



**DUMFRIES AND GALLIOWAY CHAMBER
OF THE ARTS**

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31ST MARCH 2025

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER:- SC044658

CARSON & TROTTER

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
123 IRISH STREET
DUMFRIES
DG1 2PE

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Scottish Charity Number SC044658
Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Current Trustees

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustee recruitment and appointment is in accordance with the constitution and adheres to our policies of diversity, inclusivity, and ensures we have a varied and experienced mix of expertise and abilities to allow the charity to meet its aims and objectives and service the Creative sector in Dumfries and Galloway effectively. All the Chamber's trustees are appointed or re-appointed by the trustees at the annual general meeting each year. Our recent trustee recruitment in 2024 was managed and undertaken by Culture Radar as independent, commissioned consultants supporting the Chamber to recruit suitable trustees for the Board of Trustees.

Structure, Governance, and Management

Governing Document

The Chamber is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in the constitution. The SCIO was incorporated on 13th February 2014 and prior to this the Chamber operated as an unincorporated association, known as the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Partnership.

Charitable Purposes

The Chamber's purposes are the advancement of the arts, heritage and culture in Dumfries and Galloway and elsewhere and principally for the benefit of the people of Dumfries and Galloway. And in furtherance thereof: -

1. advance the arts, heritage and culture in Dumfries and Galloway for the benefit of the people of the region,
2. provide expert advice to Dumfries and Galloway Council and others on policy, programmes and projects relating to the arts, heritage and culture; and
3. encourage greater involvement in the arts, heritage and culture by the provision of support to practitioners, participants and local organisations.

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Scottish Charity Number SC044658
Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Objectives and Activities

DGU (or DG Unlimited) is the day-to-day operating name of the Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts. It is a membership organisation that works with Dumfries and Galloway's creative and cultural sector, advocating, supporting, and giving creatives a collective voice.

We are champions and advocates of the vital role creative and cultural practitioners and community organisations play in contributing to the health and wellbeing of our communities and economy.

Achievements and Performance

Membership of the Chamber, DG Unlimited currently sits at 600 members. Membership is free and open to anyone with an interest in the arts and culture and living in or with links to Dumfries and Galloway.

New Strategic Plan 2025 - 2030

The new Strategic Plan was completed and approved by the Board. Our Vision and Mission is below:

Vision

Dumfries and Galloway's creative and cultural sector is strong, innovative, accessible to all creative minds and is valued by all.

Mission

Our mission is to provide our creative membership working across the whole of Dumfries and Galloway with purposeful and targeted advocacy, networking, and creative professional development support to sustain and nurture their creative practices and organisations.

Our Values

We champion excellence and best practice – by celebrating the successes of our creative membership, and striving for best practice in how we work, and in what we deliver, with and for our members and partners.

We value transparency – in our governance and decision-making, in our communications with our members, and in our relationships with stakeholders and community organisations.

We are agile and responsive – using new technology and collaborative working to bring fresh creative approaches to established methods.

We are responsible for our environment – prioritising its care and sustainability in our planning and delivery.

The Portfolio of our activities in 2024 are attached in Appendix 1.

DG Unlimited agreed SLA with Dumfries and Galloway Council for services supporting the creative sector in Dumfries and Galloway, and as founding partners of the Dumfries and Galloway Council Cultural Partnership.

Staff Recruitment

The Board of Trustees have been delighted to welcome a new freelance Communications Officer to the team. The Creative Director and Finance Officer remain in their commissioned freelance roles.

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Scottish Charity Number SC044658
Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

Membership Engagement and Annual Conference 25

The Chamber invested in the development of the charity's website and social channels as key mechanisms to attract new members and engage the sector in the charity's activities. The DG Unlimited Conference 25 was developed in partnership with D&G Arts Festival and a date set for May 2025.

Remembering Together

DG Unlimited and Dumfries and Galloway Council, in partnership with *greenspace scotland* successfully completed its Direction and Financial Management of the Remembering Together Project. The Scottish Government and *greenspace scotland* praised the Steering Group and the board and team for its excellent work in steering the project to a successful conclusion. For its support to Community Planning partners and for its robust management of the project, particularly the financial aspects of the project and the complications around contracts, budgets, land ownership and permissions for installing the memorials, and insurance agreements. The DG Unlimited was also praised for being the first in Scotland of the COVID Memorial Projects to be successfully completed, on time and within budget. The appointed artists [REDACTED] were praised for their beautiful work and for successfully completed their commissions on the Dumfries and Galloway Dispersed Memorial Forest: five forest memorial sites across Dumfries and Galloway.

Key statistics from our activities in 2024/2025

- Cultural organisations and creative practitioners supported with funding and/or direct support services as in-kind support: 25 organisations, 200 practitioners.
- Regional Cultural Fund support to DGC - 19 organisations were funded via the Council
- VACMA Funding supported by Creative Scotland – two rounds of the VACMA Funding were supported by DG Unlimited staff and 20 Visual artists and Craft makers were awarded VACMA bursaries.
- 600 members were supported with advice, information, the opportunity to apply for funding and development opportunities.
- A total of 543 members of the public, members, and creative individuals participated in the programme of events and activities as audience members and/or workshop participants throughout the year.
- DG Unlimited is a founding member of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership and sits on the Steering Group assisting with the development of the partnership planned for 2025 and beyond.
- DG Unlimited will be hosting the new freelance roles of Coordinator and Administrator for the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership.

Future Plans

Over the next 12 months the charity plans to deliver a range of activities including:

- Implement the plans and activities agreed in the Strategic Plan and to seek additional funding for the new project activities for 2025/2026/2027.
- To serve the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership as a founding member of the partnership and to strategically represent, support, advocate for and showcase the region's cultural sector in D&G and beyond.

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Scottish Charity Number SC044658
Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

- Work with Dumfries and Galloway Council, South of Scotland Enterprise, and the Museums and heritage Network to amplify, advocate for and strategically support the cultural sector.
- Delivery of 1st **Regional Cultural Fund**.
- Increase DGU **membership** by 10%.

Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

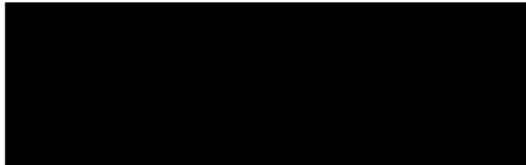
None of the trustees received remuneration for their services or were reimbursed for any expenditure during the year, except for the trustees receiving £458.21 re board expenses (2024: two trustees reclaimed travel expenses of £51.80 and one trustee reclaimed £163.45 for room hire).

Reserves

At the year end, the Chamber had restricted funds of £nil and unrestricted funds of £35,138.

The accounts for the year are attached and form part of this report.

This report was approved by the trustees on 17th November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Interim Chair

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Scottish Charity Number SC044658
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2025

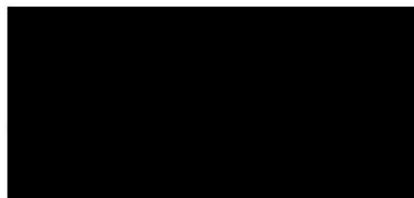
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Creative Scotland	-	-	-	12,500
Dumfries & Galloway Council	72,094	-	72,094	72,088
Dumfries & Galloway Council – Cultural Fund	-	3,000	3,000	-
Greenscape Scotland – Remembering Together	-	10,000	10,000	93,793
Total Receipts	72,094	13,000	85,094	178,381
<u>Payments</u>				
Charitable Activities:				
Finance & Admin Officer	12,480	-	12,480	8,864
Programmes Manager	-	-	-	10,425
Arts Development Director	37,800	-	37,800	-
Digital Communications Officer	7,050	-	7,050	-
ICC fund payments	500	-	500	7,200
Creatives Unlimited	40	-	40	43,949
Emerging Leaders	-	-	-	2,600
Recovery Fund	-	-	-	10,920
Cultural Fund	373	3,000	3,373	-
Remembering Together	-	66,406	66,406	24,611
	58,243	69,406	127,649	108,569
Governance Costs:				
Communications	8,401	-	8,401	1,000
Brand & Website	6,935	-	6,935	-
Travel	1,540	-	1,540	52
Subsistence	634	-	634	-
Venue Hire	200	-	200	164
Office costs	3,560	-	3,560	1,693
Independent Examiners Fee	252	-	252	468
Insurance	311	-	311	298
Sundry Expenses	1,715	-	1,715	-
Board Expenses	458	-	458	-
Strategic Consultancy	2,514	-	2,514	7,387
	26,520	-	26,520	11,062
Purchase of IT equipment	63	-	63	3,685
Total Payments	84,826	69,406	154,232	123,316
Net (Payments)/Receipts	(12,732)	(56,406)	(69,138)	55,065
Transfers between funds	12,776	(12,776)	-	-
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	44	(69,182)	(69,138)	55,065

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Scottish Charity Number SC044658
Statement of Balances as at 31st March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<u>Bank and Cash in Hand</u>		
Opening Balances	104,276	49,211
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(69,138)	55,065
	-----	-----
Closing Balances	35,138	104,276
	=====	=====
<u>Reserves</u>		
Restricted Funds	-	69,182
General Unrestricted Fund	35,138	35,094
	-----	-----
Total Funds	35,138	104,276
	=====	=====

The Trust has no other investments, assets or material liabilities.

Approved by the trustees on 17th November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Interim Chair

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 set out on pages 5 to 6.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements;
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 accounts Regulations; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Carson & Trotter
Chartered Accountants
123 Irish Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PE

17th November 2025