

Karma Kalakendram Annual Report

Period: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024

1. Overview

The year has been a year of significant growth, artistic diversity, and community engagement for Karma Kalakendram. Expanding our reach across Northern Ireland, we continued to nurture talent, celebrate cultural diversity, and promote inclusion through performing arts.

2. Dance Education and Outreach

Dance Classes

Karma Kalakendram's dance training programs have continued to flourish across Belfast, Lisburn, Portadown, and Ballymena.

Belfast: Our flagship centre at St. Malachy's expanded into three levels—Junior, Senior, and Adult—to accommodate increasing demand and the discovery of new dance talents.

Lisburn: Classes remained steady under a dedicated faculty, running two groups—Junior and Senior—throughout the year.

Portadown: Sessions continued in collaboration with KT Studio, conducted on alternate weeks, with two active groups: Junior and Senior.

Ballymena: A new milestone this year was the launch of a fresh batch of dance classes in Ballymena, starting with 10 students. This marks Karma's ongoing commitment to expanding access to performing arts in new communities.

3. Karma Fest 2024 – “Rhythm of Recovery”

The 4th edition of Karma Fest was held at Island Hall, Lisburn, to a house-full audience and overwhelming public enthusiasm. Due to exceptional demand, capacity constraints prevented accommodating all interested attendees—a testament to the growing popularity of the festival.

Highlights:

Chief Guest: Dr. Ali Fitzgibbon, Course Coordinator, Arts Management and International Cultural Policy, Queen's University Belfast.

Theme: “Rhythm of Recovery” – celebrating resilience, confidence, and healing through performing arts, particularly for stroke and heart survivors.

Performances: The festival showcased a vibrant mix of cultural expressions, including:

- Scottish Highland Dance
- Chinese Classical Dance

- South Asian Folk and Classical forms
- Diverse music and collaborative performances by amateur and professional artists

Impact:

Community Reach: The audience comprised both local citizens and members of the BAME community, reflecting Karma's inclusive cultural ethos.

Regional Participation: Attendees travelled from Armagh, Portadown, Ballymena, Newtownabbey, Antrim, Downpatrick, and Greater Belfast, resulting in a measurable positive economic impact for the local community.

Social Value: The festival successfully merged art, wellbeing, and community cohesion, reinforcing Karma's mission to make art a bridge for healing and connection.

4. Governance and Leadership Expansion

Recognising the need for structured growth and professional governance, Karma is in the process of appointing a new cohort of volunteers to oversee key areas such as child protection, risk assessment, performing arts, community development, and digital transformation. In 2025 these volunteers will be appointed as non-executive directors.

Name	Role / Area of Responsibility
Rahul Krishnan, MSc	Digital Transformation, Risk & Safety Management
Vysakh Mohan	Community Development & Outdoor Events
Aiswarya Mylapran	Folk Art & Sustainability
Avin Abhaya	Language Studies
Pradeep Vasudevan	Food & Beverages
Siddhi Bhangera	Liaison Officer & Dance Diversity

5. Looking Ahead

As Karma Kalakendram continues its journey, the focus remains on:

- Expanding community-based arts education
- Strengthening partnerships across Northern Ireland
- Enhancing multilingual and multicultural engagement
- Building pathways for young artists and creative entrepreneurs

With a strong foundation in place, the coming year promises to be one of deeper collaboration, artistic innovation, and continued service to the community.

Prepared by: Team Karma Kalakendram

Date: 30 September 2025