

Dance Associate Ltd

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106918

Details

Status Received

Company number [612228](#)

Registered 2019-04-01

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address 52
Mill Street
Newry
County Down
BT34 1ag
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Phone 02830265555

Email info@danceassociate.com

Website www.danceassociate.com

Activities

Purposes: The company's objects ('Objects') are specifically restricted to the following: To support and develop a vibrant performing and creative arts ecology in Northern Ireland which will encourage people of Northern Ireland of all ages to participate in and appreciate performing arts and introduce people to culture with the objective of improving their conditions of life and well-being and in particular:- (a) to promote, maintain and improve performing arts education particularly through the production of workshops, performances and the encouragement of the arts including contemporary dance, drama, mime, singing and music; (b) to foster, promote and advance preparation and establishment of projects and events in partnership with similar artistic organisations; (c) to promote education and training in performing and creative arts and related subjects particularly for children, young people, elderly people, refugees and others who, for whatever reason, may be considered excluded from society; (d) to advance performing and creative arts through the provision of training, career advice, coaching and continuing professional development for performing and creative arts practitioners and organisations upon terms appropriate to their means and in such other ways as the directors shall in their absolute discretion determine; (e) to encourage appreciation for and participation in the performing and creative arts in all its aspects through the provision of affordable facilities, resources, training and such other services appropriate for the creation, production, performance and appreciation of the performing and creative art forms; and (f) to advance and raise the profile of performing and creative art forms through the promotion of artistic collaborations and fostering of partnerships with similar artistic organisations involving activities such as workshops and trips to theatrical performances.

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

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Arts,Community development,Cross-border/cross-community,Cultural,Education/training,Heritage/historical,Playgroup/after schools,Sport/recreation,Volunteer development,Youth development

Who the charity helps: Adult training,Children (5-13 year olds),Ethnic minorities,General public,Language community,Mental health,Older people,Parents,Preschool (0-5 year olds),Voluntary and community sector,Volunteers,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£58,607	£61,158	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Victoria Campbell		
Mr Dominic Moore		
Mr Malcolm Austin Dibb		
Peter Shannon		

Dance Associate Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106918

Accounts

Dance Associate Ltd - Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account) - For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Income From Charitable Activities	51,209	7,398	58,607	41,594
Total Income	51,209	7,398	58,607	41,594
Expenditure				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	53,760	7,398	61,158	46,376
Total Expenditure	53,760	7,398	61,158	46,376
Net Movement in Funds	(2,551)	0	(2,551)	(4,782)
Reconciliation of Funds:				
Total Funds Brought Forward	5,410	0	5,410	10,192
Movement in the Year	(2,551)	0	(2,551)	(4,782)
Total Funds Carried Forward	2,859	0	2,859	5,410

Dance Associate Ltd - Balance Sheet - As Of 31 March 2025

	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	8,972	14,394
Total Fixed Assets	<u>8,972</u>	<u>14,394</u>
Current Assets		
Cash in hand and at bank	739	1,184
Debtors	0	0
Total Current Assets	<u>739</u>	<u>1,184</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4,191	4,311
Net Current Assets / Liabilities	<u>(3,452)</u>	<u>(3,127)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>5,521</u>	<u>11,267</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	2,662	5,857
Total net assets or liabilities	<u>2,859</u>	<u>5,410</u>
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	2,859	5,410
Restricted funds	0	0
Total funds	<u>2,859</u>	<u>5,410</u>

For the year ending 05 April 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. The company is a charity for tax purposes in line with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. This took effect from 19/01/2019 and comes under reference number: NI00914.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 21/01/2025.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD BY:

Chairperson: Peter Shannon



Notes Forming Part of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. Company Status

Dance Associate is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland (registration number: NI612228), and has no share capital. It is also a charity registered in Northern Ireland (registration number: NIC106918).

2. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are detailed below. These policies have been applied consistently throughout the current and preceding financial year.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of fixed asset investments at market value. They comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP FRS 102), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

(b) Fund Accounting

- **Unrestricted Funds:** These funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of Dance Associate Ltd. Unrestricted funds include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at market values.
- **Designated Funds:** These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Board of Trustees for specific purposes.
- **Restricted Funds:** These funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

(c) Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when Dance Associate Ltd has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be reliably measured.

The following policies apply to specific categories of income:

- Voluntary Income: Grants, donations, and gifts are recognised in full in the SoFA when receivable. Where entitlement depends on the delivery of specific performance obligations, income is recognised as the obligations are fulfilled.
- Donated Services and Facilities: Donated services and facilities are included in the accounts at their estimated value to the organisation, where this can be measured reliably. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.
- Investment Income: Recognised when receivable.
- Charitable Trading Activity Income: Income from charitable trading activities is recognised as it is earned.
- Grants for Specific Deliverables: Recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration by performing the related obligations.

(d) Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. It includes VAT which cannot be recovered and is categorised as follows:

- Costs of Generating Funds: These include costs incurred to attract voluntary income and costs associated with fundraising activities.
- Charitable Expenditure: These costs relate directly to the delivery of activities and services for beneficiaries. They include both direct costs and indirect support costs allocated to the activities.
- Governance Costs: These include costs associated with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit fees and strategic management costs.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SoFA in a manner that reflects the resource usage. Direct costs are attributed to specific activities, while indirect costs are apportioned using appropriate bases such as floor area, headcount, or estimated usage.

(e) Fixed Assets

- Valuation and Depreciation: Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Minor additions or assets costing below £1,000 are not capitalised. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset, typically four years.
- Impairment Reviews: Fixed assets are reviewed for impairment when evidence arises indicating that the recoverable amount is below the net book value. Impairment losses are recognised in the SoFA.
- Investments: Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. Gains or losses arising from revaluation are recognised in the SoFA.

This comprehensive framework ensures that the financial statements accurately reflect the activities, resources, and obligations of Dance Associate Ltd, adhering to best practices and regulatory standards.

Dance Associate Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106918

Accounts

Dance Associate Ltd - Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account) - For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Income From Charitable Activities	41,595	0	41,595	54,803
Total Income	41,595	0	41,595	54,803
Expenditure				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	46,376	0	46,376	82,391
Total Expenditure	46,376	0	46,376	82,391
Net Movement in Funds	(4,782)	0	(4,782)	(27,588)
<i>Reconciliation of Funds:</i>				
Total Funds Brought Forward	10,192	0	10,192	37,780
Movement in the Year	(4,782)	0	(4,782)	(27,588)
Total Funds Carried Forward	5,410	0	5,410	10,192

Dance Associate Ltd - Balance Sheet - As At 31 March 2024

	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	14,394	22,475
Total Fixed Assets	<u>14,394</u>	<u>22,475</u>
Current Assets		
Cash in hand and at bank	1,184	479
Debtors	0	0
Total Current Assets	<u>1,184</u>	<u>479</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4,311	3,711
Net Current Assets / Liabilities	<u>(3,126)</u>	<u>(3,232)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>11,267</u>	<u>19,243</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	5,857	9,051
Total net assets or liabilities	<u>5,411</u>	<u>10,192</u>
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	5,410	10,192
Restricted funds	0	0
Total funds	<u>5,410</u>	<u>10,192</u>

For the year ending 05 April 2024, the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. The company is a charity for tax purposes in line with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. This took effect from 19/01/2019 and comes under reference number: NI00914.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 17/12/2024

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD BY:

Chairperson: Peter Shannon



Notes Forming Part of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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This comprehensive framework ensures that the financial statements accurately reflect the activities, resources, and obligations of Dance Associate Ltd, adhering to best practices and regulatory standards.

Dance Associate Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106918

Annual report



DANCE ASSOCIATE LTD

(A private company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital,
and a registered charity)

Registered in Northern Ireland
Charity Registration Number: NIC106918
Company Registration Number: NI612228

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 05 April 2024

Period of Accounts

Start date: 06 April 2023

End date: 05 April 2024

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Introduction

I am delighted to report on another dynamic and successful year for Dance Associate Ltd. The year 2023-2024 has been marked by creativity, resilience, and growth as we continued our mission to enrich the lives of young people, families, and communities through the art of dance.

After navigating a challenging funding landscape, Dance Associate has once again demonstrated its ability to adapt and thrive. While we faced some limitations, particularly in the growth of our participant numbers, our commitment to providing high-quality, accessible dance programmes remains unwavering. Thanks to the continued support of the Education Authority NI, we've been able to engage hundreds of young people across Northern Ireland, providing them with invaluable opportunities for personal growth, artistic development, and creative expression.

This year, we are proud to report on a wide range of activities that have not only fostered the next generation of dance talent but have also contributed to the cultural fabric of our community. From performances in Newry Town Hall to youth workshops in rural areas, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that the transformative power of dance is available to all. Additionally, we laid the groundwork for exciting new initiatives that will shape our future, including the launch of the Dance Industry Awards, the creation of a new island-wide dance festival, and the development of Project FUSION: Fostering Cultural Unity Through Dance. This innovative project aims to celebrate cultural diversity through the medium of dance, reinforcing our mission to use the arts as a bridge to connect communities and inspire collaboration.

As we continue to address the challenges posed by reduced funding and rising operational costs, we remain focused on our long-term vision for sustainability, creativity, and impact. This report highlights our achievements, reflects on the obstacles we've faced, and looks forward to the next exciting chapter of our journey.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to our Board of Trustees, our dedicated staff and volunteers, and all of our supporters for their continued commitment to Dance Associate Ltd. It is with their unwavering support that we are able to continue making

a lasting impact in the lives of the young people we serve. Together, we are shaping the future of dance and nurturing the next generation of artists and leaders.

Peter Shannon

Chair



Executive Summary

The year 2023-2024 has been a period of resilience and strategic planning for Dance Associate. Despite challenges posed by reduced funding and limited resources, our organisation has continued to thrive as a vital hub for dance, youth engagement, and community enrichment in Northern Ireland and beyond. This year's achievements reflect our commitment to inspiring communities, fostering inclusivity, and advancing the artform of dance.

Key highlights include:

- **Sustained Programmes:** Our flagship initiatives, including the "Step by Step Club," "Dance Impact," and "Open Space," delivered meaningful opportunities for participants of all ages. These programmes engaged over 850 individuals through performances, workshops, and community-focused events, continuing to enrich lives across diverse audiences.
- **Youth Work Initiatives:** Supported by the Education Authority Youth Service through annual generic funding, we continued to deliver accessible, high-quality programmes tailored to empower young people, particularly those from rural or underserved communities. Our youth-focused activities encompassed a broad range of opportunities, including dynamic dance training sessions and personal development initiatives, fostering both artistic growth and leadership skills.
- **Community Outreach:** Dance Associate Ltd strengthened its role as a cornerstone of community engagement, offering inclusive classes designed to promote physical well-being, creative expression, and social connection. Our community programmes welcomed individuals of all abilities and backgrounds, ensuring dance remained a unifying and transformative experience.

Despite a challenging funding environment and rising operational costs, we successfully maintained the quality and impact of our work. However, these constraints did limit our ability to grow participant numbers as significantly as we had envisioned. To address these challenges, we have laid the groundwork for new revenue-generating initiatives, including the launch of a Dance Industry Awards programme and an island-wide dance festival, both set to debut in the coming year.

Our financial performance underscores the importance of adaptive measures and diversified funding streams. The Board and management team are committed to ensuring sustainability while continuing to deliver innovative and impactful programmes.

Looking to the future, Dance Associate remains dedicated to its mission of enriching lives through dance. With the steadfast support of our funders, partners, and the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers, we are poised to embrace new opportunities with optimism and determination. Together, we are building a legacy of creativity, inclusion, and excellence for the communities we serve.

Legal and Administrative Information

Directors and Trustees:	Peter Shannon (Chair) Dominic Moore Malcolm Dibb Victoria Campbell
Secretary:	Vladimir Samsonik
Registered Address:	52 Mill Street Newry County Down GB-NIR BT34 1AG
Company Registration Number:	NI612228
Charity Registration Number:	NIC106918
Accountant:	Stuart Davis Consulting Ltd 23 Carnforth Road Heaton Chapel Stockport SK4 5LL
Independent Examiner:	Paul Voltzenlogel 9 Queens Court Haywards Heath RH16 1RJ
Bankers:	HSBC UK 25-29 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FB
Key Management Personnel:	Nina Dibb – Executive & Artistic Director Victoria Campbell - Youth Coordinator

Directors' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees (who are also Directors for company law purposes) have pleasure in submitting their Annual Report and financial statements of the company for the year ending 5th April 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Charitable Purposes

Dance Associate Ltd is a voluntary organisation based in Northern Ireland, dedicated to addressing social welfare through performing and creative arts. By providing opportunities for recreation and leisure activities, the organisation aims to enhance the quality of life and well-being of people across Northern Ireland.

Dance Associate Ltd operates as a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity in Northern Ireland. Additionally, it is a registered non-profit company in the Republic of Ireland, with an application currently submitted to the Irish Charity Regulator to attain charitable status.

The objective is to provide equality of opportunity to those who have otherwise been marginalised from mainstream arts provision. Dance Associate Limited seeks to enhance public knowledge of the cultural and educational value of arts in all their aspects through the management of events for public performance and the showcasing of performing and creative arts.

Dance Associate Limited promotes, maintains, and improves performing and creative arts education, particularly through the production of workshops, performances, and the encouragement of various arts forms, including contemporary dance, drama, mime, singing, and music. This includes the development, preparation, and establishment of projects to:

- Foster, present, organize, manage, and produce accessible high-quality work of cultural and educational value to the public, enhancing knowledge, understanding, and practice of arts in all their aspects.
- Advance and raise the profile of underdeveloped art forms through the promotion of artistic collaborations and fostering partnerships with similar organisations.
- Encourage and stimulate the artistic creativity and awareness of people in the benefit area by providing training, educational resources, and support/opportunities for artistic expression.
- Promote and develop educational and recreational opportunities and resources for the benefit of children, young people, and adults in the area, ensuring equality of opportunity for those otherwise marginalized from mainstream arts provision.
- Provide appropriate quality programmes to ensure the involvement of all ages, including children, young people, and adults.
- Identify and create opportunities for the exchange of skills, resources, and information, undertaking any other activities and projects deemed appropriate.

Dance Associate Ltd is not limited in the art form used by and for people for artistic expression. The organisation aims to encourage appreciation for and participation in the arts by providing educational performing and creative arts projects, information, and training, as well as classes, workshops, arts facilities and equipment, support and instruction, and the organisation of showcases of works and events.

The company's Objects

To support and develop a vibrant performing and creative arts ecology in Northern Ireland which will encourage people of Northern Ireland of all ages to participate in and appreciate performing arts and introduce people to culture with the objective of improving their conditions of life and well-being and in particular: -

(a) to promote, maintain and improve performing arts education particularly through the production of workshops, performances and the encouragement of the arts including contemporary dance, drama, mime, singing and music

(b) to foster, promote and advance preparation and establishment of projects and events in partnership with similar artistic organisations

(c) to promote education and training in performing and creative arts and related subjects particularly for children, young people, elderly people, and others who, for whatever reason, may be considered excluded from society

(d) to advance performing and creative arts through the provision of training, career advice, coaching and continuing professional development for performing and creative arts practitioners and organisations upon terms appropriate to their means and in such other ways as the directors shall in their absolute discretion determine

(e) to encourage appreciation for and participation in the performing and creative arts in all its aspects through the provision of affordable facilities, resources, training and such other services appropriate for the creation, production, performance and appreciation of the performing and creative art forms; and

(f) to advance and raise the profile of performing and creative art forms through the promotion of artistic collaborations and fostering of partnerships with similar artistic organisations involving activities such as workshops and trips to theatrical performances.

Public Benefit Statement

Charity trustees are obligated to formulate strategic plans to guarantee the provision of public benefit and the accomplishment of objectives outlined in our governing document. These objectives align with the purposes stipulated by the Charities Act 2011. When assessing our aims and objectives and planning future activities, we have consulted the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's general guidance on public benefit. Specifically, the trustees evaluate how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have established.

Achievements in the Year

A Symphony of Creative Expression - Dance Associate Ltd has once again demonstrated its commitment to creativity, community, and innovation, overcoming challenges and continuing to deliver impactful programmes that inspire and engage

participants. The year 2023-2024 was a journey of artistic discovery for our younger participants, as we navigated the intersection of performing arts, education, and community outreach to create a meaningful and lasting impact through dance.

Through our flagship programmes and new initiatives, Dance Associate has emerged as a cultural force within Newry and beyond. Our work has transformed lives through dance, from nurturing emerging artists to reaching young people in rural and underserved communities.

Production, Performance & Touring

This year, Dance Associate shifted its focus to offering creative opportunities to our amateur participants and students, ensuring that the transformative power of dance was accessible to everyone, regardless of age or experience level. While we did not produce professional company productions this year, our performances continued to celebrate creativity, collaboration, and community.

Open Space – Youth Programme: The Open Space programme flourished as a dynamic platform for new works across a range of art forms. Participants showcased their talents in dance, music, photography, and fine art, embracing a multidisciplinary approach to creative expression.

Community Showcases: Our mature participants and students stepped into the spotlight, presenting works that reflected their personal journeys and creative growth. These performances demonstrated the depth of talent within our programmes and the supportive environment we cultivate.

Engaging Local Audiences: With strong support from our audiences, we brought these works to life in local venues, reaching audiences who might not otherwise have access to the arts. By celebrating the achievements of our participants, we enriched the cultural fabric of the communities we serve.

Although large-scale touring and professional productions were not the focus this year, the shift towards empowering participants to share their work has reinforced Dance Associate's role as a vital community arts organisation. This year's approach ensured

that the joy of performance was shared broadly, creating moments of connection and inspiration across Newry, Banbridge and the Republic of Ireland.

Participation & Outreach

Dance Associate remains committed to accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that participants of all ages and abilities can engage with the transformative power of the arts.

Seasonal Schemes: Our much-loved Summer Scheme and Easter Camp have become key highlights of the year, offering young children vibrant and imaginative experiences. These schemes, supported by Newry and Mourne Council and the Southern Health & Social Care Trust, combine the joy of creative exploration with meaningful connections, leaving lasting memories for participants and their families.

Classes and Workshops: This year, over 520 hours of classes and workshops brought together participants aged 3 to 75, introducing them to a variety of styles including contemporary dance, ballet, country social dancing, yoga, and Pilates. Each session became a unique opportunity for individuals to express themselves, develop skills, and build confidence within a supportive community.

Free Studio Use: We proudly supported over 40 hours of free studio space for young creative artists, enabling them to explore their ideas, refine their work, and take the first steps toward sharing their voices with the wider world. This initiative continues to shape a vibrant creative ecosystem, championing the talent of tomorrow.

Participation and outreach lie at the heart of Dance Associate ethos. By fostering creativity at every level, we aim to inspire artistic growth, cultivate a sense of belonging, and celebrate the achievements of everyone we engage with. These initiatives go beyond creativity, promoting significant physical and mental well-being. Through self-expression and active participation, we empower individuals to build resilience, embrace healthier lifestyles, and find joy in connection and movement.

Artistic Development

Dance Associate remained steadfast in its commitment to nurturing artistic talent, offering platforms for both emerging and established artists to flourish:

Step by Step Club: This innovative programme encouraged participants to discover and refine their choreographic voices. Under the guidance of experienced artists, including Nina Dibb, Nicole Clinton, and Chris Crook, participants engaged in movement research and training that not only advanced their artistic abilities but also fostered a deeper understanding of the creative process.

Graduate Opportunities: By partnering with local schools, colleges, and youth organisations, we provided valuable work placements that offered students hands-on experience in the arts sector, supporting career development and strengthening the future of Northern Ireland's creative workforce.

Support for Local Artists: Our commitment to the local arts community included over 40 hours of free studio use and in-kind resources, providing artists with space and opportunities to explore, develop, and share their work. These efforts cultivated meaningful relationships that will continue to enrich the creative landscape.

Studio Programmes & Workshops

Studio-based programmes have long been central to Dance Associate mission, offering a diverse range of classes, workshops, and events:

- **Diverse Offerings:** This year saw 78 new participants join our regular class programmes, which featured ballet, acrobatic arts, musical theatre, jazz, and more. These classes offered individuals of all skill levels a chance to express themselves and grow through movement.
- **Community Connection:** Over 16 free workshops and dance classes were offered, reaching children, young people, and adults. These sessions fostered inclusivity, well-being, and a sense of belonging.
- **Art Exhibitions:** Studio spaces doubled as creative galleries, showcasing window displays and exhibitions by participants and teachers. This

interdisciplinary approach reinforced the importance of exploring multiple art forms to inspire creative thinking.

Nurturing Artistic Expression and Community Support

The progress and impact of Dance Associate would not have been possible without the generous support of our funders, donors, and partners:

- **Community Contributions:** A portion of our income was generated through the online platform Easyfundraising, where supporters contributed to our mission by participating in small but impactful fundraising activities while shopping online. These contributions, while modest, played a meaningful role in sustaining our programmes and reaching wider audiences.
- **Educational Authority Support:** Additional funding through the Educational Authority Generic Funds provided crucial support for our youth work initiatives. This funding allowed us to expand our outreach and deliver high-quality programmes, ensuring that young people across Newry, Mourne and Down council district have access to enriching and transformative dance experiences.
- **Project Fusion: Fostering Cultural Unity Through Dance:** For the first time, we prepared a funding application to the Newry, Mourne, and Down Council for a project aimed at celebrating cultural diversity through dance. This initiative underscores our commitment to using dance as a medium to foster unity, collaboration, and cultural understanding within our community. The application is set to be submitted in the next available council funding opportunity.

Highlights of the Year

- **Engagement:** Over 780 participants joined our programmes, spanning ages 3 to 75, highlighting the inclusivity and broad reach of our initiatives.
- **Impact:** Delivered more than 470 hours of workshops and classes, with 78 new participants enriching our community this year.
- **Collaboration:** Partnered with over 30 local artists, facilitating innovative projects and fostering creative growth.

- **Achievements:** Advanced significant initiatives, including laying the groundwork for the Dance Industry Awards, an island-wide dance festival, and Project Fusion, expanding our impact within the arts sector.

Gratitude

Dance Associate would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our programmes during 2023-2024. We are immensely grateful to the artists, staff, audiences, participants, volunteers, partner organisations, clients, suppliers, supporters, and funders who have been integral to our achievements.

Special appreciation goes to the Education Authority Youth Service, whose generous support has underpinned our youth initiatives. We also thank Newry and Mourne Council, the Southern Health & Social Care Trust, and those who contributed through platforms like Easyfundraising.

We would also like to acknowledge our anonymous benefactors, whose quiet generosity enables us to continue creating transformative experiences in dance and the arts. Together, your support empowers us to foster creativity, build community connections, and inspire the next generation of artists.

Your commitment fuels our passion and ensures that Dance Associate continues to thrive as a beacon of artistic expression and community well-being. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

Financial Review

Income and Expenditure

Income for the year ending 5th April 2024 totalled £41,595 (2023: £54,803). Expenditure for the year totalled £46,376 (2023: £82,391), resulting in a deficit of £4,782 (2023: deficit of £27,588).

Dance Associate Ltd received no income grants during the period (2023: 1 grant totalling £4,472; This grant was entirely spent in the relevant period.).

During the year, Dance Associate Ltd did not invest any additional funds into fixed assets (2023: £2,095).

Funds Position

At the end of the period, Dance Associate Ltd.'s reserve balance totalled £5,410 (2023: £10,192). All funds are unrestricted. Of this, Fixed Asset values represented £14,394 (2022: £22,475) leaving a negative Free Reserve balance of £8,983 (2023: negative balance of £12,283).

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy is to hold 3 months' worth of non-variable expenditure as reserves. This expenditure is the unavoidable amounts needed to run the organisation (e.g., rent, utilities, etc). At the end of the period, this amounted to £3,250. Current Free Reserves, at negative £8,983, are below this level. The trustees are pleased with the charity's progress in closing this gap during the period and they continue to focus on bring this back to target over the medium term.

Going Concern

Dance Associate has developed a comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan for 2024–2029, outlining a clear framework for growth, sustainability, and adaptation to the evolving challenges within the arts sector. The plan strategically aligns our artistic, educational, and operational goals while maintaining flexibility to adjust costs in line with income fluctuations.

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Status and Organisation

Dance Associate Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16 April 2012, and registered in Northern Ireland with the registration number NI612228. On 01 April 2019, the company became a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (charity registration number: NIC106918). The company operates under its Articles of Association, adopted on 19 January 2019.

As members of Dance Associate, a representative from our management board is invited to sit on the Dance Associate board. We collaborate closely to promote good governance, adhere to best practices, and facilitate effective communication across the organization. This collaborative effort ensures the commitment and connected partnerships work cohesively to manage the strategic direction for Dance Associate efficiently and effectively.

Board of Trustees

During the reporting period, the following trustees held office:

- Peter Shannon
- Dominic Moore
- Malcolm Dibb
- Victoria Campbell

Management Board

The Management Board consists of four directors responsible for overseeing the Charity's operations. Delegated authority for daily operations rests with Nina Dibb, Executive and Artistic Director, Victoria Campbell as a Youth coordinator, and Vladimir Samsonik as a Marketing support. Together, they manage finances, programming, and the day-to-day running of the organisation.

New trustees undergo a structured induction programme, including guidance on legal obligations, the Charity's governance, and operational processes. This ensures that all trustees are equipped to fulfil their responsibilities effectively. During the 2023-2024 period, no new trustees were appointed.

Related Parties and Co-operation with Other Organisations

None of the Trustees received remuneration or other benefits from their work with the Charity, other than as noted below. Any connection between a director or senior member of the charity with a contracted supplier must be disclosed to the full Management Board in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related party transactions were reported.

Victoria Campbell provided various freelance work for the company, for which Victoria received £6,113 in total during the year.

Risk Management: Addressing Challenges and Securing the Future

The Board of Trustees has undertaken a comprehensive review of the major risks faced by Dance Associate. This diligent assessment encompasses operational, financial, and strategic challenges, with particular attention to funding uncertainties, shifts in the economic climate, and the changing landscape of the arts sector. These risks have been meticulously evaluated to ensure that robust systems and proactive measures are in place to mitigate potential impacts effectively.

To address these challenges, Dance Associate has developed a forward-looking Strategic Plan for 2024–2029. This plan builds on the achievements of the 2019–2024 cycle, during which critical strategic objectives were successfully realised. The new plan outlines a clear roadmap to safeguard the organisation's stability while fostering growth and innovation.

Central to this plan is Dance Associate's unwavering commitment to its artist-led ethos, which prioritises creativity as the driving force behind all programmes and initiatives. By aligning artistic vision with strategic planning, the company ensures that its mission of empowering communities through dance remains at the forefront of its operations.

Recognising the increasingly challenging economic landscape, Dance Associate has set ambitious goals to thrive despite adversity. These include:

Strengthening Organisational Resilience: Maintaining a highly skilled core team to deliver impactful programmes and ensuring financial stability through prudent management.

Expanding Community Reach: Increasing engagement through innovative programming and deepening relationships with local and regional partners.

Enhancing Operational Foundations: Establishing a sustainable foothold for the company and its studios to support long-term growth and creative excellence.

As part of its commitment to good governance, the Board continues to monitor risks regularly, adapting strategies to meet emerging challenges. Dance Associate is poised to navigate uncertainty with a clear focus on sustainability, creativity, and community impact, ensuring that it not only endures but flourishes in the years to come.

Staff: Cultivating Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

Dance Associate Ltd is deeply committed to fostering an inclusive workplace that upholds the principles of equality and diversity. As an equal opportunity's employer, the organisation ensures that its recruitment, employment practices, and overall workplace culture reflect these core values.

Our Equal Opportunities Policy serves as a cornerstone, guiding the organisation in creating a supportive environment that cherishes diversity in all its forms. This policy aligns with the latest equality legislation, ensuring Dance Associate meets its legal obligations while striving to go beyond compliance to actively promote inclusivity.

Dance Associate is particularly committed to identifying and removing barriers for underrepresented groups within the arts sector. While the company seeks to employ individuals with disabilities wherever practical, it acknowledges that, as of the current reporting period, there are no disabled members among its staff. The organisation remains proactive in reviewing its practices and fostering partnerships to increase accessibility and inclusivity.

By embracing diversity, Dance Associate aims to cultivate a workplace that reflects the communities it serves, enriching the creative process and ensuring a vibrant and dynamic organisational culture. As part of this commitment, the Board and leadership team will continue to prioritise inclusivity and equity, embedding these principles across all levels of the organisation.

With prudent financial management, robust reserves, and realistic budget forecasts, the Board is confident in the company's ability to continue its operations effectively. These measures ensure that Dance Associate Ltd remains a going concern, enabling us to fulfil our mission of fostering creativity, community, and artistic excellence. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Fundraising Activities: Sourcing Support with Purpose

Fundraising remains a vital component of Dance Associate operations, enabling the organisation to deliver services that align with its charitable objectives. The company takes a thoughtful and purpose-driven approach to fundraising, focusing on building meaningful connections with supporters through its artistic and community-oriented work.

Unlike organisations that engage external fundraising agencies, Dance Associate opts for a more personal strategy. By cultivating relationships with audiences, participants, and stakeholders, the organisation ensures that its fundraising efforts are authentic and reflective of its mission. This approach not only reinforces the organisation's values but also deepens the trust and engagement of its supporters.

Dance Associate's fundraising efforts include leveraging digital platforms such as Easyfundraising, which allows supporters to contribute while shopping online. Though modest, these contributions represent an essential element of the organisation's ability to sustain and expand its programmes.

Moving forward, the company remains committed to exploring innovative, ethical, and community-focused fundraising strategies. This ensures that every contribution directly supports Dance Associate's mission to foster creativity, inclusivity, and artistic excellence within the community.

Political Donations: A Neutral Stance

Dance Associate upholds its commitment to impartiality and neutrality in all aspects of its operations. Throughout the reporting period, the organisation refrained from making any political donations. This policy ensures that Dance Associate remains steadfastly focused on its core mission of fostering creativity, community engagement, and artistic growth, free from any partisan affiliations or influence.

This neutral stance underscores Dance Associate's dedication to inclusivity and its responsibility to serve a diverse community without bias or political alignment.

Additional Information: Compliant and Approved

This comprehensive report has been meticulously prepared in accordance with the special provisions outlined in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. The Board of Directors, in a session held on the 18th of November 2024, gave their seal of approval to this report.

Signed on Behalf of The Board By:

Name: Peter Shannon

Status: Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Shannon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dance Associate Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106918

Annual return

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities in respect of the Strategic Report, the Directors' Annual Report, and the Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company and charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the excess of expenditure over income for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- 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
- assess the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate and proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking

such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charitable company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In the case of each of the persons who were directors of the company at the date of approval of this directors' report that they confirm, that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

A resolution proposing that Paul Voltzenlogel is re-appointed as Independent Examiners of the Company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Small Company Provisions

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

Independent Examiner's Report to the charity trustees and Directors of Dance Associate Ltd

I report on the accounts of the Dance Associate Ltd for the year ended 5 April 2024, which are set out on pages 21 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

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

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records

3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Voltzenlogel', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

17/12/24

Paul Voltzenlogel

9 Queens Court

Haywards Heath

RH16 1RJ

Dance Associate Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106918

Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 05 April 2023

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Income From Charitable Activities	49,803	5,001	54,803	56,506
Total Income	49,803	5,001	54,803	56,506
Expenditure				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	77,390	5,001	82,391	71,408
Total Expenditure	77,390	5,001	82,391	71,408
Net Movement in Funds	(27,588)	0	(27,588)	(14,902)
Reconciliation of Funds:				
Total Funds Brought Forward	37,780	0	37,780	52,682
Movement in the Year	(27,588)	0	(27,588)	(14,902)
Total Funds Carried Forward	10,192	0	10,192	37,780

Balance Sheet

For the year ending 05 April 2023

	2023	2022
	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	22,475	28,537
Total Fixed Assets	22,475	28,537
Current Assets		
Cash in hand and at bank	479	25,745
Debtors	0	0
Total Current Assets	479	25,745
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3,711	4,256
Net Current Assets / Liabilities	(3,232)	21,489
Total assets less current liabilities	19,244	50,026
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9,051	12,246
Total net assets or liabilities	10,192	37,780
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	10,192	37,780
Restricted funds	0	0
Total funds	10,192	37,780

For the year ending 05 April 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.


The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. The company is a charity for tax purposes in line with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. This took effect from 19/01/2019 and comes under reference number: NI00914.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26/01/2024.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD BY:



 DIRECTOR: Peter Shannon

Dance Associate Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106918

Annual report



DANCE ASSOCIATE LTD

(A private company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital,
and a registered charity)

Registered in Northern Ireland
Charity Registration Number: NIC106918
Company Registration Number: NI612228

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 05 April 2023

Period of Accounts
Start date: 06 April 2022
End date: 05 April 2023

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Introduction

The year 2022-2023 infused Dance Associate with a renewed sense of vitality. Despite the persistent challenges posed by the pandemic and post-pandemic period, our commitment to making a meaningful impact on the lives of our audiences and participants has never been stronger. As Chairperson, I am pleased to share the highlights of our vibrant year.

The revival of main stage performances marked a significant milestone for Dance Associate as we celebrated our 10th anniversary. We proudly presented two performances at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 season: on 16th June at Vault Artistic Studios in Belfast and on 18th June 2022 at Newry Town Hall, featuring the Triple Bill of Chapters. Additionally, participants from the recreational programme, along with the youth group, delivered a memorable performance at the season's end, also at Newry Town Hall.

Dance Associate's role in shaping and leading the dance sector extends from our home in Newry, where performances, training, and open programmes contribute to our ongoing development. We prioritise not only nurturing our own talents but also sharing our expertise across the sector by building networks and disseminating knowledge. In 2022, we curated our inaugural season of professional work, featuring pieces by three independent choreographers supported by the Arts Council NI (ACNI), dedicated to nurturing the development and creativity of emerging choreographers. Furthermore, we celebrated the tenth season of Dance Associate's "Step by Step" project and the second season of the Newry Youth Dance Company, and the "Impact" project, part of which is supported by the Educational Authority NI to deliver youth work alongside with dancing.

A pivotal moment in late 2022 was the approval of Dance Associate by the British multinational publishing and education company "PEARSON" and the Joint Council for Qualifications regulatory body to become an approved centre to deliver BTEC & GCSE qualifications. This milestone enables us to offer accredited training courses, providing opportunities for growth and expansion in the future.

However, Dance Associate has faced financial challenges, posting an operational deficit of £27,558 during the period due to ongoing business interruptions and uncertainty emerging from the pandemic. The increased financial risks, political climate, funding reductions, financial crisis, and a rise in living costs necessitate close monitoring by the Board and management for overall sustainability. It emphasises the importance of self-generated philanthropy and commercial income.

We extend our deepest gratitude for the unwavering support of our donors, the commitment and loyalty of our participants and audiences, and the backing of the Arts Council Northern Ireland, Educational Authority, and local funding bodies and businesses. The financial foundations of Dance Associate are crucial for confident planning, and the Board is dedicated to ensuring financial sustainability for the flourishing artistic journey of the organisation.

Reflecting on the performances of 2022-2023, I am filled with joy and appreciation for the extraordinary value of our work both on stage and in the community. My heartfelt thanks go to our Board of directors/trustees, Dominic Moore, Victoria Campbell, Malcolm Dibb, our indefatigable Artistic Director and Manager at once, Nina Dibb, for their capable and committed leadership. Alongside our remarkable team of teachers united by a common purpose, Dance Associate has made significant progress despite uncertainties, and the future looks exceptionally bright.

We anticipate the Board member's valuable knowledge and wealth of experiences will further contribute to our journey. Gratitude is extended to Victoria Campbell for her time on the Board and her dedicated leadership of the Dance Youth Committee. Special thanks to my fellow Board members for their diligence, commitment, and enthusiasm. As my term on the Board will be coming to an end in 2024, I start to reflect on almost ten years with Dance Associate with immense pride. Being part of this extraordinary organisation has been a privilege that I will forever cherish.

Peter Shannon

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Shannon', written in a cursive style.

Legal and Administrative Information

Directors and Trustees:	Peter Shannon (Chair) Dominic Moore Malcolm Dibb Victoria Campbell
Secretary:	Vladimir Samsonik
Registered Address:	52 Mill Street Newry County Down GB-NIR BT34 1AG
Company Registration Number:	NI612228
Charity Registration Number:	NIC106918
Accountant:	Stuart Davis Consulting Ltd 23 Carnforth Road Heaton Chapel Stockport SK4 5LL
Independent Examiner:	Paul Voltzenlogel 9 Queens Court Haywards Heath RH16 1RJ
Bankers:	HSBC UK 25-29 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FB
Key Management Personnel:	Nina Dibb – Executive & Artistic Director Victoria Campbell - Youth Coordinator Vladimir Samsonik (until January 2023)

Directors' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees (who are also Directors for company law purposes) have pleasure in submitting their Annual Report and financial statements of the company for the year ending 5th April 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

1. Structure, Governance and Management

1.1. Legal Status and Organisation

Dance Associate Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16 April 2012, and registered in Northern Ireland with the registration number NI612228. On 01 April 2019, the company became a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (charity registration number: NIC106918). The company operates under its Articles of Association, adopted on 19 January 2019.

As members of Dance Associate, a representative from our management board is invited to sit on the Dance Associate board. We collaborate closely to promote good governance, adhere to best practices, and facilitate effective communication across the organization. This collaborative effort ensures the commitment and connected partnerships work cohesively to manage the strategic direction for Dance Associate efficiently and effectively.

1.2. Board of Trustees

During the reporting period, the following trustees held office:

- Peter Shannon
- Dominic Moore
- Malcolm Dibb
- Victoria Campbell

1.3. Management Board

There are currently 4 directors on the Management Board.

The Management Board administers the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, Nina Dibb as Executive and Artistic Director, and Vladimir Samsonik as Company Secretary and

Marketing manager jointly have delegated authority from the Management Board for operational matters including finance and management and general day to day operations of the organisation.

New directors/trustees undergo an induction day to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the charity commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the board and the decision-making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. No new directors elected during the 2022 - 2023 period.

1.4. Related Parties and Co-operation with Other Organisations

None of the Directors receives remuneration or other benefits from their work with the Charity. Any connection between a director or senior member of the charity with a contracted supplier must be disclosed to the full Management Board in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related party transactions were reported.

Victoria Campbell and Vladimir Samsonik provided various freelance work for the company, for which Victoria received £5,870, and Vladimir received £1,500, in total during the year.

2. Charitable Purposes

Dance Associate Limited is a voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing social welfare through performing and creative arts for recreation and other leisure activities, with the aim of improving the conditions of life and well-being of the people of Northern Ireland.

The objective is to provide equality of opportunity to those who have otherwise been marginalized from mainstream arts provision. Dance Associate Limited seeks to enhance public knowledge of the cultural and educational value of arts in all their aspects through the management of events for public performance and the showcasing of performing and creative arts.

Dance Associate Limited promotes, maintains, and improves performing and creative arts education, particularly through the production of workshops, performances, and the encouragement of various arts forms, including contemporary dance, drama, mime, singing, and music. This includes the development, preparation, and establishment of projects to:

- Foster, present, organize, manage, and produce accessible high-quality work of cultural and educational value to the public, enhancing knowledge, understanding, and practice of arts in all their aspects.
- Advance and raise the profile of underdeveloped art forms through the promotion of artistic collaborations and fostering partnerships with similar organisations.
- Encourage and stimulate the artistic creativity and awareness of people in the benefit area by providing training, educational resources, and support/opportunities for artistic expression.
- Promote and develop educational and recreational opportunities and resources for the benefit of children, young people, and adults in the area, ensuring equality of opportunity for those otherwise marginalized from mainstream arts provision.
- Provide appropriate quality programmes to ensure the involvement of all ages, including children, young people, and adults.
- Identify and create opportunities for the exchange of skills, resources, and information, undertaking any other activities and projects deemed appropriate.

Dance Associate Ltd is not limited in the art form used by and for people for artistic expression. The organisation aims to encourage appreciation for and participation in the arts by providing educational performing and creative arts projects, information, and training, as well as classes, workshops, arts facilities and equipment, support and instruction, and the organisation of showcases of works and events.

The company's objects ('Objects') are specifically restricted to the following:

To support and develop a vibrant performing and creative arts ecology in Northern Ireland which will encourage people of Northern Ireland of all ages to participate in and appreciate performing arts and introduce people to culture with the objective of improving their conditions of life and well-being and in particular: -

(a) to promote, maintain and improve performing arts education particularly through the production of workshops, performances and the encouragement of the arts including contemporary dance, drama, mime, singing and music

(b) to foster, promote and advance preparation and establishment of projects and events in partnership with similar artistic organisations

(c) to promote education and training in performing and creative arts and related subjects particularly for children, young people, elderly people, and others who, for whatever reason, may be considered excluded from society

(d) to advance performing and creative arts through the provision of training, career advice, coaching and continuing professional development for performing and creative arts practitioners and organisations upon terms appropriate to their means and in such other ways as the directors shall in their absolute discretion determine

(e) to encourage appreciation for and participation in the performing and creative arts in all its aspects through the provision of affordable facilities, resources, training and such other services appropriate for the creation, production, performance and appreciation of the performing and creative art forms; and

(f) to advance and raise the profile of performing and creative art forms through the promotion of artistic collaborations and fostering of partnerships with similar artistic organisations involving activities such as workshops and trips to theatrical performances.

3. Public Benefit Statement

Charity trustees are obligated to formulate strategic plans to guarantee the provision of public benefit and the accomplishment of objectives outlined in our governing document. These objectives align with the purposes stipulated by the Charities Act 2011. When assessing our aims and objectives and planning future activities, we have consulted the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's general guidance on public benefit. Specifically, the trustees evaluate how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have established.

4. Artistic Director's Report

I take immense pride in the collective achievements of the entire Dance Associate team throughout the 2022-2023 season. Despite facing challenges, we consistently delivered a spectacular year of dance experiences to local and distant audiences. As the Executive & Artistic Director, one of my initial and challenging tasks was contributing to the company's first professional work commemorating our 10th anniversary. While this experience proved extraordinary for both our audiences and dancers, balancing the roles of Executive Director and Artistic Director posed significant challenges.

The meticulous management of budgeting, funding applications, and coordination of artists, venues, and dancers, alongside overseeing all projects and programmes, was a resounding success. Performances in Belfast and Newry garnered positive reviews, attesting to the pivotal role of thorough preparation and planning. The initiation of the Triple Bill "Chapters" marked our 10th anniversary, and this professional work received critical acclaim. Gratitude is extended to the Arts Council Northern Ireland for their crucial funding support, making this achievement possible.

In 2022, we maintained our tradition of delivering high-quality dance experiences to our local community and beyond. The Impact Project, a collaborative effort involving Dance Associate in various local settings, celebrated a significant community milestone. Dancers from our youth ensemble, studio classes, cross-border dance students, and the community participated in a creative project that merged art and technology, highlighting the benefits of dance in support of male mental well-being.

The ongoing support from the Arts Council Northern Ireland continues to enhance the cultural life of our community, and we express consistent gratitude for their indispensable assistance. Special thanks are extended to the Arts Council Northern Ireland for their investment in our collaboration with local artists, enabling the commissioning and showcasing of three stunning works by three incredible Northern Ireland-based choreographers.

The realisation of a long-standing dream came to fruition in 2022 as part of the 10th-anniversary celebration. Triple Bill "Chapters," bursting with vitality and impact, featured contemporary dance pieces that spoke to everyone. This marked the company's 10th anniversary and the first year of professional work support. Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, the company successfully brought this thrilling work to life in just two venues –

Newry and Belfast. The performance in Belfast drew a new audience of supporters and media, marking a wonderful welcome back after the pandemic.

"Chapters" was then presented to our home audiences for a season at the Newry Town Hall. In creating "Chapters," I stepped away from the artistic direction, allowing selected choreographers to bring their work without guidance. The dancers, integral to the creative process, breathed life into the choreographers' creative impulses, and I express my gratitude for their generosity and tireless efforts.

The "Chapters" featured three premieres; "Allies" choreographed by Suzannah McCreight, "Hoodies" choreographed by Emily McDonagh, and "Our Boys" choreographed by Michael McEvoy, along with the return of my work "Years" at the Later Stage in December 2022. The success of "Chapters" was made possible by the generosity, creativity, and hard work of our artistic collaborators; composers Brendan Scullion, produced by Eoin Curran, Patrick Knipe, and Nick Boyle, and dancers Patrick Connolly, Adam Ashford, Oisín Dunne, Rhys Devlin, and Sean O'Neill.

Our enduring partnership with local authorities, including the Educational Authority Northern Ireland, has been instrumental in our ongoing operations and artistic endeavours. With their support, we've maintained our connection with the community through community classes and other projects and programmes.

Dance Associate remains devoted to nurturing the next generation of Northern Ireland's talent. It was a thrill to bring the tenth Season to life with three emerging choreographers who explored thought-provoking, challenging, and stimulating themes through their works.

Acknowledging and expressing sincere gratitude to our donors, supporters, and volunteers for their continued support is paramount. Their contributions have enabled the flourishing of our projects and programmes, allowing us to nurture young dancers through programs such as the Newry Youth Dance Company (NYDC), the "Impact" project, and the "Step by Step" programme.

Reflecting on the performances of 2022-2023 fills me with joy and appreciation for the extraordinary value of our work both on stage and in the community. My heartfelt thanks go to our Board of Directors, including the Chair Peter Shannon, for their capable and committed leadership. Alongside our remarkable team of teachers united by a common purpose, Dance Associate has made significant progress despite uncertainties, and the future looks exceptionally bright.

In addition, we took an honest, open, and judgment-free look at some of the biggest challenges facing men today. Despite all pieces being different, they do have one very important factor in common: they are all designed to spark a discussion between male friends and family members and encourage men to share their thoughts and fears relating to everything from financial worries to relationship concerns and mental health battles. The pieces are intended to show that it's OK to talk.

Nina Dibb

Executive & Artistic Director

5. Board's Report

5.1. Achievements in the Year

A Symphony of Creative Expression: Dance Associate's Artistic Odyssey

In the ethereal realm where movement converges with emotion, Dance Associate stands as a luminary, weaving its distinctive approach to performing and creative arts education into the very fabric of the Northern Irish cultural landscape. In the reverberating echoes of a challenging year, Dance Associate resolutely reaffirms its commitment to dance – a profound response that is not just physical but intellectual and sensorial, resonating across diverse audiences from seasoned professionals to the youngest of dreamers and their parents.

A Tapestry of Originality: The Dance Chronicles

As the curtain rises on Dance Associate's latest chapter, the company has unfurled a tapestry of original performance works, meticulously tailored for diverse venues and the enchanting embrace of site-specific settings. The magic doesn't merely unfold within the confines of the professional dance realm; it spills beyond, guided by seasoned artists who lead participants on a journey across various styles. From the poignant grace of 'Allies' to the rhythmical exploration of societal pressures in 'Hoodies' and the profound dive into men's mental health in 'Our Boys,' the 'Chapters' initiative is an opulent symphony of creativity.

Cultural Alchemy: Engaging the Heartlands

Dance Associate's influence extends like tendrils across the Newry, Mourne, and Down area, casting a spell that dances its way into the very soul of Northern Ireland and the border areas with the Republic of Ireland. Regular dance classes, workshops, performances, and events become threads woven into the societal tapestry, enhancing the very conditions of life and well-being for participants.

Innovative Pioneering: A Dance in Every Step

Anchored by flagship programmes like "Open Space" and "Step by Step Club," Dance Associate strides as a pioneer, engaging over 830 participants and more than 30 local artists. This is not merely a dance; it is a narrative written across the ages, spanning from the innocent age of 3 to the seasoned wisdom of 75, echoing across the verdant island of Ireland.

Eternal Commitment: The Dance of Continuity

Remaining unwavering in its commitment, Dance Associate continues to develop and deliver programmes that resonate with its artistic vision and the successful artist-led company strategy. The mission is to sculpt high-quality programmes and projects for the public of Northern Ireland, nurturing both established and emerging artists, and captivating wider audiences.

Highlights of a Dance Associate Symphony: 2022-2023

5.2 Production, Performance & Touring

The "Open Space" concept, a canvas for diverse arts, saw the emergence of new works, including dance, singing, photography, fine art, and craft. The magnum opus, "Chapters," commissioned by Dance Associate and supported by Arts Council NI, unfurled its brilliance through three premieres – 'Allies,' 'Hoodies,' and 'Our Boys.'

5.3 Participation & Outreach

The dance studios transformed into a sanctuary, vibrant with classes and events guided by freelance artists. The outreach partnership programme, Neighbourhood Renewal Rural Communities, served as a beacon of support, resonating with the triumph of the Summer Scheme in 2022, supported by the Newry and Mourne Council and the Southern Health & Social Care Trust, Newry. Dance Associate's Summer Scheme achieved even greater success in 2022.

5.4 Artistic Development

The "Step by Step Club" project, a journey into movement and choreographic exploration, led by artistic luminaries, provided a canvas for participants to paint their dance. Graduates found career development opportunities, and local artists found a haven in Dance Associate's embrace.

New movement and choreographic research/training as part of the "Step by Step Club" project led by various artists including Nina Dibb, Nicole Clinton, Rebekah Doyle in partnership with local communities – giving the opportunity to the participants to explore the body movement in their own choreographic process.

Graduates - placement career development opportunities including work placements from local schools, colleges, and national universities.

Dance Associate supported a range of local artists in dance, fine art and photography and videography projects providing them with the space and equipment hire in kind – building strong relationships for the future.

5.5 Studio Programmes & Workshops

The Company's regular class programmes and workshops including projects; "Step by Step", "Open Space" and "Dance Impact" attracted an entry of 67 new participants from September 2022.

Dance became a language spoken by all, with regular class programmes and workshops, attracting new participants and delivering over 600 hours of diverse classes. From acrobatic arts to ballet, the studios echoed with the joyous rhythm of creative expression.

In this symphony of artistic expression, Dance Associate emerges not just as a company but as a cultural conductor, orchestrating a harmonious blend of creativity, community, and continuous evolution. The stages it graces become more than platforms; they are portals into a world where every step is a dance, and every dance is a celebration of life's boundless beauty.

Delivered over 20 hours of free dance classes and workshops to the public including children, young people, and adults; in contemporary dance, creative movement, ballroom styles experience for adults, belly dance, yoga, Pilates, jazz, line dancing and salsa classes.

Presented art exhibitions and window displays created by our participants and teachers.

In-Studio Euphoria: Connecting Lives Through Dance

Within the sacred confines of our in-studio classes, Dance Associate crafted an environment where people from all walks of life found connection. It was more than just a dance class; it was an invitation to be part of a community that nurtures physical activity, fosters skill development, and champions social well-being. Participants not only learned the language of dance but also became the living notes in the ever-evolving symphony of Dance Associate.

Throughout the year, our studios pulsed with the joyous rhythm of diverse classes. From acrobatic arts to ballet, musical theatre to singing, acting, and more, each class became a chapter in the unfolding story of creative expression. Here, amidst the mirrored walls and reverberating beats, individuals found not just an instructor but a guide, not just steps but a journey, and not just a dance but a celebration of the multifaceted beauty of life.

5.6 Nurturing Artistic Expression and Community Support

With a quarter of our income derived from philanthropic support, Dance Associate's partners play a pivotal role in our ability to deliver exceptional contemporary dance experiences. The generosity of individuals and foundations, channelled through our annual Programme and

targeted funds, forms the lifeblood of our artistic essence. These contributions empower us to create and commission new works, taking our creations on tour across the UK and investing in the future of our art form through education, outreach, and training opportunities for emerging dancers.

In the face of challenges posed by Omicron and intermittent public health restrictions, our team adeptly seized in-season opportunities to reconnect with our devoted supporters as they resumed attending live performances.

Every year, we warmly invite our donor families, local business and friends to witness rehearsals at our studios in the lead-up to our seasons. These exclusive visits offer a unique insight into our creative process, allowing donors to immerse themselves in the studio space and witness the magic of our dancers in action. In a delightful deviation, 2022-2023 saw us hosting these special events in our studios for the first time, providing supporters with an intimate look into the development of work for the new project “Newry Youth Dance Company”. Virtual livestream connections also allowed us to bridge distances and connect with supporters worldwide.

A crowning achievement for our team, alongside the Board, and freelance artists, was the unveiling of the Arts Council NI Commissioning Fund. The funds that we dedicated to nurturing creativity by specifically supporting the commissioning of new choreography, music, costume, and design.

This support enabled us to commission and showcase new works “Chapters” by esteemed choreographers Suzannah McCreight (“Allies”), Emily McDonagh (“Hoodies”), and Michael McEvoy (“Our Boys”). We were thrilled to collaborate with composers Brendan Scullion, produced by Eoin Curran, Patrick Knipe, and Nick Boyle, and dancers Patrick Connolly, Adam Ashford, Oisín Dunne, Rhys Devlin, and Sean O’Neill.

Our Dancer’s circle stands as a pillar supporting the growth and development of our youth ensemble dancers, offering a holistic framework encompassing artistic, physical, and mental health support.

While on working on “Chapters”, we shared backstage fun, curtain call videos, and stories from the road, emphasising the importance of staying connected with our audiences.

Your message is heartfelt and appreciative. Here's a refined version:

We express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has shown dedication and commitment. Our deepest gratitude goes out to all our Partners for their generous support. Special recognition is extended to those who have chosen to remain anonymous, as their invaluable contributions empower Dance Associate to persist in creating, inspiring, and exploring new horizons in contemporary dance. Without your steadfast support, none of our achievements would be attainable!

6. Financial Review

6.1. Income and Expenditure

Income for the year ending 5th April 2023 totalled £54,803 (2022: £56,506). Expenditure for the year totalled £82,391 (2022: £71,408), resulting in a deficit of £27,588 (2022: deficit of £14,902).

Dance Associate Ltd received restricted income grants from 1 sources in 2023 totalling £5,001 (2022: £22,876). This grant was entirely spent in the period.

During the year, Dance Associate Ltd invested £2,095 (2022: £3,143) in fixed assets relating to the renovation of the premises and equipment. These investments have been classed as fixed asset additions and only included in the above expenditure figure as far as they have been depreciated.

6.2. Funds Position

At the end of the period, Dance Associate Ltd.'s reserve balance totalled £10,192 (2022: £37,780). All funds are unrestricted. Of this, Fixed Asset values represented £22,475 (2022: £28,537) leaving a negative Free Reserve balance of £12,283 (2022: positive balance of £9,243).

Restricted funds were fully spent in the year, leaving a restricted fund reserve of £Nil (2022: £Nil).

6.3. Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy is to hold 3 months' worth of non-variable expenditure as reserves. This expenditure is the unavoidable amounts needed to run the organisation (e.g., rent, utilities, etc). At the end of the period, this amounted to £3,230. Current Free Reserves, at negative £12,283, are below this level. The trustees continue to focus on bring this back to target over the medium term.

7. Risk Management - Navigating the Rhythms of Uncertainty

The Board, in its diligent stewardship, has conducted a thorough assessment of the major risks to which Dance Associate is exposed. These risks encompass both operational and financial facets of the Company, and the Board is content that robust systems are in place to effectively mitigate these exposures. With an eye on the horizon, Dance Associate has meticulously crafted a business plan for the fiscal year 2022-2023. This plan meticulously follows the strategic development blueprint laid out for the period spanning 2020-2025, a roadmap that seeks to amplify the triumphs of preceding planning epochs.

Bolstered by the realisation of key strategic objectives, the company remains unwaveringly committed to its artist-led ethos. In the face of an increasingly challenging economic landscape, the aim is not only to sustain but also to thrive. The ambition extends to expanding the team and establishing a firm foothold for the company and its studios.

8. Staff - Cultivating Diversity and Equality

Dance Associate proudly upholds the principles of equality and diversity as an equal opportunities' employer. Our equal opportunities policy is a beacon, guiding our commitment to fostering a workplace that cherishes diversity in all its forms. Aligned with equality legislation, the policy forms the bedrock of our approach to recruitment and employment practices.

While our overarching company policy is to embrace the employment of disabled persons wherever practical, it's worth noting that, as of the current reporting period, Dance Associate does not currently have any disabled members among its staff.

9. Fundraising Activities - Sourcing Support with Purpose

Dance Associate's fundraising activities are intricately woven into the provision of services aligned with its charitable objectives. Unlike some entities, Dance Associate opts not to enlist the services of external fundraising agencies. Instead, the company relies on the meaningful connections forged through its artistic endeavours to garner the support necessary for its continued growth and impact.

10. Political Donations - A Neutral Stance

Throughout the reporting period, Dance Associate maintained a neutral stance on political donations. No contributions were made in the form of political donations, ensuring that the company remains focused on its core mission and objectives without engaging in partisan affiliations.

11. Additional Information - Compliant and Approved

This comprehensive report has been meticulously prepared in accordance with the special provisions outlined in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006. The Board of Directors, in a session held on the 26th of January 2024, gave their seal of approval to this report. Signed on Behalf of The Board By:

Name: Peter Shannon

Status: Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Shannon', with a large, stylized initial 'P' and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dance Associate Ltd

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106918

Annual return

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities in respect of the Strategic Report, the Directors' Annual Report, and the Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company and charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the excess of expenditure over income for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- 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
- assess the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate and proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charitable company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In the case of each of the persons who were directors of the company at the date of approval of this directors' report that they confirm, that, as far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

A resolution proposing that Paul Voltzenlogel be re-appointed as Independent Examiners of the Company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Small Company Provisions

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

Independent Examiner's Report

to the charity trustees and Directors of Dance Associate Ltd

I report on the accounts of the Dance Associate Ltd for the year ended 5 April 2023, which are set out on pages 21 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

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

Independent examiner's statement

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



Paul Voltzenlogel
9 Queens Court
Haywards Heath
RH16 1RJ

27/1/24