



Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group
(Registered Charity No. 1008100)

Financial Statements
For the year ended
31 March 2021

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Legal and Administrative Information

Name: Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group

Charity No: 1008100

Principal Address: 89 Salcombe Gardens
Low Fell
GATESHEAD
Tyne & Wear
NE9 6UD

Trustees: Councillor Martin Gannon (President)
Mr Ashok Kumar (Chair)
Mr A Singh Gill MBE (Vice Chair)
Mr Fahim Manzur (Treasurer)
Manjit Singh Dhindsa (Secretary)
Michael Harte
Birinder Singh Brar
Angela Singh

Governing Document: The Charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 2 November 1991, and is unincorporated.

Bankers: HSBC plc
110 Grey Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 3JG

Independent Examiner: Kate Tully FMAAT FICE AATQB
20 Ennerdale Crescent
Winlaton
Blaydon on Tyne
NE21 6PS

Trustees Annual Report

Objects:

To undertake activities which help individuals and groups to understand and learn about different cultures and to support them in their efforts to overcome ignorance, language barriers, disadvantage, prejudice and racism. We undertake a variety of activities and events to fulfill our vision of creating a multi-cultural all-inclusive community.

Achievements:

Our Work:

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group works with and for disadvantaged and marginalised Black Asian and Minority Ethnic, asylum seeker and refugee communities who face barriers on many levels, including personal, family, community and wider social and institutional contexts, and are at risk of isolation and exclusion. Through the work we deliver we support all communities in making representation to service providers and ensure they have equal access to the services they provide; we provide an opportunity for communities to raise issues of concern and take positive action; and develop effective links between organisations and other associations operating in the area, on matters of common concern.

Our projects contribute to strengthening the Minority Ethnic voluntary infrastructure through high quality activity, training and development, and capacity building.

Overall our projects increase community engagement amongst those who are at risk of exclusion and isolation, combating racism and discrimination, helping to strengthen community cohesion, and go towards achieving a reduction in race inequalities.

Through providing access to engaging, high quality activity, including training, educational and cultural activities, led by professional practitioners, support workers and volunteers, our programmes aim to provide our beneficiaries with the opportunity to:

- Develop new skills & interests
- Raise their confidence & self esteem
- Experience working alongside professional practitioners
- Identify and explore educational, volunteering and career opportunities
- Improve social, physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Become more active and healthy
- Interact with others in a creative, dynamic & enjoyable environment.
- Mutual support and working together
- Opportunities to examine issues affecting their lives
- Giving a voice to culturally diverse groups to raise awareness of and celebrate their own culture/identity

We work in partnership with Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police, Community Safety Team, NHS, Public Health, Gateshead Carers, local schools, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Gateshead Interfaith Forum, Gateshead housing services, and Leisure/Cultural Services

In 2020/21 we have supported, engaged and worked with over 4000 people from across all age ranges, faith communities and ethnicities

2020/21 – Activities & Achievements:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 23rd March 2020 the Prime Minister announces the first lockdown in the UK, ordering people to “stay at home”. This would have a profound effect on our local communities, society as a whole, and how our charity operates, engages with communities and delivers services.

All face to face delivery within community and formal education settings was no longer possible. This meant that our regular Wednesday Drop in sessions, Feel Good Group, Lunch Clubs, Cricket Club, education, volunteering, Arts, Health and Wellbeing sessions were no longer able to take place at Bensham Grove Community Centre. As a result, from 1st April 2020 our Community Development Worker; and GemArts Projects Manager and Projects Assistant/Admin were furloughed. The charity claimed monthly from the Governments Job Retention Scheme. As from 1st September 2020 GemArts Projects Manager and Projects Assistant/Admin worked 2 days per week and furloughed for the rest. GemArts Director remained working full time throughout.

Our annual Vaisakhi, Diwali, Eid, Christmas and Mini Mela events, which we have been delivering in the Gateshead for the last 30 years, for the first time all had to be cancelled.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and has amplified racial and health inequalities. With people from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities 4.2 times more likely to die from Covid-19. We know that many people from our Minority Ethnic communities are feeling even more isolated, lonely, worried and vulnerable, which is having a negative effect on their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.

Our organisation supports and works with some of the most vulnerable Minority Ethnic and wider communities and we have continued to do so during this COVID pandemic and adapted our delivery to meet the needs of our communities.

Befriending and Advice Service - As we could no longer deliver in person advice and support sessions at Bensham Grove we started to offer a telephone befriending and translation and interpretation service via Gateshead voluntary sector directory to Minority Ethnic communities and working in partnership with other local charities to give support and advice to those most in need.

Multi-Language Videos - To ensure that communities were accessing correct and up to date messaging Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group/GemArts worked very early on in the crisis in partnership with Gateshead Council and Connected Voice HAREF to create multi language Covid19 advice videos with our volunteers. Languages included Kurdish, French, Arabic and Farsi <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15692/Multi-language-coronavirus-advice-videos-for-Gateshead-communities>

We had fantastic feedback from communities, public, voluntary and cultural sector partners. The videos have been shared widely from our and partner social media platforms. They have been such a success that Gateshead Citizens Advice and Gateshead Council requested us to create some new videos with our volunteers to sign post vulnerable minority ethnic communities to additional support and help in Gateshead. We created 8 additional videos with our volunteers in Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Kurdish, French, Arabic and Farsi. <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/15787/Multi-language-coronavirus-advice-how-to-access-support>

Food Deliveries – starting in mid-April 2020 to January 2021 every Friday from Elgin Community Kitchen, based in Deckham worked with our amazing volunteers to cook hot vegetarian Indian meals and deliver fresh vegetable and fruit (donated by Fare Share) to vulnerable families and individuals in Gateshead. These were open to any vulnerable households as well as Minority Ethnic families.

Initially when we started the Indian hot meals we were cooking and delivering 40 per week. The demand increased very quickly to 100 per week as families faced food poverty. We also received referrals from local schools via their Family Support Workers during the summer holidays. Our charity was able to upscale and build capacity to meet this demand through funding from Gateshead Council and Community Foundation COVID19 Emergency Fund. International students from the Indian sub-continent also benefited from our food deliveries, as they were also facing hardship as they could no longer work in their part time jobs which subsidised their living expenses as all businesses were closed. We also delivered to key workers in local schools and care homes.

Our volunteers would check up on families and older people when delivering the food and communicate important information in a range of languages for those that needed, or just chat on the doorstep and find

out if they needed any other help. Many older people and families, especially those who were shielding, were hugely grateful for the personal contact as they were feeling very lonely at that time, and particularly during the cold and dark winter months.

We delivered more than 3600 hot food deliveries and packages benefiting some of the most vulnerable and isolated people from Black Asian and Ethnic Minority communities in Gateshead, including South Asian, Syrian, Afghan, Kurdish, Iranian, African, refugees, and those seeking asylum and wider communities, without which many would be left struggling, hungry, and malnourished, ill informed, lonely, withdrawn, and impoverished. Especially, in cases where individuals have no recourse to public funds and cannot receive financial support from the Council, Government, public body, and some charities.

Collaborating with Gateshead Council and Public Health: Staff completed all Gateshead Covid Champions Training modules and have also been delivering Covid Champion Training to people and groups from local Minority Ethnic Communities in Gateshead. In addition, we have continued to work with Gateshead Council and Public Health to create culturally appropriate and relevant resources and information, including translated materials in several languages, to recruit more champions from Minority Ethnic communities. We have been able to create a safe environment where people with lived experience, and those facing cultural, social and economic barriers, can discuss with their communities' legitimate concerns about the vaccine without stifling debate, and to challenge misinformation and receive reliable messaging about the programme.

Trustees and staff team have representation on and regularly attend meetings including Local Outbreak Engagement Board, Vaccination Inequality Group, Covid Champions Community Group and regional and national online workshops. This has enabled us to cascade the most current information down, as well as feedback concerns from the community, which have been acted upon immediately by Gateshead Council and Public Health, which has created greater trust and strengthening of relationships between the local community and stakeholders.

In response to our valuable work and insight with Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Gateshead we have been awarded £37,000.00 through Gateshead Council and from the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund, to build our capacity and employ a full time Community Development Worker to deliver on Gateshead Covid Champions programme.

Sector/Strategic Development:

GVEMSG has representation and contribute to the following boards and forums:

Gateshead Council's – Diversity Forum, GSP and Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring Forum

Trustees, staff and volunteers are also trustees on other boards including - Bensham Grove Community Centre, Citizens Advice Gateshead and Northern Stage

GVEMSG has worked in partnership with local minority ethnic voluntary groups in Gateshead to provide advocacy and support

Volunteer Development

Volunteers support the aims of our charity and play an integral part in meeting our vision and mission. 50 volunteers have supported our charity this year, and we have provided a whole range of support and we value their contributions enormously.

Our volunteers and staff have done an amazing job during the pandemic and in such unprecedented and challenging circumstances, and we are truly grateful!

Impact of our work:

Quotes from beneficiaries:

"Thank you again, you have made this scary time so much easier for us all"

"My thoughts are filled with gratitude for all the kind things you all take the time to do"

On a regional level our charity received a card from **Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear** expressing gratitude for the incredible support and service the organisation has given during the Covid-19 crisis. We were also featured in the [Connected Voice Autumn Magazine](#) for our important work with Black Asian and Minority communities during the pandemic.

On a national level, Vikas Kumar, GemArts Director, was invited to speak at the All Parliamentary Group on Arts and Health Webinar Chaired by Tracy Brabin MP, Shadow Minister for Cultural Industries. Speakers talked from a range of perspectives about the context of Covid-19 and how the arts and creativity have been used to support people who are shielding and vulnerable in our communities.

GemArts is one of a limited number of National Portfolio Organisation funded by the Arts Council England, and is an award winning nationally recognised leader in the South Asian and diversity arts sector. GemArts creates and programmes high quality concerts, events, festivals, workshops and commissions with regional, national and international artists across all art forms. We specialise high quality culturally diverse participatory arts projects with Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged, and proactively disseminated best practice advances through regional and national networks and platforms.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an immense impact on the delivery of GemArts programme, our organisation, the artists and communities we work with and for.

In line with government guidance GemArts postponed or cancelled all public performances and events on 16th March 2020 and all face-to-face delivery across participation and talent development stopped. GemArts honoured all artists contracts and paid in full for any cancelled contracted hours and projects.

The first few months were a period of stabilization, and all staff, apart from the GemArts Director, were furloughed in April 2020. As from 1st September 2020 GemArts Project Manager and Project Assistant/Admin came back to work two days per week and furloughed for the rest.

Due to lockdown and social distancing guidelines, ever changing laws and regulations nationally and those imposed locally GemArts has adapted our artistic practice and delivery to be responsive and meet the needs of our communities and artists.

The Director met regularly online with national South Asian artists, arts organisations, promoters and NPOs. These networks prided incredibly valuable to help digest and understand the ever-changing landscape, and as means for advocacy and supporting the sector.

The negative impact on all freelance artists and creatives has been huge in terms of loss of immediate income and anxiety about future work and earnings. We helped North based artists working in the culturally diverse arts sector, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic artists and those who have English as an alternative language to access Arts Council England emergency funds over the two rounds, and financial support from other funders. We gave advice and support to 18 artists, majority of the artists had never applied for funding previously. All artists were successfully awarded financial support

GemArts allocated funds from our performance programme to our Artists Development, RnD and Commissioning programme to ensure we continued to support and invest in artists at every stage of their career, especially during this time when our diverse freelance workforce is at most risk. The commissions all have a digital element and will be realised as live performance and exhibitions in 2022-23:

Narivad (meaning Feminist in Sanskrit) – Sofia Barton

An exploration of the Indian suffragettes who helped shape feminism on a global scale. With the use of matchbox designs inspired by those in her grandfather's collection, Sofia Barton creates a homage of images to these influential figures. From small matchbox miniatures to large posters each piece holds colourful & intricate details to catch your mind's eye.

Neelam's Story – Rekesh Chauhan

GemArts is thrilled to be supporting multi award-winning British pianist and composer Rekesh Chauhan. Rekesh is releasing a new music video production to highlight the impact of COVID-19 and its effect on the mental health of the South Asian diaspora whom are disproportionately affected by the virus. The music video production, kept in regional language of Hindi, widely spoken by the South Asian diaspora, opens with a true story of a young girl, Neelam, writing a letter to herself expressing her feelings and portraying a profound case study from the British Asian Trust, a charity whom as part of their portfolio work to end the stigma and transform support for people with mental health needs in South Asia. The video was released on 10th October 2020 - World Mental Health Day

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15wAWuFevrXN16E-ck6wkJe3qD1b6WVzI/view?usp=sharing>

Kattam Katti – Pragav Dance Compnay

Choreographed by leading Kathak dancer Urja Thakore, Pagraav's new work is set amidst the chaos, creativity and colour of the Uttarayan kite festival. Through tales of competition, danger, excitement and unity, Kattam Katti explores the parallels between this fiercely competitive event and deeply divided societies, echoing the current global climate.

With striking set design, and interaction between the dancers and musicians

Spy Monkey – ATMA Dance

GemArts will be building on our past relationship with leading Bharatnatyam Dancer and Choreographer Mayuri Boonham. I have the fullest confidence that Mayuri will build on her successful track record of producing work which is artistically excellent. This new work is unique and will make a significant difference to the development and presentation of professional Bharatanatyam dance that is made for children and families from South Asian and wider communities, re-imagining Indian epic narratives of Hanuman within contemporary settings.

Between Two Shores - Henna Asikainen

An artistic investigation which examines the inextricably intertwined issues of climate change and its contribution to the human migration and the human rights.

The work will include:

- a moving image work based on the documentation of a mass participatory walk across the causeway to Holy Island which is an iconic site along the North Sea coastline in the North East England.
- a digital archive / multimedia work consisting of peoples' personal climate change related migration testimonies, especially from those with a refugee background.
- exhibition & podcast.

Waltzing The Blue Gods – Jaivant Patel

GemArts is supporting the ACE application submitted by Jaivant Patel for the R&D for his new production Waltzing The Blue Gods. The new work will build on our past relationship with Jaivant where we were seed commissioner on YATRA, and will enable us to once again support the work of a leading UK based choreographer and dancer. This new work is unique and will make a significant difference to the development and presentation of professional Kathak dance and South Asian LGBTQ+ work.

The Boy Who Grew a Forest – Payal Ramchandani

The dance-theatre production, a confluence of 3 dance styles- Bharatnatyam, Kuchipud and Contemporary is based on Jadav Payeng's true story. Distressed by deforestation and erosion on his dying Majuli Island (one of the world's largest river islands in the Brahmaputra River), little Jadav made a small effort of planting a small bamboo thicket that grew over the years into a 1,300-acre forest filled with native plants and animals. The work will take the audience on Payeng's adventurous journey of impactful attempts to help his beloved land highlighting his defiance against all odds to nurture what he had planted, that grew into an unexpected sanctuary sheltering many.

In a typical year GemArts would normally programme around 35 live performances and events, plus our award-winning Masala Festival working with regional, national and international artists across art forms with regional and national venues partners, however this was not possible. GemArts international programme has been significantly challenged because of international travel restrictions to limit the spread of Covid, especially from the Indian sub-continent, and we envisage this to continue for some time. GemArts is exploring collaborations with national and international organisations and expertise to create high quality click and pay performances on digital platforms

We did commission a range of pre-recorded digital performances, and some live performances which were streamed including:

- Tahmina Ali @ VCS – Home Truths on-line event – GemArts programmed Tahmina a spoken word poet from South Shields who we have supported and programmed previously at Masala Festival for this voluntary sector event.
- Yazz Ahamed @ Sage Gateshead, 14th November – Yazz Ahmed is a British Bahraini trumpet player and composer who seeks to blur the lines between jazz, electronic sound design, bringing together the sounds of her mixed heritage. This was meant to be our first socially distanced live concert with audiences since March 2020. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown we were not able to go ahead as planned and it had to be live streamed. Yazz and her band were incredible and response from audiences was fantastic.

As already highlighted, the COVID19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and has further amplified racial and health inequalities. We know that many people from our communities during this crisis are feeling even more isolated, lonely, worried and vulnerable, which is having a negative impact on their health and wellbeing - with women, older people, children and young people at greatest risk.

Digital exclusion is a major barrier faced by communities we work with.

Prior to lock down, our artists were delivering weekly sessions face to face with participants in community settings. Very quickly we responded and adapted our delivery to meet the needs of our communities and those who are shielding, using our artistic practice to keep people connected, creative and improve their health and wellbeing.

In 2020-21 GemArts adapted and expanded our arts, health and wellbeing programme by creating a mixture of on-line and offline arts activities.

Cultural Threads - We worked with and commissioned artists, across art forms, whose work reflects creative and cultural diversity, to produce on-line content and sessions, as well as bespoke creative arts packs, which include arts materials, and we delivered these to individuals, families, community groups and schools across the North East. We delivered the arts packs with our weekly hot Indian meals to families in Gateshead. Creative content included Chinese block printing, Origami hearts, Bollywood dance sessions, dhol drumming, zine making, creating your own mandala, and Kathputli puppets from Rajasthan. <https://gemarts.org/projects/138/cultural-threads-programme>

“Thank you for your kindness. The food has been delicious, and I have loved making my origami hearts and sharing them with my family and friends” Participant Feedback

We created a Cultural Threads booklet which features the arts activities that were created for online, so that people who are digitally excluded can also take part. We printed 500 of GemArts Cultural Threads booklets and delivered these with our food deliveries as well as distributing them to wider vulnerable families and individuals via community partners including AgeUK, Gateshead Carers and Gateshead Council’s Community Hub.

Changing Perspectives - this creative programme aims to work with 60 women over 2 years to enable those furthest away from the labour market, to build confidence and develop skills to re-enter employment and/or take part in volunteering. GemArts are working with GVEMSG Feel-Good Group and lead artist Michelle Wood. The sessions would have normally taken place at Bensham Grove Community Centre on a weekly basis. Many of the women we work with have very limited IT skills, so we created arts packs which were posted out or delivered to them (140 packs so far). The group use what’s app to stay connected and share their creations, which we shared across our social media platforms. Arts activities included – Felt project with embroidered hearts, birds and flowers; Print stamp card making; Paper and fabric Origami hearts; Rainbow bunting, paper flowers and felt bowls; Diwali pattern concertina book making and Christmas card stamp printing.

We provided some digital training with the women and began to deliver some on-line zoom sessions. Artist Michelle Wood delivered a card making collage activity, and the group also explored the Japanese Festival of Spring Hanami with artists Saya Rose Naruse, in collaboration with Dingy Butterflies 10x10 project. In this session the group created their own origami cherry blossoms for display.

Hyem (meaning Home in Geordie): In September we launched our new participatory arts programme funded by Blue Stone Collaborative/Well NewcastleGateshead to engage with isolated and vulnerable minority ethnic and wider communities in Gateshead (Bridges Ward and Felling); and in the East and West End of Newcastle. The project will offer culturally relevant arts activities to improve health and wellbeing; and bring communities together to share and celebrate their creativity by exploring diverse narratives of Hope, Kindness and Home during the pandemic. We recruited the artists team who will be working with four groups over 12 months

Artist Emma Sheridan began working with the Cultural Exchange group in September, with women from asylum seeker and refugee communities settled in Byker. The sessions have focused on textiles, fabric and tile painting. The engagement levels have been very good and the group have found the sessions positive in terms of creative skills development and improving social wellbeing. Over the 2nd lockdown the project was adapted to a family project, to involve the children who were being home schooled. These sessions worked towards the project aims of school readiness and better mental health.

Children and Young People: Lockdown, not being able to attend school and meet freely with friends has had a huge impact on the young people we work with.

GemArts exemplar **East by North East** youth music programme has continued to engage young people living in challenging circumstances. We have delivered socially distanced sessions in community settings, as well as weekly on-line sessions, which have enabled young people to connect with their friends, and supported their musical, creative, personal and social development. We continued to support and develop a diverse music leader workforce at North Benwell Youth Project including hip hop, rap and gypsy folk music; and at Life Transformational Church young people wanted to focus on protest songs in response to BLM movement. The group learnt and performed Glory by John Legend, and a video was created which was launched in October 2020 during Black History Month. This is the first time they worked on-line and have created a brilliant performance video – see here ---

<https://youtu.be/GUmG-zj1KNQ>

'The music sessions have been tremendous for the group, it has given them a focus and supported them during these tough times. It's nice to hear them laugh, connect with friends and have fun!'

Support Worker Feedback

GemArts **Schools programme** from April 2020 was severely affected by the pandemic and lockdown. We were unable to deliver any face to face sessions this year. We offered creative packs to key worker children and have continued to innovate and created on-line digital content and resources for schools celebrating Diwali and Chinese New Year.

44 schools across Durham and 2 in Gateshead accessed the Diwali digital content; and 40 schools accessed the Chinese New Year workshop.

In March 2021 we also created content for the Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages, which is a celebration of the diverse languages, cultures and communities in the region and our connections with the world. Over this week we have provided the following arts activities presented with simple language phrases

- Bolivian Tinku Carnival Dance with Yuvel Soria (Spanish/English)
- Dhol Drumming with Rosh Singh (Punjabi/English)
- Bharatnatyam Dance with Breeze George (Tamil/English)

34 schools accessed these resources over the festival week from across the North East.

GemArts enabled 22 young people to achieve Arts Award accreditation and supported 11 schools to maintain Arts Mark.

GemArts demonstrates considerable depth of knowledge and understanding around complex issues related to cultural diversity and arts. GemArts participatory arts programme has continued to engage with thousands of people across all ages from diverse communities throughout the pandemic, we have offered culturally relevant arts opportunities and have demonstrated the positive impact of our artistic practice in keeping people connected, creative, reducing isolation and improving their health and wellbeing at this extremely challenging time.

GemArts exponentially increased our digital presence over the pandemic and reached over 107,000 on-line audiences engaging with our South Asian and culturally diverse arts programme. We contracted 107 freelance staff across all art forms in 2020-21

Sector Support and Development: We know that people from our communities' face racism and discrimination. The murder of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter movement further brought to light racial inequalities. We are an anti-racist charity. Inclusivity, Diversity and Equality is fundamental to our organization and creative practice. GemArts alongside regional artists and arts organizations are leading on **Culture Against Racism**, a collaborative network committed to creating an anti-racist culture, and creative sector, in the North East of England. In November 2022 our first on-line Town Hall event was held with 150 people attending from across the cultural, public, voluntary and private sector including artists, organisations and senior leaders and decision makers.

GemArts Director Vikas Kumar was invited to speak and present at the following regional and national online conferences, networks events and webinars:

Thinking International 2020 - 15th July: the North East Perspective

Chaired by Ros Rigby this event explored how North East organisations might develop their international working in a post-COVID-19 world. GemArts alongside 2 other North East arts and heritage organisations with a history of international working shared both the impact of Covid-19 on their international work in recent times, and how they plan to work internationally in the coming months and years.

All Parliamentary Group on Arts and Health Webinar - 16th July

Chaired by Tracy Brabin MP, Shadow Minister for Cultural Industries. Speakers talked from a range of perspectives about the context of Covid-19 and how the arts and creativity have been used to support people who are shielding and vulnerable in our communities. This was followed by a Q&A with the audience

North East Culture Partnership Annual Forum 2021: Shifting Cultures – 29th January 2021:

Stabilisation, Survival and Growth: How have organisations and independent creatives managed to stabilise over the last year? Where are the examples of positive change and growth? How have organisations survived? How can they continue to survive and thrive?

Northern Asian Power Mission: India, a virtual 5-day trade event 1 - 5 March 2021: Northern Asian Power Mission: Creative Industries and Culture Masterclass – Vikas Kumar, GemArts Director was named in Northern Asian Power List 2020

At this time of extreme change, GemArts has shown exceptional leadership, innovation and resilience. Our successful funding strategy and established reserves gave us working capital to manage the early impact on the loss of earned and box office income, and sponsorship. Our strong community development approach and excellent participatory arts programme has enabled GemArts to access additional funding from trusts and foundations so that we can continue to work with and support communities that are least engaged and who are more likely to suffer long-term impacts and poor outcomes from COVID-19.

We would like to thank all our funders, trusts and foundations, donors, sponsors, and all our partners for their generous and continued support, and all our amazing artists, volunteers, staff, partners, trustees, communities, participants and audiences for their kindness, generosity and resilience during these unprecedented times. Covid-19 will continue to raise huge challenges in the coming year for our

communities, artists and sector and we can only meet those by supporting one another and working together. www.gemarts.org

The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described above.

Financial Review:

The financial position for the year shows net incoming funds of £227,946 and total outgoing resources of £125,255 with the balance from 2019-20 of £377,585 this leaves assets of £480,276 of which £268,637 are restricted funds and £130,500 are designated funds as per our reserves policy. This leaves £81,139 unrestricted funds. The Trustees consider the financial position of the organisation to be stable.

Risk Management:

The Trustees are examining the major risks, which the charity faces in relation to external factors, governance and management, internal operations and business. They are considering the likelihood and the impact of risks and reviewed what systems should be in place to control and reduce those risks. The systems are being designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material loss or misstatement of loss.

Reserves Policy:

It is the policy of the charity to try to build up unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity, to a level that equates to approximately 6 months expenditure plus redundancy liability which currently stands as £130,500. This will provide sufficient funds to cover redundancy liabilities, management and administration support costs and any emergencies that may arise from time to time, a designated contingency fund has been set up for this purpose.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to comply with applicable law. The Trustees 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.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Name	Mr Ashok Kumar	Position	Chair
Signature	<i>Ashok Kumar</i>	Date	24 th January 2022
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	<i>M S Dhindsa</i>	Date	24 th January 2022

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 13-20.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under regulation 3(3) and section 144(2) of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination; it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the financial statements under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act;and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act ; or
 -
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB

Date 24th January 2022

Signed



aat

Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds 2020-21	Total Funds 2019-20
Note	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and Legacies	2	0	0	0	5,395
Charitable Activities	2	1,000	0	220,106	233,628
Other Trading Activities	2	6,840		6,840	41,710
Investments	2	0	0	0	0
Total Income and Endowments		7,840	0	220,106	280,733
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	2			0	
Charitable Activities	2	3,654	121,601	125,255	254,757
Other resources expended	2			0	0
Total Expenditure		3,654	0	121,601	254,757
Income less Expenditure before transfers		4,186	0	98,505	25,976
Transfers				0	0
<i>Total Funds brought forward</i>		76,953	130,500	170,132	377,585
Total funds carried forward		81,139	130,500	268,637	377,585

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	Total Funds 2020-21 £	Total Funds 2019-20 £
Current Assets			
<i>Stocks and Work in Progress</i>		0	0
<i>Debtors</i>	7	0	0
<i>Investments</i>		0	0
<i>Cash at Bank and In Hand</i>		480,576	377,885
Total Current Assets		480,576	377,885
Liabilities			
<i>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</i>	8	(300)	(300)
<i>Total Current Assets less Current Liabilities</i>		(300)	(300)
<i>Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year</i>		0	0
<i>Net assets or liabilities including pension asset or liability</i>		480,276	377,585
 The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted income funds		268,637	170,132
Designated Funds		130,500	130,500
Unrestricted income funds		81,139	76,953
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		480,276	377,585

Signed by one or two of the Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees:

Name	Mr Ashok Kumar	Position	Chair
Signature	<i>Ashok Kumar</i>	Date	24 th January 2022
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	<i>M S Dhindsa</i>	Date	24 th January 2022

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period to 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

Basis of Preparation

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

Resources Expended and Liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2 Funds

The Charity has 3 funds, an unrestricted general fund, a designated fund, comprising 3 months running costs and redundancy liabilities as per the reserves policy, and a restricted fund used for purchasing items of a specific: hence all movements on each fund are disclosed.

Restricted Funds

Fund Name	Balances b/f £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
GVEMSG					
MEMCO transfer	2,051	0	0	0	2,051
GVEMSG Total	2,051	0	0	0	2,051
GEM ARTS					
Arts Council England NPO	44,726	92,208	(77,098)		59,836
Arts Council England Catalyst	45,688	30,000	0		75,688
National Foundation for Youth Music	57,136	0	(4,800)		52,336
Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund	1,196	0	0		1,196
Community Foundation - Cultural Bridge Fund	461	0	(461)		0
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD	9,605	23,778	(6,644)		26,739
Middlesbrough Town Hall	9,270	0	(1,500)		7,770
HMRC JRS Grant	0	22,565	(22,565)		0
Arts Council England/Donations - Culture Against Racism	0	9,455	(1,390)		8,065
GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme	0	9,250	0		9,250
Community Foundation - Gateshead Housing Company	0	5,000	0		5,000
Community Foundation - NET Covid Appeal Fund	0	9,900	(5,516)		4,384
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead	0	14,000	(1,627)		12,373
Sport England - This Girl Can	0	3,950	0		3,950
GEM ARTS Total	168,082	220,106	(121,601)	0	266,587
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	170,132	220,106	(120,601)	0	268,637
Designated Funds					
Fund Name	Balances b/f £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Contingency and Redundancy Liability	130,500				130,500
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	130,500	0	0	0	130,500
Unrestricted Funds					
Fund Name	Balances b/f £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
GVEMSG - General Fund	11,186	1000	(3,318)		8,868
GEM Arts - General Fund	65,762	6,840	(336)		72,266
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	76,948	7,840	(3,654)	0	81,134
TOTAL FUNDS	377,580	227,946	(124,285)	0	480,276

Purpose of Funds

GVEMSG

- a) MEMCO transfer

GemArts

- a) Arts Council England, National Portfolio Organisation -The grant is towards core costs and artistic programme
- b) Catalyst – towards building fundraising capacity

- c) National Foundation for Youth Music - The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project focusing on music with children living in challenging circumstances, and training/developing a diverse music leader workforce
- d) Police Crime and Commissioners Fund – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project
- e) Culture Bridge Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project during the Summer holidays with young people in Gateshead
- f) European Social Fund: Gateshead Goes Global – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts programme with women furthest from the labour market to make progress towards volunteering, employment, enterprise, education or training.
- g) Town Hall – for the delivery of a South Asian music and performance programme
- h) HMRC – Corona Virus Job Retention Scheme Grant
- i) Arts Council England/Donations – sector support/partnership to deliver Culture Against Racism
- j) GMBC and Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government’s Community Champions Fund - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme
- k) The Gateshead Housing Company at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland – The grant is for the delivery of a high quality participatory arts project to tackle hate crime and improve community safety
- l) Community Foundation - NET Covid Appeal Fund – The grant is for the the preparation of hot food and bespoke creative arts pack deliveries to vulnerable communities in Gateshead
- m) Bluestone Collaborative – Well NewcastleGateshead – The grant is for the delivery of ‘Hyem’ a high quality arts, health and wellbeing programme
- n) Sport England - This Girl Can – The Grant is for the delivery of a high quality movement and dance programme

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2020-21

Income and Endowments from:

Donations and Legacies

GEM ARTS

Sponsorship and Donations

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
				-
				0
				0
				0
GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total	0	0	0	0

GVEMSG

Box Office

Grants

GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total

				0
				0
	1000			1,000
GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total	1,000	0	0	1,000

GEM ARTS

Arts Council England NPO

Arts Council England Catalyst

Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD

HMRC JRS Grant

Arts Council England/Donations -Culture Against Racism

GMBC - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme

Community Foundation - Gateshead Housing Company

Community Foundation - NET Covid Appeal Fund

Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead

Sport England - This Girl Can

Other incoming resources

GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total

			92,208	92,208
			30,000	30,000
			23,778	23,778
			22,565	22,565
			9,455	9,455
			9,250	9,250
			5,000	5,000
			9,900	9,900
			14,000	14,000
			3,950	3,950
				0
GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total	0	0	220,106	220,106
	1,000	0	220,106	221,106

Other Incoming Resources

	6,840	0	0	0
	6,840	0	0	0
Total Income and Endowments	7,840	0	220,106	227,946

**Expenditure on:
Charitable Activities**

GVEMSG

Refreshments/Catering			0
Insurance			0
Rent/Telephone/Internet			0
Training and Development			0
Venue Hire			0
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport			0
Community Worker wages	3,318		3,318
GVEMSG Total Charitable Activities	3,318	0	0

GEM Arts

Artist Fees PA, Materials & Production		19,503	19,503
Food Deliveries and Volunteer Expenses		2,833	2,833
Venue & Tech		200	200
Org Dev and Catalyst		1,510	1,510
Marketing/PR/Doc		312	312
Evaluation		0	0
IT and Equipment		300	300
Stationery/Printing/Postage		45	45
Insurance		1,265	1,265
Phone/Internet		477	477
Expenses		1,848	1,848
Wages		92,878	92,878
Other	336		336
Independent Examination of Accounts		300	300
Bank Charges		130	130
GEM ARTS Total Charitable Activities	336	0	121,601

Raising Funds

			0
	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	3,654	0	121,601

Support Cost Type

	Fundraising	Charitable	Governance	Total
	Activity	Activity	Activity	Cost
	£	£	£	£
GVEMSG				-
Community Worker wages		3,318		3,318
GVEMSG Total Support Costs		3,318	-	3,318
GEM ARTS				-
Venue & Tech		200		200
Marketing/PR/Doc		312		312
Evaluation		-		
IT and Equipment		300		300
Stationery/Printing/Postage		45		45
Insurance		1,265		1,265
Phone/Internet		477		477
Expenses		1,848		1,848
Wages		92,878		92,878
Rent		336		336
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
GEM ARTS Total Support Costs		97,661	300	97,961
Total Support Costs		100,979	300	101,279

3 Staff Costs

Employees	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019-20 Total £
GVEMSG			0
Salaries and NI	3,318		3,318
GVEMSG Total Employee Costs		0	3,318
GEM ARTS			
Salaries and NI		87,759	87,759
Pension		4,676	4,676
Child Care Vouchers		23	23
Payroll Fees		420	420
GEM ARTS Total Employee Costs	0	92,878	92,878
Total Employee Costs	3,318	92,878	96,196

These costs were for the employment of 2 full time and 2 part time members of staff and include Employer's NI. All other staff are casually employed tutors/facilitators. No member of staff was paid remuneration of £60,000 or more.

4 Trustees remuneration, benefit and expenses

There were none during this period.

5 Debtors

There are no debtors at this time.

6 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020-21 Total £
Independent Examination Fee	300		300
	300	-	300

7 Related Party Disclosures

There were no related parties during this period

8 Taxation

Due to the nature of its activities, the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.