

North West Cultural Partnership

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

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

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	North West Cultural Partnership
Charity registration number	106022-0
Company registration number	NI640622
Principal office and registered office	20-22 Hawkin Street Londonderry BT48 6RE

The trustees

Mr K McFarland
H Deeney
K Donaghey
L Hetherington
J Magowan

Independent examiner	Keith McElhinney 42A Clooney Terrace Waterside Londonderry BT47 6AP
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Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, which was incorporated on 5th September 2016. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were signed on 12th August 2016 on behalf of the first members of the charity. The charity is managed by the trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law. They meet throughout the year in order to manage the activities of the charity. They are elected by members at the Annual General Meeting.

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Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects ("Objects") are to:-

(1) Promote for the public benefit community participation in arts and cultural activities in the Fountain estate and surrounding areas (the "area of benefit") by: (i) providing and managing facilities for the education and training of people of all ages in music, drama, performing and creative arts; (ii) stimulating artistic creativity through the provision of facilities and support for artistic expression; and (iii) providing access to a range of art forms and performance opportunities.

(2) Advance public education by encouraging and fostering enhanced understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of arts and culture through the production, development and promotion of concerts, performances, festivals and cultural events.

3) Promote citizenship and social inclusion through involvement in community arts in communities that face deprivation or other disadvantage and in particular: (i) provide support and organise activities which develop the skills, capacities and capabilities of young people to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals; (ii) engage with a range of age groups within the area of benefit in a manner which seeks to bring change within communities and also within the lives of individuals; (iii) encourage socially excluded individuals and communities to explore social issues through drama and other art forms.

(4) Advance community development by providing facilities and practical support to community and voluntary groups and organisations that are or intend to be involved in community arts activities so as to increase their efficiency and effectiveness and to encourage such groups and organisations to co-operate to achieve their aims.

In order to achieve the above objectives the charity's activities include

Improving facilities - The charity continues to work towards providing state of the art facilities, for the benefit of the local community. The development of New Gate Arts & Culture Centre is therefore a priority for the charity.

Education and training - The charity delivers music, dance, drama and other creative arts tuition on a weekly basis. Additional training is provided if and when a need is identified. Aiding the development of skills, capacities and capabilities.

Festivals and events - the charity delivers the New Gate Fringe Festival, as well as a number of smaller events each year, encouraging community participation in the arts, in an area that suffers from deprivation.

Older peoples programme - the charity delivers a programme of events for older people who are most at risk of social isolation.

Community relations - the charity is involved in an array of activities aimed at building understanding and reconciliation within and between communities that suffer as a result of division and mistrust.

The charity have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

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Achievements and performance

This has been a very important year in the development of the North West Cultural Partnership. We have outlined our vision for the future; developing a new 5 year Strategy Plan laying the road map for our future development. Our vision is to build a future of confident, creative, and connected people. We will achieve our vision by engaging and developing individuals and communities through innovative arts, creative programmes, and civic leadership. Our priorities are to help people create, help people grow, and help amplify voices. To do this we will ensure the partnership is stronger and more sustainable. New Gate Arts & Culture Centre reopened after significant renovation and extension. It is a new vibrant arts venue and facility in the heart of Londonderry. It has enabled us to provide a range of cultural programmes & events throughout the year including theatre, music & dance as well as engaging creative learning opportunities. New Gate Arts & Culture Centre has been designed with flexibility in mind, making it one of the most versatile arts venues in the northwest. Our classes, workshops, talks, tours, performances and events continued throughout the year and we were delighted to move these into the stunning New Gate Arts & Culture Centre in the later half of the year. The Peace Impact and Community In Partnership Programmes have continued to help bring about change in communities; further developing links with other communities and extending the reach of the North West Cultural Partnership. The 3-week Path to Peace Programme that we developed in partnership with Hofstra University was a great success with students and members of the public engaging in debates, talks, trips and informal conversations. In addition our Older Peoples programme has provided older people with opportunities to attend social events and learn new skills; reducing isolation and improving their physical and mental wellbeing. Standout events include a performance at 10 Downing Street for the Prime Minister and our Halloween performance. The Halloween performance was the first event in our new building and attracted an audience of 20,000 people over 3 nights. Finally, we were thrilled when our colleague Derek Moore was recognised in the Honour List, being awarded an MBE for services to the community.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out on the following pages

The charity had a surplus for the year of £456 (2023: Deficit £3,284) and at 31 March 2024 the charity had net assets of £186,608 (2023: £186,153)

Plans for future periods

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to 6 month's expenditure. The charity considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

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The trustees' annual report was approved on 18 March 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Hazel Deeney

H Deeney
Trustee