

EastSide Arts

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107782

Details

Status Received

Company number [628773](#)

Registered 2020-09-07

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

Contact

Address Avalon House
278-280 Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 1he
BT4 1HE

Phone 02890451900

Email eastsidearts@eastsidepartnership.com

Website www.eastsidearts.net

Activities

Purposes: To advance education, to promote the arts, heritage and culture and to promote the benefit of the people of East Belfast and its environs of Greater Belfast (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants and in particular: a) to encourage appreciation for and active participation in community based visual and performing arts including music, visual art, comedy, theatre, film and literature b) to encourage appreciation of the arts and stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area of benefit and to produce performances and exhibitions of works of cultural and educational value including entertainments and exhibitions c) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the directors may, from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

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

How the charity works: Arts,Community development,Cultural

Who the charity helps: General public,Voluntary and community sector

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£333,211	£317,350	£-25,070	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Marcus Hunter-Neill		
Miss Colette Lydon		
Mr John Mcgrath		
Mrs Judith Millar		
Mrs Judith Sialianskaia		
Ms Rachael Davison		

EastSide Arts

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107782

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI628773
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 107782

EastSide Arts
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2025

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent auditor's report to the members	9
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	15
Statement of financial position	16
Notes to the financial statements	17

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	EastSide Arts
Charity registration number	107782
Company registration number	NI628773
Principal office and registered office	Avalon House 278-280 Newtonards Road Belfast BT4 1HE Antrim

The trustees

F Bell	(Resigned 19 August 2025)
R Davison	
M Turtle	(Resigned 16 April 2024)
E McCracken	(Resigned 17 October 2025)
J McGrath	
M Neill	
J Sialianskaia	
C Lydon	(Appointed 30 October 2024)
J Millar	

Company secretary Tony Wilson

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Solicitors Hewitt and Gilpin
8 High Street
Holywood
Co. Down
BT18 9AZ

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

EastSide Arts is a company limited by guarantee and is a charity recognised by the Charity Commission for NI. It is a not for profit organisation.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Appointment of trustees

The Chairperson and the trustees recommend new trustees as needed. New trustees are recruited on the relevance of their skills, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity. As part of this process they are made aware of a trustee's legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Once the potential new trustee has agreed to be considered for appointment they can be co-opted by the directors until formal voting by members occurs at the next Annual General Meeting.

Trustee induction and training

A trustee induction process is in place for all group companies.

Organisation structure and how charity makes decisions

EastSide Arts is governed by the board of directors. The company is managed on a day to day basis by a senior management team.

The board of directors meets quarterly, and is appointed by the members at the AGM.

A senior management team manages the day to day activities of the company, and reports on company performance to all board meetings.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The directors consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 14 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is set by reference to external guidance and utilisation of pay scales. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other similar size charities run on a voluntary basis when appointing new members of key management

Relationships with related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Risk management

The company aims to mitigate the major risks it faces by implementation of the following procedures:-

- Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which clearly identifies funding requirements going forward; and
- Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions with a financial implication.

Directors

The directors serving during the year were as follows:-

F Bell
R Davison
E McCracken
J McGrath
M Neill
J Sialianskaia
M Turtle

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

EastSide Arts seeks to create an east Belfast that is a thriving cultural hub; where the arts are valued, creativity is for everyone and people are connected with each other and the wider world.

EastSide Arts is one of the 5 specific projects identified by EastSide Partnership, a regeneration charity, to be delivered via subsidiary companies or project committees. EastSide Arts works within this context to challenge barriers to participation and demonstrate that the arts and creativity are for everyone, bringing regeneration to the east of the city through creative engagement.

In terms of external strategic context, the company works within the strategic service delivery and funding context of the Programme for Government and Belfast Agenda. We are a key partner in delivering the strategic objectives of our core funders, the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI) who is our principal funder; Belfast City Council, specifically the Belfast Agenda and 10-year Cultural Strategy, *A City Imagining*; and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation with whom we have 4-year funding to deliver the Creative Citizens project (2023-2026).

Within the overall Programme for Government, EastSide Arts is most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential; and Outcome 9: We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity.

Within Belfast City Council's Belfast Agenda we are most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city; and Outcome 2: Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all.

EastSide Arts is proud to be part of the cultural landscape of Belfast, contributing to the growth and development of the Arts Sector in Northern Ireland.

The company employed 3 full time members of staff during the course of the year.

Charitable Purpose

The purpose of EastSide Arts, as expressed in its objects is to: advance education, to promote the arts, heritage and culture and to promote the benefit of the people of East Belfast and its environs of Greater Belfast without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants and in particular:

- a) to encourage appreciation for and active participation in community based visual and performing arts including music, visual art, comedy, theatre, film and literature
- b) to encourage appreciation of the arts and stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area of benefit and to produce performances and exhibitions of works of cultural and educational value including entertainments and exhibitions
- c) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the directors may, from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

Achievements and performance

Public benefit report

The 2024-2025 year has been one of both consolidation and evolution for EastSide Arts. Building on the momentum of previous years, the organisation has continued to deliver a diverse and inclusive programme of arts and cultural activity across east Belfast. This year's work has been shaped by strategic research, community engagement, and a commitment to supporting artists and audiences alike.

Programme Delivery and Impact

The EastSide Arts Festival 2024 was a central highlight of the year, running from 25 July to 4 August. The festival featured 73 unique events and 61 shows across 32 venues, showcasing the work of over 200 artists. With an audience of over 10,000 and more than 1,300 participants, the festival demonstrated strong engagement and continued growth. Notably, the festival introduced British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation for the first time, enhancing accessibility and inclusion. This included a dedicated strand of programming for deaf audiences, developed in collaboration with deaf artist and activist Paula Clarke.

A standout production was "Three Pay Days" by Alice Malseed, a play exploring poverty in east Belfast, which was commissioned in 2023 and fully produced by Kabosh Theatre Company in 2024. The production reached hundreds of audience members and participants, and exemplified the festival's commitment to authentic storytelling and legacy-building.

Operationally, the recruitment of six freelance Front of House Managers, each a creative practitioner, proved invaluable. Their presence allowed core staff to focus on broader festival logistics while ensuring a welcoming and professional experience for attendees. The festival launch at Templemore Baths, attended by sector leaders and the Lord Mayor, generated strong media engagement and set the tone for a successful season.

Beyond the festival, EastSide Arts delivered its year-round Creative Citizens programme, which encompasses three key strands: Artist Support Programme (ASP), More for More, and Creative

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Communities. The ASP launched in April with 24 participating artists-affectionately known as "Good Eggs." The programme offered training in creative facilitation through ENHANCE and UNDERSTAND sessions, covering topics such as LGBTQIA+ awareness, neurodiversity, and trauma-informed practice. Monthly SHARE sessions provided networking and skill-sharing opportunities, though attendance varied, prompting reflection on the potential for online alternatives.

The More for More strand included initiatives like the EastSide Choir and FunKademy, which provided creative activities for summer schemes. One notable change was the discontinuation of the Big Kids' Society monthly events. While popular, these events did not align with the programme's goal of engaging working-class communities and non-traditional audiences. This decision reflects EastSide Arts' commitment to strategic alignment and meaningful impact.

Creative Communities, the third strand, is still in its early stages. Collaborations with EastSide Learning (ESL) have begun to shape pilot programmes in early years creative engagement and creative careers. Workshops with early learning practitioners revealed a strong interest in integrating creativity into child development, particularly in speech and language therapy. Plans are underway to roll out a pilot programme in four early learning centres, with academic involvement to ensure robust evaluation. Similarly, the Creative Careers initiative aims to address the lack of awareness about creative industry opportunities among young people, with a presentation planned for Careers Week in March 2025.

Strategic Development and Governance

This year marked significant progress in organisational transformation. The EastSide Arts board adopted new objectives mid-year, focusing on artist support, diverse creative opportunities, activation of non-traditional spaces, and strong governance. These objectives align with the broader EastSide Partnership strategy for 2024-2030, ensuring coherence across the organisation's work. Governance developments included the resignation of both the Creative Engagement Officer and the Manager during the final quarter. The board responded by reviewing and updating job descriptions, with recruitment underway in March 2025. Interviews are scheduled for April, and it is anticipated that both posts will be filled early in the next financial year. Despite these transitions, the board remained actively engaged, contributing to strategic planning and supporting the development of the 2025/26 Business Plan, which was approved in February.

Learning and Reflection

One of the most valuable insights from this year has been the strong demand for artists trained through the ASP. Local organisations frequently request referrals, validating the programme's goal of embedding artists within the community. This demand has encouraged EastSide Arts to consider creating a public database of ASP alumni, which will enhance visibility and access to creative talent. The organisation also learned from the varied attendance at SHARE sessions, prompting consideration of more flexible delivery formats. Additionally, the decision to discontinue the Big Kids' Society events highlighted the importance of aligning programming with strategic priorities and target audiences. Evaluation has been a key focus, with the implementation of a framework developed by Smith & Kent. This has enabled EastSide Arts to measure impact more effectively and refine its approach based on data and feedback. The research conducted by Smith & Kent also informed the development of the Creative Citizens programme, helping to identify key areas of engagement and guiding the organisation's outreach efforts.

Looking Ahead

EastSide Arts is preparing for another exciting year, with the 2025 EastSide Arts Festival scheduled for 24 July to 2 August. Recruitment for the second cohort of Good Eggs is complete, and the Future

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Parade programme with Macnas will begin in Q1 of 2025/26, engaging young people from east and west Belfast in a collaborative design process. Through staffing transitions, EastSide Arts remains committed to its mission of increasing engagement in the arts and contributing to a more inclusive and accessible cultural sector in east Belfast. The year ahead promises continued growth, innovation, and meaningful connection with artists and audiences alike.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in detail on pages 15 & 16. The company returned a surplus for the year of £15,861 (2024:£50,327).

At 31 March 2025, the total funds of the charity amounted to £217,478 (2024: £201,617), comprising restricted funds of £134,815 (2024: £125,867) and unrestricted funds of £82,663 (2024: £75,750).

The unrestricted funds are essential to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity in the event that current levels of income are not maintained.

Reserves policy and going concern

A policy has been implemented by the company in order to recognise the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed should equate to between 25% and 50% of annual administration overheads. The aim is to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise, as well as allowing for the payment of any liabilities which would arise should the company cease to operate. The company recognises that such targets may remain aspirational.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 11 December 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Tony Wilson
Charity Secretary

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts

Year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of EastSide Arts (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standard for Auditors', in the circumstances set out in note 21 to the financial statements.

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 12), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standard for Auditors', in the circumstances set out in note 21 to the financial statements.

Use of our report

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



Paul Dolan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

11 December 2025

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds	2025 Restricted funds	Total funds	2024 Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	9,516	–	9,516	11,987
Charitable activities	6	65,760	257,088	322,848	353,123
Investment income	7	847	–	847	–
Total income		<u>76,123</u>	<u>257,088</u>	<u>333,211</u>	<u>365,110</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	69,210	248,140	317,350	314,783
Total expenditure		<u>69,210</u>	<u>248,140</u>	<u>317,350</u>	<u>314,783</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>6,913</u>	<u>8,948</u>	<u>15,861</u>	<u>50,327</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		75,750	125,867	201,617	151,290
Total funds carried forward		<u>82,663</u>	<u>134,815</u>	<u>217,478</u>	<u>201,617</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

EastSide Arts

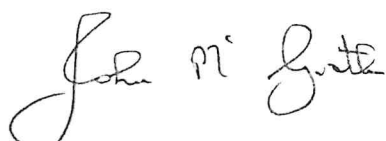
Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	15	8,111	16,223
Current assets			
Debtors	16	6,087	48,784
Cash at bank and in hand		228,350	149,471
		<u>234,437</u>	<u>198,255</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>25,070</u>	<u>12,861</u>
Net current assets		<u>209,367</u>	<u>185,394</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>217,478</u>	<u>201,617</u>
Net assets		<u>217,478</u>	<u>201,617</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		134,815	125,867
Unrestricted funds		<u>82,663</u>	<u>75,750</u>
Total charity funds	19	<u>217,478</u>	<u>201,617</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 11 December 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:


JOHN McGRATH

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Avalon House, 278-280 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1HE, Co. Antrim.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 33% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations				
Donations	16	16	987	987
Sponsorship				
Sponsorship	9,500	9,500	11,000	11,000
	<u>9,516</u>	<u>9,516</u>	<u>11,987</u>	<u>11,987</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Sale of tickets/merchandise as part of direct charitable activities	65,760	–	65,760
Belfast City Council	–	50,890	50,890
Arts Council NI	–	91,560	91,560
Other Funders	–	4,600	4,600
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	–	79,000	79,000
Halifax Foundation	–	–	–
Department for Communities	–	21,038	21,038
National Lottery Awards for all	–	10,000	10,000
	<u>65,760</u>	<u>257,088</u>	<u>322,848</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Sale of tickets/merchandise as part of direct charitable activities	70,542	–	70,542
Belfast City Council	–	72,000	72,000
Arts Council NI	–	95,993	95,993
Other Funders	–	–	–
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	–	79,000	79,000
Halifax Foundation	–	4,315	4,315
Department for Communities	–	21,273	21,273
National Lottery Awards for all	–	10,000	10,000
	<u>70,542</u>	<u>282,581</u>	<u>353,123</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank interest received	847	847	–	–
	<u>847</u>	<u>847</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Promotion of the Arts	49,601	237,935	287,536
Support costs	19,609	10,205	29,814
	<u>69,210</u>	<u>248,140</u>	<u>317,350</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Promotion of the Arts	74,456	215,251	289,707
Support costs	–	25,076	25,076
	<u>74,456</u>	<u>240,327</u>	<u>314,783</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2025 £	Total fund 2024 £
Promotion of the Arts	287,536	28,022	315,558	313,101
Governance costs	–	1,792	1,792	1,682
	<u>287,536</u>	<u>29,814</u>	<u>317,350</u>	<u>314,783</u>

10. Analysis of support costs

	Promotion of the Arts £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	10,734	10,734	7,524
Premises	17,288	17,288	15,870
Governance costs	1,792	1,792	1,682
	<u>29,814</u>	<u>29,814</u>	<u>25,076</u>

11. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>8,112</u>	<u>8,377</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

12. Auditors remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>1,722</u>	<u>1,460</u>

13. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	108,728	111,754
Social security costs	9,792	10,098
Employer contributions to pension plans	<u>7,209</u>	<u>7,538</u>
	<u>125,729</u>	<u>129,390</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 3 (2024: 3).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2024: £Nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplies to the charity (2024: £Nil).

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>48,451</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2024	32,228
Charge for the year	<u>8,112</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>40,340</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	<u>8,111</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>16,223</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

16. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	400	–
Amounts owed by group undertakings	330	37,896
Prepayments and accrued income	5,357	10,888
	<u>6,087</u>	<u>48,784</u>

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,154	8,368
Amounts owed to group undertakings	16,194	3,033
Accruals and deferred income	1,722	1,460
	<u>25,070</u>	<u>12,861</u>

18. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £7,209 (2024: £7,538).

19. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At			At 31
	1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	March 2025
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>75,750</u>	<u>76,123</u>	<u>(69,210)</u>	<u>82,663</u>

	At			At 31
	1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	March 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>67,677</u>	<u>82,529</u>	<u>(74,456)</u>	<u>75,750</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

19. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
DfC Social Enterprise Fund	360	–	–	360
Arts Council NI Core	–	90,197	(90,197)	–
BCC CMAG	–	45,000	(45,000)	–
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	94,548	79,000	(56,497)	117,051
Belfast Harbour Festival Fun Day	302	–	–	302
Halifax Foundation	–	–	–	–
Dep't for Communities	9,751	21,038	(25,118)	5,671
ACNI Commissioning Grant	–	–	–	–
Esme Mitchell Trust	3,000	1,000	(1,000)	3,000
National Lottery Awards for all Department of Foreign Affairs :	320	10,000	(10,000)	320
Reconciliation Fund	–	–	–	–
BCC Belfast 2024	–	–	–	–
BCC Big Screen	16,223	–	(8,112)	8,111
ACNI Commissioning 2024	1,363	1,363	(2,726)	–
BCC Go - Succeed	–	3,990	(3,990)	–
BCC Participatory Budgeting	–	1,900	(1,900)	–
Noel Coward Foundation	–	3,600	(3,600)	–
	<u>125,867</u>	<u>257,088</u>	<u>(248,140)</u>	<u>134,815</u>

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
DfC Social Enterprise Fund	360	–	–	360
Arts Council NI Core	–	91,575	(91,575)	–
BCC CMAG	–	45,000	(45,000)	–
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	69,017	79,000	(53,469)	94,548
Belfast Harbour Festival Fun Day	302	–	–	302
Halifax Foundation	–	4,315	(4,315)	–
Dep't for Communities	7,587	21,273	(19,109)	9,751
ACNI Commissioning Grant	–	3,055	(3,055)	–
Esme Mitchell Trust	3,000	–	–	3,000
National Lottery Awards for all Department of Foreign Affairs :	–	10,000	(9,680)	320
Reconciliation Fund	3,347	–	(3,347)	–
BCC Belfast 2024	–	2,000	(2,000)	–
BCC Big Screen	–	25,000	(8,777)	16,223
ACNI Commissioning 2024	–	1,363	–	1,363
BCC Go - Succeed	–	–	–	–
BCC Participatory Budgeting	–	–	–	–
Noel Coward Foundation	–	–	–	–
	<u>83,613</u>	<u>282,581</u>	<u>(240,327)</u>	<u>125,867</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	–	8,111	8,111
Current assets	104,358	130,079	234,437
Creditors less than 1 year	(21,695)	(3,375)	(25,070)
Net assets	<u>82,663</u>	<u>134,815</u>	<u>217,478</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	–	16,223	16,223
Current assets	80,068	118,187	198,255
Creditors less than 1 year	(4,318)	(8,543)	(12,861)
Net assets	<u>75,750</u>	<u>125,867</u>	<u>201,617</u>

21. Ethical standards

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

22. Taxation

The Company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to tax exemptions on income and profits in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

23. Contingencies

A contingent liability exists to repay grants and Trust monies received should certain conditions not be fulfilled by the charity. In the opinion of the Trustees, the terms of the Letters of Offers have been, or will be, complied with and no liability is expected.

24. Related parties

During the year Mark Neill, a trustee of Eastside Arts, was paid £1,150 for artist fees at the Eastside Arts Festival. No amounts are outstanding regarding this transaction at 31st March 2025.

The company has taken exemption from disclosing related party transactions with other group entities under section 33 of FRS102.

EastSide Arts

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107782

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI628773
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 107782

EastSide Arts
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2024

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent auditor's report to the members	14
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	20
Statement of financial position	21
Notes to the financial statements	22

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

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

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name EastSide Arts

Charity registration number 107782

Company registration number NI628773

Principal office and registered office Avalon House
278-280 Newtonards Road
Belfast
BT4 1HE
Antrim

The trustees

F Bell
R Davison
M Turtle (Resigned 16 April 2024)
E McCracken (Appointed 4 July 2023)
J McGrath (Appointed 4 July 2023)
M Neill (Appointed 4 July 2023)
J Sialianskaia (Appointed 4 July 2023)

Company secretary Tony Wilson

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Solicitors Hewitt and Gilpin
8 High Street
Holywood
Co. Down
BT18 9AZ

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

EastSide Arts is a company limited by guarantee and is a charity recognised by the Charity Commission for NI. It is a not for profit organisation.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Appointment of trustees

The Chairperson and the trustees recommend new trustees as needed. New trustees are recruited on the relevance of their skills, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity. As part of this process they are made aware of a trustee's legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Once the potential new trustee has agreed to be considered for appointment they can be co-opted by the directors until formal voting by members occurs at the next Annual General Meeting.

Trustee induction and training

A trustee induction process is in place for all group companies.

Organisation structure and how charity makes decisions

EastSide Arts is governed by the board of directors. The company is managed on a day to day basis by a senior management team.

The board of directors meets quarterly, and is appointed by the members at the AGM.

A senior management team manages the day to day activities of the company, and reports on company performance to all board meetings.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The directors consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 13 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is set by reference to NICVA guidance and utilisation of NJC pay scales. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other similar sized charities run on a voluntary basis when appointing new members of key management.

Relationships with related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Risk management

The company aims to mitigate the major risks it faces by implementation of the following procedures:-

- Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which clearly identifies funding requirements going forward; and
- Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions with a financial implication.

Directors

The directors serving during the year were as follows:-

F Bell
R Davison
E McCracken
J McGrath
M Neill
J Sialianskaia
M Turtle

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

EastSide Arts seeks to create an east Belfast that is a thriving cultural hub; where the arts are valued, creativity is for everyone and people are connected with each other and the wider world.

EastSide Arts is one of the 5 specific projects identified by EastSide Partnership, a regeneration charity, to be delivered via subsidiary companies or project committees during 2021-2024. EastSide Arts works within this context to challenge barriers to participation and demonstrate that the arts and creativity are for everyone, bringing regeneration to the east of the city through creative engagement.

In terms of external strategic context, the company works within the strategic service delivery and funding context of the Programme for Government and Belfast Agenda. We are a key partner in delivering the strategic objectives of our core funders, the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI) who is our principal funder; Belfast City Council, specifically the Belfast Agenda and 10-year Cultural Strategy, *A City Imagining*; and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation with whom we have 4-year funding to deliver the Creative Citizens project (2023-2026).

Within the overall Programme for Government, EastSide Arts is most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: *We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential*; and Outcome 9: *We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity*.

Within Belfast City Council's Belfast Agenda we are most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city; and Outcome 2: Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all.

EastSide Arts is proud to be part of the cultural landscape of Belfast, contributing to the growth and development of the Arts Sector in Northern Ireland.

The company employed 3 full time members of staff during the course of the year.

Charitable Purpose

The purpose of EastSide Arts, as expressed in its objects is to: advance education, to promote the arts, heritage and culture and to promote the benefit of the people of East Belfast and its environs of Greater Belfast without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants and in particular:

a) to encourage appreciation for and active participation in community based visual and performing arts including music, visual art, comedy, theatre, film and literature

b) to encourage appreciation of the arts and stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area of benefit and to produce performances and exhibitions of works of cultural and educational value including entertainments and exhibitions

c) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the directors may, from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

Achievements and performance

Public benefit report

From our company objects flow our organisational purpose which is "to create an east Belfast that is a thriving cultural hub; where the arts are valued, creativity is for everyone and people are connected with each other and the wider world." The different elements within our purpose are further broken down into four Strategic Objectives as follows -

1. To improve equity of opportunity for people in east Belfast to engage with creative activities
2. To create a variety of meaningful, open and inclusive opportunities for people in east Belfast to explore creativity and connect with others
3. To celebrate the past, present and future of east Belfast;
4. To develop relationships that ensure the long-term stability of EastSide Arts and create investment in the arts in east Belfast

During 2023/24 we worked towards achieving our objectives in the following ways:

Objective 1: To improve equity of opportunity for people in east Belfast to engage with creative activities

We have been developing our community engagement practice since EastSide Arts was formed in 2016, and concluded that in order to provide more equitable access to the arts and creativity in east Belfast, we needed more information about the residents of this part of the city. We made an ambitious application to the Paul Hamlyn Fund for 4-year funding in 2022 and were awarded a 4-year grant of £317K for the '**Creative Citizens**' project in November of that year. This programme aims to increase the engagement in and impact of arts and creativity across east Belfast by non-traditional arts audiences by increasing equity of access for everyone.

The first phase of the project was the Cultural Research and Engagement Tender which was awarded to Smith and Kent Consulting in June 2023. Over the period of 9 months they were asked to:

- Create an asset map of the cultural, geographic, economic, social and sectoral assets of east

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Belfast

- Create a report detailing who and why people engage, and don't engage, in culture and the arts in east Belfast
- Create an Impact Evaluation Framework for the 4-year project
- Identification of a group of Delivery Partners interested in co-designing pilot creative programmes
- Development and facilitation of a network of Research Partners who are interested in cultural regeneration and community engagement

In service of these goals, Smith and Kent:

- Mapped over 200 assets in East Belfast
- Spoke to 871 individuals across 87 engagement sessions which took place in shopping centres, shops, cafes, a hairdresser, a leisure centre, parks, festivals, family fun days, pubs, social clubs, sports clubs, churches, community centres and more.
- Ran a social media campaign asking people what creative pastimes they enjoyed which received 182 social media responses #ItsAllGoneEast

Key points that we heard and learned from the research:

- People are generally very proud of east Belfast although this became less so as the researchers moved into more working-class communities.
- The words "culture" and "arts" are barriers.
- Whether people did art at school or were good at "arty-stuff" as a child seems to be more of a determinate of whether they consider themselves arty as an adult, regardless of what they do now.
- Keeping kids happily occupied - or just tiring them out! - is a major motivator for parents and grandparents.
- Community and connection are key motivators.
- Whole-cost is a concern across most groups - ticket price, merchandise, sweets, ice-cream, food, beer, transport, babysitter and so on.
- Night-time transport is another barrier with limited public transport and scarce, expensive taxis.
- East Belfast was frequently described as green, and residents love the Greenway and outdoor festivals and events, and they see this as good for their mental health.
- Bandsmen see bands not as creative but as cultural, a way of life.
- People do a lot in the comfort of their own homes, particularly baking, drawing, painting and craft.
- Younger people, people with poor mental health and neurodivergent people are particularly prone to social anxiety and need a lot of assurance to try something new or go somewhere different.
- There is a strong desire for more outdoor public-space events including on streets, in carparks and outside libraries, shops or other familiar venues.

This information informed our planning for years 2 and 3 of the project, and we also sought opportunities to share our findings and learnings with colleagues in the community and arts sector. To this end we continued to develop our networks in east Belfast and to have discussions about equitable access to arts and creativity with colleagues including:

- Race Relations Network
- East Belfast Community Development Cafes
- East Belfast Community Development Association
- Ballymac Friendship Centre

New connections were made with the managers of Flourish who support survivors of human.

Objective 2: To create a variety of meaningful, open and inclusive opportunities for people in east Belfast to explore creativity and connect with others

We believe that to make creative opportunities **meaningful**, they need to resonate with the

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

participants/audience. To this end we have the aim of telling east Belfast stories, and during the reporting period we had the opportunity to support the writer Alice Malseed to tell the story of poverty in east Belfast, which is alarmingly prevalent. The collaborative project worked with the following partners -

- EastSide Partnership anti-poverty Scaffolding Project
- East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance
- The Larder Social Supermarket
- Kabosh Theatre Company

Alice created a 4-hander play called **Three Pay Days**, which was shared as a work in progress at The Larder during the 2023 EastSide Arts Festival. We invited the audience of invited guests, interviewees and ticket buyers to give us their thoughts on the play to support Alice in writing the next draft.

Audience feedback from the festival reading -

Stunning work, exploring such an important theme. Thank you.

A powerful piece of political theatre/ work-in-progress. Excited to see the final product.

In Spring 2023 we toured the one-man drama **Billy Boy** by Rosemary Jenkinson, a play about a young bonfire builder that was inspired by conversation with young people with lived experience of bonfire culture, to 4 x Belfast community venues through partnership with Green Shoot Productions. This play also reflects our desire to tell east Belfast stories, specifically the stories of people that are frequently the most marginalised within our community.

Our year-round community engagement programme aimed to meet our objective of creating open opportunities through 3 x targeted programmes that brought people together to enjoy creative community-

- The EastSide Choir
 - o 3 x terms x 8 weeks per term
 - o Rehearsals took place at Short Strand Community Centre
 - o Performances at the EastSide Arts Festival in July, the C.S. Lewis Festival in November, at the Waterfront Hall in December
 - o Special Winter Warmer event at Short Sports & Rec Club in December
 - o 40 choir members (open access, no auditions)
 - o 2 x professional musicians employed as Choir Masters
 - o Hundreds of people enjoyed listening to the choir performances
- Artful Ageing
 - o 2 x programmes running simultaneously:
 - o CreativiTEA Tuesdays
 - Delivered in ArtsCare by artist Kirsty McGuinness
 - 80 participants in total across 7 sessions
 - o Music and Memories
 - Delivered in 4 x residential care facilities in east, by musician and facilitator Seonaid Murray.
 - 96 participants in total

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

"Our residents with dementia were upbeat and most carried on signing for the rest of the afternoon"

- The Big Kids' Society
 - o 12 x monthly creative socials (106 participants)
 - o Venues used (Studio Stereo on the Cregagh Road and the Lamppost Café on the Newtownards Road) are accessible to disabled customers
 - o Events often sold out within several hours of going on sale, so –
 - o 1 x Big Kids' Society Extravaganza during the arts festival (40 participants)
 - o 1 x Big Kids' Society Christmas Winter Party (34 participants)
 - o 1 x 'Chunky Cherubs and Shit Sonnets' valentines themed event (34 participants)

During the reporting period we focussed again on how we can make all of our programmes as **inclusive** as possible, and in service of this aim we developed several new collaborations with –

- Siobhan Brown, the founder of the Soultrane, a new MOBO festival with the aim of piloting events that will appeal to people of colour in the 2024 EastSide Arts Festival.
- Andrea Montgomery, Artistic Director of Terra Nova Productions, Northern Ireland's intercultural theatre company, to support a Shakespeare competition and masterclass for global majority actors who have expressed frustration with not being cast in Shakespeare and classical productions. Both will be progressed in the following year.
- We began the first stage of a **venue audit** to ensure the spaces we use are at the very least wheelchair accessible.
- We sought advice from University of Atypical and Arts for All to bring lived experience expertise to the next stage of the audit.
- We began working with Paula Clark, a deaf artist and activist, to devise a series of events in the 2024 EastSide Arts Festival. We hope this is the start of a process to ensure that the festival is accessible to the **d/Deaf community**, and in the longer term, we hope to train our staff and freelance staff in British Sign Language, and include d/Deaf artists in the festival programme.
- With the aim of developing our 'Shared Curation' model, we recruited **2 x Youth Programmers** to programme and promote an event in ESAF23 that appealed to a younger demographic.

Achievements and performance

In the above programmes we engaged with

- 755 participants
- 101 hours of face to face engagement
- 1647 estimated audience
- 56 artists employed
- In 16 east Belfast locations

Development of the Creative Citizens programme included the creation of an Artist Support Programme with the aim of equipping artists to meet the needs of local groups and residents when working in more challenging environments in east Belfast. To inform how the support programme would best serve both professional artist facilitators, and the local community, we held 2 x round table events which established the following -

- Both artists and those working with groups agreed that the following training was needed / desirable
 - o Gender/identity/LGBTQIA;
 - o Neurodiversity in adults and children;
-

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

- o Trauma Informed Practice
- Artists also expressed the need for training in basic good facilitation practice and the business of being facilitator

We responded by designing the Artist Support Programme to include -

- 'Enhance' compassionate facilitation training
- 'Understand' bespoke training programme in the 3 x areas listed above
- 'Share' training and networking events covering therapeutic practice and boundaries, personal brand, marketing and engagement, business development and communications and pitching.

We recruited participants for Enhance in Q4 of the year and had so many applications we decided to run 2 x facilitation training days, with a total of 24 artists.

Organisational transformation is an important part of the Paul Hamlyn funding, looking at how EastSide Arts will be more effective and financially sustainable as a result of 4 years of support. The Manager worked with the Chair, staff and CEO of EastSide Partnership to develop new strategic objectives for the company going forward. These priorities were agreed by the EastSide Arts Board and will inform our work in the incoming financial year.

Objective 1: Artists are supported to work in east Belfast

- Artists are part of the fabric of the community
- The arts are seen as a valid career choice
- Artists are supported to make work

Objective 2: Increased diverse opportunities for people to be creative, on their terms

- More creative things happening, and more people doing them

Objective 3: More places in east Belfast are animated with creative activities

- Non-arts spaces are fit for arts purposes and are accessible to everyone
- Non-traditional arts spaces are animated with arts events by ESA and others

Objective 3: To celebrate the past, present and future of east Belfast;

The EastSide Arts team worked in partnership on a number of important projects across the year that met this objective

- July Weekender in C.S. Lewis Square on 8 & 9 July; delivered with colleagues in EastSide Partnership
- C.S. Lewis Festival in November from 24th - 26th November; delivered with colleagues in EastSide Partnership
- HUB-IN project that animated sites on the Maritime Mile via AR/VR; delivered with colleagues in EastSide Tourism and Daffyd Hall Williams of Ulster Touring Opera
- The Manager was part of the Design Team for the roll out of the Belfast City Council Participatory Budgeting project, The Bank of Ideas; part of the Belfast 2024 events; delivered with Belfast City Council culture team and 12 x colleagues from the cultural sector across Belfast.
- Small NI tour of Billy Boy by Rosemary Jenkinson to The Glens Centre, Manorhamilton, The MAC, Belfast and The Playhouse in Derry, playing to a total audience of 253 people; delivered with Producer Stephen Beggs, colleagues at each of the venues and with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

A key part of our annual programme is the EastSide Arts Festival. The festival is designed to celebrate and showcase the creativity of the people and places of east Belfast, and to encourage domestic

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

tourism from other parts of the city, the country, the UK and Ireland.

Following the 10th birthday of the festival in 2022, the Manager worked with the Chair and Trustees of EastSide Arts and the CEO and colleagues at EastSide Partnership to refresh the objectives of the festival to make sure it continued to align to the ESA and ESP strategies.

It was agreed that going forward, the festival could contribute to regeneration through 5 broad themes:

- Showcasing people and place
- Promoting wellbeing (moments of joy, enjoyment, connection)
- Supporting creativity (artist development and creative pathways)
- Celebrating diversity and supporting inclusion
- Giving people a voice (platforming local themes, issues and challenges)

The 2023 festival was designed with these key themes mind, and met its objectives as follows -

- The festival ran from 27 July - 6 August
- 65 x arts, culture and heritage events took place
- The festival animated 30 venues across east Belfast
- We employed more than 200 artists and 8 x freelance staff
- 7843 audiences and 1515 participants attended events
- Our audiences were primarily from the UK (largely NI) with less than 2% of attendees coming from outside the UK
- 64% of bookers were from Belfast; meaning 36% are visitors from outside Belfast with bookers from Ards/North Down and Lisburn/Castlereagh making up an additional 23% of bookers
- 71% of bookers live in BT4, BT5 and BT6 making the festival audience hyper-local
- 12% of bookers are returning customers (attended last year) which is higher than the 2022 figure of 11%
- 304 comment cards were completed by festival goers at 23 festival events. When asked to rate the event as excellent, good, average or poor:
 - o 85% rated the event as excellent
 - o 99% rated the event as excellent or good
 - o 1.6% rated the event as average
 - o Nobody rated the event as poor

What the festival-goers said -

This was a morning of creative bliss. Gives inspiration and the tools to go and create independently. Thank you everyone @ EastSide Arts

WOW. What a performer! An excellent show- perfect venue - MORE!

What an incredible night thank you. Hope there is plenty more nights like that in the pipeline.

Brilliant event. Perfect way to get my head out of 'work mode' for the weekend.

Loved all aspects of this event, reminded me how fun craft is. I've really enjoyed this experience, well organised and staff were lovely.

Objective 4: To develop relationships that ensure the long-term stability of EastSide Arts and create investment in the arts in east Belfast

We understand that achieving long-term stability is based on financial security, and that true

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

sustainability is almost impossible to achieve in the current climate and in sector suffering from a long-term critical lack of investment. With this in mind we worked towards ensuring the EastSide Arts was in as strong a position financially in the following ways -

- The EastSide Arts Festival was programmed with a mixture of fully funded free events, ticketed events that are designed to break even, and a small number of events that are designed to make a small profit.
- We focussed our marketing spend on sales-focussed digital campaigns which were trackable and best use of advertising spend
- We programmed music and comedy events that had the highest ticket yield
- In doing so we exceeded our festival ticketing income target
- We secured funding from Halifax Foundation and National Lottery Awards for All which allowed us to deliver free events for families and the local community

We are aware that strong relationships and a good reputation within the arts sector is also vital in securing long-term sustainability. To achieve this priority we -

- Designed our programmes to employ local artists, facilitators, creatives and suppliers
- We exceeded our target of 60% of all project spend going towards artist costs across all programmes
- We paid 90% of all invoices within the 30 day contractual period

We invested in our board and staff across the year to ensure that the company maintains an optimum level of committed, capable trustees and has a staff team capable of delivering the strategic plan.

- Due to a board recruitment exercise we met our target of 8 Trustees during the financial year, with 4 new trustees attending their first board meeting in Q2.
- Many of the EastSide Arts Trustees were involved in workshops to develop the new EastSide Partnership 5-year Strategy
- All staff carried out personal development throughout the year by way of either mentoring/coaching or training/qualifications.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in detail on pages 19 & 20. The company returned a surplus for the year of £58,438 (2023: surplus of £71,036).

At 31 March 2024, the total funds of the charity amounted to £209,728 (2023: £151,290), comprising restricted funds of £109,644 (2023: £83,613) and unrestricted funds of £100,084 (2023: £67,677).

The unrestricted funds are essential to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity in the event that current levels of income are not maintained.

Reserves policy and going concern

A policy has been implemented by the company in order to recognise the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed should equate to between 25% and 50% of annual administration overheads. The aim is to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise, as well as allowing for the payment of any liabilities which would arise should the company cease to operate. The company recognises that such targets may remain aspirational.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 6 December 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Tony Wilson
Charity Secretary

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts

Year ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of EastSide Arts (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 12), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standard for Auditors', in the circumstances set out in note 21 to the financial statements.

Use of our report

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



Paul Dolan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

6 December 2024

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2024

		2024		2023	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	11,987	–	11,987	11,370
Charitable activities	6	70,542	282,581	353,123	355,930
Total income		<u>82,529</u>	<u>282,581</u>	<u>365,110</u>	<u>367,300</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	7,8	74,456	240,327	314,783	296,264
Total expenditure		<u>74,456</u>	<u>240,327</u>	<u>314,783</u>	<u>296,264</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>8,073</u>	<u>42,254</u>	<u>50,327</u>	<u>71,036</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		67,677	83,613	151,290	80,254
Total funds carried forward		<u>75,750</u>	<u>125,867</u>	<u>201,617</u>	<u>151,290</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

EastSide Arts

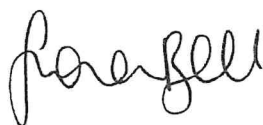
Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	16,223	266
Current assets			
Debtors	15	48,784	67,545
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>149,471</u>	<u>105,672</u>
		198,255	173,217
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>12,861</u>	<u>22,193</u>
Net current assets		<u>185,394</u>	<u>151,024</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>201,617</u>	<u>151,290</u>
Net assets		<u>201,617</u>	<u>151,290</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		125,867	83,613
Unrestricted funds		<u>75,750</u>	<u>67,677</u>
Total charity funds	19	<u>201,617</u>	<u>151,290</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 6 December 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



F BELL
TRUSTEE

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Avalon House, 278-280 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1HE, Co. Antrim.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 33% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations				
Donations	987	987	250	250
Sponsorship				
Sponsorship	11,000	11,000	11,120	11,120
	<u>11,987</u>	<u>11,987</u>	<u>11,370</u>	<u>11,370</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Sale of tickets/merchandise as part of direct charitable activities	70,542	–	70,542
Belfast City Council	–	72,000	72,000
Arts Council NI	–	95,993	95,993
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	–	79,000	79,000
Halifax Foundation	–	4,315	4,315
Department for Communities	–	21,273	21,273
Lottery Awards for all	–	10,000	10,000
Dept of Foreign Affairs : Reconciliation Fund	–	–	–
Foyle Foundation	–	–	–
Esme Mitchell Grant	–	–	–
Community Relations Council	–	–	–
Enkalon Foundation	–	–	–
	<u>70,542</u>	<u>282,581</u>	<u>353,123</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Sale of tickets/merchandise as part of direct charitable activities	62,112	–	62,112
Belfast City Council	1,000	45,000	46,000
Arts Council NI	–	98,764	98,764
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	–	80,000	80,000
Halifax Foundation	500	–	500
Department for Communities	–	21,919	21,919
Lottery Awards for all	–	9,250	9,250
Dept of Foreign Affairs : Reconciliation Fund	–	12,033	12,033
Foyle Foundation	–	20,000	20,000
Esme Mitchell Grant	–	3,000	3,000
Community Relations Council	–	1,352	1,352
Enkalon Foundation	1,000	–	1,000
	<u>64,612</u>	<u>291,318</u>	<u>355,930</u>

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Promotion of the Arts	58,233	231,474	289,707
Support costs	–	25,076	25,076
	<u>58,233</u>	<u>256,550</u>	<u>314,783</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Promotion of the Arts	78,455	192,455	270,910
Support costs	–	25,354	25,354
	<u>78,455</u>	<u>217,809</u>	<u>296,264</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Promotion of the Arts	289,707	23,394	313,101	294,884
Governance costs	–	1,682	1,682	1,380
	<u>289,707</u>	<u>25,076</u>	<u>314,783</u>	<u>296,264</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

9. Analysis of support costs

	Promotion of the Arts £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	7,524	7,524	7,693
Premises	15,870	15,870	16,281
Governance costs	1,682	1,682	1,380
	<u>25,076</u>	<u>25,076</u>	<u>25,354</u>

10. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>8,377</u>	<u>5,628</u>

11. Auditors remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>1,460</u>	<u>1,380</u>

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	111,754	108,148
Social security costs	10,098	10,004
Employer contributions to pension plans	7,538	8,304
	<u>129,390</u>	<u>126,456</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 3 (2023: 3).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2023: £Nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £Nil).

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	24,117
Additions	24,334
At 31 March 2024	<u>48,451</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2023	23,851
Charge for the year	8,377
At 31 March 2024	<u>32,228</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	<u>16,223</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>266</u>

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts owed by group undertakings	37,896	39,705
Prepayments and accrued income	10,888	27,840
	<u>48,784</u>	<u>67,545</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,368	9,206
Amounts owed to group undertakings	3,033	11,757
Accruals and deferred income	1,460	1,230
	<u>12,861</u>	<u>22,193</u>

17. Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 April 2023	–	1,611
Amount released to income	–	(1,611)
At 31 March 2024	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

18. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £7,538 (2023: £8,304).

19. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	<u>67,677</u>	<u>82,529</u>	<u>(74,456)</u>	<u>75,750</u>

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	<u>70,150</u>	<u>75,982</u>	<u>(78,455)</u>	<u>67,677</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
DfC Social Enterprise Fund	360	–	–	360
ACNI Stability & Renewal	–	–	–	–
Arts Council NI Core	–	91,575	(91,575)	–
BCC CMAG	–	45,000	(45,000)	–
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	69,017	79,000	(53,469)	94,548
Belfast Harbour Festival Fun Day	302	–	–	302
Halifax Foundation	–	4,315	(4,315)	–
Dep't for Communities	7,587	21,273	(19,109)	9,751
Community Relations Council	–	–	–	–
ACNI Commissioning Grant	–	3,055	(3,055)	–
Foyle Foundation	–	–	–	–
Esme Mitchell Trust	3,000	–	–	3,000
Lottery Awards for all	–	10,000	(9,680)	320
Department of Foreign Affairs : Reconciliation Fund	3,347	–	(3,347)	–
BCC Belfast 2024	–	2,000	(2,000)	–
BCC Big Screen	–	25,000	(8,777)	16,223
ACNI Commissioning 2024	–	1,363	–	1,363
	<u>83,613</u>	<u>282,581</u>	<u>(240,327)</u>	<u>125,867</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

19. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
DfC Social Enterprise Fund	360	–	–	360
ACNI Stability & Renewal	5,362	–	(5,362)	–
Arts Council NI Core	–	95,709	(95,709)	–
BCC CMAG	–	45,000	(45,000)	–
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	–	80,000	(10,983)	69,017
Belfast Harbour Festival Fun Day	302	–	–	302
Halifax Foundation	4,080	–	(4,080)	–
Dep't for Communities	–	21,919	(14,332)	7,587
Community Relations Council	–	1,352	(1,352)	–
ACNI Commissioning Grant	–	3,055	(3,055)	–
Foyle Foundation	–	20,000	(20,000)	–
Esme Mitchell Trust	–	3,000	–	3,000
Lottery Awards for all	–	9,250	(9,250)	–
Department of Foreign Affairs : Reconciliation Fund	–	12,033	(8,686)	3,347
BCC Belfast 2024	–	–	–	–
BCC Big Screen	–	–	–	–
ACNI Commissioning 2024	–	–	–	–
	<u>10,104</u>	<u>291,318</u>	<u>(217,809)</u>	<u>83,613</u>

A grant for £12,033 (Euro 14,039) was received from the Department of Foreign Affairs: Reconciliation Fund during the 22/23 year, which funded the 'Billy Boy' in Ireland and Edinburgh project.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	–	16,223	16,223
Current assets	80,068	118,187	198,255
Creditors less than 1 year	(4,318)	(8,543)	(12,861)
Net assets	<u>75,750</u>	<u>125,867</u>	<u>201,617</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	266	–	266
Current assets	83,838	89,379	173,217
Creditors less than 1 year	(16,427)	(5,766)	(22,193)
Net assets	<u>67,677</u>	<u>83,613</u>	<u>151,290</u>

21. Ethical standards

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

22. Taxation

The Company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to tax exemptions on income and profits in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

23. Contingencies

A contingent liability exists to repay grants and Trust monies received should certain conditions not be fulfilled by the charity. In the opinion of the Trustees, the terms of the Letters of Offers have been, or will be, complied with and no liability is expected.

24. Related party transactions

The company has taken exemption from disclosing related party transactions with other group entities under section 33 of FRS102. There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2023/24 or 2022/23

EastSide Arts

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107782

Annual report

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

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

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name EastSide Arts
Charity registration number 107782
Company registration number NI628773
Principal office and registered office Avalon House
278-280 Newtonards Road
Belfast
BT4 1HE
Antrim

The trustees

F Bell
R Davison
M Turtle (Resigned 16 April 2024)
E McCracken (Appointed 4 July 2023)
J McGrath (Appointed 4 July 2023)
M Neill (Appointed 4 July 2023)
J Sialianskaia (Appointed 4 July 2023)

Company secretary Tony Wilson

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Solicitors Hewitt and Gilpin
8 High Street
Holywood
Co. Down
BT18 9AZ

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

EastSide Arts is a company limited by guarantee and is a charity recognised by the Charity Commission for NI. It is a not for profit organisation.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Appointment of trustees

The Chairperson and the trustees recommend new trustees as needed. New trustees are recruited on the relevance of their skills, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity. As part of this process they are made aware of a trustee's legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Once the potential new trustee has agreed to be considered for appointment they can be co-opted by the directors until formal voting by members occurs at the next Annual General Meeting.

Trustee induction and training

A trustee induction process is in place for all group companies.

Organisation structure and how charity makes decisions

EastSide Arts is governed by the board of directors. The company is managed on a day to day basis by a senior management team.

The board of directors meets quarterly, and is appointed by the members at the AGM.

A senior management team manages the day to day activities of the company, and reports on company performance to all board meetings.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The directors consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 13 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is set by reference to NICVA guidance and utilisation of NJC pay scales. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other similar sized charities run on a voluntary basis when appointing new members of key management.

Relationships with related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Risk management

The company aims to mitigate the major risks it faces by implementation of the following procedures:-

- Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which clearly identifies funding requirements going forward; and
- Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions with a financial implication.

Directors

The directors serving during the year were as follows:-

F Bell
R Davison
E McCracken
J McGrath
M Neill
J Sialianskaia
M Turtle

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

EastSide Arts seeks to create an east Belfast that is a thriving cultural hub; where the arts are valued, creativity is for everyone and people are connected with each other and the wider world.

EastSide Arts is one of the 5 specific projects identified by EastSide Partnership, a regeneration charity, to be delivered via subsidiary companies or project committees during 2021-2024. EastSide Arts works within this context to challenge barriers to participation and demonstrate that the arts and creativity are for everyone, bringing regeneration to the east of the city through creative engagement.

In terms of external strategic context, the company works within the strategic service delivery and funding context of the Programme for Government and Belfast Agenda. We are a key partner in delivering the strategic objectives of our core funders, the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI) who is our principal funder; Belfast City Council, specifically the Belfast Agenda and 10-year Cultural Strategy, *A City Imagining*; and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation with whom we have 4-year funding to deliver the Creative Citizens project (2023-2026).

Within the overall Programme for Government, EastSide Arts is most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: *We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential*; and Outcome 9: *We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity*.

Within Belfast City Council's Belfast Agenda we are most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city; and Outcome 2: Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all.

EastSide Arts is proud to be part of the cultural landscape of Belfast, contributing to the growth and development of the Arts Sector in Northern Ireland.

The company employed 3 full time members of staff during the course of the year.

Charitable Purpose

The purpose of EastSide Arts, as expressed in its objects is to: advance education, to promote the arts, heritage and culture and to promote the benefit of the people of East Belfast and its environs of Greater Belfast without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants and in particular:

a) to encourage appreciation for and active participation in community based visual and performing arts including music, visual art, comedy, theatre, film and literature

b) to encourage appreciation of the arts and stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area of benefit and to produce performances and exhibitions of works of cultural and educational value including entertainments and exhibitions

c) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the directors may, from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

Achievements and performance

Public benefit report

From our company objects flow our organisational purpose which is "to create an east Belfast that is a thriving cultural hub; where the arts are valued, creativity is for everyone and people are connected with each other and the wider world." The different elements within our purpose are further broken down into four Strategic Objectives as follows -

1. To improve equity of opportunity for people in east Belfast to engage with creative activities
2. To create a variety of meaningful, open and inclusive opportunities for people in east Belfast to explore creativity and connect with others
3. To celebrate the past, present and future of east Belfast;
4. To develop relationships that ensure the long-term stability of EastSide Arts and create investment in the arts in east Belfast

During 2023/24 we worked towards achieving our objectives in the following ways:

Objective 1: To improve equity of opportunity for people in east Belfast to engage with creative activities

We have been developing our community engagement practice since EastSide Arts was formed in 2016, and concluded that in order to provide more equitable access to the arts and creativity in east Belfast, we needed more information about the residents of this part of the city. We made an ambitious application to the Paul Hamlyn Fund for 4-year funding in 2022 and were awarded a 4-year grant of £317K for the '**Creative Citizens**' project in November of that year. This programme aims to increase the engagement in and impact of arts and creativity across east Belfast by non-traditional arts audiences by increasing equity of access for everyone.

The first phase of the project was the Cultural Research and Engagement Tender which was awarded to Smith and Kent Consulting in June 2023. Over the period of 9 months they were asked to:

- Create an asset map of the cultural, geographic, economic, social and sectoral assets of east

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Belfast

- Create a report detailing who and why people engage, and don't engage, in culture and the arts in east Belfast
- Create an Impact Evaluation Framework for the 4-year project
- Identification of a group of Delivery Partners interested in co-designing pilot creative programmes
- Development and facilitation of a network of Research Partners who are interested in cultural regeneration and community engagement

In service of these goals, Smith and Kent:

- Mapped over 200 assets in East Belfast
- Spoke to 871 individuals across 87 engagement sessions which took place in shopping centres, shops, cafes, a hairdresser, a leisure centre, parks, festivals, family fun days, pubs, social clubs, sports clubs, churches, community centres and more.
- Ran a social media campaign asking people what creative pastimes they enjoyed which received 182 social media responses #ItsAllGoneEast

Key points that we heard and learned from the research:

- People are generally very proud of east Belfast although this became less so as the researchers moved into more working-class communities.
- The words "culture" and "arts" are barriers.
- Whether people did art at school or were good at "arty-stuff" as a child seems to be more of a determinate of whether they consider themselves arty as an adult, regardless of what they do now.
- Keeping kids happily occupied - or just tiring them out! - is a major motivator for parents and grandparents.
- Community and connection are key motivators.
- Whole-cost is a concern across most groups - ticket price, merchandise, sweets, ice-cream, food, beer, transport, babysitter and so on.
- Night-time transport is another barrier with limited public transport and scarce, expensive taxis.
- East Belfast was frequently described as green, and residents love the Greenway and outdoor festivals and events, and they see this as good for their mental health.
- Bandsmen see bands not as creative but as cultural, a way of life.
- People do a lot in the comfort of their own homes, particularly baking, drawing, painting and craft.
- Younger people, people with poor mental health and neurodivergent people are particularly prone to social anxiety and need a lot of assurance to try something new or go somewhere different.
- There is a strong desire for more outdoor public-space events including on streets, in carparks and outside libraries, shops or other familiar venues.

This information informed our planning for years 2 and 3 of the project, and we also sought opportunities to share our findings and learnings with colleagues in the community and arts sector. To this end we continued to develop our networks in east Belfast and to have discussions about equitable access to arts and creativity with colleagues including:

- Race Relations Network
- East Belfast Community Development Cafes
- East Belfast Community Development Association
- Ballymac Friendship Centre

New connections were made with the managers of Flourish who support survivors of human.

Objective 2: To create a variety of meaningful, open and inclusive opportunities for people in east Belfast to explore creativity and connect with others

We believe that to make creative opportunities **meaningful**, they need to resonate with the

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

participants/audience. To this end we have the aim of telling east Belfast stories, and during the reporting period we had the opportunity to support the writer Alice Malseed to tell the story of poverty in east Belfast, which is alarmingly prevalent. The collaborative project worked with the following partners -

- EastSide Partnership anti-poverty Scaffolding Project
- East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance
- The Larder Social Supermarket
- Kabosh Theatre Company

Alice created a 4-hander play called **Three Pay Days**, which was shared as a work in progress at The Larder during the 2023 EastSide Arts Festival. We invited the audience of invited guests, interviewees and ticket buyers to give us their thoughts on the play to support Alice in writing the next draft.

Audience feedback from the festival reading -

Stunning work, exploring such an important theme. Thank you.

A powerful piece of political theatre/ work-in-progress. Excited to see the final product.

In Spring 2023 we toured the one-man drama **Billy Boy** by Rosemary Jenkinson, a play about a young bonfire builder that was inspired by conversation with young people with lived experience of bonfire culture, to 4 x Belfast community venues through partnership with Green Shoot Productions. This play also reflects our desire to tell east Belfast stories, specifically the stories of people that are frequently the most marginalised within our community.

Our year-round community engagement programme aimed to meet our objective of creating open opportunities through 3 x targeted programmes that brought people together to enjoy creative community-

- The EastSide Choir
 - o 3 x terms x 8 weeks per term
 - o Rehearsals took place at Short Strand Community Centre
 - o Performances at the EastSide Arts Festival in July, the C.S. Lewis Festival in November, at the Waterfront Hall in December
 - o Special Winter Warmer event at Short Sports & Rec Club in December
 - o 40 choir members (open access, no auditions)
 - o 2 x professional musicians employed as Choir Masters
 - o Hundreds of people enjoyed listening to the choir performances
- Artful Ageing
 - o 2 x programmes running simultaneously:
 - o CreativiTEA Tuesdays
 - Delivered in ArtsCare by artist Kirsty McGuinness
 - 80 participants in total across 7 sessions
 - o Music and Memories
 - Delivered in 4 x residential care facilities in east, by musician and facilitator Seonaid Murray.
 - 96 participants in total

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

"Our residents with dementia were upbeat and most carried on signing for the rest of the afternoon"

- The Big Kids' Society
 - o 12 x monthly creative socials (106 participants)
 - o Venues used (Studio Stereo on the Cregagh Road and the Lamppost Café on the Newtownards Road) are accessible to disabled customers
 - o Events often sold out within several hours of going on sale, so –
 - o 1 x Big Kids' Society Extravaganza during the arts festival (40 participants)
 - o 1 x Big Kids' Society Christmas Winter Party (34 participants)
 - o 1 x 'Chunky Cherubs and Shit Sonnets' valentines themed event (34 participants)

During the reporting period we focussed again on how we can make all of our programmes as **inclusive** as possible, and in service of this aim we developed several new collaborations with –

- Siobhan Brown, the founder of the Soultrane, a new MOBO festival with the aim of piloting events that will appeal to people of colour in the 2024 EastSide Arts Festival.
- Andrea Montgomery, Artistic Director of Terra Nova Productions, Northern Ireland's intercultural theatre company, to support a Shakespeare competition and masterclass for global majority actors who have expressed frustration with not being cast in Shakespeare and classical productions. Both will be progressed in the following year.
- We began the first stage of a **venue audit** to ensure the spaces we use are at the very least wheelchair accessible.
- We sought advice from University of Atypical and Arts for All to bring lived experience expertise to the next stage of the audit.
- We began working with Paula Clark, a deaf artist and activist, to devise a series of events in the 2024 EastSide Arts Festival. We hope this is the start of a process to ensure that the festival is accessible to the **d/Deaf community**, and in the longer term, we hope to train our staff and freelance staff in British Sign Language, and include d/Deaf artists in the festival programme.
- With the aim of developing our 'Shared Curation' model, we recruited **2 x Youth Programmers** to programme and promote an event in ESAF23 that appealed to a younger demographic.

Achievements and performance

In the above programmes we engaged with

- 755 participants
- 101 hours of face to face engagement
- 1647 estimated audience
- 56 artists employed
- In 16 east Belfast locations

Development of the Creative Citizens programme included the creation of an Artist Support Programme with the aim of equipping artists to meet the needs of local groups and residents when working in more challenging environments in east Belfast. To inform how the support programme would best serve both professional artist facilitators, and the local community, we held 2 x round table events which established the following -

- Both artists and those working with groups agreed that the following training was needed / desirable
 - o Gender/identity/LGBTQIA;
 - o Neurodiversity in adults and children;
-

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

- o Trauma Informed Practice
- Artists also expressed the need for training in basic good facilitation practice and the business of being facilitator

We responded by designing the Artist Support Programme to include -

- 'Enhance' compassionate facilitation training
- 'Understand' bespoke training programme in the 3 x areas listed above
- 'Share' training and networking events covering therapeutic practice and boundaries, personal brand, marketing and engagement, business development and communications and pitching.

We recruited participants for Enhance in Q4 of the year and had so many applications we decided to run 2 x facilitation training days, with a total of 24 artists.

Organisational transformation is an important part of the Paul Hamlyn funding, looking at how EastSide Arts will be more effective and financially sustainable as a result of 4 years of support. The Manager worked with the Chair, staff and CEO of EastSide Partnership to develop new strategic objectives for the company going forward. These priorities were agreed by the EastSide Arts Board and will inform our work in the incoming financial year.

Objective 1: Artists are supported to work in east Belfast

- Artists are part of the fabric of the community
- The arts are seen as a valid career choice
- Artists are supported to make work

Objective 2: Increased diverse opportunities for people to be creative, on their terms

- More creative things happening, and more people doing them

Objective 3: More places in east Belfast are animated with creative activities

- Non-arts spaces are fit for arts purposes and are accessible to everyone
- Non-traditional arts spaces are animated with arts events by ESA and others

Objective 3: To celebrate the past, present and future of east Belfast;

The EastSide Arts team worked in partnership on a number of important projects across the year that met this objective

- July Weekender in C.S. Lewis Square on 8 & 9 July; delivered with colleagues in EastSide Partnership
- C.S. Lewis Festival in November from 24th - 26th November; delivered with colleagues in EastSide Partnership
- HUB-IN project that animated sites on the Maritime Mile via AR/VR; delivered with colleagues in EastSide Tourism and Daffyd Hall Williams of Ulster Touring Opera
- The Manager was part of the Design Team for the roll out of the Belfast City Council Participatory Budgeting project, The Bank of Ideas; part of the Belfast 2024 events; delivered with Belfast City Council culture team and 12 x colleagues from the cultural sector across Belfast.
- Small NI tour of Billy Boy by Rosemary Jenkinson to The Glens Centre, Manorhamilton, The MAC, Belfast and The Playhouse in Derry, playing to a total audience of 253 people; delivered with Producer Stephen Beggs, colleagues at each of the venues and with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

A key part of our annual programme is the EastSide Arts Festival. The festival is designed to celebrate and showcase the creativity of the people and places of east Belfast, and to encourage domestic

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

tourism from other parts of the city, the country, the UK and Ireland.

Following the 10th birthday of the festival in 2022, the Manager worked with the Chair and Trustees of EastSide Arts and the CEO and colleagues at EastSide Partnership to refresh the objectives of the festival to make sure it continued to align to the ESA and ESP strategies.

It was agreed that going forward, the festival could contribute to regeneration through 5 broad themes:

- Showcasing people and place
- Promoting wellbeing (moments of joy, enjoyment, connection)
- Supporting creativity (artist development and creative pathways)
- Celebrating diversity and supporting inclusion
- Giving people a voice (platforming local themes, issues and challenges)

The 2023 festival was designed with these key themes mind, and met its objectives as follows -

- The festival ran from 27 July - 6 August
- 65 x arts, culture and heritage events took place
- The festival animated 30 venues across east Belfast
- We employed more than 200 artists and 8 x freelance staff
- 7843 audiences and 1515 participants attended events
- Our audiences were primarily from the UK (largely NI) with less than 2% of attendees coming from outside the UK
- 64% of bookers were from Belfast; meaning 36% are visitors from outside Belfast with bookers from Ards/North Down and Lisburn/Castlereagh making up an additional 23% of bookers
- 71% of bookers live in BT4, BT5 and BT6 making the festival audience hyper-local
- 12% of bookers are returning customers (attended last year) which is higher than the 2022 figure of 11%
- 304 comment cards were completed by festival goers at 23 festival events. When asked to rate the event as excellent, good, average or poor:
 - o 85% rated the event as excellent
 - o 99% rated the event as excellent or good
 - o 1.6% rated the event as average
 - o Nobody rated the event as poor

What the festival-goers said -

This was a morning of creative bliss. Gives inspiration and the tools to go and create independently. Thank you everyone @ EastSide Arts

WOW. What a performer! An excellent show- perfect venue - MORE!

What an incredible night thank you. Hope there is plenty more nights like that in the pipeline.

Brilliant event. Perfect way to get my head out of 'work mode' for the weekend.

Loved all aspects of this event, reminded me how fun craft is. I've really enjoyed this experience, well organised and staff were lovely.

Objective 4: To develop relationships that ensure the long-term stability of EastSide Arts and create investment in the arts in east Belfast

We understand that achieving long-term stability is based on financial security, and that true

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

sustainability is almost impossible to achieve in the current climate and in sector suffering from a long-term critical lack of investment. With this in mind we worked towards ensuring the EastSide Arts was in as strong a position financially in the following ways -

- The EastSide Arts Festival was programmed with a mixture of fully funded free events, ticketed events that are designed to break even, and a small number of events that are designed to make a small profit.
- We focussed our marketing spend on sales-focussed digital campaigns which were trackable and best use of advertising spend
- We programmed music and comedy events that had the highest ticket yield
- In doing so we exceeded our festival ticketing income target
- We secured funding from Halifax Foundation and National Lottery Awards for All which allowed us to deliver free events for families and the local community

We are aware that strong relationships and a good reputation within the arts sector is also vital in securing long-term sustainability. To achieve this priority we -

- Designed our programmes to employ local artists, facilitators, creatives and suppliers
- We exceeded our target of 60% of all project spend going towards artist costs across all programmes
- We paid 90% of all invoices within the 30 day contractual period

We invested in our board and staff across the year to ensure that the company maintains an optimum level of committed, capable trustees and has a staff team capable of delivering the strategic plan.

- Due to a board recruitment exercise we met our target of 8 Trustees during the financial year, with 4 new trustees attending their first board meeting in Q2.
- Many of the EastSide Arts Trustees were involved in workshops to develop the new EastSide Partnership 5-year Strategy
- All staff carried out personal development throughout the year by way of either mentoring/coaching or training/qualifications.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in detail on pages 19 & 20. The company returned a surplus for the year of £58,438 (2023: surplus of £71,036).

At 31 March 2024, the total funds of the charity amounted to £209,728 (2023: £151,290), comprising restricted funds of £109,644 (2023: £83,613) and unrestricted funds of £100,084 (2023: £67,677).

The unrestricted funds are essential to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity in the event that current levels of income are not maintained.

Reserves policy and going concern

A policy has been implemented by the company in order to recognise the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed should equate to between 25% and 50% of annual administration overheads. The aim is to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise, as well as allowing for the payment of any liabilities which would arise should the company cease to operate. The company recognises that such targets may remain aspirational.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 6 December 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Tony Wilson
Charity Secretary

EastSide Arts

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107782

Annual return

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts

Year ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of EastSide Arts (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 12), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standard for Auditors', in the circumstances set out in note 21 to the financial statements.

Use of our report

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



Paul Dolan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

6 December 2024

EastSide Arts

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107782

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI628773
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 107782

EastSide Arts
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2023

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent auditor's report to the members	10
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	16
Statement of financial position	17
Notes to the financial statements	18
The following pages do not form part of the financial statements	
Detailed statement of financial activities	30
Notes to the detailed statement of financial activities	31

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	EastSide Arts
Charity registration number	107782
Company registration number	NI628773
Principal office and registered office	Avalon House 278-280 Newtonards Road Belfast BT4 1HE Antrim

The trustees

D Alderdice	(Resigned 2 December 2022)
F Bell	
R Davison	
M Turtle	
S Brannigan	(Resigned 26 April 2022)
E McCracken	(Appointed 4 July 2023)
J McGrath	(Appointed 4 July 2023)
M Neill	(Appointed 4 July 2023)
J Sialianskaia	(Appointed 4 July 2023)

Company secretary Tony Wilson

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Solicitors Hewitt and Gilpin
Thomas House
14-16 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 7GA

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

EastSide Arts is a company limited by guarantee and is a charity recognised by the Charity Commission for NI. It is a not for profit organisation.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Appointment of trustees

The Chairperson and the trustees recommend new trustees as needed. New trustees are recruited on the relevance of their skills, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity. As part of this process they are made aware of a trustee's legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Once the potential new trustee has agreed to be considered for appointment they can be co-opted by the directors until formal voting by members occurs at the next Annual General Meeting.

Trustee induction and training

A trustee induction process is in place for all group companies.

Organisation structure and how charity makes decisions

EastSide Arts is governed by the board of directors. The company is managed on a day to day basis by a senior management team.

The board of directors meets quarterly, and is appointed by the members at the AGM.

A senior management team manages the day to day activities of the company, and reports on company performance to all board meetings.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The directors consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 13 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is set by reference to NICVA guidance and utilisation of NJC pay scales. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other similar sized charities run on a voluntary basis when appointing new members of key management.

Relationships with related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Risk management

The company aims to mitigate the major risks it faces by implementation of the following procedures:-

- Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which clearly identifies funding requirements going forward; and
- Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions with a financial implication.

Directors

The directors serving during the year were as follows:-

D Alderdice
F Bell
R Davison
M Turtle
S Brannigan

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

EastSide Arts seeks to inspire EastSide residents and visitors by celebrating east Belfast, nurturing creative talent and delivering excellent programmes and events.

Historically east Belfast has been underfunded in cultural provision and as a result, there has often been an underlying uncertainty about engagement with the arts in east Belfast. EastSide Arts works within this context to challenge barriers to participation and demonstrate that the arts and creativity are for everyone, bringing regeneration to the east of the city through creative engagement.

In terms of external strategic context, the company works within the strategic service delivery and funding context of the Programme for Government and Belfast Agenda. We are a key partner in delivering the strategic objectives of our core funders, the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI), our principal funder, and Belfast City Council, specifically the Belfast Agenda and 10-year Cultural Strategy, A City Imagining.

Within the overall Programme for Government, EastSide Arts is most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential; and Outcome 9: We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity.

Within Belfast City Council's Belfast Agenda we are most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city; and Outcome 2: Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all.

EastSide Arts is proud to be part of the cultural landscape of Belfast, contributing to the growth and development of the Arts Sector in Northern Ireland.

The company employed 3 full time members of staff during the course of the year, and managed a team of volunteers.

Charitable Purpose

The purpose of EastSide Arts, as expressed in its objects is to: advance education, to promote the arts, heritage and culture and to promote the benefit of the people of East Belfast and its environs of Greater Belfast without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants and in particular:

- a) to encourage appreciation for and active participation in community based visual and performing arts including music, visual art, comedy, theatre, film and literature.
- b) to encourage appreciation of the arts and stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area of benefit and to produce performances and exhibitions of works of cultural and educational value including entertainments and exhibitions
- c) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the directors may, from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

Achievements and performance

Public benefit report

From our company objects flow our organisational purpose which is "to create an east Belfast that is a thriving cultural hub; where the arts are valued, creativity is for everyone and people are connected with each other and the wider world." The different elements within our purpose are further broken down into four Strategic Objectives as follows -

1. To improve equity of opportunity for people in east Belfast to engage with creative activities
2. To create a variety of meaningful, open and inclusive opportunities for people in east Belfast to explore creativity and connect with others
3. To celebrate the past, present and future of east Belfast;
4. To develop relationships that ensure the long-term stability of EastSide Arts and create investment in the arts in east Belfast

2022/23 Achievements and Performance in meeting Strategic Objectives:

Objective 1: To improve equity of opportunity for people in east Belfast to engage with creative activities

The Gert & Friends - From October 2022 - March 2023 we worked with 25 local people, members of the Gertrude Star Band, between the ages of 16 and 69, creating 9 brand new tracks co-written with Matt McGinn, Una McCann, Chip Bailey and Duke Special, which celebrated the culture and heritage of the band and protestant marching culture. A celebration showcase event took place in The MAC Belfast in March and was remounted in C.S. Lewis Square in July which was attended by 577 people. High levels of engagement across the project/with ESP and overwhelmingly positive feedback from the members involved highlighted the importance of the project to individual members: 'Just like to say a big thank you to all involved in the two shows we've put on these last few months...Myself I'm in the band going on 30 years and I must say it's the best thing I've ever been involved in. The women's choir, what can I say? Women, Mums, Wives, Aunties, Daughters and friends just brought in. Had the pleasure of doing this with my wife which was brilliant, she loved it. The friendships we've all made! Just let's hope one day we'll get the chance to do it all again somewhere.' - Andy, Band Member

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Attendance at Community Meetings - The staff team continued to develop our networks of contacts from a broad demographic of east Belfast representatives through monthly attendance at Race Relations Network meetings, Community Development Cafes, and the Dementia Friendly East Belfast Steering Committee, including taking on the role of Vice-Chair of the Race Relations Network. We made 4-5 new contacts including East Belfast GAA and Hosford Women's Group, developing our understanding of how and why people engage in east Belfast.

Shared Curatorship - We worked with an experienced live music curator and two performers and event organisers from the Queer community to programme a number of events in the EastSide Arts Festival to ensure that those with lived experience had input into the opportunities that were created for people to engage in arts and culture through the festival.

Objective 2: To create a variety of meaningful, open and inclusive opportunities for people in east Belfast to explore creativity and connect with others

The Artful Ageing programme was a 5-month creative programme for older people with social drop-ins for independent seniors, bespoke workshops for those in dementia specialist supported living facilities and public events programmed during the EastSide Arts Festival for both independent seniors and those in palliative / nursing care. Over the course of 5 months we engaged with 386 people. During the EastSide Arts Festival in August we ran the Silver Screenings at Strand Arts Centre and the very popular 'Soda Popz Lunchtime Bop' to cater for older citizens and those on a dementia journey, or with learning disabilities.

Creative Kids Our summer activity for children and families featured 2 bespoke events during the EastSide Arts Festival; FunKademy - a 4-day creative summer school for 166 x children aged 5-11 to try a variety of different artforms, have fun and meet other children from outside of their schools or community circles. The Festival Fun Day - a birthday themed family fun day featuring children's theatre, live music, information stalls, craft activities, storytelling tent and workshops was attended by ~500 people.

Creative Citizens Programme: In November 2022 we were awarded £317K from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation over a 48-month period to deliver the Creative Citizens community engagement programme. The first year of the programme is almost entirely research based and the final quarter of the reporting period was spent creating a Cultural Research and Engagement Tender.

EastSide Choir The choir reached maximum membership capacity at 35 members and during the reporting period, moved rehearsal space from Ballyhackamore Social Club to their permanent home in Short Strand Community Centre. At the end of their Spring Term, the choir performed in Marie Cure Hospice and Connswater Shopping Centre. They delivered 2 x summer performances in the EastSide Arts Festival and in December, they performed beside the Christmas Tree in Lanyon Station for our sponsor Translink, and held the now annual Winter Warmer in Banana Block on Thursday 8 December.

Creating Space - In collaboration with a new contact, Hosford Women's Group, we devised and delivered 'Creating Space', a 4-week reactive project to promote integration and cultural diversity by supporting Hosford's Women's Group to explore their creativity and share their stories through trauma-informed arts practice. We delivered 4 weeks of creative workshops, culminating in an exhibition in Skainos. All the artwork on display was available to purchase with proceeds reinvested into Hosford Women's Group.

Big Kids' Society - We ran 12 x Big Kids' Society events (a fun, creative monthly social night held in 3

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

x cafes in east Belfast, led by 4 x visual artists from our Big Kid's Collective) for 108 participants. Open to all ages, experiences and backgrounds, these events focus on creating a creative community, nurturing individual creativity, increasing accessible, open creative opportunities in east Belfast and offering a space for creativity outside of pub/social club environments.

It's so nice to be able to walk ten mins from my house and do something like this!

I loved the first event so much I've signed up to them all. It's my monthly treat to me, from me!

It's a treat to be able to do something like this together, without the kids!

This is a great way to try something new, and it's affordable too

Governance During the final quarter of the year we carried out a skills audit of the ESA Trustees as a first step in addressing the shortfall in current numbers. We then held an open recruitment exercise and received 14 applications. Following shortlisting, 7 applicants were invited to attend interview and 5 of them were recommended to and approved by the ESP Nominations Committee.

Diversity and Inclusion Training

Two training sessions took place in January 2022; Guide Dogs UK delivered training in how to assist blind and partially sighted people and NICRE delivered EDI training, attended by 29 staff, volunteers and trustees.

Street Art Project

We supported a street art project with a group of young men from Alternatives in Orangefield Park. Alternatives commissioned a piece of artwork for the side wall of Orangefield Pavilion which has been designed and developed in collaboration with the graffiti artist FGB around the theme of men's mental health. Partners include EastSide Greenways and Belfast City Council.

Objective 3: To celebrate the past, present and future of east Belfast;

EastSide Arts Festival

The annual festival launched on Friday 17 June took place from 4-14 August. The programme featured more than 80 events across 32 venues and we were delighted to get back into the community after the previous 2 years of reduced, digital and hybrid events. The theme of the 2022 festival was our 10th birthday. We attracted 10,000+ audience and 1,800 participants; we employed 280 artists and 6 freelance staff - our numbers were on a par to pre-pandemic levels. 30 volunteers gave approx. 300 hours of their time, 93% of comment card responses rated events as excellent and we saw an increase in both sales and attendance figures from the previous year.

'Three Pay Cheques Away' by Alice Malseed

We were awarded funding from the Arts Council NI Commissioning Programme to commission writer Alice Malseed to write a new piece of theatre addressing poverty and destitution in east Belfast. The project was devised in collaboration with the EastSide Partnership anti-poverty Scaffolding Project. Alice carried out interviews with people with lived experience in preparation for developing a script in the incoming financial year.

Objective 4: To develop relationships that ensure the long-term stability of EastSide Arts and create investment in the arts in east Belfast

Staffing Development

We were awarded funding from the Future Screens DfC Artwork Fund to recruit a full-time, Real Living Wage post for 3 years. The purpose of the grant is to create employment opportunities for

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

individuals to work in a recognised arts organisation, which will in turn support organisational and sectoral growth. We created the post of Production and Admin Assistant and appointed Niki Browne to the post in July 2022.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

In October 2022 we submitted a 2nd stage application to PHF for 4-year funding. The November panel granted us the full funding for which we had applied (£317K) and the 'Creative Citizens' project began in January 2023. Crucially this funding supports core costs which will play a large role in the sustainability and development of ESA in the coming years.

Artist Remuneration

We completed a comprehensive piece of work gathering information across artforms around what is considered to be 'fair' remuneration with the aim of helping to define a policy around rates of pay. Industry standards vary widely across artforms and union organisations and we are working towards creating a fair and equitable rate card for the following financial year.

Funding and Income Generation

This information is reflected in the annual accounts.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in detail on pages 16 & 17. The company returned a surplus for the year of £71,036 (2022: deficit of £912).

At 31 March 2023, the total funds of the charity amounted to £151,290 (2022: £80,254), comprising restricted funds of £83,613 (2022: £10,104) and unrestricted funds of £67,677 (2022: £70,150).

The unrestricted funds are essential to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity in the event that current levels of income are not maintained.

Reserves policy and going concern

A policy has been implemented by the company in order to recognise the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed should equate to between 25% and 50% of annual administration overheads. The aim is to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise, as well as allowing for the payment of any liabilities which would arise should the company cease to operate. The company recognises that such targets may remain aspirational.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 1 December 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts

Year ended 31 March 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of EastSide Arts (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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



Paul Dolan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

1 December 2023

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2023

		2023		2022
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies	5	11,370	–	11,370
Charitable activities	6	64,612	291,318	355,930
Total income		<u>75,982</u>	<u>291,318</u>	<u>367,300</u>
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities	7,8	78,455	217,809	296,264
Total expenditure		<u>78,455</u>	<u>217,809</u>	<u>296,264</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		<u>(2,473)</u>	<u>73,509</u>	<u>71,036</u>
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		70,150	10,104	80,254
Total funds carried forward		<u>67,677</u>	<u>83,613</u>	<u>151,290</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	266	5,894
Current assets			
Debtors	15	67,545	71,535
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>105,672</u>	<u>29,453</u>
		173,217	100,988
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>22,193</u>	<u>26,628</u>
Net current assets		<u>151,024</u>	<u>74,360</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>151,290</u>	<u>80,254</u>
Net assets		<u>151,290</u>	<u>80,254</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		83,613	10,104
Unrestricted funds		<u>67,677</u>	<u>70,150</u>
Total charity funds	19	<u>151,290</u>	<u>80,254</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 1 December 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



The notes on pages 18 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Avalon House, 278-280 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1HE, Co. Antrim.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 33% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations				
Donations	250	250	1,506	1,506
Sponsorship				
Sponsorship	11,120	11,120	25,000	25,000
	<u>11,370</u>	<u>11,370</u>	<u>26,506</u>	<u>26,506</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Sale of tickets/merchandise as part of direct charitable activities	62,112	–	62,112
Belfast City Council	1,000	45,000	46,000
Arts Council	–	98,764	98,764
Arts & Business	–	–	–
Other Funders	–	–	–
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	–	80,000	80,000
Halifax Foundation	500	–	500
Department for Communities	–	21,919	21,919
Lottery Awards for all	–	9,250	9,250
Dept of Foreign Affairs : Reconciliation Fund	–	12,033	12,033
Foyle Foundation	–	20,000	20,000
Esme Mitchell Grant	–	3,000	3,000
Community Relations Council	–	1,352	1,352
Enkalon Foundation	1,000	–	1,000
	<u>64,612</u>	<u>291,318</u>	<u>355,930</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

6. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Sale of tickets/merchandise as part of direct charitable activities	41,118	–	41,118
Belfast City Council	–	53,240	53,240
Arts Council	–	90,197	90,197
Arts & Business	–	15,000	15,000
Other Funders	–	3,500	3,500
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	–	–	–
Halifax Foundation	–	4,080	4,080
Department for Communities	–	–	–
Lottery Awards for all	–	–	–
Dept of Foreign Affairs : Reconciliation Fund	–	–	–
Foyle Foundation	–	–	–
Esme Mitchell Grant	–	–	–
Community Relations Council	–	–	–
Enkalon Foundation	–	–	–
	<u>41,118</u>	<u>166,017</u>	<u>207,135</u>

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Promotion of the Arts	78,455	192,455	270,910
Support costs	–	25,354	25,354
	<u>78,455</u>	<u>217,809</u>	<u>296,264</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Promotion of the Arts	65,785	146,875	212,660
Support costs	–	21,893	21,893
	<u>65,785</u>	<u>168,768</u>	<u>234,553</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2023 £	Total fund 2022 £
Promotion of the Arts	270,910	23,974	294,884	233,233
Governance costs	–	1,380	1,380	1,320
	<u>270,910</u>	<u>25,354</u>	<u>296,264</u>	<u>234,553</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

9. Analysis of support costs

	Promotion of the Arts £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	7,693	7,693	7,542
Premises	16,281	16,281	13,031
Governance costs	1,380	1,380	1,320
	<u>25,354</u>	<u>25,354</u>	<u>21,893</u>

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>5,628</u>	<u>7,092</u>

11. Auditors remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>1,380</u>	<u>1,320</u>

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	108,148	84,609
Social security costs	10,004	7,116
Employer contributions to pension plans	8,304	5,160
	<u>126,456</u>	<u>96,885</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 3 (2022: 2).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2022: £Nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplies to the charity (2022: £Nil).

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	24,117
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2022	18,223
Charge for the year	5,628
At 31 March 2023	<u>23,851</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2023	266
At 31 March 2022	<u>5,894</u>

15. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	–	6,000
Amounts owed by group undertakings	39,705	33,877
Prepayments and accrued income	27,840	31,658
	<u>67,545</u>	<u>71,535</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	9,206	5,133
Amounts owed to group undertakings	11,757	18,654
Accruals and deferred income	1,230	2,841
	<u>22,193</u>	<u>26,628</u>

17. Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 April 2022	1,611	777
Amount released to income	(1,611)	(777)
Amount deferred in year	–	1,611
At 31 March 2023	<u>–</u>	<u>1,611</u>

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

18. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £8,304 (2022: £5,160).

19. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>70,150</u>	<u>75,982</u>	<u>(78,455)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>67,677</u>

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>68,461</u>	<u>67,624</u>	<u>(65,785)</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>70,150</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
ACNI Equipment Programme	—	—	—	—	—
DfC Social Enterprise Fund	360	—	—	—	360
ACNI Stability & Renewal	5,362	—	(5,362)	—	—
Arts Council NI Core	—	95,709	(95,709)	—	—
BCC CMAG	—	45,000	(45,000)	—	—
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	—	80,000	(10,983)	—	69,017
Arts & Business - Translink	—	—	—	—	—
Arts & Business - Connswater	—	—	—	—	—
Enkalon Foundation	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast Harbour Festival Fun Day	302	—	—	—	302
BCC CFF Writers Symposium	—	—	—	—	—
Halifax Foundation	4,080	—	(4,080)	—	—
Dep't for Communities	—	21,919	(14,332)	—	7,587
Community Relations Council	—	1,352	(1,352)	—	—
ACNI Commissioning Grant	—	3,055	(3,055)	—	—
Foyle Foundation	—	20,000	(20,000)	—	—

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

19. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Esme Mitchell Trust	–	3,000	–	–	3,000
Lottery Awards for all Department of Foreign Affairs : Reconciliation Fund*	–	9,250	(9,250)	–	–
	–	12,033	(8,686)	–	3,347
	<u>10,104</u>	<u>291,318</u>	<u>(217,809)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>83,613</u>
	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
ACNI Equipment Programme	1,464	–	(1,464)	–	–
DfC Social Enterprise Fund	517	–	(157)	–	360
ACNI Stability & Renewal	10,724	–	(5,362)	–	5,362
Arts Council NI Core	–	90,197	(90,197)	–	–
BCC CMAG	–	45,000	(45,000)	–	–
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	–	–	–	–	–
Arts & Business - Translink	–	10,000	(10,000)	–	–
Arts & Business - Connswater	–	5,000	(5,000)	–	–
Enkalon Foundation	–	1,000	(1,000)	–	–
Belfast Harbour Festival Fun Day	–	2,500	(2,198)	–	302
BCC CFF Writers Symposium	–	8,240	(8,390)	150	–
Halifax Foundation	–	4,080	–	–	4,080
Dep't for Communities Community Relations Council	–	–	–	–	–
ACNI Commissioning Grant	–	–	–	–	–
Foyle Foundation	–	–	–	–	–
Esme Mitchell Trust	–	–	–	–	–
Lottery Awards for all Department of Foreign Affairs : Reconciliation Fund	–	–	–	–	–
	<u>12,705</u>	<u>166,017</u>	<u>(168,768)</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>10,104</u>

*A grant for £12,033 (Euro 14,039) was received from the Department of Foreign Affairs: Reconciliation Fund during the year, which funded the 'Billy Boy' in Ireland and Edinburgh project.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	266	–	266
Current assets	83,838	89,379	173,217
Creditors less than 1 year	(16,427)	(5,766)	(22,193)
Net assets	<u>67,677</u>	<u>83,613</u>	<u>151,290</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	532	5,362	5,894
Current assets	93,709	7,279	100,988
Creditors less than 1 year	(24,091)	(2,537)	(26,628)
Net assets	<u>70,150</u>	<u>10,104</u>	<u>80,254</u>

EastSide Arts

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107782

Annual report

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	EastSide Arts
Charity registration number	107782
Company registration number	NI628773
Principal office and registered office	Avalon House 278-280 Newtonards Road Belfast BT4 1HE Antrim

The trustees

D Alderdice	(Resigned 2 December 2022)
F Bell	
R Davison	
M Turtle	
S Brannigan	(Resigned 26 April 2022)
E McCracken	(Appointed 4 July 2023)
J McGrath	(Appointed 4 July 2023)
M Neill	(Appointed 4 July 2023)
J Sialianskaia	(Appointed 4 July 2023)

Company secretary Tony Wilson

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Solicitors Hewitt and Gilpin
Thomas House
14-16 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 7GA

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

EastSide Arts is a company limited by guarantee and is a charity recognised by the Charity Commission for NI. It is a not for profit organisation.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Appointment of trustees

The Chairperson and the trustees recommend new trustees as needed. New trustees are recruited on the relevance of their skills, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity. As part of this process they are made aware of a trustee's legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Once the potential new trustee has agreed to be considered for appointment they can be co-opted by the directors until formal voting by members occurs at the next Annual General Meeting.

Trustee induction and training

A trustee induction process is in place for all group companies.

Organisation structure and how charity makes decisions

EastSide Arts is governed by the board of directors. The company is managed on a day to day basis by a senior management team.

The board of directors meets quarterly, and is appointed by the members at the AGM.

A senior management team manages the day to day activities of the company, and reports on company performance to all board meetings.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The directors consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 13 to the accounts.

The pay of the senior staff is set by reference to NICVA guidance and utilisation of NJC pay scales. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other similar sized charities run on a voluntary basis when appointing new members of key management.

Relationships with related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Risk management

The company aims to mitigate the major risks it faces by implementation of the following procedures:-

- Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which clearly identifies funding requirements going forward; and
- Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions with a financial implication.

Directors

The directors serving during the year were as follows:-

D Alderdice
F Bell
R Davison
M Turtle
S Brannigan

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

EastSide Arts seeks to inspire EastSide residents and visitors by celebrating east Belfast, nurturing creative talent and delivering excellent programmes and events.

Historically east Belfast has been underfunded in cultural provision and as a result, there has often been an underlying uncertainty about engagement with the arts in east Belfast. EastSide Arts works within this context to challenge barriers to participation and demonstrate that the arts and creativity are for everyone, bringing regeneration to the east of the city through creative engagement.

In terms of external strategic context, the company works within the strategic service delivery and funding context of the Programme for Government and Belfast Agenda. We are a key partner in delivering the strategic objectives of our core funders, the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI), our principal funder, and Belfast City Council, specifically the Belfast Agenda and 10-year Cultural Strategy, A City Imagining.

Within the overall Programme for Government, EastSide Arts is most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential; and Outcome 9: We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity.

Within Belfast City Council's Belfast Agenda we are most strategically aligned with Outcome 5: Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city; and Outcome 2: Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all.

EastSide Arts is proud to be part of the cultural landscape of Belfast, contributing to the growth and development of the Arts Sector in Northern Ireland.

The company employed 3 full time members of staff during the course of the year, and managed a team of volunteers.

Charitable Purpose

The purpose of EastSide Arts, as expressed in its objects is to: advance education, to promote the arts, heritage and culture and to promote the benefit of the people of East Belfast and its environs of Greater Belfast without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants and in particular:

- a) to encourage appreciation for and active participation in community based visual and performing arts including music, visual art, comedy, theatre, film and literature.
- b) to encourage appreciation of the arts and stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area of benefit and to produce performances and exhibitions of works of cultural and educational value including entertainments and exhibitions
- c) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the directors may, from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of charity.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

Achievements and performance

Public benefit report

From our company objects flow our organisational purpose which is "to create an east Belfast that is a thriving cultural hub; where the arts are valued, creativity is for everyone and people are connected with each other and the wider world." The different elements within our purpose are further broken down into four Strategic Objectives as follows -

1. To improve equity of opportunity for people in east Belfast to engage with creative activities
2. To create a variety of meaningful, open and inclusive opportunities for people in east Belfast to explore creativity and connect with others
3. To celebrate the past, present and future of east Belfast;
4. To develop relationships that ensure the long-term stability of EastSide Arts and create investment in the arts in east Belfast

2022/23 Achievements and Performance in meeting Strategic Objectives:

Objective 1: To improve equity of opportunity for people in east Belfast to engage with creative activities

The Gert & Friends - From October 2022 - March 2023 we worked with 25 local people, members of the Gertrude Star Band, between the ages of 16 and 69, creating 9 brand new tracks co-written with Matt McGinn, Una McCann, Chip Bailey and Duke Special, which celebrated the culture and heritage of the band and protestant marching culture. A celebration showcase event took place in The MAC Belfast in March and was remounted in C.S. Lewis Square in July which was attended by 577 people. High levels of engagement across the project/with ESP and overwhelmingly positive feedback from the members involved highlighted the importance of the project to individual members: 'Just like to say a big thank you to all involved in the two shows we've put on these last few months...Myself I'm in the band going on 30 years and I must say it's the best thing I've ever been involved in. The women's choir, what can I say? Women, Mums, Wives, Aunties, Daughters and friends just brought in. Had the pleasure of doing this with my wife which was brilliant, she loved it. The friendships we've all made! Just let's hope one day we'll get the chance to do it all again somewhere.' - Andy, Band Member

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Attendance at Community Meetings - The staff team continued to develop our networks of contacts from a broad demographic of east Belfast representatives through monthly attendance at Race Relations Network meetings, Community Development Cafes, and the Dementia Friendly East Belfast Steering Committee, including taking on the role of Vice-Chair of the Race Relations Network. We made 4-5 new contacts including East Belfast GAA and Hosford Women's Group, developing our understanding of how and why people engage in east Belfast.

Shared Curatorship - We worked with an experienced live music curator and two performers and event organisers from the Queer community to programme a number of events in the EastSide Arts Festival to ensure that those with lived experience had input into the opportunities that were created for people to engage in arts and culture through the festival.

Objective 2: To create a variety of meaningful, open and inclusive opportunities for people in east Belfast to explore creativity and connect with others

The Artful Ageing programme was a 5-month creative programme for older people with social drop-ins for independent seniors, bespoke workshops for those in dementia specialist supported living facilities and public events programmed during the EastSide Arts Festival for both independent seniors and those in palliative / nursing care. Over the course of 5 months we engaged with 386 people. During the EastSide Arts Festival in August we ran the Silver Screenings at Strand Arts Centre and the very popular 'Soda Popz Lunchtime Bop' to cater for older citizens and those on a dementia journey, or with learning disabilities.

Creative Kids Our summer activity for children and families featured 2 bespoke events during the EastSide Arts Festival; FunKademy - a 4-day creative summer school for 166 x children aged 5-11 to try a variety of different artforms, have fun and meet other children from outside of their schools or community circles. The Festival Fun Day - a birthday themed family fun day featuring children's theatre, live music, information stalls, craft activities, storytelling tent and workshops was attended by ~500 people.

Creative Citizens Programme: In November 2022 we were awarded £317K from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation over a 48-month period to deliver the Creative Citizens community engagement programme. The first year of the programme is almost entirely research based and the final quarter of the reporting period was spent creating a Cultural Research and Engagement Tender.

EastSide Choir The choir reached maximum membership capacity at 35 members and during the reporting period, moved rehearsal space from Ballyhackamore Social Club to their permanent home in Short Strand Community Centre. At the end of their Spring Term, the choir performed in Marie Cure Hospice and Connswater Shopping Centre. They delivered 2 x summer performances in the EastSide Arts Festival and in December, they performed beside the Christmas Tree in Lanyon Station for our sponsor Translink, and held the now annual Winter Warmer in Banana Block on Thursday 8 December.

Creating Space - In collaboration with a new contact, Hosford Women's Group, we devised and delivered 'Creating Space', a 4-week reactive project to promote integration and cultural diversity by supporting Hosford's Women's Group to explore their creativity and share their stories through trauma-informed arts practice. We delivered 4 weeks of creative workshops, culminating in an exhibition in Skainos. All the artwork on display was available to purchase with proceeds reinvested into Hosford Women's Group.

Big Kids' Society - We ran 12 x Big Kids' Society events (a fun, creative monthly social night held in 3

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

x cafes in east Belfast, led by 4 x visual artists from our Big Kid's Collective) for 108 participants. Open to all ages, experiences and backgrounds, these events focus on creating a creative community, nurturing individual creativity, increasing accessible, open creative opportunities in east Belfast and offering a space for creativity outside of pub/social club environments.

It's so nice to be able to walk ten mins from my house and do something like this!

I loved the first event so much I've signed up to them all. It's my monthly treat to me, from me!

It's a treat to be able to do something like this together, without the kids!

This is a great way to try something new, and it's affordable too

Governance During the final quarter of the year we carried out a skills audit of the ESA Trustees as a first step in addressing the shortfall in current numbers. We then held an open recruitment exercise and received 14 applications. Following shortlisting, 7 applicants were invited to attend interview and 5 of them were recommended to and approved by the ESP Nominations Committee.

Diversity and Inclusion Training

Two training sessions took place in January 2022; Guide Dogs UK delivered training in how to assist blind and partially sighted people and NICRE delivered EDI training, attended by 29 staff, volunteers and trustees.

Street Art Project

We supported a street art project with a group of young men from Alternatives in Orangefield Park. Alternatives commissioned a piece of artwork for the side wall of Orangefield Pavilion which has been designed and developed in collaboration with the graffiti artist FGB around the theme of men's mental health. Partners include EastSide Greenways and Belfast City Council.

Objective 3: To celebrate the past, present and future of east Belfast;

EastSide Arts Festival

The annual festival launched on Friday 17 June took place from 4-14 August. The programme featured more than 80 events across 32 venues and we were delighted to get back into the community after the previous 2 years of reduced, digital and hybrid events. The theme of the 2022 festival was our 10th birthday. We attracted 10,000+ audience and 1,800 participants; we employed 280 artists and 6 freelance staff - our numbers were on a par to pre-pandemic levels. 30 volunteers gave approx. 300 hours of their time, 93% of comment card responses rated events as excellent and we saw an increase in both sales and attendance figures from the previous year.

'Three Pay Cheques Away' by Alice Malseed

We were awarded funding from the Arts Council NI Commissioning Programme to commission writer Alice Malseed to write a new piece of theatre addressing poverty and destitution in east Belfast. The project was devised in collaboration with the EastSide Partnership anti-poverty Scaffolding Project. Alice carried out interviews with people with lived experience in preparation for developing a script in the incoming financial year.

Objective 4: To develop relationships that ensure the long-term stability of EastSide Arts and create investment in the arts in east Belfast

Staffing Development

We were awarded funding from the Future Screens DfC Artwork Fund to recruit a full-time, Real Living Wage post for 3 years. The purpose of the grant is to create employment opportunities for

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

individuals to work in a recognised arts organisation, which will in turn support organisational and sectoral growth. We created the post of Production and Admin Assistant and appointed Niki Browne to the post in July 2022.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

In October 2022 we submitted a 2nd stage application to PHF for 4-year funding. The November panel granted us the full funding for which we had applied (£317K) and the 'Creative Citizens' project began in January 2023. Crucially this funding supports core costs which will play a large role in the sustainability and development of ESA in the coming years.

Artist Remuneration

We completed a comprehensive piece of work gathering information across artforms around what is considered to be 'fair' remuneration with the aim of helping to define a policy around rates of pay. Industry standards vary widely across artforms and union organisations and we are working towards creating a fair and equitable rate card for the following financial year.

Funding and Income Generation

This information is reflected in the annual accounts.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in detail on pages 16 & 17. The company returned a surplus for the year of £71,036 (2022: deficit of £912).

At 31 March 2023, the total funds of the charity amounted to £151,290 (2022: £80,254), comprising restricted funds of £83,613 (2022: £10,104) and unrestricted funds of £67,677 (2022: £70,150).

The unrestricted funds are essential to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise and fulfil the legal obligations of the charity in the event that current levels of income are not maintained.

Reserves policy and going concern

A policy has been implemented by the company in order to recognise the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed should equate to between 25% and 50% of annual administration overheads. The aim is to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise, as well as allowing for the payment of any liabilities which would arise should the company cease to operate. The company recognises that such targets may remain aspirational.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 1 December 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



EastSide Arts

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107782

Annual return

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts

Year ended 31 March 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of EastSide Arts (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

EastSide Arts

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of EastSide Arts *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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



Paul Dolan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

1 December 2023