fully in Note 2 there is a material uncertainty regarding the group's and parent charitable company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered the circumstances, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the group and parent charitable company are unable to continue as a going concern.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining live of the asset and the estimated value in use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

4 Financial performance of the Charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary which operates the arts facility. The financial performance of the Charity alone is shown on page 15.

5 Income and endowments

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Donations and legacies						
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Capital Works	-	30,490	30,490	-	25,064	25,064
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	-	1,587,838	1,587,838	-	1,246,426	1,246,426
Belfast City Council Grants	150,000	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	-	-	-	75,000	75,000
Ulster Garden Villages	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Garfield Weston	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-	100,000
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	-	-	120,000	-	120,000
Belfast Harbour	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Social Change Initiative	-	4,500	4,500	-	3,950	3,950
Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund	-	4,300	4,300	-	5,500	5,500
Community Foundation NI	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
British Council	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Fuel Theatre - Fly the Flag	-	45,380	45,380	-	1,650	1,650
Cultural Bridge	-	8,072	8,072	-	-	-
Dormant Accounts	-	-	-	-	9,888	9,888
Art Fund	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-
Freelands Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Adrian Swire Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Theatres Trust	-	4,933	4,933	-	-	-
Other	-	420	420	-	-	-
	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments						
Interest receivable	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities						
Sponsorship	48,821	-	48,821	25,346	-	25,346
Gifts and donations	19,474	-	19,474	69,598	-	69,598
Rental income	16,233	-	16,233	19,031	-	19,031
Commercial trading operations	1,222,906	-	1,222,906	1,178,077	-	1,178,077
	1,307,434	-	1,307,434	1,292,052	-	1,292,052
Other income						
Theatre & Museum & Gallery tax relief	87,294	-	87,294	7,984	-	7,984
Total	1,666,180	1,686,933	3,353,113	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

6 Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure

	Support Costs	Other Direct Costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Core costs	189,031	1,971,278	2,160,309	1,926,901
Capital Project – The MAC	368,563	-	368,563	375,827
Total resources expended	557,594	1,971,278	2,528,872	2,302,728

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Premises	173,924	-	173,924	145,738
Financial costs	760	6,500	7,260	4,802
Depreciation	376,410	-	376,410	381,125
Total support costs	551,094	6,500	557,594	531,665

7 Net incoming resources

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation – owned assets	376,410	381,125
Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit of financial statements of the group and parent charitable company	4,750	4,750
Audit of the parent charitable company's subsidiary	6,500	6,500

There are no other material costs not already disclosed in notes 6 to 10.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

8 Income from trading activities

The wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited is incorporated in Northern Ireland (company number NI604239) and pays all of its profits to the Charity under the gift aid scheme. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited operates the arts facility and all commercial trading operations carried on at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) premises. The summary financial performance of the subsidiary alone is:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover	2,880,694	2,661,729
Cost of sales	(712,387)	(710,972)
Administration costs	(2,121,943)	(1,845,884)
Distribution costs	(46,519)	(33,699)
Other income	-	-
	(155)	71,174
Net profit	(155)	71,174
Gift aided to the Charity	-	(71,174)
	(155)	-
(Loss)/profit before taxation	(155)	-
Tax	-	-
	(155)	-
Retained in subsidiary	(155)	-
The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary alone were:		
Total assets	501,705	406,498
Total liabilities	(501,859)	(406,497)
	(154)	1
Total net assets	(154)	1
	(154)	1
Aggregate share capital and reserves	(154)	1

9 Employee information

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	1,530,495	1,343,869
Redundancy costs	160,389	-
Social security costs	133,440	119,351
Pension costs	40,082	35,693
	1,864,406	1,498,913
Average number of employees including trustees	86	83
Employees earning between £70,000 and £80,000	1	1

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel in the period was £195,269 (2023: £192,870). The Charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the Chief Executive, Commercial Director, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Creative Director.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

10 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees received no emoluments during the year. Two directors in the trading subsidiary received £2,526 (2023: £1,214) for reimbursement of travel expenses.

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Group £	Charitable Company £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	31,364	1,874
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2024	31,364	1,874
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	30,989	1,499
Amortisation charged for the year	375	375
At 31 March 2024	31,364	1,874
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	-	-
At 31 March 2023	375	375

12 Tangible fixed assets

Group and charitable company

	Land & Buildings £	Fittings & Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	16,594,196	500,201	17,094,397
Additions	-	38,388	38,388
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	16,594,196	538,589	17,132,785
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	3,418,830	292,576	3,711,406
Charge for year	331,884	44,526	376,410
Released on disposal	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	3,750,714	337,102	4,087,816
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	12,843,482	201,486	13,044,968
At 31 March 2023	13,175,366	207,625	13,382,991

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

13 Investments

The Charity holds one share of £1 in its wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited, which is incorporated in Northern Ireland. This is the only share allotted, called up and fully paid. The activities and results of this company are summarised in note 8.

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	145,391	102,251	27,240	30,660
Prepayments and accrued income	32,571	216,563	28,296	216,563
Other debtors	1,140	6,247	111,725	106,780
	<u>179,102</u>	<u>325,061</u>	<u>167,261</u>	<u>354,003</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	90,874	96,806	3,655	28,645
Other tax and social security	28,267	7,000	2,475	4,650
Accruals	146,971	110,023	67,224	55,635
Other creditors	199,315	171,700	799	1,218
Intercompany balance	-	-	172,068	226,477
	<u>465,427</u>	<u>385,529</u>	<u>246,221</u>	<u>316,625</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

16 Restricted funds of the Charity

	Restated Balance 1 April 2023	Movement in resources incoming	Movement in resources outgoing	Transfer between funds	Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset funds					
Capital Project	13,333,302	35,842	(368,563)	-	13,000,581
Subtotal	13,333,302	35,842	(368,563)	-	13,000,581
Other net assets funds					
Core costs	-	1,651,091	(1,651,091)	-	-
Subtotal	-	1,651,091	(1,651,091)	-	-
Total	13,333,302	1,686,933	(2,019,654)	-	13,000,581

Fixed asset funds

The fixed asset funds represent funds provided for the purchase of tangible fixed assets. The fund is represented by fixed assets and is reduced by the depreciation charge on the assets.

17 Unrestricted funds of the Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Net incoming resources for year	Transfer between funds	Total
	£			
General reserve	210,725	(123,887)	-	86,838
Designated - Garfield Weston	79,499	-	-	79,499
Total	290,224	(123,887)	-	166,337

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted funds	13,000,581	-	13,000,581
Unrestricted funds	44,387	121,950	166,337
	13,044,968	121,950	13,166,918

19 Related party transactions

Under the control of the Board of Trustees, the MAC Trading Co. Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, charged the Charity expenses of £1,600,000 (2023: £1,500,000) and transferred to the Charity under Gift Aid a donation of £NIL (2023: £71,174). At 31 March 2024 a balance of £172,068 (2023: £226,478) was owed by the Charity to the subsidiary. There were no other transactions or outstanding balances with related parties.

20 Contingencies

A portion of grants received may become repayable if the Charity fails to comply with the terms of letter of offer.

21 Corporation taxation

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received. HM Revenue and Customs reference number XR26229. Its subsidiary is subject to corporation taxation on its income and capital gains.

22 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate company financial statements for The MAC Limited

Details of the company's subsidiaries at 31 March 2024 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
The MAC Trading Co. Limited	As above	Operation of arts facilities	Ordinary shares	100	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

23 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the year	(456,608)	(288,699)
Depreciation & amortisation	376,785	382,835
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	79,898	(199,433)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	145,959	156,070
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(257)	(3,602)
Interest received	(1,452)	(1,069)
Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from operating activities	144,325	46,102

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100808

Annual return



**THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Colm Devine
David Gavaghan (resigned 23 June 2023)
Raymond Hutchinson (Chairman)
Louise O'Boyle
Karen Shaw (resigned 14 August 2023)
Dorothy Wilson-Longfils (resigned 28 August 2024)
Kim Spence

Registered office

10 Exchange Street West
Belfast
BT1 2NJ

Solicitors

Edwards & Co. Solicitors
28 Hill St
Belfast
BT1 2LA

Bank

Ulster Bank Limited
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Registered auditors

Harbinson Mulholland
Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
BT2 8HS

Recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs under number

XR26229

Company number

NI022945

Charity registration number

NIC100808

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report)

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The company was incorporated on 26 July 1989 as The Old Museum Arts Centre and changed its name to The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) on 14 October 2010. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and is registered under company number NI22945. It is accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under reference XR26229.

The company has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 3 November 2014 under registration number NIC100808.

The charitable objective of the company as stated in its Articles of Association is:

“the advancement of education in Northern Ireland in relation to the arts and in particular by the provision of a centre for use in instruction in the various arts (visual, performing, musical and literary) and which may also be used for training in any such activities or for the performances, readings or exhibits and so that the policy governing the use of the centre shall not discriminate on the grounds of religion, political opinion, race, colour, ethnic origin, sex or age.”

There have been no amendments to the governing documents in the year.

Governance Structure

The MAC (Charity) Board is comprised of up to 15 trustees who meet at least 4 times per year. The trustees are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law. The term of office for trustees is 4 years, with the option to serve a maximum of 2 terms. The Board's key responsibilities include setting out the vision, mission and values of the MAC, agreeing the strategy to deliver the vision and mission, agreeing the charity's governance structure and policies and ensuring the protection of the capital asset.

The Charity has established a wholly owned subsidiary, the MAC Trading Company Ltd (TradeCo), a company limited by shares which has a service level agreement with the Charity which provides a licence to TradeCo to carry out artistic programmes and ancillary trading in the building and sets out the commercial relationship between the two companies. Any profits are gifted to the charity in their entirety.

The Board has set out the functions of sub-committees, officers, the chief executive and other staff in clear delegated authorities and monitors their performance. In carrying out their responsibilities, trustees remain mindful of their commitment to upholding the values of accountability to stakeholders, probity and transparency.

Sub-committees

Audit and Risk/Finance and Remuneration and Nominations sub-committees are in place to deal with specific issues as required.

The Audit and Risk/Finance sub-committee meets monthly with at least 4 of the meetings each year being audit and risk focussed. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Treasurer who has significant, recent and relevant financial experience. The sub-committee includes two other members from the Boards, neither of whom is the Chair of the Charity.

The Remuneration and Nominations sub-committee meets as required on an ad hoc basis. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Chairman, includes the Chairman of TradeCo and at least two other members drawn from the Charity Board one of whom has significant HR skills and experience.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Objectives and Activities

The MAC aims to contribute to the ongoing transformation of Northern Ireland through the creation of, participation in and appreciation of outstanding art.

We seek to achieve this overarching goal by supporting artists in the creation of excellent art and by delivering programmes which make this art accessible to as many people as possible. Our artistic programme aims to entertain, connect people to art, and address social issues relevant to the people we work with, and the people of Northern Ireland.

In 2023/2024 we delivered a curated programme of artistic events across (i) Visual Art, (ii) Creative Learning & Engagement and (iii) Live Events which attracted and inspired over 191,000 visitors. During this year the MAC brought internationally acclaimed artists to Northern Ireland to share their artwork with local people, at the same time as platforming emerging, mid-career and acclaimed local artists. We worked with national partners and communities to explore social inequalities and injustices through art and creativity.

As we grow back audiences post covid, The MAC 's Audience Development Plan worked towards re-engaging audiences and generating new visitors through our brand led '**Space for/to**' campaign. Our nomination as Art Fund Museum of the Year 2024 also gave the MAC a fantastic opportunity to showcase ourselves in a major way, to both old and new audiences, celebrating all that has been achieved in the past 12 years and garnering support and nationwide press coverage highlighting this momentous achievement.

An overview of 23/24

- The MAC has continued rebuilding audiences after the disruption caused by Covid. We anticipated this would take several years. The number of paid ticket bookers for 2023/24 is at 85% of pre-Covid levels.
- Sustaining ticket sales at pre-pandemic levels and explored potential for further growth, expanding the MAC's commitment to access for all.
- Annual footfall for 2023/24 was 191,000 which was slightly lower than the footfall from previous year, however Ron Mueck in 2022 had a huge impact on footfall. The blockbuster exhibition 'I see his blood upon the rose' was moved from 23/24 to 24/25 where we would have seen large numbers through the doors, but we look forward to that impact in the coming year.

The MAC is in the business of imagination

We value creativity on our stages and galleries and in everything we do.

Visual Art

In 2023/24 the MAC presented exhibitions which created significant profile-raising opportunities for Northern Irish artists at a critical stage of their careers including Louise Wallace and Sharon Kelly.

We also strengthened our relationship with our MACTivate Associate Partners: Participation and the Practice of Rights, Alliance for Choice, The Rainbow Project, Action Mental Health, and Extern through our exhibition and participatory programme around At the Table.

We curated a major presentation of internationally renowned artist Korakrit Arunanondchai, a video and multimedia artist originally from Bangkok who now splits his time between New York and Bangkok.

In addition to international relationships developed over 2023/24 we also collaborated with our colleagues in the South of Ireland through Niamh McCann's exhibition 'someone decides, hawk or dove' a commissioned part of the programme for ART:2023, a Decade Of Centenaries supported by The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

At The Table 7 April - 23 July

At The Table brought socially and politically engaged practices into our core gallery programming. It is our first major exhibition developed from MACtivate.

The exhibition showcased the work we co-designed with our Associate Partners who work to combat some of society's most pressing issues and inequalities – Alliance for Choice, Action Mental Health, The Rainbow Project, Extern and Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR).

A community table cut through the length of the gallery acting as an invitation to actively participate in the programme - whilst also providing a space for social interaction and communal dining.

Louise Wallace: Midnight Feast 7 April - 26 November 2023

This exhibition was a significant profile-raising opportunity for Belfast based artist Louise Wallace. Wallace produces work that is deliberately provocative, utilising a palette of lush colour to create images that draw on abstraction and Surrealism to transform the suburban into scenes that hover between the familiar and the uncanny.

The exhibition positioned painting as a field of enquiry rather than a medium-specific condition. A febrile sense of colour is instrumental to holding relationships across media and into the gallery space. Wallace's painting practice is reimagined across drawing, collage and three-dimensional objects.

Wallace's practice is improvisational; one move generates the next whether the medium is painting, drawing or assemblages. The exhibition installation was an extension of Wallace's studio where she displays a range of objects and manipulates them to extend the compositional space of painting.

Louise Wallace made a number of sales through the exhibition and her work is now in the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Ulster University and is being considered for inclusion in the Government Art Collection.

Wallace's work is currently in the offices of Investec as part of our Art Leasing Scheme.

Sharon Kelly: Red-to-Red 7 April - 26 November 2023

This exhibition was another significant opportunity to present the work of a Northern Irish artist created during the Arts Council of Northern Ireland supported Fellowship at the British School at Rome where the work was completed over the period of the artists residency.

Kelly drew on her observances and encounters from her time in Rome and created work, externally affirmative and universally connective in nature.

Her sensibility to the body and in particular the fragmented body, the torso and broken gesture featured strongly in works created in response to her original residency period and in the intervening three years. With its generative force emanating from personal encounters with severe illness and its aftermath, her work also embraced ideas of liminality and transformation.

A marker for warning or impending danger. Red is the colour symbolising authority, or status; generals in the days of the Roman Empire had their bodies painted red to celebrate victory. Red was also the colour of protective amulets. Red may indicate energy, vibrancy - the longest-lasting and most dominant of the colours of the Etruscan fresco wall-paintings. These red figurative images, fragmented over time, depict life, death, and the transitional space.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Korakrit Arunanondchai: No History in a Room Filled with People with Funny Names 5 29 August 2023 - 26 November 2023

This was the first exhibition in Ireland by Korakrit Arunanondchai, a video and multimedia artist originally from Bangkok who now splits his time between New York and Bangkok.

This new exhibition serves as a reconfiguration of Korakrit Arunanondchai's continuous conversations and collaborations with two artists, Alex Gvojcic and Tosh Basco.

Opening with the myth of "Ghost Cinema", a tradition in North East Thailand that grew out of remnants from the occupation of the US military during the Cold War, Korakrit Arunanondchai weaves together a story about possession and the dependency between the caretaker and the care receiver. The filmic installation is charged with the idea of community and questions what holds it together – among humans and non-humans.

Niamh McCann: 'someone decides, hawk or dove' 8 December 2023 7 April 2024

'someone decides, hawk or dove' was a commissioned work by artist Niamh McCann as part of the programme for ART:2023, a Decade Of Centenaries supported by The Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The title of the exhibition 'someone decides, hawk or dove' is a line from the poem Hairline Crack in Belfast poet Ciaran Carson's 1989 collection Belfast Confetti. Hairline Crack is also the title of a film central to this exhibition which comprises of three acts with two musical interludes. An eyeless dog guides us through three separate landscapes: one bucolic, one musicological and one socio-political, in an odyssey along the border region of Northern Ireland. Like a mythological seer, this eyeless dog perceives and interprets obscure truths, through philosophical musings on Man's long hubristic dominion over beasts, places, people.

The exhibition featured a sculpture/structure Turn Again developed by Niamh McCann in collaboration with architect Peter Carroll, bespoke seating by architect Peter Carroll, and a commissioned ensemble and specially composed music by Grammy-nominated artist Iarla Ó Lionáird (The Gloaming).

Work from 'someone decides, hawk or dove' – or iterations of same – has been shown at the Rudolf-Scharpf-Galerie, Ludwigshafen, Germany (hosted by Wilhelm-Hack-Museum), at Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, StableArts, Washington DC (hosted by Solas Nua), and at The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, Meath, Ireland.

'someone decides, hawk or dove' was curated by Belinda Quirke, Director Solstice Arts Centre.

Live Events

Despite ongoing challenges in the sector in 23/24, the MAC sought to present an artistically ambitious, innovative, and balanced core programme alongside strategic Festivals and likeminded artistic partners who co-presented or hired the theatre spaces.

The programme covered a diverse range of art forms presented in collaboration with local, national, and international partners with programming choices reflecting contemporary artistic practice, sectoral, cultural, political, and social issues comprising new and extant work from emerging and established artists and organisations.

The programme of work and associated schemes contained a practical commitment to the development of artists and companies across all live event disciplines, at every stage in their career, providing a platform for NI based artists to develop and present their work. Simultaneously, the MAC engaged with and presented work from the national and international arena.

Featuring highly was the presentation of theatrical work produced and centred in and of the Belfast and Northern Irish experience, including *The Daughters of Roisin* by Sole Purpose, *Billy Boy* by Eastside Arts, *Float* by Crybaby Productions, *10 Things I Hate about You* by Brunswick Productions, *Tribe* by Replay Theatre Co, *Teechers* by Bruiser and Mikel Murphy's *Mysterious Case of Kitsy Rainey*.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Two popular and well received Christmas theatre productions were also NI produced - family focused *The Night Before Christmas*, was produced in house and featured in The Stage' top 50 shows in the UK of the year. In the Upstairs theatre CCurran Productions lifted adult spirits with *Are Yule Being Served*.

In contemporary dance we presented *Wasteland* by the Gary Clarke Company which included a local community cast of musicians and dancers, internationally acclaimed *Chotto Desh* by the Akram Khan Company and *Gutter* by Off the Rails. Local dance training opportunities were provided through the Six Collective and by DU Dance's *Unanimous*.

Comedy at the MAC included Bridget Christie, Mark Thomas, Jenny Éclair, Keiran Hodgson and Tom Davies. In spoken word, *Poetry with Pride* celebrating queer writers from Belfast and beyond featuring Sarah Clancy, Mary Montague, Sacha White and Tiegan Johnston was presented as part of Belfast Pride.

Musical talent also featured heavily with NI based NI Opera staging a *Salon Series* of 7 concerts, a dramatically staged concert by Peter Corry's *Thank You for the Musicals*. Contemporary and mainstream audiences also enjoyed concerts from UK and international artists such as Cherish the Ladies, The Highstool Prophets and Briana Corrigan.

The MAC supported the development of Northern Irish artists through schemes providing space, funding, and professional support. Through *Space to Create*, the MAC provided 30 live event artists with over 70 days of free space to facilitate the development of new work. Louise Matthews, Fergus Wachala-Kelly and Colm McCready were our three HATCH artists, who along with Artist in Residence, former Derry Girl Ma, actor and writer, Tara Lynne O'Neill provided with bursaries, free workspaces in venue and mentoring and advice from MAC staff and associates.

The MAC also presented a significant number of multi-disciplinary art form events as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival, the Belfast Children's Festival and the Northern Ireland Science Festival programmes. Other Festivals included the Outburst Queer Arts, Belfast Pride, and Belfast Media Festivals. Over the summer months the MAC welcomed youth and community theatre productions from companies such as New Lodge Arts, Belfast School of Performing Arts, and Ravara Productions.

Creative Learning & Engagement

The MAC Creative Learning team focus on three core areas:

- MACtivate where we use art to address social inequality with associate partners.
- Growing Up with the MAC which enables babies and children to learn with us.
- Arts and Peacebuilding study abroad programmes for international universities and groups.

MACtivate

At The Table, was a participatory co-designed exhibition showcased projects co-designed with our MACtivate Associate Partners who work to address social inequalities. To realise this exhibition, we commissioned four socially engaged artists who collaborated with our Associate Partners:

- **Dumbworld** collaborated with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** campaigners to *Future Garden* which asked how the needs & rights of humans for shelter can coexist with our need to care for the planet we live on.
- **Sam's Eden Overload** by Thomas Wells in collaboration with **The Rainbow Project** is a new queer publication project which explored queer visibility in cultural spaces.
- **Action Mental Health** participants collaborated with visual artist **Kerrie Hanna** to create images of hope which were presented on billboards during Mental Health Awareness week.
- Artist and activist **Khaled Barakeh** addressed the rights of people in the asylum system by collaborating with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** and Anaka Women's Collective.
- To position this exhibition, we commissioned artist **Laura Nelson** and **Duncan Ross**.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Over the duration of the exhibition 15,680 people visited the gallery; 1500 people participated in workshops/events/talks/commissions exploring social inequality; 600+ people created and exhibited their art on the community art wall, and 5 chefs living in the asylum system catered for 360 people attending events.

Growing Up with the MAC

Our Growing Up with the MAC programme was attended by 950 children and their families and delivered by local artists and facilitators. These workshops ranged across visual and performance artforms, including highlights such as comic book drawing, sculpture, drumming, and interactive storytelling. Through our workshops we engaged with themes covered in our exhibitions, as well as themes around the environment, mental health, bullying and social issues. During **At the Table**, we hosted a kindergarten for families in the asylum system, which was regularly attended by 15 families, and held family-friends' events for **Belfast Pride**. We also revived our baby sensory workshops, which have been exceedingly popular since their return in December. We provided a mix of ticketed and drop-in workshops and programmed two events in collaboration with the **Deaf Arts Festival NI**.

We delivered our **MAC in a Box** programme, facilitating schools to attend and creatively engage with our exhibitions and Christmas show. 181 students participated in our Gallery in a Box programme, exploring our galleries and learning new art skills. 147 students participated in Theatre in a Box, engaging in creative workshops, learning about the MAC, and enjoying our show *The Night Before Christmas*. These programmes especially benefitted schools with SEN groups or in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage. Additionally, our Passport to the MAC programme enabled eight schools to attend *The Night Before Christmas*, removing the barrier of transportation costs.

Arts and Peacebuilding study abroad programmes

During summer 2023 we delivered *Socially Engaged Artmaking in Northern Ireland*, a one-month study abroad programme with SUNY Purchase College. Thirteen under-graduate students explored how art has been used to address the Troubles. They met and engaged with local artists, creatives, activists and academics. This opportunity was personally and academically transformational for the students.

The MAC is in the business of Belfast

We will help build Belfast's reputation as one of the world's most creative cities.

The critical value of social arts spaces in cities' placemaking aspirations has been well researched and articulated internationally and has been one of the charity's key functions in the period. The MAC's social, economic and cultural impact (placemaking's main considerations) have been evidenced through a series of independent reviews. The MAC is one of Northern Ireland's iconic cultural landmarks and is a valuable capital asset which the Board of Trustees and MAC team protect, maintain and preserve. Each year the building is used by and visited by thousands of people. It is our responsibility to ensure all elements of the building are serviced, maintained and safe for everyday use, and protected for the long-term.

The MAC continues to review and develop its Sustainability Policy. This year we secured funding to install a building energy monitoring system. This system enables real time monitoring of energy usage including gas, electric and water. Plant and equipment controls updated to reduce running times and reduce costs

The MAC became a member of The Gallery Climate Coalition. We partnered with Queens university to facilitate 5 student placements, who led the organisation in gaining a Green Tourism accreditation

River ridge recycling appointed to manage waste collections, with zero to land fill status

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Public funding and sustainability

Our continued focus is on developing a more commercially resilient model and securing additional funding from trusts, foundations, and private sources. We continue to build unrestricted reserves and secure funds for critical infrastructure repairs and renewals.

Corporate Support

We continue to expand our relationships and partnerships with Friends of the MAC, donors and sponsors. With their support we create space for thousands of people to imagine, enjoy, participate in, and create art.

Public Funding

Our core funders – We are very appreciative of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council's continued support, enabling us to deliver our mission vision and public purpose.

Trusts and Foundations

We are grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who fund us, supporting thousands of artists through artistic residencies, commissioning of their work, free space in which to experiment, development funding, mentoring support, and employment.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also the directors of the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Disclosures of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the trustees on 3rd September, 2024

By order of the trustees



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the parent charitable company Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the parent charitable company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in note 2 to the financial statements concerning the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The conditions explained in note 2 to the financial statements, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the group and the parent charitable company were unable to continue as a going concern.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group and charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Cont'd)


In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors**

Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8H

3/9/24

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	2024			2023		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	5	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments	5	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities	5	1,280,694	-	1,280,694	1,292,052	-	1,292,052
Other income	5	114,034	-	114,034	7,984	-	7,984
Total		1,666,180	1,686,933	3,353,113	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Cost of raising funds: Commercial trading activities		1,280,849	-	1,280,849	1,090,554	-	1,090,554
Total		1,790,067	2,019,654	3,809,721	1,639,040	1,754,242	3,393,282
Net income/(expenditure)		(123,887)	(332,721)	(456,608)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(123,887)	(332,721)	(456,608)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Total funds brought forward		290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225
Total funds carried forward		166,337	13,000,581	13,166,918	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
OF THE CHARITY ALONE**

Notes	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities	114,034	-	114,034	209,482	-	209,482
Total	385,486	1,686,933	2,072,419	580,551	1,433,478	2,014,029
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Total	509,218	2,019,654	2,528,872	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728
Net movement in funds	(123,732)	(332,721)	(456,453)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(123,732)	(332,721)	(456,453)	32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)
Total funds brought forward	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,255
Total funds carried forward	166,492	13,000,581	13,167,073	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

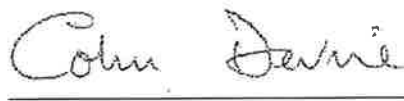
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	-	375
Tangible assets	12	13,044,968	13,382,991
		13,044,968	13,383,366
Current assets			
Stock		13,711	13,454
Debtors	14	179,102	325,061
Cash at bank and in hand		394,564	287,174
		587,377	625,689
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(465,427)	(385,529)
Net current assets		121,950	240,160
Total assets less current liabilities		13,166,918	13,623,526
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	166,337	290,224
Restricted funds	16	13,000,581	13,333,302
Total funds		13,166,918	13,623,526

The financial statements on pages 14 to 32 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 3rd September, 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

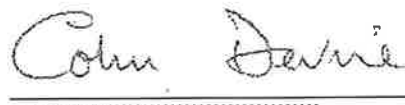
	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	-	375
Tangible assets	12	13,044,968	13,382,991
Investments	13	1	1
		13,044,969	13,383,367
Debtors	14	167,261	354,003
Cash at bank and in hand		201,064	202,781
		368,325	556,784
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(246,221)	(316,625)
Net current assets		122,104	240,159
Total assets less current liabilities		13,167,073	13,623,526
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	166,492	290,224
Restricted funds	16	13,000,581	13,333,302
Total funds		13,167,073	13,623,526

The financial statements on pages 14 to 32 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on

..... and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 19 to 32 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	£	2024	£	£	2023	£
Cash flows from operating activities							
Cash generated from operations	23		144,325			46,102	
Investing activities							
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(38,388)		(290,737)			
Interest received		<u>1,452</u>		<u>1,069</u>			
Net cash (used in) investing activities			(36,936)			(289,668)	
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			<u>107,389</u>			<u>(243,566)</u>	
Cash and cash equivalents of beginning of year			287,175			530,741	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>394,564</u>			<u>287,175</u>	
Relating to:							
Bank balances and short term deposits			394,564			287,175	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Nature of organisation

The Charity is an incorporated company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. The registered office is 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast. The subsidiary is a company limited by shares.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The principal accounting policies, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty are set out below.

The trustees consider that these accounting policies are suitable, have been consistently applied and are supported by reasonable and prudent judgment and estimates.

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Charity alone has been presented on page 14.

All financial statements are made up to 31 March 2024. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the group.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The continued operation of the MAC is dependent on the ongoing support of its funders, Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC). The MAC was planned and built as a space that requires a certain level of public subsidy in order to provide the benefits it was built to deliver

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies, (Cont'd)

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis (Cont'd)

The financial performance for the year is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on pages 14 to 15 and described in the Trustees Report. The charity's expenditure exceeded income within unrestricted resources by £123,732 for the year. This result decreased unrestricted reserves from £290,224 to £166,492 at the year end. The directors are forecasting an unrestricted surplus of £14,611 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trustees are encouraged by the extensive dialogue and closer working relationship with the MAC's funders and we continue to work collaboratively in delivering a sustainable break-even business model in 2024/25.

The trustees consider that in preparing the financial statements they have taken into account all information that could reasonably be expected to be available and recognise that the circumstances described above represent a material uncertainty that casts doubt on the ability of the group and the parent charitable company to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered these circumstances, alongside proposals for future sustainability, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group and the parent charitable company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Income and endowments

(a) Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies includes all incoming resources generated from gifts, donations and grants, and is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

Grants which have been restricted for use by the donor or which relate to capital expenditure are treated as restricted income and are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when they are receivable and when all conditions have been met.

(b) Investments

Investment income represents interest receivable during the year on bank deposits.

(c) Other trading activities

This includes income receivable for services provided, income from activities undertaken to raise funds to undertake charitable activities, and income from the operation of the MAC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

1 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Expenditure

(a) Charitable activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity when working to meet its charitable objectives. This includes support costs allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on those activities.

(b) Commercial trading activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary in operating the MAC.

(c) Governance costs

Governance costs include the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the Charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of resources. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets comprise the costs associated with acquiring the liquor licence, and is valued at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments of each asset over its estimated useful economic life of 5 years.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition, net of any VAT recoverable.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Land and buildings	- 2% per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-10% - 25% per annum straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the group and the parent charitable company review the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group and the parent charitable company estimate the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment annually, and whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

Financial assets

The group and the parent charitable company have elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets are recognised in the group's and the parent charitable company's statement of financial position when the group and the parent charitable company become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Loans and receivables

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the group's and parent charitable company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group and parent charitable company are demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Taxation

As a registered charity, The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is not liable to either Income Tax or Corporation Tax.

Fund accounting

The Charity has two types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. Definitions of the funds are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds

Grants, donations and other income received which are earmarked by the funder or donor for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Charity.

(b) Unrestricted funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees, for the general purposes of the Charity. In addition, funds may be held in order to finance capital investments and working capital.

3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's and parent charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Going concern

The trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements. As explained more fully in Note 2 there is a material uncertainty regarding the group's and parent charitable company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered the circumstances, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the group and parent charitable company are unable to continue as a going concern.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining live of the asset and the estimated value in use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

4 Financial performance of the Charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary which operates the arts facility. The financial performance of the Charity alone is shown on page 15.

5 Income and endowments

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Donations and legacies						
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Capital Works	-	30,490	30,490	-	25,064	25,064
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	-	1,587,838	1,587,838	-	1,246,426	1,246,426
Belfast City Council Grants	150,000	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	-	-	-	75,000	75,000
Ulster Garden Villages	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Garfield Weston	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-	100,000
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	-	-	120,000	-	120,000
Belfast Harbour	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Social Change Initiative	-	4,500	4,500	-	3,950	3,950
Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund	-	4,300	4,300	-	5,500	5,500
Community Foundation NI	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
British Council	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Fuel Theatre - Fly the Flag	-	45,380	45,380	-	1,650	1,650
Cultural Bridge	-	8,072	8,072	-	-	-
Dormant Accounts	-	-	-	-	9,888	9,888
Art Fund	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-
Freelands Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Adrian Swire Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Theatres Trust	-	4,933	4,933	-	-	-
Other	-	420	420	-	-	-
	270,000	1,686,933	1,956,933	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478
Investments						
Interest receivable	1,452	-	1,452	1,069	-	1,069
Other trading activities						
Sponsorship	48,821	-	48,821	25,346	-	25,346
Gifts and donations	19,474	-	19,474	69,598	-	69,598
Rental income	16,233	-	16,233	19,031	-	19,031
Commercial trading operations	1,222,906	-	1,222,906	1,178,077	-	1,178,077
	1,307,434	-	1,307,434	1,292,052	-	1,292,052
Other income						
Theatre & Museum & Gallery tax relief	87,294	-	87,294	7,984	-	7,984
Total	1,666,180	1,686,933	3,353,113	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

6 Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure

	Support Costs	Other Direct Costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Core costs	189,031	1,971,278	2,160,309	1,926,901
Capital Project – The MAC	368,563	-	368,563	375,827
Total resources expended	557,594	1,971,278	2,528,872	2,302,728

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Premises	173,924	-	173,924	145,738
Financial costs	760	6,500	7,260	4,802
Depreciation	376,410	-	376,410	381,125
Total support costs	551,094	6,500	557,594	531,665

7 Net incoming resources

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation – owned assets	376,410	381,125
Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit of financial statements of the group and parent charitable company	4,750	4,750
Audit of the parent charitable company's subsidiary	6,500	6,500

There are no other material costs not already disclosed in notes 6 to 10.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

8 Income from trading activities

The wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited is incorporated in Northern Ireland (company number NI604239) and pays all of its profits to the Charity under the gift aid scheme. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited operates the arts facility and all commercial trading operations carried on at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) premises. The summary financial performance of the subsidiary alone is:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover	2,880,694	2,661,729
Cost of sales	(712,387)	(710,972)
Administration costs	(2,121,943)	(1,845,884)
Distribution costs	(46,519)	(33,699)
Other income	-	-
	(155)	71,174
Net profit	(155)	71,174
Gift aided to the Charity	-	(71,174)
	(155)	-
(Loss)/profit before taxation	(155)	-
Tax	-	-
	(155)	-
Retained in subsidiary	(155)	-
The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary alone were:		
Total assets	501,705	406,498
Total liabilities	(501,859)	(406,497)
	(154)	1
Total net assets	(154)	1
	(154)	1
Aggregate share capital and reserves	(154)	1

9 Employee information

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	1,530,495	1,343,869
Redundancy costs	160,389	-
Social security costs	133,440	119,351
Pension costs	40,082	35,693
	1,864,406	1,498,913
Average number of employees including trustees	86	83
Employees earning between £70,000 and £80,000	1	1

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel in the period was £195,269 (2023: £192,870). The Charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the Chief Executive, Commercial Director, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Creative Director.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

10 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees received no emoluments during the year. Two directors in the trading subsidiary received £2,526 (2023: £1,214) for reimbursement of travel expenses.

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Group £	Charitable Company £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	31,364	1,874
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2024	31,364	1,874
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	30,989	1,499
Amortisation charged for the year	375	375
At 31 March 2024	31,364	1,874
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	-	-
At 31 March 2023	375	375

12 Tangible fixed assets

Group and charitable company

	Land & Buildings £	Fittings & Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	16,594,196	500,201	17,094,397
Additions	-	38,388	38,388
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	16,594,196	538,589	17,132,785
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	3,418,830	292,576	3,711,406
Charge for year	331,884	44,526	376,410
Released on disposal	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	3,750,714	337,102	4,087,816
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	12,843,482	201,486	13,044,968
At 31 March 2023	13,175,366	207,625	13,382,991

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

13 Investments

The Charity holds one share of £1 in its wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited, which is incorporated in Northern Ireland. This is the only share allotted, called up and fully paid. The activities and results of this company are summarised in note 8.

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	145,391	102,251	27,240	30,660
Prepayments and accrued income	32,571	216,563	28,296	216,563
Other debtors	1,140	6,247	111,725	106,780
	<u>179,102</u>	<u>325,061</u>	<u>167,261</u>	<u>354,003</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	90,874	96,806	3,655	28,645
Other tax and social security	28,267	7,000	2,475	4,650
Accruals	146,971	110,023	67,224	55,635
Other creditors	199,315	171,700	799	1,218
Intercompany balance	-	-	172,068	226,477
	<u>465,427</u>	<u>385,529</u>	<u>246,221</u>	<u>316,625</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

16 Restricted funds of the Charity

	Restated Balance 1 April 2023	Movement in resources incoming	Movement in resources outgoing	Transfer between funds	Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset funds					
Capital Project	13,333,302	35,842	(368,563)	-	13,000,581
Subtotal	13,333,302	35,842	(368,563)	-	13,000,581
Other net assets funds					
Core costs	-	1,651,091	(1,651,091)	-	-
Subtotal	-	1,651,091	(1,651,091)	-	-
Total	13,333,302	1,686,933	(2,019,654)	-	13,000,581

Fixed asset funds

The fixed asset funds represent funds provided for the purchase of tangible fixed assets. The fund is represented by fixed assets and is reduced by the depreciation charge on the assets.

17 Unrestricted funds of the Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Net incoming resources for year	Transfer between funds	Total
	£			
General reserve	210,725	(123,887)	-	86,838
Designated - Garfield Weston	79,499	-	-	79,499
Total	290,224	(123,887)	-	166,337

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted funds	13,000,581	-	13,000,581
Unrestricted funds	44,387	121,950	166,337
	13,044,968	121,950	13,166,918

19 Related party transactions

Under the control of the Board of Trustees, the MAC Trading Co. Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, charged the Charity expenses of £1,600,000 (2023: £1,500,000) and transferred to the Charity under Gift Aid a donation of £NIL (2023: £71,174). At 31 March 2024 a balance of £172,068 (2023: £226,478) was owed by the Charity to the subsidiary. There were no other transactions or outstanding balances with related parties.

20 Contingencies

A portion of grants received may become repayable if the Charity fails to comply with the terms of letter of offer.

21 Corporation taxation

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received. HM Revenue and Customs reference number XR26229. Its subsidiary is subject to corporation taxation on its income and capital gains.

22 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate company financial statements for The MAC Limited

Details of the company's subsidiaries at 31 March 2024 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
The MAC Trading Co. Limited	As above	Operation of arts facilities	Ordinary shares	100	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

23 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the year	(456,608)	(288,699)
Depreciation & amortisation	376,785	382,835
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	79,898	(199,433)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	145,959	156,070
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(257)	(3,602)
Interest received	(1,452)	(1,069)
Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from operating activities	144,325	46,102

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100808

Accounts



**THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Andrew Cowan (resigned 20 March 2023)
Colm Devine
David Gavaghan (resigned 23 June 2023)
Ray Hutchinson (Chairman)
Louise O'Boyle
Karen Shaw (resigned 14 August 2023)
Dorothy Wilson
Kim Spence

Registered office

10 Exchange Street West
Belfast
BT1 2NJ

Solicitors

Edwards & Co. Solicitors
28 Hill St
Belfast
BT1 2LA

Bank

Ulster Bank Limited
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Registered auditors

Harbinson Mulholland
Centrepoint
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
BT2 8HS

Recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs under number

XR26229

Company number

NI022945

Charity registration number

NIC100808

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report)

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The company was incorporated on 26 July 1989 as The Old Museum Arts Centre and changed its name to The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) on 14 October 2010. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and is registered under company number NI22945. It is accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under reference XR26229.

The company has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 3 November 2014 under registration number NIC100808.

The charitable objective of the company as stated in its Articles of Association is:

“the advancement of education in Northern Ireland in relation to the arts and in particular by the provision of a centre for use in instruction in the various arts (visual, performing, musical and literary) and which may also be used for training in any such activities or for the performances, readings or exhibits and so that the policy governing the use of the centre shall not discriminate on the grounds of religion, political opinion, race, colour, ethnic origin, sex or age.”

There have been no amendments to the governing documents in the year.

Governance Structure

The MAC (Charity) Board is comprised of up to 15 trustees who meet at least 4 times per year. The trustees are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law. The term of office for trustees is 4 years, with the option to serve a maximum of 2 terms. The Board's key responsibilities include setting out the vision, mission and values of the MAC, agreeing the strategy to deliver the vision and mission, agreeing the charity's governance structure and policies and ensuring the protection of the capital asset.

The Charity has established a wholly owned subsidiary, the MAC Trading Company Ltd (TradeCo), a company limited by shares which has a service level agreement with the Charity which provides a licence to TradeCo to carry out artistic programmes and ancillary trading in the building and sets out the commercial relationship between the two companies. Any profits are gifted to the charity in their entirety.

The Board has set out the functions of sub-committees, officers, the chief executive and other staff in clear delegated authorities and monitors their performance. In carrying out their responsibilities, trustees remain mindful of their commitment to upholding the values of accountability to stakeholders, probity and transparency.

Sub-committees

Audit and Risk/Finance and Remuneration and Nominations sub-committees are in place to deal with specific issues as required.

The Audit and Risk/Finance sub-committee meets monthly with at least 4 of the meetings each year being audit and risk focussed. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Treasurer who has significant, recent and relevant financial experience. The sub-committee includes two other members from the Boards, neither of whom is the Chair of the Charity.

The Remuneration and Nominations sub-committee meets as required on an ad hoc basis. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Chairman, includes the Chairman of TradeCo and at least two other members drawn from the Charity Board one of whom has significant HR skills and experience.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

2. Objectives and Activities

The MAC aims to contribute to the ongoing transformation of Northern Ireland through the creation of, participation in and appreciation of outstanding art.

We seek to achieve this overarching goal by supporting artists in the creation of excellent art and by delivering programmes which make this art accessible to as many people as possible. Our artistic programme aims to entertain, connect people to art, and address social issues relevant to the people we work with, and the people of Northern Ireland.

In 2022/2023 we delivered a curated programme of artistic events across (i) Visual Art, (ii) Creative Learning & Engagement and (iii) Live Events which attracted and inspired over 220,000 visitors. During this year the MAC brought internationally acclaimed artists to Northern Ireland to share their artwork with local people, at the same time as platforming emerging, mid-career and acclaimed local artists. We worked with national partners and communities to explore social inequalities and injustices through art and creativity.

As we continued growing back audiences post covid, the MAC worked on a revised marketing and audience development plan. This strategy aimed to deepen relationships with audiences who had already re-engaged since 2020, but also aimed to reengage a large proportion of past bookers who had not yet revisited. Our exciting programme of events also gave opportunities to continue to attract new audiences to the MAC.

In discussing these challenges we looked particularly at the MAC's strategic priorities of **Imagination, Social Change and Belfast** and what these could mean for audiences. We developed a brand lead marketing campaign that would underpin marketing and communications into 2023/24 and beyond. This research highlighted the importance of the building itself and the 'space' that the MAC represented for people, whether for art, community, time to think or to work. It encouraged us to think of a wider view of the MAC, aligning with our new strategic vision and promoting not only the artistic programme but the social, creative, and transformative elements of the organisation itself.

An overview of 22/23

- The MAC has been rebuilding audiences after the disruption caused by Covid, and we anticipated this would take a number of years to return to pre-Covid levels.
- In 2022/23, our number of people who made a booking each year was back to pre-pandemic levels, standing at 14,618 bookers. This is number of individual bookers and not number of tickets.
- There is still a long way to go with rebuilding and sustaining ticket sales at pre-pandemic levels.
- Annual footfall for 2022/23 was 220,000, and we moved from a 5 to 6 day per week opening from July 2022.

Our aim is to strengthen the MAC's position, so it continues to be a vibrant civic space where people can access, and participate in brilliant art.

The MAC is in the business of imagination

We value creativity on our stages and galleries and in everything we do.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Visual Art

In 2022/23 the MAC presented exhibitions which created significant profile-raising opportunities for artists at a critical stage of their careers as well as curating exhibitions which platformed emerging artists practices here in Northern Ireland. In addition to this developmental work the MAC continued to curate major presentations of internationally renowned artists with huge public appeal.

Our programme opened with an exhibition across all three of our galleries by Scottish artist **Claire Barclay: Thrum** ran from 15 April 2022 - 3 July 2022.

Claire Barclay is a visual artist recognised for producing large-scale sculptural installations created in response to specific contexts. Her works are immersive sensory experiences that explore our interactions with materials and functionality, by combining formal elements that evoke thinking around the "psychological relationships between human beings and the objects that we live with and produce."

In this exhibition Barclay includes a series of tactile sculptural environments, where large-scale forms, made predominantly from fabrics and metals, "suggest textile narratives and explore our complex relationships with cloth." Historical connections between the West of Scotland and Northern Ireland have become a focus while evolving the artworks.

This exhibition was realised in partnership with Stephen Friedman Gallery, London.

This was followed by a major exhibition by **Ron Mueck** between 29 July - 5 Nov 2022. This was the first exhibition of Mueck's work in Ireland and brought together seven of his key works including *Dead Dad*, 1997 and his monumental work *In Bed*, 2005.

Ron Mueck's sculptures each reflect an inner world of private feelings with unsettling power. The artist's intimate, understated meditations on universal experiences, of compassion, vulnerability, fear and loss, draw each viewer to their own reflection.

This exhibition was realised in partnership Mueck's gallery Thaddaeus Ropac London & Paris and with loans from The Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain as well as private lenders.

We ended the year with **New Exits - 10 Years of Painting Shows** an exhibition curated by Dougal McKenzie & Hugh Mulholland which ran from 9 Dec 2022 - 26 Mar 2023.

New Exits whilst set within the context of the many significant painting exhibitions the MAC has presented since its inception, was primarily an opportunity to draw attention to and celebrate the painting practices that have emerged and continue to flourish through the work of graduates of the BA and MFA Fine Art courses at Belfast School of Art since 2012. The exhibition acknowledged the close relationship and interdependencies of the Belfast School of Art and the MAC and how our proximity to each other has informed our work and contributed to our understanding of what it means to be a contemporary painter today.

Live Events

2022/23 saw a significant change from pre-Covid MAC Live Events programme budget levels, which were reduced by 55% from 2019, markedly impacting producing, co-producing, and presenting opportunities. Nevertheless, the MAC sought to present an artistically ambitious, innovative, and balanced core programme alongside strategic Festivals and likeminded artistic partners who co-presented or hired the theatre spaces.

The programme covered a diverse range of art forms presented in collaboration with local, national, and international partners with programming choices reflecting contemporary artistic practice, sectoral, cultural, political, and social issues comprising new and extant work from emerging and established artists and organisations.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

The programme of work and associated schemes contained a practical commitment to the development of artists and companies across all live event disciplines, at every stage in their career, providing a platform for NI based artists to develop and present their work. Simultaneously, the MAC engaged with and presented work from the national and international arena.

Featuring highly was the presentation of theatrical work produced and centred in and of the Belfast and Northern Irish experience.

Two popular and well received Christmas theatre productions were also NI produced - The family focused *Cinderella*, co-produced with internationally acclaimed NI based children's theatre company **CahootsNI** and former Derry Girl Ma, **Tara Lynne O'Neill** and **Chris Robinson** lifted adult spirits with *On the Shelf*.

In contemporary dance we presented internationally acclaimed *Political Mother* by the **Hofesh Shechter Company**. Dance training opportunities were provided through the **Akram Khan Summer Intensive** and by **DU Dance's Unanimous**. Comedy at the MAC included **Gearoid Farrelly**, **Emer Maguire** and **Jen Brister**. In spoken word, **Stephen James Smith** presented *Midnight Mango* as part of Belfast Pride.

NI based music talent also featured heavily with a dramatically staged concert by **Katie Richardson/Hex Hue** entitled *Lucent* with over 15 musicians onstage. A re-imagining of **Neil Young's Harvest**, led by **Donal Scullion**, featured a band of 12 musicians. **Duke Special** and Friends staged *It Was Only a Dream* featuring seven musicians. Acclaimed guitarist **Colin Reid** performed *Across the Fields* and the Ulster Touring Opera presented **Rossini's The Barber of Seville**.

A particular highlight was the MAC produced *Derry Girls Reunion*, featuring interviews with Bafta winning writer Lisa McGee and members of the cast, which, served an important purpose by fundraising and raising awareness of the wider work by the MAC Creative Learning Team and Associate Partners.

The MAC supported the development of Northern Irish artists through schemes providing space, funding, and professional support. Through *Space to Create*, the MAC provided **40 live event artists with over 70 days of free space** to facilitate the development of new work. **Alice Malseed, Catherine Rees, and Clodhna McAllister** were our three **HATCH** artists, who along with **Artist in Residence**, internationally renowned pianist, **Ruth McGinley**, were provided with bursaries, free workspaces in venue and mentoring and advice from MAC staff and associates.

The MAC also presented a significant number of multi-disciplinary art form events as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival 60th anniversary, the Belfast Children's Festival 25th anniversary and the Northern Ireland Science Festival 10th anniversary programmes. Other Festivals included the Outburst Queer Arts, Belfast Pride, and Belfast Media Festivals. Over the summer months the MAC welcomed youth and community theatre productions from companies such as New Lodge Arts, The Flax Trust, Belfast School of Performing Arts, and Ravara Productions.

The MAC is in the business of social change

We will work collaboratively and creatively with people who live with the worst effects of inequality and division on the issues that matter to them.

Creative Learning & Engagement

The MAC Creative Learning & Engagement programme focuses on three main areas: (i) **MActivate** addressing social and political inequalities with people who have lived experience, (ii) **Growing Up at the MAC** giving children and young people access to appreciate, and love the arts, (iii) **University Partnerships** enabling international student-artists to learn from Northern Ireland's experience of arts and peacebuilding.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

(i) MACtivate

collaborates with five Associate Partners and the communities they serve by co-designing programmes which create opportunities for personal, and societal change. Our Associate Partners are:

- **Action Mental Health:** Changes the lives of those living with mental ill health.
- **Participation & Practice of Rights (PPR):** Promotes human rights for people in the asylum, system, those living in housing stress, and people living with mental ill health.
- **Extern:** Supports people impacted by homelessness, suicide & addiction.
- **Alliance for Choice:** Campaigns for reproductive rights and bodily autonomy.
- **The Rainbow Project:** Supports LGBTQIA+ people to improve well-being.

During 2022/2023 we commissioned four artists to collaborate with our Associate Partners to explore the most pressing issues in our society. The outcomes will be presented during our participatory exhibition *At The Table* in April – July 2023.

Socially engaged artist **Thomas Wells** collaborated with **The Rainbow Project**, and the LGBTQIA+ community to co-design and create a new queer arts publication called *Sam Eden Two*.

Visual Artist **Kerrie Hanna** collaborated with people through **Action Mental Health** exploring Northern Ireland's current mental health crisis. Collectively they designed a series of illustrations which were presented as a public billboard campaign during Mental Health Awareness week in May 2023.

Multidisciplinary creative production company **Dumbworld** collaborated with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** working with people in the asylum system, mental health activists and people living in housing distress. Together they developed *Future Garden* which is a speculative project of co-curation imagining a future garden for the Mackie's brownfield site in Belfast.

Artist and activist **Khaled Barakeh** collaborated with people living in the asylum system by working with Anaka Womens Collective and **Participation and the Practice of Rights** *Lift the Ban* campaign which promotes the right for people in the asylum system to work. This commission will form part of a socially engaged exhibition called *At The Table* which at the MAC in April-July 2023.

Our annual programme also included co-designing opportunities to engage in the arts and accessing the MAC. For example, we host weekly creative workshops for women living in the asylum system who have fled conflict through **Participation and the Practice of Rights**. **Action Mental Health** clients attend weekly art/wellbeing workshops using our exhibitions as inspiration. We delivered an annual programme with **The Rainbow Project** hosting queer set-dancing and Culture Club visual art sessions. We programmed events and workshops with **Alliance for Choice** addressing reproductive rights for women, trans-people and people with disabilities.

(ii) Growing Up with the MAC - Children, Young People and Families

We hosted weekly/seasonal workshops and events facilitated by artist-educators including where children, school-groups and families explored art in the MAC exhibited in our galleries and on our stages.

Young people participated in **Fly the Flag** which is a unique collaboration between arts organisations and human rights charities that celebrates and reminds us of the human rights we all share. The project was co-produced by **Fuel**, the **MAC** the **National Theatre**, the **National Theatre of Scotland** and the **National Theatre Wales**. The lead artist for the UK-wide project was Jenny Sealey, Artistic Director of Graeae Theatre and a champion of disability inclusion, and associate artists Paula Clarke and Finn Kennedy who led this year's project which focused on Article 20 of the UDHR: Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. A film has been created that documents the reactions of young people to the right to protest, which was released on 10th December 2022 on International Human Rights Day.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

(iii) University / Creative Partnerships

We co-designed/delivered a 3-month module for International Masters Artist Educator students undertaking a master's degree at **Artez University Netherlands**. Twelve international students from the Netherlands were based in at the MAC learning about arts and peacebuilding, and their creative agency. The students undertook community-based artist-residencies throughout Belfast in organisations.

This year, the internationally acclaimed dance company **Akram Khan Company (AKC)** hosted a Summer Intensive from 15-20 August. The MAC worked in partnerships with AKC and **Theatre and dance NI**, Northern Ireland's leading support organisation for Theatre and Dance. The one-week *immersive* training programme enabled 30 emerging dancers to learn with AKC team.

The MAC is in the business of Belfast

We will help build Belfast's reputation as one of the world's most creative cities.

The critical value of social arts spaces in cities' placemaking aspirations has been well researched and articulated internationally and has been one of the charity's key functions in the period. The MAC's social, economic and cultural impact (placemaking's main considerations) have been evidenced through a series of independent reviews. Most recently it was confirmed by an external team of independent consultants that the MAC made an economic contribution of £14.8M to the wider economy in 2019/20.

The MAC is one of Northern Ireland's iconic cultural landmarks and is a valuable capital asset which the Board of Trustees and MAC team protect, maintain and preserve. Each year the building is used by, and visited by thousands of people therefore it is our responsibility to ensure all elements of the building are serviced, maintained and safe for everyday use, and protected for the long-term.

The MAC continues to review its sustainability policy. This year we worked in partnership with Queen's University to facilitate placements for MSc Leadership for Sustainable Development students. Through this partnership the MAC is learning the most current processes to ensure we care for the environment and continue to be sustainable. This year we installed an energy monitoring system enabling us to monitor gas, electric and water usage. We delivered energy saving projects which ensure the MAC plant is turned off as soon as the building is closed. We localised control of our air conditioning with the aim of reducing usage.

Public funding and sustainability

In January 2023, the MAC launched its US Friends of the MAC and UK Corporate Friends of the MAC schemes. The US Friends was promoted at an event in New York City at the Dead Rabbit bar with the support of NI Bureau with a number of significant donations received. In February 2023 the MAC hosted its first public Friends of the MAC fundraising event *Derry Girls: The Reunion*. UK Corporate Friends of the MAC scheme has been highly successful to date.

Public Funding

Our core funders – Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council continue to support us enabling us to deliver our mission and vision.

Trusts and Foundations

We are grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who support us. With their support we have work with hundreds of artists and created opportunities for thousands of people to participate and access great art, and conversations.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also the directors of the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosures of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the trustees on 28th February 2024.

By order of the trustees



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the parent charitable company Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the parent charitable company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in note 2 to the financial statements concerning the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. Cashflow projections predict that expenditure will exceed income for the period ended 31 March 2024. These conditions, along with the other matters explained in note 2 to the financial statements, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the group and the parent charitable company were unable to continue as a going concern.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group and charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Cont'd)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors**

Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8H

28/2/24

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	2023			2022		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	5	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments	5	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities	5	1,292,052	-	1,292,052	532,211	-	532,211
Other income	5	7,984	-	7,984	15,890	-	15,890
Total		1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583	698,189	2,356,763	3,054,952
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Cost of raising funds: Commercial trading activities		1,090,554	-	1,090,554	475,527	-	475,527
Total		1,639,040	1,754,242	3,393,282	704,635	2,404,807	3,109,442
Net income/(expenditure)		32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Total funds brought forward		258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225	264,605	13,702,110	13,966,715
Total funds carried forward		290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
OF THE CHARITY ALONE**

Notes	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities	209,482	-	209,482	72,574	-	72,574
Total	580,551	1,433,478	2,014,029	222,662	2,356,763	2,579,425
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Total	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Net movement in funds	32,665	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	32,665	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Total funds brought forward	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,255	264,605	13,702,110	13,966,715
Total funds carried forward	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	375	2,084
Tangible assets	12	13,382,991	13,473,379
		13,383,366	13,475,463
Current assets			
Stock		13,454	9,852
Debtors	14	325,061	481,131
Cash at bank and in hand		287,174	530,741
		625,689	1,021,724
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(385,529)	(584,962)
Net current assets		240,160	436,762
Total assets less current liabilities		13,623,526	13,912,225
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	290,224	258,159
Restricted funds	16	13,333,302	13,654,066
Total funds		13,623,526	13,912,225

The financial statements on pages 13 to 31 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 28th February 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	375	750
Tangible assets	12	13,382,991	13,473,379
Investments	13	1	1
		13,383,367	13,474,130
Debtors	14	354,003	429,784
Cash at bank and in hand		202,780	388,364
		556,784	818,148
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(316,625)	(380,053)
Net current assets		240,159	438,095
Total assets less current liabilities		13,623,526	13,912,225
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	290,224	258,159
Restricted funds	16	13,333,302	13,654,066
		13,623,526	13,912,225

The financial statements on pages 13 to 31 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 28th February 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	23		46,102		(417,525)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(290,737)		(154,335)	
Interest received		<u>1,069</u>		<u>88</u>	
Net cash (used in) investing activities			(289,668)		(154,247)
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents					
			(243,566)		(571,772)
Cash and cash equivalents of beginning of year			<u>530,741</u>		<u>1,102,513</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>287,175</u>		<u>530,741</u>
Relating to:					
Bank balances and short term deposits			<u>287,175</u>		<u>530,741</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Nature of organisation

The Charity is an incorporated company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. The registered office is 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast. The subsidiary is a company limited by shares.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The principal accounting policies, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty are set out below.

The trustees consider that these accounting policies are suitable, have been consistently applied and are supported by reasonable and prudent judgment and estimates.

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Charity alone has been presented on page 13.

All financial statements are made up to 31 March 2023. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the group.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The continued operation of the MAC is dependent on the ongoing support of its funders, Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC). The MAC was planned and built as a space that requires a certain level of public subsidy in order to provide the benefits it was built to deliver

The financial performance for the year is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on pages 11 to 12 and described in the Trustees Report. The charity's income exceeded expenditure within unrestricted resources by £32,065 for the year. This result increased unrestricted reserves from £258,159 to £290,224 at the year end.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies, (Cont'd)

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis (Cont'd)

Despite substantial cost cutting, inflation and continuing uncertainty in the global economy has impacted our cost base significantly. As a result directors are forecasting an unrestricted deficit of £143,008 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees are encouraged by the extensive dialogue and closer working relationship with the MAC's funders and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively towards delivering a sustainable break-even business model in 2024/25. Whilst we are aware that there is uncertainty in relation to public expenditure plans, we have no better information than to forecast that our continued delivery of outcomes in excess of those in our funding contracts, and our turnaround of the business as per our agreements with our funders, will result in at worst stand-alone funding for 2023/24.

At the point of signing the accounts, there remains a great deal of unpredictability in the economy and the associated impact on consumer behaviour. The trustees recognise that these circumstances, coupled with the uncertainty in respect of continued funding from ACNI, represent a material uncertainty over going concern.

The trustees consider that in preparing the financial statements they have taken into account all information that could reasonably be expected to be available and recognise that the circumstances described above represent a material uncertainty that casts doubt on the ability of the group and the parent charitable company to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered these circumstances, alongside proposals for future sustainability, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group and the parent charitable company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Income and endowments

(a) Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies includes all incoming resources generated from gifts, donations and grants, and is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

Grants which have been restricted for use by the donor or which relate to capital expenditure are treated as restricted income and are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when they are receivable and when all conditions have been met.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

1 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Income and endowments

(b) Investments

Investment income represents interest receivable during the year on bank deposits.

(c) Other trading activities

This includes income receivable for services provided, income from activities undertaken to raise funds to undertake charitable activities, and income from the operation of the MAC.

Expenditure

(a) Charitable activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity when working to meet its charitable objectives. This includes support costs allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on those activities.

(b) Commercial trading activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary in operating the MAC.

(c) Governance costs

Governance costs include the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the Charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of resources. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets comprise the costs associated with acquiring the liquor licence, and is valued at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments of each asset over its estimated useful economic life of 5 years.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition, net of any VAT recoverable.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Land and buildings	- 2% per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-10% - 25% per annum straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd/Impairment of fixed assets)

At each reporting end date, the group and the parent charitable company review the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group and the parent charitable company estimate the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment annually, and whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

Financial assets

The group and the parent charitable company have elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets are recognised in the group's and the parent charitable company's statement of financial position when the group and the parent charitable company become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Loans and receivables

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the group's and parent charitable company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group and parent charitable company are demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Taxation

As a registered charity, The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is not liable to either Income Tax or Corporation Tax.

Fund accounting

The Charity has two types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. Definitions of the funds are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds

Grants, donations and other income received which are earmarked by the funder or donor for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Charity.

(b) Unrestricted funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees, for the general purposes of the Charity. In addition, funds may be held in order to finance capital investments and working capital.

3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's and parent charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Going concern

The trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements. As explained more fully in Note 2 there is a material uncertainty regarding the group's and parent charitable company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered the circumstances, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the group and parent charitable company are unable to continue as a going concern.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining live of the asset and the estimated value in use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

4 Financial performance of the Charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary which operates the arts facility. The financial performance of the Charity alone is shown on page 14.

5 Income and endowments

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Donations and legacies						
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Capital Works	-	25,064	25,064	-	131,933	131,933
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	-	1,246,426	1,246,426	-	1,170,903	1,170,903
Belfast City Council Grants	150,000	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	75,000	75,000	-	150,000	150,000
Ulster Gardens	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Covid large NAV scheme	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
John Elleman	-	-	-	-	35,700	35,700
Garfield Weston	100,000	-	100,000	-	696,248	696,248
Foyle Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	120,000	-	120,000	-	100,000	100,000
Belfast Harbour	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Social Change	-	3,950	3,950	-	-	-
Bank of Ireland	-	5,500	5,500	-	-	-
Community Foundation	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
British Council	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Fly the Flag	-	1,650	1,650	-	-	-
Dormant Accounts	-	9,888	9,888	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	1,979	1,979
	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments						
Interest receivable	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities						
Sponsorship	25,346	-	25,346	20,000	-	20,000
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gifts and donations	69,598	-	69,598	6,717	-	6,717
Rental income	19,031	-	19,031	10,713	-	10,713
Commercial trading operations	1,178,077	-	1,178,077	373,698	-	373,698
Government grant	-	-	-	121,083	-	121,083
	1,292,052	-	1,292,052	532,211	-	532,211
Other income						
Theatre & Museum & Gallery tax relief	7,984	-	7,984	15,890	-	15,890
Total	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583	698,189	2,356,763	3,054,952

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

6 Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure

	Support Costs	Other Direct Costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Core costs	155,838	1,771,063	1,926,901	2,235,342
Capital Project – The MAC	375,827	-	375,827	398,573
Total resources expended	531,665	1,771,063	2,302,728	2,633,915

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Premises	145,738	-	145,738	84,842
Financial costs	752	4,050	4,802	7,131
Depreciation	381,125	-	381,125	403,291
Total support costs	527,615	4,050	531,665	495,264

7 Net incoming resources

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation – owned assets	381,125	403,291
Auditor’s remuneration:		
Audit of financial statements of the group and parent charitable company	4,750	4,750
Audit of the parent charitable company’s subsidiary	6,500	6,500

There are no other material costs not already disclosed in notes 6 to 10.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

8 Income from trading activities

The wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited is incorporated in Northern Ireland (company number NI604239) and pays all of its profits to the Charity under the gift aid scheme. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited operates the arts facility and all commercial trading operations carried on at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) premises. The summary financial performance of the subsidiary alone is:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover	2,661,729	2,261,224
Cost of sales	(710,972)	(731,429)
Administration costs	(1,845,884)	(1,604,657)
Distribution costs	(33,699)	(39,441)
Other income	-	112,054
	71,174	(2,249)
Net profit	71,174	(2,249)
Gift aided to the Charity	(71,174)	(13,641)
	-	(15,890)
(Loss)/profit before taxation	-	(15,890)
Tax	-	15,890
	-	-
Retained in subsidiary	-	-

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary alone were:

Total assets	406,498	510,426
Total liabilities	(406,497)	(510,425)
	1	1
Total net assets	1	1
	1	1
Aggregate share capital and reserves	1	1

9 Employee information

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	1,343,869	1,196,551
Social security costs	119,351	110,864
Pension costs	35,693	35,259
	1,498,913	1,342,674
Average number of employees including trustees	83	59
Employees earning between £60,000 and £70,000	1	1

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel in the period was £192,870 (2022: £268,673). The Charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the Chief Executive, Commercial Director, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Creative Director.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

10 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees received no emoluments during the year. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses during the year.

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Group	Charitable Company
Cost	£	£
At 1 April 2022	31,364	1,874
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>31,364</u>	<u>1,874</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	29,280	1,124
Amortisation charged for the year	1,709	375
At 31 March 2023	<u>30,989</u>	<u>1,499</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023	<u>375</u>	<u>375</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,084</u>	<u>750</u>

12 Tangible fixed assets

Group and charitable company

	Land & Buildings	Fittings & Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022			
	16,343,164	460,496	16,803,660
Additions	251,032	39,705	290,737
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>16,594,196</u>	<u>500,201</u>	<u>17,094,397</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	3,088,593	241,688	3,330,281
Charge for year	330,237	50,888	381,125
Released on disposal	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,418,830</u>	<u>292,576</u>	<u>3,711,406</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	<u>13,175,366</u>	<u>207,625</u>	<u>13,382,991</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>13,254,571</u>	<u>218,808</u>	<u>13,473,379</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

13 Investments

The Charity holds one share of £1 in its wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited, which is incorporated in Northern Ireland. This is the only share allotted, called up and fully paid. The activities and results of this company are summarised in note 8.

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	102,251	48,794	30,660	1,260
Prepayments and accrued income	216,563	197,715	216,563	193,902
Other debtors	6,247	234,622	106,780	234,622
	<u>325,061</u>	<u>481,131</u>	<u>354,003</u>	<u>429,784</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	96,806	144,693	28,645	26,792
Other tax and social security	7,000	201,304	4,650	4,707
Accruals	110,023	92,921	55,635	39,379
Other creditors	171,700	146,044	1,218	19,549
Intercompany balance	-	-	226,477	289,626
	<u>385,529</u>	<u>584,962</u>	<u>316,625</u>	<u>380,053</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

16 Restricted funds of the Charity

	Restated Balance 1 April 2022	Movement in resources incoming	Movement in resources outgoing	Transfer between funds	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset funds					
Capital Project	13,449,066	55,063	(375,827)	205,000	13,333,302
Garfield Weston	205,000	-	-	(205,000)	-
Subtotal	13,654,066	55,063	(375,827)	-	13,333,302
Other net assets funds					
Core costs	-	1,378,415	(1,378,415)	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-
Total	13,654,066	1,433,478	(1,754,242)	-	13,333,302

Fixed asset funds

The fixed asset funds represent funds provided for the purchase of tangible fixed assets. The fund is represented by fixed assets and is reduced by the depreciation charge on the assets.

17 Unrestricted funds of the Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Net incoming resources for year	Transfer between funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
General reserve	258,159	(47,434)	-	210,725
Designated - Garfield Weston	-	79,499	-	79,499
Total	258,159	32,065	-	290,224

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted funds	13,337,302	-	13,333,302
Unrestricted funds	49,689	240,555	290,244
	13,382,991	240,555	13,623,546

19 Related party transactions

Under the control of the Board of Trustees, the MAC Trading Co. Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, charged the Charity expenses of £1,500,000 (2022: £1,900,000) and transferred to the Charity under Gift Aid a donation of £71,174 (2022: £13,641). At 31 March 2023 a balance of £226,478 (2022: £289,626) was owed by the Charity to the subsidiary. There were no other transactions or outstanding balances with related parties.

20 Contingencies

A portion of grants received may become repayable if the Charity fails to comply with the terms of letter of offer.

21 Corporation taxation

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received. HM Revenue and Customs reference number XR26229. Its subsidiary is subject to corporation taxation on its income and capital gains.

22 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate company financial statements for The MAC Limited

Details of the company's subsidiaries at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
The MAC Trading Co. Limited	As above	Operation of arts facilities	Ordinary shares	100	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

23 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the year	(288,699)	(54,490)
Depreciation & amortisation	382,835	404,990
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	5,536
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(199,433)	(628,143)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	156,070	(135,478)
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(3,602)	(9,852)
Interest received	<u>(1,069)</u>	<u>(88)</u>
Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from operating activities	<u>46,102</u>	<u>(417,525)</u>

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100808

Annual report



**THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Andrew Cowan (resigned 20 March 2023)
Colm Devine
David Gavaghan (resigned 23 June 2023)
Ray Hutchinson (Chairman)
Louise O'Boyle
Karen Shaw (resigned 14 August 2023)
Dorothy Wilson
Kim Spence

Registered office

10 Exchange Street West
Belfast
BT1 2NJ

Solicitors

Edwards & Co. Solicitors
28 Hill St
Belfast
BT1 2LA

Bank

Ulster Bank Limited
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Registered auditors

Harbinson Mulholland
Centrepoint
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
BT2 8HS

Recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs under number

XR26229

Company number

NI022945

Charity registration number

NIC100808

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report)

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The company was incorporated on 26 July 1989 as The Old Museum Arts Centre and changed its name to The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) on 14 October 2010. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and is registered under company number NI22945. It is accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under reference XR26229.

The company has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 3 November 2014 under registration number NIC100808.

The charitable objective of the company as stated in its Articles of Association is:

“the advancement of education in Northern Ireland in relation to the arts and in particular by the provision of a centre for use in instruction in the various arts (visual, performing, musical and literary) and which may also be used for training in any such activities or for the performances, readings or exhibits and so that the policy governing the use of the centre shall not discriminate on the grounds of religion, political opinion, race, colour, ethnic origin, sex or age.”

There have been no amendments to the governing documents in the year.

Governance Structure

The MAC (Charity) Board is comprised of up to 15 trustees who meet at least 4 times per year. The trustees are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law. The term of office for trustees is 4 years, with the option to serve a maximum of 2 terms. The Board's key responsibilities include setting out the vision, mission and values of the MAC, agreeing the strategy to deliver the vision and mission, agreeing the charity's governance structure and policies and ensuring the protection of the capital asset.

The Charity has established a wholly owned subsidiary, the MAC Trading Company Ltd (TradeCo), a company limited by shares which has a service level agreement with the Charity which provides a licence to TradeCo to carry out artistic programmes and ancillary trading in the building and sets out the commercial relationship between the two companies. Any profits are gifted to the charity in their entirety.

The Board has set out the functions of sub-committees, officers, the chief executive and other staff in clear delegated authorities and monitors their performance. In carrying out their responsibilities, trustees remain mindful of their commitment to upholding the values of accountability to stakeholders, probity and transparency.

Sub-committees

Audit and Risk/Finance and Remuneration and Nominations sub-committees are in place to deal with specific issues as required.

The Audit and Risk/Finance sub-committee meets monthly with at least 4 of the meetings each year being audit and risk focussed. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Treasurer who has significant, recent and relevant financial experience. The sub-committee includes two other members from the Boards, neither of whom is the Chair of the Charity.

The Remuneration and Nominations sub-committee meets as required on an ad hoc basis. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Chairman, includes the Chairman of TradeCo and at least two other members drawn from the Charity Board one of whom has significant HR skills and experience.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

2. Objectives and Activities

The MAC aims to contribute to the ongoing transformation of Northern Ireland through the creation of, participation in and appreciation of outstanding art.

We seek to achieve this overarching goal by supporting artists in the creation of excellent art and by delivering programmes which make this art accessible to as many people as possible. Our artistic programme aims to entertain, connect people to art, and address social issues relevant to the people we work with, and the people of Northern Ireland.

In 2022/2023 we delivered a curated programme of artistic events across (i) Visual Art, (ii) Creative Learning & Engagement and (iii) Live Events which attracted and inspired over 220,000 visitors. During this year the MAC brought internationally acclaimed artists to Northern Ireland to share their artwork with local people, at the same time as platforming emerging, mid-career and acclaimed local artists. We worked with national partners and communities to explore social inequalities and injustices through art and creativity.

As we continued growing back audiences post covid, the MAC worked on a revised marketing and audience development plan. This strategy aimed to deepen relationships with audiences who had already re-engaged since 2020, but also aimed to reengage a large proportion of past bookers who had not yet revisited. Our exciting programme of events also gave opportunities to continue to attract new audiences to the MAC.

In discussing these challenges we looked particularly at the MAC's strategic priorities of **Imagination, Social Change and Belfast** and what these could mean for audiences. We developed a brand lead marketing campaign that would underpin marketing and communications into 2023/24 and beyond. This research highlighted the importance of the building itself and the 'space' that the MAC represented for people, whether for art, community, time to think or to work. It encouraged us to think of a wider view of the MAC, aligning with our new strategic vision and promoting not only the artistic programme but the social, creative, and transformative elements of the organisation itself.

An overview of 22/23

- The MAC has been rebuilding audiences after the disruption caused by Covid, and we anticipated this would take a number of years to return to pre-Covid levels.
- In 2022/23, our number of people who made a booking each year was back to pre-pandemic levels, standing at 14,618 bookers. This is number of individual bookers and not number of tickets.
- There is still a long way to go with rebuilding and sustaining ticket sales at pre-pandemic levels.
- Annual footfall for 2022/23 was 220,000, and we moved from a 5 to 6 day per week opening from July 2022.

Our aim is to strengthen the MAC's position, so it continues to be a vibrant civic space where people can access, and participate in brilliant art.

The MAC is in the business of imagination

We value creativity on our stages and galleries and in everything we do.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Visual Art

In 2022/23 the MAC presented exhibitions which created significant profile-raising opportunities for artists at a critical stage of their careers as well as curating exhibitions which platformed emerging artists practices here in Northern Ireland. In addition to this developmental work the MAC continued to curate major presentations of internationally renowned artists with huge public appeal.

Our programme opened with an exhibition across all three of our galleries by Scottish artist **Claire Barclay: Thrum** ran from 15 April 2022 - 3 July 2022.

Claire Barclay is a visual artist recognised for producing large-scale sculptural installations created in response to specific contexts. Her works are immersive sensory experiences that explore our interactions with materials and functionality, by combining formal elements that evoke thinking around the “psychological relationships between human beings and the objects that we live with and produce.”

In this exhibition Barclay includes a series of tactile sculptural environments, where large-scale forms, made predominantly from fabrics and metals, “suggest textile narratives and explore our complex relationships with cloth.” Historical connections between the West of Scotland and Northern Ireland have become a focus while evolving the artworks.

This exhibition was realised in partnership with Stephen Friedman Gallery, London.

This was followed by a major exhibition by **Ron Mueck** between 29 July - 5 Nov 2022. This was the first exhibition of Mueck’s work in Ireland and brought together seven of his key works including *Dead Dad*, 1997 and his monumental work *In Bed*, 2005.

Ron Mueck’s sculptures each reflect an inner world of private feelings with unsettling power. The artist’s intimate, understated meditations on universal experiences, of compassion, vulnerability, fear and loss, draw each viewer to their own reflection.

This exhibition was realised in partnership Mueck’s gallery Thaddaeus Ropac London & Paris and with loans from The Fondation Cartier pour l’Art Contemporain as well as private lenders.

We ended the year with **New Exits - 10 Years of Painting Shows** an exhibition curated by Dougal McKenzie & Hugh Mulholland which ran from 9 Dec 2022 - 26 Mar 2023.

New Exits whilst set within the context of the many significant painting exhibitions the MAC has presented since its inception, was primarily an opportunity to draw attention to and celebrate the painting practices that have emerged and continue to flourish through the work of graduates of the BA and MFA Fine Art courses at Belfast School of Art since 2012. The exhibition acknowledged the close relationship and interdependencies of the Belfast School of Art and the MAC and how our proximity to each other has informed our work and contributed to our understanding of what it means to be a contemporary painter today.

Live Events

2022/23 saw a significant change from pre-Covid MAC Live Events programme budget levels, which were reduced by 55% from 2019, markedly impacting producing, co-producing, and presenting opportunities. Nevertheless, the MAC sought to present an artistically ambitious, innovative, and balanced core programme alongside strategic Festivals and likeminded artistic partners who co-presented or hired the theatre spaces.

The programme covered a diverse range of art forms presented in collaboration with local, national, and international partners with programming choices reflecting contemporary artistic practice, sectoral, cultural, political, and social issues comprising new and extant work from emerging and established artists and organisations.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

The programme of work and associated schemes contained a practical commitment to the development of artists and companies across all live event disciplines, at every stage in their career, providing a platform for NI based artists to develop and present their work. Simultaneously, the MAC engaged with and presented work from the national and international arena.

Featuring highly was the presentation of theatrical work produced and centred in and of the Belfast and Northern Irish experience.

Two popular and well received Christmas theatre productions were also NI produced - The family focused *Cinderella*, co-produced with internationally acclaimed NI based children's theatre company **CahootsNI** and former Derry Girl Ma, **Tara Lynne O'Neill** and **Chris Robinson** lifted adult spirits with *On the Shelf*.

In contemporary dance we presented internationally acclaimed *Political Mother* by the **Hofesh Shechter Company**. Dance training opportunities were provided through the **Akram Khan Summer Intensive** and by **DU Dance's Unanimous**. Comedy at the MAC included **Gearoid Farrelly**, **Emer Maguire** and **Jen Brister**. In spoken word, **Stephen James Smith** presented *Midnight Mango* as part of Belfast Pride.

NI based music talent also featured heavily with a dramatically staged concert by **Katie Richardson/Hex Hue** entitled *Lucent* with over 15 musicians onstage. A re-imagining of **Neil Young's Harvest**, led by **Donal Scullion**, featured a band of 12 musicians. **Duke Special** and Friends staged *It Was Only a Dream* featuring seven musicians. Acclaimed guitarist **Colin Reid** performed *Across the Fields* and the Ulster Touring Opera presented **Rossini's The Barber of Seville**.

A particular highlight was the MAC produced *Derry Girls Reunion*, featuring interviews with Bafta winning writer Lisa McGee and members of the cast, which, served an important purpose by fundraising and raising awareness of the wider work by the MAC Creative Learning Team and Associate Partners.

The MAC supported the development of Northern Irish artists through schemes providing space, funding, and professional support. Through *Space to Create*, the MAC provided **40 live event artists with over 70 days of free space** to facilitate the development of new work. **Alice Malseed, Catherine Rees, and Clodhna McAllister** were our three **HATCH** artists, who along with **Artist in Residence**, internationally renowned pianist, **Ruth McGinley**, were provided with bursaries, free workspaces in venue and mentoring and advice from MAC staff and associates.

The MAC also presented a significant number of multi-disciplinary art form events as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival 60th anniversary, the Belfast Children's Festival 25th anniversary and the Northern Ireland Science Festival 10th anniversary programmes. Other Festivals included the Outburst Queer Arts, Belfast Pride, and Belfast Media Festivals. Over the summer months the MAC welcomed youth and community theatre productions from companies such as New Lodge Arts, The Flax Trust, Belfast School of Performing Arts, and Ravara Productions.

The MAC is in the business of social change

We will work collaboratively and creatively with people who live with the worst effects of inequality and division on the issues that matter to them.

Creative Learning & Engagement

The MAC Creative Learning & Engagement programme focuses on three main areas: (i) **MActivate** addressing social and political inequalities with people who have lived experience, (ii) **Growing Up at the MAC** giving children and young people access to appreciate, and love the arts, (iii) **University Partnerships** enabling international student-artists to learn from Northern Ireland's experience of arts and peacebuilding.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

(i) MACtivate

collaborates with five Associate Partners and the communities they serve by co-designing programmes which create opportunities for personal, and societal change. Our Associate Partners are:

- **Action Mental Health:** Changes the lives of those living with mental ill health.
- **Participation & Practice of Rights (PPR):** Promotes human rights for people in the asylum, system, those living in housing stress, and people living with mental ill health.
- **Extern:** Supports people impacted by homelessness, suicide & addiction.
- **Alliance for Choice:** Campaigns for reproductive rights and bodily autonomy.
- **The Rainbow Project:** Supports LGBTQIA+ people to improve well-being.

During 2022/2023 we commissioned four artists to collaborate with our Associate Partners to explore the most pressing issues in our society. The outcomes will be presented during our participatory exhibition *At The Table* in April – July 2023.

Socially engaged artist **Thomas Wells** collaborated with **The Rainbow Project**, and the LGBTQIA+ community to co-design and create a new queer arts publication called *Sam Eden Two*.

Visual Artist **Kerrie Hanna** collaborated with people through **Action Mental Health** exploring Northern Ireland's current mental health crisis. Collectively they designed a series of illustrations which were presented as a public billboard campaign during Mental Health Awareness week in May 2023.

Multidisciplinary creative production company **Dumbworld** collaborated with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** working with people in the asylum system, mental health activists and people living in housing distress. Together they developed *Future Garden* which is a speculative project of co-curation imagining a future garden for the Mackie's brownfield site in Belfast.

Artist and activist **Khaled Barakeh** collaborated with people living in the asylum system by working with Anaka Womens Collective and **Participation and the Practice of Rights** *Lift the Ban* campaign which promotes the right for people in the asylum system to work. This commission will form part of a socially engaged exhibition called *At The Table* which at the MAC in April-July 2023.

Our annual programme also included co-designing opportunities to engage in the arts and accessing the MAC. For example, we host weekly creative workshops for women living in the asylum system who have fled conflict through **Participation and the Practice of Rights**. **Action Mental Health** clients attend weekly art/wellbeing workshops using our exhibitions as inspiration. We delivered an annual programme with **The Rainbow Project** hosting queer set-dancing and Culture Club visual art sessions. We programmed events and workshops with **Alliance for Choice** addressing reproductive rights for women, trans-people and people with disabilities.

(ii) Growing Up with the MAC - Children, Young People and Families

We hosted weekly/seasonal workshops and events facilitated by artist-educators including where children, school-groups and families explored art in the MAC exhibited in our galleries and on our stages.

Young people participated in **Fly the Flag** which is a unique collaboration between arts organisations and human rights charities that celebrates and reminds us of the human rights we all share. The project was co-produced by **Fuel**, the **MAC** the **National Theatre**, the **National Theatre of Scotland** and the **National Theatre Wales**. The lead artist for the UK-wide project was Jenny Sealey, Artistic Director of Graeae Theatre and a champion of disability inclusion, and associate artists Paula Clarke and Finn Kennedy who led this year's project which focused on Article 20 of the UDHR: Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. A film has been created that documents the reactions of young people to the right to protest, which was released on 10th December 2022 on International Human Rights Day.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

(iii) University / Creative Partnerships

We co-designed/delivered a 3-month module for International Masters Artist Educator students undertaking a master's degree at **Artez University Netherlands**. Twelve international students from the Netherlands were based in at the MAC learning about arts and peacebuilding, and their creative agency. The students undertook community-based artist-residencies throughout Belfast in organisations.

This year, the internationally acclaimed dance company **Akram Khan Company (AKC)** hosted a Summer Intensive from 15-20 August. The MAC worked in partnerships with AKC and **Theatre and dance NI**, Northern Ireland's leading support organisation for Theatre and Dance. The one-week *immersive* training programme enabled 30 emerging dancers to learn with AKC team.

The MAC is in the business of Belfast

We will help build Belfast's reputation as one of the world's most creative cities.

The critical value of social arts spaces in cities' placemaking aspirations has been well researched and articulated internationally and has been one of the charity's key functions in the period. The MAC's social, economic and cultural impact (placemaking's main considerations) have been evidenced through a series of independent reviews. Most recently it was confirmed by an external team of independent consultants that the MAC made an economic contribution of £14.8M to the wider economy in 2019/20.

The MAC is one of Northern Ireland's iconic cultural landmarks and is a valuable capital asset which the Board of Trustees and MAC team protect, maintain and preserve. Each year the building is used by, and visited by thousands of people therefore it is our responsibility to ensure all elements of the building are serviced, maintained and safe for everyday use, and protected for the long-term.

The MAC continues to review its sustainability policy. This year we worked in partnership with Queen's University to facilitate placements for MSc Leadership for Sustainable Development students. Through this partnership the MAC is learning the most current processes to ensure we care for the environment and continue to be sustainable. This year we installed an energy monitoring system enabling us to monitor gas, electric and water usage. We delivered energy saving projects which ensure the MAC plant is turned off as soon as the building is closed. We localised control of our air conditioning with the aim of reducing usage.

Public funding and sustainability

In January 2023, the MAC launched its US Friends of the MAC and UK Corporate Friends of the MAC schemes. The US Friends was promoted at an event in New York City at the Dead Rabbit bar with the support of NI Bureau with a number of significant donations received. In February 2023 the MAC hosted its first public Friends of the MAC fundraising event *Derry Girls: The Reunion*. UK Corporate Friends of the MAC scheme has been highly successful to date.

Public Funding

Our core funders – Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council continue to support us enabling us to deliver our mission and vision.

Trusts and Foundations

We are grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who support us. With their support we have work with hundreds of artists and created opportunities for thousands of people to participate and access great art, and conversations.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also the directors of the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosures of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the trustees on 28th February 2024.

By order of the trustees



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the parent charitable company Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the parent charitable company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in note 2 to the financial statements concerning the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. Cashflow projections predict that expenditure will exceed income for the period ended 31 March 2024. These conditions, along with the other matters explained in note 2 to the financial statements, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the group and the parent charitable company were unable to continue as a going concern.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group and charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Cont'd)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors**

Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8H

28/2/24

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	2023			2022		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	5	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments	5	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities	5	1,292,052	-	1,292,052	532,211	-	532,211
Other income	5	7,984	-	7,984	15,890	-	15,890
Total		1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583	698,189	2,356,763	3,054,952
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Cost of raising funds: Commercial trading activities		1,090,554	-	1,090,554	475,527	-	475,527
Total		1,639,040	1,754,242	3,393,282	704,635	2,404,807	3,109,442
Net income/(expenditure)		32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Total funds brought forward		258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225	264,605	13,702,110	13,966,715
Total funds carried forward		290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
OF THE CHARITY ALONE**

Notes	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities	209,482	-	209,482	72,574	-	72,574
Total	580,551	1,433,478	2,014,029	222,662	2,356,763	2,579,425
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Total	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Net movement in funds	32,665	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	32,665	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Total funds brought forward	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,255	264,605	13,702,110	13,966,715
Total funds carried forward	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	375	2,084
Tangible assets	12	13,382,991	13,473,379
		13,383,366	13,475,463
Current assets			
Stock		13,454	9,852
Debtors	14	325,061	481,131
Cash at bank and in hand		287,174	530,741
		625,689	1,021,724
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(385,529)	(584,962)
Net current assets		240,160	436,762
Total assets less current liabilities		13,623,526	13,912,225
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	290,224	258,159
Restricted funds	16	13,333,302	13,654,066
Total funds		13,623,526	13,912,225

The financial statements on pages 13 to 31 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 28th February 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	375	750
Tangible assets	12	13,382,991	13,473,379
Investments	13	1	1
		13,383,367	13,474,130
Debtors	14	354,003	429,784
Cash at bank and in hand		202,780	388,364
		556,784	818,148
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(316,625)	(380,053)
Net current assets		240,159	438,095
Total assets less current liabilities		13,623,526	13,912,225
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	290,224	258,159
Restricted funds	16	13,333,302	13,654,066
Total funds		13,623,526	13,912,225

The financial statements on pages 13 to 31 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 28th February 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	23		46,102		(417,525)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(290,737)		(154,335)	
Interest received		<u>1,069</u>		<u>88</u>	
Net cash (used in) investing activities			(289,668)		(154,247)
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents					
			(243,566)		(571,772)
Cash and cash equivalents of beginning of year			<u>530,741</u>		<u>1,102,513</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>287,175</u>		<u>530,741</u>
Relating to:					
Bank balances and short term deposits			<u>287,175</u>		<u>530,741</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Nature of organisation

The Charity is an incorporated company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. The registered office is 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast. The subsidiary is a company limited by shares.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The principal accounting policies, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty are set out below.

The trustees consider that these accounting policies are suitable, have been consistently applied and are supported by reasonable and prudent judgment and estimates.

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Charity alone has been presented on page 13.

All financial statements are made up to 31 March 2023. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the group.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The continued operation of the MAC is dependent on the ongoing support of its funders, Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC). The MAC was planned and built as a space that requires a certain level of public subsidy in order to provide the benefits it was built to deliver

The financial performance for the year is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on pages 11 to 12 and described in the Trustees Report. The charity's income exceeded expenditure within unrestricted resources by £32,065 for the year. This result increased unrestricted reserves from £258,159 to £290,224 at the year end.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies, (Cont'd)

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis (Cont'd)

Despite substantial cost cutting, inflation and continuing uncertainty in the global economy has impacted our cost base significantly. As a result directors are forecasting an unrestricted deficit of £143,008 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees are encouraged by the extensive dialogue and closer working relationship with the MAC's funders and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively towards delivering a sustainable break-even business model in 2024/25. Whilst we are aware that there is uncertainty in relation to public expenditure plans, we have no better information than to forecast that our continued delivery of outcomes in excess of those in our funding contracts, and our turnaround of the business as per our agreements with our funders, will result in at worst stand-alone funding for 2023/24.

At the point of signing the accounts, there remains a great deal of unpredictability in the economy and the associated impact on consumer behaviour. The trustees recognise that these circumstances, coupled with the uncertainty in respect of continued funding from ACNI, represent a material uncertainty over going concern.

The trustees consider that in preparing the financial statements they have taken into account all information that could reasonably be expected to be available and recognise that the circumstances described above represent a material uncertainty that casts doubt on the ability of the group and the parent charitable company to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered these circumstances, alongside proposals for future sustainability, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group and the parent charitable company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Income and endowments

(a) Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies includes all incoming resources generated from gifts, donations and grants, and is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

Grants which have been restricted for use by the donor or which relate to capital expenditure are treated as restricted income and are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when they are receivable and when all conditions have been met.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

1 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Income and endowments

(b) Investments

Investment income represents interest receivable during the year on bank deposits.

(c) Other trading activities

This includes income receivable for services provided, income from activities undertaken to raise funds to undertake charitable activities, and income from the operation of the MAC.

Expenditure

(a) Charitable activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity when working to meet its charitable objectives. This includes support costs allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on those activities.

(b) Commercial trading activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary in operating the MAC.

(c) Governance costs

Governance costs include the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the Charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of resources. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets comprise the costs associated with acquiring the liquor licence, and is valued at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments of each asset over its estimated useful economic life of 5 years.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition, net of any VAT recoverable.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Land and buildings	- 2% per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-10% - 25% per annum straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd/Impairment of fixed assets)

At each reporting end date, the group and the parent charitable company review the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group and the parent charitable company estimate the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment annually, and whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

Financial assets

The group and the parent charitable company have elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets are recognised in the group's and the parent charitable company's statement of financial position when the group and the parent charitable company become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Loans and receivables

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the group's and parent charitable company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group and parent charitable company are demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Taxation

As a registered charity, The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is not liable to either Income Tax or Corporation Tax.

Fund accounting

The Charity has two types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. Definitions of the funds are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds

Grants, donations and other income received which are earmarked by the funder or donor for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Charity.

(b) Unrestricted funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees, for the general purposes of the Charity. In addition, funds may be held in order to finance capital investments and working capital.

3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's and parent charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Going concern

The trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements. As explained more fully in Note 2 there is a material uncertainty regarding the group's and parent charitable company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered the circumstances, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the group and parent charitable company are unable to continue as a going concern.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining live of the asset and the estimated value in use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

4 Financial performance of the Charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary which operates the arts facility. The financial performance of the Charity alone is shown on page 14.

5 Income and endowments

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Donations and legacies						
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Capital Works	-	25,064	25,064	-	131,933	131,933
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	-	1,246,426	1,246,426	-	1,170,903	1,170,903
Belfast City Council Grants	150,000	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	75,000	75,000	-	150,000	150,000
Ulster Gardens	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Covid large NAV scheme	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
John Elleman	-	-	-	-	35,700	35,700
Garfield Weston	100,000	-	100,000	-	696,248	696,248
Foyle Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	120,000	-	120,000	-	100,000	100,000
Belfast Harbour	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Social Change	-	3,950	3,950	-	-	-
Bank of Ireland	-	5,500	5,500	-	-	-
Community Foundation	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
British Council	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Fly the Flag	-	1,650	1,650	-	-	-
Dormant Accounts	-	9,888	9,888	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	1,979	1,979
	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments						
Interest receivable	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities						
Sponsorship	25,346	-	25,346	20,000	-	20,000
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gifts and donations	69,598	-	69,598	6,717	-	6,717
Rental income	19,031	-	19,031	10,713	-	10,713
Commercial trading operations	1,178,077	-	1,178,077	373,698	-	373,698
Government grant	-	-	-	121,083	-	121,083
	1,292,052	-	1,292,052	532,211	-	532,211
Other income						
Theatre & Museum & Gallery tax relief	7,984	-	7,984	15,890	-	15,890
Total	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583	698,189	2,356,763	3,054,952

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

6 Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure

	Support Costs	Other Direct Costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Core costs	155,838	1,771,063	1,926,901	2,235,342
Capital Project – The MAC	375,827	-	375,827	398,573
Total resources expended	531,665	1,771,063	2,302,728	2,633,915

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Premises	145,738	-	145,738	84,842
Financial costs	752	4,050	4,802	7,131
Depreciation	381,125	-	381,125	403,291
Total support costs	527,615	4,050	531,665	495,264

7 Net incoming resources

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation – owned assets	381,125	403,291
Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit of financial statements of the group and parent charitable company	4,750	4,750
Audit of the parent charitable company's subsidiary	6,500	6,500

There are no other material costs not already disclosed in notes 6 to 10.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

8 Income from trading activities

The wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited is incorporated in Northern Ireland (company number NI604239) and pays all of its profits to the Charity under the gift aid scheme. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited operates the arts facility and all commercial trading operations carried on at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) premises. The summary financial performance of the subsidiary alone is:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover	2,661,729	2,261,224
Cost of sales	(710,972)	(731,429)
Administration costs	(1,845,884)	(1,604,657)
Distribution costs	(33,699)	(39,441)
Other income	-	112,054
	71,174	(2,249)
Net profit	71,174	(2,249)
Gift aided to the Charity	(71,174)	(13,641)
	-	(15,890)
(Loss)/profit before taxation	-	(15,890)
Tax	-	15,890
	-	-
Retained in subsidiary	-	-

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary alone were:

Total assets	406,498	510,426
Total liabilities	(406,497)	(510,425)
	1	1
Total net assets	1	1
	1	1
Aggregate share capital and reserves	1	1

9 Employee information

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	1,343,869	1,196,551
Social security costs	119,351	110,864
Pension costs	35,693	35,259
	1,498,913	1,342,674
Average number of employees including trustees	83	59
Employees earning between £60,000 and £70,000	1	1

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel in the period was £192,870 (2022: £268,673). The Charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the Chief Executive, Commercial Director, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Creative Director.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

10 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees received no emoluments during the year. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses during the year.

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Group	Charitable Company
Cost	£	£
At 1 April 2022	31,364	1,874
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>31,364</u>	<u>1,874</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	29,280	1,124
Amortisation charged for the year	1,709	375
At 31 March 2023	<u>30,989</u>	<u>1,499</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023	<u>375</u>	<u>375</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,084</u>	<u>750</u>

12 Tangible fixed assets

Group and charitable company

	Land & Buildings	Fittings & Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022			
	16,343,164	460,496	16,803,660
Additions	251,032	39,705	290,737
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>16,594,196</u>	<u>500,201</u>	<u>17,094,397</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	3,088,593	241,688	3,330,281
Charge for year	330,237	50,888	381,125
Released on disposal	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,418,830</u>	<u>292,576</u>	<u>3,711,406</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	<u>13,175,366</u>	<u>207,625</u>	<u>13,382,991</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>13,254,571</u>	<u>218,808</u>	<u>13,473,379</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

13 Investments

The Charity holds one share of £1 in its wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited, which is incorporated in Northern Ireland. This is the only share allotted, called up and fully paid. The activities and results of this company are summarised in note 8.

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	102,251	48,794	30,660	1,260
Prepayments and accrued income	216,563	197,715	216,563	193,902
Other debtors	6,247	234,622	106,780	234,622
	<u>325,061</u>	<u>481,131</u>	<u>354,003</u>	<u>429,784</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	96,806	144,693	28,645	26,792
Other tax and social security	7,000	201,304	4,650	4,707
Accruals	110,023	92,921	55,635	39,379
Other creditors	171,700	146,044	1,218	19,549
Intercompany balance	-	-	226,477	289,626
	<u>385,529</u>	<u>584,962</u>	<u>316,625</u>	<u>380,053</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

16 Restricted funds of the Charity

	Restated Balance 1 April 2022	Movement in resources incoming	Movement in resources outgoing	Transfer between funds	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset funds					
Capital Project	13,449,066	55,063	(375,827)	205,000	13,333,302
Garfield Weston	205,000	-	-	(205,000)	-
Subtotal	13,654,066	55,063	(375,827)	-	13,333,302
Other net assets funds					
Core costs	-	1,378,415	(1,378,415)	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-
Total	13,654,066	1,433,478	(1,754,242)	-	13,333,302

Fixed asset funds

The fixed asset funds represent funds provided for the purchase of tangible fixed assets. The fund is represented by fixed assets and is reduced by the depreciation charge on the assets.

17 Unrestricted funds of the Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Net incoming resources for year	Transfer between funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
General reserve	258,159	(47,434)	-	210,725
Designated - Garfield Weston	-	79,499	-	79,499
Total	258,159	32,065	-	290,224

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted funds	13,337,302	-	13,333,302
Unrestricted funds	49,689	240,555	290,244
	13,382,991	240,555	13,623,546

19 Related party transactions

Under the control of the Board of Trustees, the MAC Trading Co. Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, charged the Charity expenses of £1,500,000 (2022: £1,900,000) and transferred to the Charity under Gift Aid a donation of £71,174 (2022: £13,641). At 31 March 2023 a balance of £226,478 (2022: £289,626) was owed by the Charity to the subsidiary. There were no other transactions or outstanding balances with related parties.

20 Contingencies

A portion of grants received may become repayable if the Charity fails to comply with the terms of letter of offer.

21 Corporation taxation

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received. HM Revenue and Customs reference number XR26229. Its subsidiary is subject to corporation taxation on its income and capital gains.

22 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate company financial statements for The MAC Limited

Details of the company's subsidiaries at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
The MAC Trading Co. Limited	As above	Operation of arts facilities	Ordinary shares	100	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

23 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the year	(288,699)	(54,490)
Depreciation & amortisation	382,835	404,990
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	5,536
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(199,433)	(628,143)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	156,070	(135,478)
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(3,602)	(9,852)
Interest received	<u>(1,069)</u>	<u>(88)</u>
Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from operating activities	<u>46,102</u>	<u>(417,525)</u>

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100808

Annual return



**THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Andrew Cowan (resigned 20 March 2023)
Colm Devine
David Gavaghan (resigned 23 June 2023)
Ray Hutchinson (Chairman)
Louise O'Boyle
Karen Shaw (resigned 14 August 2023)
Dorothy Wilson
Kim Spence

Registered office

10 Exchange Street West
Belfast
BT1 2NJ

Solicitors

Edwards & Co. Solicitors
28 Hill St
Belfast
BT1 2LA

Bank

Ulster Bank Limited
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Registered auditors

Harbinson Mulholland
Centrepoint
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
BT2 8HS

Recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs under number

XR26229

Company number

NI022945

Charity registration number

NIC100808

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report)

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The company was incorporated on 26 July 1989 as The Old Museum Arts Centre and changed its name to The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) on 14 October 2010. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and is registered under company number NI22945. It is accepted as a charity by the Inland Revenue under reference XR26229.

The company has been registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland from 3 November 2014 under registration number NIC100808.

The charitable objective of the company as stated in its Articles of Association is:

“the advancement of education in Northern Ireland in relation to the arts and in particular by the provision of a centre for use in instruction in the various arts (visual, performing, musical and literary) and which may also be used for training in any such activities or for the performances, readings or exhibits and so that the policy governing the use of the centre shall not discriminate on the grounds of religion, political opinion, race, colour, ethnic origin, sex or age.”

There have been no amendments to the governing documents in the year.

Governance Structure

The MAC (Charity) Board is comprised of up to 15 trustees who meet at least 4 times per year. The trustees are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law. The term of office for trustees is 4 years, with the option to serve a maximum of 2 terms. The Board's key responsibilities include setting out the vision, mission and values of the MAC, agreeing the strategy to deliver the vision and mission, agreeing the charity's governance structure and policies and ensuring the protection of the capital asset.

The Charity has established a wholly owned subsidiary, the MAC Trading Company Ltd (TradeCo), a company limited by shares which has a service level agreement with the Charity which provides a licence to TradeCo to carry out artistic programmes and ancillary trading in the building and sets out the commercial relationship between the two companies. Any profits are gifted to the charity in their entirety.

The Board has set out the functions of sub-committees, officers, the chief executive and other staff in clear delegated authorities and monitors their performance. In carrying out their responsibilities, trustees remain mindful of their commitment to upholding the values of accountability to stakeholders, probity and transparency.

Sub-committees

Audit and Risk/Finance and Remuneration and Nominations sub-committees are in place to deal with specific issues as required.

The Audit and Risk/Finance sub-committee meets monthly with at least 4 of the meetings each year being audit and risk focussed. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Treasurer who has significant, recent and relevant financial experience. The sub-committee includes two other members from the Boards, neither of whom is the Chair of the Charity.

The Remuneration and Nominations sub-committee meets as required on an ad hoc basis. All members of the sub-committee are non-executive directors. The sub-committee is chaired by the Charity Chairman, includes the Chairman of TradeCo and at least two other members drawn from the Charity Board one of whom has significant HR skills and experience.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

2. Objectives and Activities

The MAC aims to contribute to the ongoing transformation of Northern Ireland through the creation of, participation in and appreciation of outstanding art.

We seek to achieve this overarching goal by supporting artists in the creation of excellent art and by delivering programmes which make this art accessible to as many people as possible. Our artistic programme aims to entertain, connect people to art, and address social issues relevant to the people we work with, and the people of Northern Ireland.

In 2022/2023 we delivered a curated programme of artistic events across (i) Visual Art, (ii) Creative Learning & Engagement and (iii) Live Events which attracted and inspired over 220,000 visitors. During this year the MAC brought internationally acclaimed artists to Northern Ireland to share their artwork with local people, at the same time as platforming emerging, mid-career and acclaimed local artists. We worked with national partners and communities to explore social inequalities and injustices through art and creativity.

As we continued growing back audiences post covid, the MAC worked on a revised marketing and audience development plan. This strategy aimed to deepen relationships with audiences who had already re-engaged since 2020, but also aimed to reengage a large proportion of past bookers who had not yet revisited. Our exciting programme of events also gave opportunities to continue to attract new audiences to the MAC.

In discussing these challenges we looked particularly at the MAC's strategic priorities of **Imagination, Social Change and Belfast** and what these could mean for audiences. We developed a brand lead marketing campaign that would underpin marketing and communications into 2023/24 and beyond. This research highlighted the importance of the building itself and the 'space' that the MAC represented for people, whether for art, community, time to think or to work. It encouraged us to think of a wider view of the MAC, aligning with our new strategic vision and promoting not only the artistic programme but the social, creative, and transformative elements of the organisation itself.

An overview of 22/23

- The MAC has been rebuilding audiences after the disruption caused by Covid, and we anticipated this would take a number of years to return to pre-Covid levels.
- In 2022/23, our number of people who made a booking each year was back to pre-pandemic levels, standing at 14,618 bookers. This is number of individual bookers and not number of tickets.
- There is still a long way to go with rebuilding and sustaining ticket sales at pre-pandemic levels.
- Annual footfall for 2022/23 was 220,000, and we moved from a 5 to 6 day per week opening from July 2022.

Our aim is to strengthen the MAC's position, so it continues to be a vibrant civic space where people can access, and participate in brilliant art.

The MAC is in the business of imagination

We value creativity on our stages and galleries and in everything we do.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Visual Art

In 2022/23 the MAC presented exhibitions which created significant profile-raising opportunities for artists at a critical stage of their careers as well as curating exhibitions which platformed emerging artists practices here in Northern Ireland. In addition to this developmental work the MAC continued to curate major presentations of internationally renowned artists with huge public appeal.

Our programme opened with an exhibition across all three of our galleries by Scottish artist **Claire Barclay: Thrum** ran from 15 April 2022 - 3 July 2022.

Claire Barclay is a visual artist recognised for producing large-scale sculptural installations created in response to specific contexts. Her works are immersive sensory experiences that explore our interactions with materials and functionality, by combining formal elements that evoke thinking around the “psychological relationships between human beings and the objects that we live with and produce.”

In this exhibition Barclay includes a series of tactile sculptural environments, where large-scale forms, made predominantly from fabrics and metals, “suggest textile narratives and explore our complex relationships with cloth.” Historical connections between the West of Scotland and Northern Ireland have become a focus while evolving the artworks.

This exhibition was realised in partnership with Stephen Friedman Gallery, London.

This was followed by a major exhibition by **Ron Mueck** between 29 July - 5 Nov 2022. This was the first exhibition of Mueck’s work in Ireland and brought together seven of his key works including *Dead Dad*, 1997 and his monumental work *In Bed*, 2005.

Ron Mueck’s sculptures each reflect an inner world of private feelings with unsettling power. The artist’s intimate, understated meditations on universal experiences, of compassion, vulnerability, fear and loss, draw each viewer to their own reflection.

This exhibition was realised in partnership Mueck’s gallery Thaddaeus Ropac London & Paris and with loans from The Fondation Cartier pour l’Art Contemporain as well as private lenders.

We ended the year with **New Exits - 10 Years of Painting Shows** an exhibition curated by Dougal McKenzie & Hugh Mulholland which ran from 9 Dec 2022 - 26 Mar 2023.

New Exits whilst set within the context of the many significant painting exhibitions the MAC has presented since its inception, was primarily an opportunity to draw attention to and celebrate the painting practices that have emerged and continue to flourish through the work of graduates of the BA and MFA Fine Art courses at Belfast School of Art since 2012. The exhibition acknowledged the close relationship and interdependencies of the Belfast School of Art and the MAC and how our proximity to each other has informed our work and contributed to our understanding of what it means to be a contemporary painter today.

Live Events

2022/23 saw a significant change from pre-Covid MAC Live Events programme budget levels, which were reduced by 55% from 2019, markedly impacting producing, co-producing, and presenting opportunities. Nevertheless, the MAC sought to present an artistically ambitious, innovative, and balanced core programme alongside strategic Festivals and likeminded artistic partners who co-presented or hired the theatre spaces.

The programme covered a diverse range of art forms presented in collaboration with local, national, and international partners with programming choices reflecting contemporary artistic practice, sectoral, cultural, political, and social issues comprising new and extant work from emerging and established artists and organisations.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

The programme of work and associated schemes contained a practical commitment to the development of artists and companies across all live event disciplines, at every stage in their career, providing a platform for NI based artists to develop and present their work. Simultaneously, the MAC engaged with and presented work from the national and international arena.

Featuring highly was the presentation of theatrical work produced and centred in and of the Belfast and Northern Irish experience.

Two popular and well received Christmas theatre productions were also NI produced - The family focused *Cinderella*, co-produced with internationally acclaimed NI based children's theatre company **CahootsNI** and former Derry Girl Ma, **Tara Lynne O'Neill** and **Chris Robinson** lifted adult spirits with *On the Shelf*.

In contemporary dance we presented internationally acclaimed *Political Mother* by the **Hofesh Shechter Company**. Dance training opportunities were provided through the **Akram Khan Summer Intensive** and by **DU Dance's Unanimous**. Comedy at the MAC included **Gearoid Farrelly**, **Emer Maguire** and **Jen Brister**. In spoken word, **Stephen James Smith** presented *Midnight Mango* as part of Belfast Pride.

NI based music talent also featured heavily with a dramatically staged concert by **Katie Richardson/Hex Hue** entitled *Lucent* with over 15 musicians onstage. A re-imagining of **Neil Young's Harvest**, led by **Donal Scullion**, featured a band of 12 musicians. **Duke Special** and Friends staged *It Was Only a Dream* featuring seven musicians. Acclaimed guitarist **Colin Reid** performed *Across the Fields* and the Ulster Touring Opera presented **Rossini's The Barber of Seville**.

A particular highlight was the MAC produced *Derry Girls Reunion*, featuring interviews with Bafta winning writer Lisa McGee and members of the cast, which, served an important purpose by fundraising and raising awareness of the wider work by the MAC Creative Learning Team and Associate Partners.

The MAC supported the development of Northern Irish artists through schemes providing space, funding, and professional support. Through *Space to Create*, the MAC provided **40 live event artists with over 70 days of free space** to facilitate the development of new work. **Alice Malseed, Catherine Rees, and Clodhna McAllister** were our three **HATCH** artists, who along with **Artist in Residence**, internationally renowned pianist, **Ruth McGinley**, were provided with bursaries, free workspaces in venue and mentoring and advice from MAC staff and associates.

The MAC also presented a significant number of multi-disciplinary art form events as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival 60th anniversary, the Belfast Children's Festival 25th anniversary and the Northern Ireland Science Festival 10th anniversary programmes. Other Festivals included the Outburst Queer Arts, Belfast Pride, and Belfast Media Festivals. Over the summer months the MAC welcomed youth and community theatre productions from companies such as New Lodge Arts, The Flax Trust, Belfast School of Performing Arts, and Ravara Productions.

The MAC is in the business of social change

We will work collaboratively and creatively with people who live with the worst effects of inequality and division on the issues that matter to them.

Creative Learning & Engagement

The MAC Creative Learning & Engagement programme focuses on three main areas: (i) **MActivate** addressing social and political inequalities with people who have lived experience, (ii) **Growing Up at the MAC** giving children and young people access to appreciate, and love the arts, (iii) **University Partnerships** enabling international student-artists to learn from Northern Ireland's experience of arts and peacebuilding.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

(i) MACtivate

collaborates with five Associate Partners and the communities they serve by co-designing programmes which create opportunities for personal, and societal change. Our Associate Partners are:

- **Action Mental Health:** Changes the lives of those living with mental ill health.
- **Participation & Practice of Rights (PPR):** Promotes human rights for people in the asylum, system, those living in housing stress, and people living with mental ill health.
- **Extern:** Supports people impacted by homelessness, suicide & addiction.
- **Alliance for Choice:** Campaigns for reproductive rights and bodily autonomy.
- **The Rainbow Project:** Supports LGBTQIA+ people to improve well-being.

During 2022/2023 we commissioned four artists to collaborate with our Associate Partners to explore the most pressing issues in our society. The outcomes will be presented during our participatory exhibition *At The Table* in April – July 2023.

Socially engaged artist **Thomas Wells** collaborated with **The Rainbow Project**, and the LGBTQIA+ community to co-design and create a new queer arts publication called *Sam Eden Two*.

Visual Artist **Kerrie Hanna** collaborated with people through **Action Mental Health** exploring Northern Ireland's current mental health crisis. Collectively they designed a series of illustrations which were presented as a public billboard campaign during Mental Health Awareness week in May 2023.

Multidisciplinary creative production company **Dumbworld** collaborated with **Participation and the Practice of Rights** working with people in the asylum system, mental health activists and people living in housing distress. Together they developed *Future Garden* which is a speculative project of co-curation imagining a future garden for the Mackie's brownfield site in Belfast.

Artist and activist **Khaled Barakeh** collaborated with people living in the asylum system by working with Anaka Womens Collective and **Participation and the Practice of Rights** *Lift the Ban* campaign which promotes the right for people in the asylum system to work. This commission will form part of a socially engaged exhibition called *At The Table* which at the MAC in April-July 2023.

Our annual programme also included co-designing opportunities to engage in the arts and accessing the MAC. For example, we host weekly creative workshops for women living in the asylum system who have fled conflict through **Participation and the Practice of Rights**. **Action Mental Health** clients attend weekly art/wellbeing workshops using our exhibitions as inspiration. We delivered an annual programme with **The Rainbow Project** hosting queer set-dancing and Culture Club visual art sessions. We programmed events and workshops with **Alliance for Choice** addressing reproductive rights for women, trans-people and people with disabilities.

(ii) Growing Up with the MAC - Children, Young People and Families

We hosted weekly/seasonal workshops and events facilitated by artist-educators including where children, school-groups and families explored art in the MAC exhibited in our galleries and on our stages.

Young people participated in **Fly the Flag** which is a unique collaboration between arts organisations and human rights charities that celebrates and reminds us of the human rights we all share. The project was co-produced by **Fuel**, the **MAC** the **National Theatre**, the **National Theatre of Scotland** and the **National Theatre Wales**. The lead artist for the UK-wide project was Jenny Sealey, Artistic Director of Graeae Theatre and a champion of disability inclusion, and associate artists Paula Clarke and Finn Kennedy who led this year's project which focused on Article 20 of the UDHR: Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. A film has been created that documents the reactions of young people to the right to protest, which was released on 10th December 2022 on International Human Rights Day.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

(iii) University / Creative Partnerships

We co-designed/delivered a 3-month module for International Masters Artist Educator students undertaking a master's degree at **Artez University Netherlands**. Twelve international students from the Netherlands were based in at the MAC learning about arts and peacebuilding, and their creative agency. The students undertook community-based artist-residencies throughout Belfast in organisations.

This year, the internationally acclaimed dance company **Akram Khan Company (AKC)** hosted a Summer Intensive from 15-20 August. The MAC worked in partnerships with AKC and **Theatre and dance NI**, Northern Ireland's leading support organisation for Theatre and Dance. The one-week *immersive* training programme enabled 30 emerging dancers to learn with AKC team.

The MAC is in the business of Belfast

We will help build Belfast's reputation as one of the world's most creative cities.

The critical value of social arts spaces in cities' placemaking aspirations has been well researched and articulated internationally and has been one of the charity's key functions in the period. The MAC's social, economic and cultural impact (placemaking's main considerations) have been evidenced through a series of independent reviews. Most recently it was confirmed by an external team of independent consultants that the MAC made an economic contribution of £14.8M to the wider economy in 2019/20.

The MAC is one of Northern Ireland's iconic cultural landmarks and is a valuable capital asset which the Board of Trustees and MAC team protect, maintain and preserve. Each year the building is used by, and visited by thousands of people therefore it is our responsibility to ensure all elements of the building are serviced, maintained and safe for everyday use, and protected for the long-term.

The MAC continues to review its sustainability policy. This year we worked in partnership with Queen's University to facilitate placements for MSc Leadership for Sustainable Development students. Through this partnership the MAC is learning the most current processes to ensure we care for the environment and continue to be sustainable. This year we installed an energy monitoring system enabling us to monitor gas, electric and water usage. We delivered energy saving projects which ensure the MAC plant is turned off as soon as the building is closed. We localised control of our air conditioning with the aim of reducing usage.

Public funding and sustainability

In January 2023, the MAC launched its US Friends of the MAC and UK Corporate Friends of the MAC schemes. The US Friends was promoted at an event in New York City at the Dead Rabbit bar with the support of NI Bureau with a number of significant donations received. In February 2023 the MAC hosted its first public Friends of the MAC fundraising event *Derry Girls: The Reunion*. UK Corporate Friends of the MAC scheme has been highly successful to date.

Public Funding

Our core funders – Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council continue to support us enabling us to deliver our mission and vision.

Trusts and Foundations

We are grateful to the Trusts and Foundations who support us. With their support we have work with hundreds of artists and created opportunities for thousands of people to participate and access great art, and conversations.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Strategic Report) (CONT'D)

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also the directors of the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and charitable company and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosures of information to auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the trustees on 28th February 2024.

By order of the trustees



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE)

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the parent charitable company Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the parent charitable company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosure made in note 2 to the financial statements concerning the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. Cashflow projections predict that expenditure will exceed income for the period ended 31 March 2024. These conditions, along with the other matters explained in note 2 to the financial statements, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt about the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not include the adjustments that would result if the group and the parent charitable company were unable to continue as a going concern.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group and charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAC (METROPOLITAN ARTS CENTRE) (CONT'D)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Cont'd)

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors**

Centrepont
24 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT2 8H

28/2/24

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	Notes	2023			2022		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	5	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments	5	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities	5	1,292,052	-	1,292,052	532,211	-	532,211
Other income	5	7,984	-	7,984	15,890	-	15,890
Total		1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583	698,189	2,356,763	3,054,952
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Cost of raising funds: Commercial trading activities		1,090,554	-	1,090,554	475,527	-	475,527
Total		1,639,040	1,754,242	3,393,282	704,635	2,404,807	3,109,442
Net income/(expenditure)		32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		32,065	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Total funds brought forward		258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225	264,605	13,702,110	13,966,715
Total funds carried forward		290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
OF THE CHARITY ALONE**

Notes	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities	209,482	-	209,482	72,574	-	72,574
Total	580,551	1,433,478	2,014,029	222,662	2,356,763	2,579,425
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Total	548,486	1,754,242	2,302,728	229,108	2,404,807	2,633,915
Net movement in funds	32,665	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	32,665	(320,764)	(288,699)	(6,446)	(48,044)	(54,490)
Total funds brought forward	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,255	264,605	13,702,110	13,966,715
Total funds carried forward	290,224	13,333,302	13,623,526	258,159	13,654,066	13,912,225

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	375	2,084
Tangible assets	12	13,382,991	13,473,379
		13,383,366	13,475,463
Current assets			
Stock		13,454	9,852
Debtors	14	325,061	481,131
Cash at bank and in hand		287,174	530,741
		625,689	1,021,724
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(385,529)	(584,962)
Net current assets		240,160	436,762
Total assets less current liabilities		13,623,526	13,912,225
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	290,224	258,159
Restricted funds	16	13,333,302	13,654,066
Total funds		13,623,526	13,912,225

The financial statements on pages 13 to 31 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 28th February 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	11	375	750
Tangible assets	12	13,382,991	13,473,379
Investments	13	1	1
		13,383,367	13,474,130
Debtors	14	354,003	429,784
Cash at bank and in hand		202,780	388,364
		556,784	818,148
Creditors: amounts falling due one year	15	(316,625)	(380,053)
Net current assets		240,159	438,095
Total assets less current liabilities		13,623,526	13,912,225
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	17	290,224	258,159
Restricted funds	16	13,333,302	13,654,066
Total funds		13,623,526	13,912,225

The financial statements on pages 13 to 31 were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 28th February 2024 and were signed on their behalf by



Ray Hutchinson
Trustee



Colm Devine
Treasurer

Company registration number: NI022945

The notes on pages 18 to 31 form part of these accounts.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	23		46,102		(417,525)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(290,737)		(154,335)	
Interest received		<u>1,069</u>		<u>88</u>	
Net cash (used in) investing activities			(289,668)		(154,247)
<hr/>					
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			(243,566)		(571,772)
Cash and cash equivalents of beginning of year			<u>530,741</u>		<u>1,102,513</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>287,175</u>		<u>530,741</u>
Relating to:					
Bank balances and short term deposits			<u>287,175</u>		<u>530,741</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Nature of organisation

The Charity is an incorporated company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. The registered office is 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast. The subsidiary is a company limited by shares.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The principal accounting policies, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty are set out below.

The trustees consider that these accounting policies are suitable, have been consistently applied and are supported by reasonable and prudent judgment and estimates.

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Group financial statements

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Charity alone has been presented on page 13.

All financial statements are made up to 31 March 2023. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the group.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The continued operation of the MAC is dependent on the ongoing support of its funders, Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC). The MAC was planned and built as a space that requires a certain level of public subsidy in order to provide the benefits it was built to deliver

The financial performance for the year is set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on pages 11 to 12 and described in the Trustees Report. The charity's income exceeded expenditure within unrestricted resources by £32,065 for the year. This result increased unrestricted reserves from £258,159 to £290,224 at the year end.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies, (Cont'd)

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis (Cont'd)

Despite substantial cost cutting, inflation and continuing uncertainty in the global economy has impacted our cost base significantly. As a result directors are forecasting an unrestricted deficit of £143,008 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees are encouraged by the extensive dialogue and closer working relationship with the MAC's funders and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively towards delivering a sustainable break-even business model in 2024/25. Whilst we are aware that there is uncertainty in relation to public expenditure plans, we have no better information than to forecast that our continued delivery of outcomes in excess of those in our funding contracts, and our turnaround of the business as per our agreements with our funders, will result in at worst stand-alone funding for 2023/24.

At the point of signing the accounts, there remains a great deal of unpredictability in the economy and the associated impact on consumer behaviour. The trustees recognise that these circumstances, coupled with the uncertainty in respect of continued funding from ACNI, represent a material uncertainty over going concern.

The trustees consider that in preparing the financial statements they have taken into account all information that could reasonably be expected to be available and recognise that the circumstances described above represent a material uncertainty that casts doubt on the ability of the group and the parent charitable company to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered these circumstances, alongside proposals for future sustainability, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group and the parent charitable company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Income and endowments

(a) Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies includes all incoming resources generated from gifts, donations and grants, and is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred.

Grants which have been restricted for use by the donor or which relate to capital expenditure are treated as restricted income and are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when they are receivable and when all conditions have been met.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

1 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Income and endowments

(b) Investments

Investment income represents interest receivable during the year on bank deposits.

(c) Other trading activities

This includes income receivable for services provided, income from activities undertaken to raise funds to undertake charitable activities, and income from the operation of the MAC.

Expenditure

(a) Charitable activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity when working to meet its charitable objectives. This includes support costs allocated to activities on the basis of time spent on those activities.

(b) Commercial trading activities

This comprises all resources applied by the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary in operating the MAC.

(c) Governance costs

Governance costs include the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the Charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of resources. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets comprise the costs associated with acquiring the liquor licence, and is valued at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments of each asset over its estimated useful economic life of 5 years.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition, net of any VAT recoverable.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Land and buildings	- 2% per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-10% - 25% per annum straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd/Impairment of fixed assets)

At each reporting end date, the group and the parent charitable company review the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the group and the parent charitable company estimate the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment annually, and whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts.

Financial assets

The group and the parent charitable company have elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets are recognised in the group's and the parent charitable company's statement of financial position when the group and the parent charitable company become party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Loans and receivables

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the group's and parent charitable company's obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the group and parent charitable company are demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

2 Accounting policies (Cont'd)

Taxation

As a registered charity, The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is not liable to either Income Tax or Corporation Tax.

Fund accounting

The Charity has two types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. Definitions of the funds are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds

Grants, donations and other income received which are earmarked by the funder or donor for specific purposes. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Charity.

(b) Unrestricted funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees, for the general purposes of the Charity. In addition, funds may be held in order to finance capital investments and working capital.

3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the group's and parent charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Going concern

The trustees have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements. As explained more fully in Note 2 there is a material uncertainty regarding the group's and parent charitable company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. Nevertheless, having considered the circumstances, the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the group and parent charitable company are unable to continue as a going concern.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In reassessing asset lives factors such as maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining live of the asset and the estimated value in use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

4 Financial performance of the Charity

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes the results of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary which operates the arts facility. The financial performance of the Charity alone is shown on page 14.

5 Income and endowments

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Donations and legacies						
Arts Council of Northern Ireland - Capital Works	-	25,064	25,064	-	131,933	131,933
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	-	1,246,426	1,246,426	-	1,170,903	1,170,903
Belfast City Council Grants	150,000	-	150,000	150,000	-	150,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	75,000	75,000	-	150,000	150,000
Ulster Gardens	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Covid large NAV scheme	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
John Elleman	-	-	-	-	35,700	35,700
Garfield Weston	100,000	-	100,000	-	696,248	696,248
Foyle Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	120,000	-	120,000	-	100,000	100,000
Belfast Harbour	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Social Change	-	3,950	3,950	-	-	-
Bank of Ireland	-	5,500	5,500	-	-	-
Community Foundation	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
British Council	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Fly the Flag	-	1,650	1,650	-	-	-
Dormant Accounts	-	9,888	9,888	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	1,979	1,979
	370,000	1,433,478	1,803,478	150,000	2,356,763	2,506,763
Investments						
Interest receivable	1,069	-	1,069	88	-	88
Other trading activities						
Sponsorship	25,346	-	25,346	20,000	-	20,000
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gifts and donations	69,598	-	69,598	6,717	-	6,717
Rental income	19,031	-	19,031	10,713	-	10,713
Commercial trading operations	1,178,077	-	1,178,077	373,698	-	373,698
Government grant	-	-	-	121,083	-	121,083
	1,292,052	-	1,292,052	532,211	-	532,211
Other income						
Theatre & Museum & Gallery tax relief	7,984	-	7,984	15,890	-	15,890
Total	1,671,105	1,433,478	3,104,583	698,189	2,356,763	3,054,952

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

6 Expenditure

Analysis of expenditure

	Support Costs	Other Direct Costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Core costs	155,838	1,771,063	1,926,901	2,235,342
Capital Project – The MAC	375,827	-	375,827	398,573
Total resources expended	531,665	1,771,063	2,302,728	2,633,915

Analysis of support costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Premises	145,738	-	145,738	84,842
Financial costs	752	4,050	4,802	7,131
Depreciation	381,125	-	381,125	403,291
Total support costs	527,615	4,050	531,665	495,264

7 Net incoming resources

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation – owned assets	381,125	403,291
Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit of financial statements of the group and parent charitable company	4,750	4,750
Audit of the parent charitable company's subsidiary	6,500	6,500

There are no other material costs not already disclosed in notes 6 to 10.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

8 Income from trading activities

The wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited is incorporated in Northern Ireland (company number NI604239) and pays all of its profits to the Charity under the gift aid scheme. The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited operates the arts facility and all commercial trading operations carried on at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) premises. The summary financial performance of the subsidiary alone is:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover	2,661,729	2,261,224
Cost of sales	(710,972)	(731,429)
Administration costs	(1,845,884)	(1,604,657)
Distribution costs	(33,699)	(39,441)
Other income	-	112,054
	71,174	(2,249)
Net profit	71,174	(2,249)
Gift aided to the Charity	(71,174)	(13,641)
	-	(15,890)
(Loss)/profit before taxation	-	(15,890)
Tax	-	15,890
	-	-
Retained in subsidiary	-	-

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary alone were:

Total assets	406,498	510,426
Total liabilities	(406,497)	(510,425)
	1	1
Total net assets	1	1
	1	1
Aggregate share capital and reserves	1	1

9 Employee information

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	1,343,869	1,196,551
Social security costs	119,351	110,864
Pension costs	35,693	35,259
	1,498,913	1,342,674
Average number of employees including trustees	83	59
Employees earning between £60,000 and £70,000	1	1

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel in the period was £192,870 (2022: £268,673). The Charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the Chief Executive, Commercial Director, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Creative Director.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

10 Trustees' remuneration

The trustees received no emoluments during the year. No trustee received reimbursement of expenses during the year.

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Group £	Charitable Company £
Cost		
At 1 April 2022	31,364	1,874
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2023	31,364	1,874
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	29,280	1,124
Amortisation charged for the year	1,709	375
At 31 March 2023	30,989	1,499
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023	375	375
At 31 March 2022	2,084	750

12 Tangible fixed assets

Group and charitable company

	Land & Buildings £	Fittings & Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022			
	16,343,164	460,496	16,803,660
Additions	251,032	39,705	290,737
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	16,594,196	500,201	17,094,397
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	3,088,593	241,688	3,330,281
Charge for year	330,237	50,888	381,125
Released on disposal	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	3,418,830	292,576	3,711,406
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	13,175,366	207,625	13,382,991
At 31 March 2022	13,254,571	218,808	13,473,379

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

13 Investments

The Charity holds one share of £1 in its wholly owned trading subsidiary The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Trading Co. Limited, which is incorporated in Northern Ireland. This is the only share allotted, called up and fully paid. The activities and results of this company are summarised in note 8.

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	102,251	48,794	30,660	1,260
Prepayments and accrued income	216,563	197,715	216,563	193,902
Other debtors	6,247	234,622	106,780	234,622
	<u>325,061</u>	<u>481,131</u>	<u>354,003</u>	<u>429,784</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charitable Company	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	96,806	144,693	28,645	26,792
Other tax and social security	7,000	201,304	4,650	4,707
Accruals	110,023	92,921	55,635	39,379
Other creditors	171,700	146,044	1,218	19,549
Intercompany balance	-	-	226,477	289,626
	<u>385,529</u>	<u>584,962</u>	<u>316,625</u>	<u>380,053</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

16 Restricted funds of the Charity

	Restated Balance 1 April 2022	Movement in resources incoming	Movement in resources outgoing	Transfer between funds	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset funds					
Capital Project	13,449,066	55,063	(375,827)	205,000	13,333,302
Garfield Weston	205,000	-	-	(205,000)	-
Subtotal	13,654,066	55,063	(375,827)	-	13,333,302
Other net assets funds					
Core costs	-	1,378,415	(1,378,415)	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-
Total	13,654,066	1,433,478	(1,754,242)	-	13,333,302

Fixed asset funds

The fixed asset funds represent funds provided for the purchase of tangible fixed assets. The fund is represented by fixed assets and is reduced by the depreciation charge on the assets.

17 Unrestricted funds of the Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Net incoming resources for year	Transfer between funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
General reserve	258,159	(47,434)	-	210,725
Designated - Garfield Weston	-	79,499	-	79,499
Total	258,159	32,065	-	290,224

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted funds	13,337,302	-	13,333,302
Unrestricted funds	<u>49,689</u>	<u>240,555</u>	<u>290,244</u>
	<u>13,382,991</u>	<u>240,555</u>	<u>13,623,546</u>

19 Related party transactions

Under the control of the Board of Trustees, the MAC Trading Co. Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, charged the Charity expenses of £1,500,000 (2022: £1,900,000) and transferred to the Charity under Gift Aid a donation of £71,174 (2022: £13,641). At 31 March 2023 a balance of £226,478 (2022: £289,626) was owed by the Charity to the subsidiary. There were no other transactions or outstanding balances with related parties.

20 Contingencies

A portion of grants received may become repayable if the Charity fails to comply with the terms of letter of offer.

21 Corporation taxation

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received. HM Revenue and Customs reference number XR26229. Its subsidiary is subject to corporation taxation on its income and capital gains.

22 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate company financial statements for The MAC Limited

Details of the company's subsidiaries at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
The MAC Trading Co. Limited	As above	Operation of arts facilities	Ordinary shares	100	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONT'D)

23 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the year	(288,699)	(54,490)
Depreciation & amortisation	382,835	404,990
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	5,536
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(199,433)	(628,143)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	156,070	(135,478)
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(3,602)	(9,852)
Interest received	<u>(1,069)</u>	<u>(88)</u>
Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from operating activities	<u>46,102</u>	<u>(417,525)</u>