

Report on Karma Kalakendram's Activities in 2023

During 2023, Karma Kalakendram took significant strides in reviving and expanding its operations. The organisation successfully restarted physical classes in both Belfast and Lisburn, marking a return to in-person learning and engagement with the community.

In addition to resuming classes, we initiated the appointment of new volunteers, individuals passionate about the arts and interested in becoming dance tutors. To support this, we launched a "Training the Trainers" program, designed to provide master-level training for these aspiring instructors, ensuring they are well-prepared to lead future classes.

A key development in 2023 was the appointment of Smithesh Sashidharan as Karma's Director. With his multilingual skills and diverse background, Smithesh brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the organization, helping guide Karma's continued growth and success.

Karma Kalakendram also established a new "Family Group," specifically designed for mothers. This group provides a supportive space for mothers to engage in cultural activities, further strengthening community ties.

Additionally, we revised our aims and objectives to align with the cultural diversity strategy of Belfast City Council and the Department for Communities Northern Ireland. This ensures that Karma's goals are in line with broader initiatives promoting inclusivity and cultural understanding in the region.

Furthermore, we undertook a significant update of our website, enriching it with more valuable insights about our teachers and the programs we offer, making it a more effective platform for community engagement and information sharing.

2023 has been a year of renewal, growth, and alignment for Karma Kalakendram, positioning the organisation to continue its mission of promoting cultural diversity and the arts in the years ahead.

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