



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

Financial Statements
For the year ended
31 March 2023

Contents

Title	Page
Legal and Administrative Information	3
Trustees Annual Report	4
Independent Examiners Report	13
Statement of Financial Activities	14
Balance Sheet	15
Notes to the Accounts	16-21

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: Mr Ashok Kumar (Chair)
Mr A Singh Gill MBE (Vice Chair)
Angela Singh (Treasurer)
Manjit Singh Dhindsa (Secretary)
Michael Harte
Birinder Singh Brar
Ala Miah

Patrons: Cllr Martin Gannon
Rt Hon Baroness Joyce Quinn
Ian Mearns MP

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: Keith Blackett FMAAT
Beechwood Accounting NE Ltd
80 Beechwood Gdns
GATESHEAD
NE11 0DA

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 vulnerable 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 and face racism and discrimination. We are an anti-racist charity. 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. Equality, diversity, equity and inclusion is fundamental to our work.

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, local schools and community groups, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Gateshead Interfaith Forum, housing services, and Leisure/Cultural Services

2022/23 – Activities & Achievements:

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 in our communities 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. We have continued to do be responsive to community needs as Covid restrictions eased.

GVEMSG has further developed the capacity of the organisation in terms of governance, operational, monitoring, reporting and financial management system. We continue to employ part time salaried Community Development Worker, GemArts Director, Project Manager and Administrator; and provide our trustees, staff and volunteers with appropriate training and development.

At our base in Bensham Grove Community Centre in Gateshead we continue to deliver a range of weekly support, advice and development sessions –

Mondays, 1pm-3pm - Feel Good Group: We deliver weekly Health and Wellbeing sessions supporting and working with women from minority ethnic and wider communities who feel isolated. The sessions engage women in activities to overcome barriers and enable them to access culturally relevant creative learning opportunities and to socialise and interact with other women. The women in the group have various physical and mental health issues, and the sessions offer an active, educational and safe environment to build their own confidence, improve health and wellbeing, and support each other. Members come from different faith and cultural backgrounds but find common ground in activities. The group receives GP referrals of women who would benefit from joining the group to access support and advice. The weekly activities include visual arts sessions, movements, dance and exercise sessions, group outings to local areas of interest, and providing training, as well as facilitating their progress towards further training, volunteering, employment and enterprise.

Between April – May 2022 as part of GemArts Cultural Thread programme the group worked over 8 weeks with visual artist Mani Kambo developing creative skills in mixed media and textiles exploring superstition, storytelling and folk lore. This was the first set of full sessions after pandemic and made a huge positive difference to the women's wellbeing, many who had met in person for the first time after nearly 2 years.

June – July 2022: 15 women worked with artist Michelle Wood over 6 weeks to create Books of Hope. Their beautiful, handmade concertina books and decorated boxes were exhibited as part of GemArts Masala Festival 2022. Responding to the question "What do you hope for?", the women created artists' books using collage, painting and printmaking techniques. They also made postcards for family and friends to share their messages of hope.

Tai Chi sessions commenced in October 2022, were facilitated by Wendy Chan and ran for 7 weeks. We engaged with over 30 people throughout the sessions, 88% of participants who took part were over 50 years old and 90% of attendees were women.

Tuesdays, 10am-1pm - English Classes: Zahra our Community Bridge Builder has been working with people seeking sanctuary. We know a lack of English language skills pose significant barriers for many people across the borough. Asylum seekers and refugees in their first 6-months after arrival are particularly vulnerable in the current system of language skills provision. Zahra, has been delivering English for beginners classes, supported by Harpal, our Community Development Worker. The sessions are proving to be very popular with up to 30 learners in each session and we have offered refreshments and through funding from Lankelly Chase we cover their travel expenses so we remove barriers to attending. The sessions offer a whole range of additional help, support and signposting to other services as well as supporting the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and families.

Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm – Drop In Centre: as lockdown restrictions eased we welcomed back communities to Bensham Grove offering advice and support and signposting to a range of services including housing, health and wellbeing, cultural and creative opportunities, social services, environmental services, education, volunteering, career opportunities, access to Police, we are a safe reporting centre. Our organisation is proud to be part of the #WarmSpacesNetwork across Gateshead. Everyone who comes to our warm space is offered a hot or cold drink, biscuits, snacks, hot food and is welcomed by one of our staff members and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers speak various community languages and helped with interpretation and translation and filling in forms. The drop in provides an opportunity for social inclusion and cohesion. It is both popular and indispensable for existing communities and new arrivals.

These sessions have been invaluable in keeping people connected, active and improving their health and wellbeing.

Collaborating with Gateshead Council and Public Health:

In response to our valuable work and insight with Minority Ethnic communities in Gateshead we continued to collaborate with Gateshead Council and Public Health to deliver on Gateshead Covid Champions programme. We identified barriers to accessing accurate information, and concerns that the community had, and provided tailored support including translated material, recruiting and training community champions, and encouraging take-up of the vaccination programme in Gateshead to enable people to improve their own outcomes around Covid-19, their broader life chances, access to services, health and wellbeing.

Trustees and staff team have representation on and regularly attend meetings including Local Outbreak Engagement Board, Vaccination Inequality Group, Covid Champions Community Group, MECC 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.

Sector/Strategic Development:

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

GVEMSG has worked in partnership with local minority ethnic voluntary groups in Gateshead and Tyne and Wear 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 this recovery phase and in such unprecedented and challenging circumstances, and we are truly grateful!

In 2022/23 through this programme of work we have engaged, supported and worked with over 2000 people from across all age ranges, faith communities and ethnicities.

Retirement

Narinder Dhindsa has been supporting the charity since its inception and after 20 years as GVEMSG Community Development Worker retired in April 2022. Narinder will continue in a voluntary role with the organisation. Trustees, staff and volunteers wished Narinder all the best and are hugely grateful for her excellent contribution to the charity and community for so many years.

GemArts

GemArts is one of a limited number of National Portfolio Organisation funded by the Arts Council England and is an award winning 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.

GemArts has built on our recovery programme from the previous year and continue to deliver an ambitious and inspiring artistic programme across all strands of work. We know that this has been an exceptionally difficult time for our communities, freelance artists and creative workforce. GemArts is absolutely committed to supporting artists at every stage of their career, ensuring that talent and artistic excellence is diverse, thriving and celebrated and truly reflective of contemporary Britain.

In 2022-23 GemArts grew our programme and continued to respond to audience feedback to ensure that we build confidence to reach out to new audiences and re-connect with loyal audiences returning to public gatherings. The programming of international work continued to be significantly challenged because of international travel restrictions to limit the spread of Covid, especially from the Indian sub-continent. Despite these challenges we produced and programmed 40 performances, exhibitions and events spanning traditional and contemporary arts forms, employed 221 individual artists, and attracted audiences in excess of 45,000 live audiences from diverse communities and 41,500 on-line audiences.

GemArts added to its critically acclaimed Riverside Ragas concert series at Sage Gateshead, presenting the very best in classical, folk and contemporary music. We delivered pre-concert talks, demonstrations, workshops and masterclasses with academics, musicians and journalists, including online content (podcasts). As part of the series we continued to support and programme some of the UK's very best talent including Roopa Panesar one of Europe's finest sitarists accompanied by the formidable Shahbaz Hussain on tabla; Divergence a double bill featuring Giuliano Modarelli (guitar) and Kitha Balakrishnan (violin); the brilliant sarod player Soumik Dutta presented his new work Hope Notes; Seyed Ali Jaberi and the Hamdel Ensemble performed deeply moving contemporary devotional Persian Sufi music, Rumi poetry and dance.

We continued to engage new audiences working in partnership with venues of different size and scale across the region. Award-winning clarinettist Arun Ghosh performed music from his brand-new album Secluded in Light, and celebrated UNESCO International Jazz Day at The Globe. Arun also delivered a children and family music workshop and performance earlier in the day. Jazz pianist Helen Anita Wilson mesmerised audiences at the Lit & Phil; and India's ever-evolving When Chai Met Toast showcased their folk-pop roots with forays into indie rock and alternative rock at Bobiks. Strengthening our partnership with Durham University and to celebrate Holi, GemArts collaborated on the second edition of Indian Spring Colours with a stellar line up of musicians over two days including sitarist Ashraf Khan, khyal vocalist Vijay Rajput, Kaviraj Singh on santoor and odissi dancer Maryiam Shakiba.

GemArts commitment to supporting traditional and contemporary dance was absolutely demonstrated this year through an exceptional programme which included a full house in stage 1 at Northern Stage as two extraordinary dancers Aakash Odedra (UK/ India) and Hu Shenyuan (China) used their disciplines of Kathak, Chinese folk, ballet and contemporary dance to explore the Buddhist notion of Samsara – a well deserved standing ovation! We collaborated with Festival of Thrift as Nina Raj Rani's Jham! performed to over 6000 audiences; and presented internationally acclaimed Odissi dancer Arushi Mudgal with Dance City. Furthermore, Spy Monkey by Atma Dance which was co-commissioned by GemArts over the pandemic was able connect with children and young people.

We welcomed back GemArts Masala Festival in July 2022, marking its seventh year with a diverse program celebrating South Asian arts and culture. From dance theatre performances like SEVENS by Srishti dance company to visual arts exhibitions Lore by Mani Kambo and Narivad by Sofia Barton showcasing regional talent, the festival presented a rich array of experiences. In addition, the festival gave a platform to new talent, presenting Jashn, a group exhibition by students from Newcastle and Sunderland University. Other highlights included Momentum, an evening of contemporary South Asian short films at BALTIC; Bloodaxe poets, Amali Gunasekera and Shazea Quraishiat at Culture Lab, and music performances featuring Yaatri at The Globe; and virtuoso sitar player Jasdeep Singh Degun performed with an ensemble of 9 incredible musicians from his critically acclaimed debut album Anomaly at Sage Gateshead to a full house. The festival culminated with our spectacular Mini Mela for children and families with creative workshops, delicious Indian food from our sponsors Dabbawal and outdoor performances.

For the second year GemArts delivered Holi Festival of Colours on 11th March 2023 in partnership with Baltic where over 4000 people attended this EPIC event! We celebrated colour and the Holi tradition through creative workshops, Henna stations, dance, music, food and a joyous colour throw on Baltic Square attracting a diverse young and family audience. This is quickly becoming a firm favourite in the North East cultural calendar and we had fantastic coverage on local BBC and Tyne Tees news and media.

GemArts invested in R&D and encouraged artists to take risks, commissioning ground-breaking, innovative projects, artist talks and productions to raise both the profile and quality of South Asian arts and intercultural collaborations across England.

GemArts co-commissioned 4 new works: The Forest Dream by kuchipudi dancer Payal Ramchandani - this multi-styled dance-theatre work explores the fine balance between human existence and climate emergency; kathak dancer Jaivant Patel's Waltzing The Blue Gods; a new art work by visual artist Mani Kambo explores the inner spirit by drawing on her own personal totemic symbols for her exhibition Lore and Sophia Barton's Narivad (meaning Feminism in Sanskrit) which were both exhibited at Masala Festival 2022.

GemArts continue to nurture a new generation of creative artists/practitioners from under-represented groups, with a long-term aim of diversifying senior management and leadership roles in the arts.

In 2022/23 our Creative Associates Programme supported 18 artists whose work reflects creative and cultural diversity through training, developmental, participatory and performance opportunities. Of those, 16 were music leaders from the region on our Youth Music funded East By North East programme; we broadened the cohort to ensure gender equality across the programme, supporting artists to lead complex projects with several partners working with children living in challenging circumstances, providing professional development, peer mentoring, training and sharing best practice. The programme continues to evidence progression routes from participants, to young leaders, to volunteer and to practitioners.

GemArts demonstrates considerable depth of knowledge and understanding around complex issues related to cultural diversity and arts. In 2022/23 we have continued to build on our excellent track record, further collaborating with the public and voluntary sector to expand our artistic programme to provide more opportunities for professional artists and Minority Ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged to work with one another, co-create, sustaining the arts regionally, and addressing community needs and issues.

This year we have delivered a blended programme of face to face and on-line sessions across the North East, employed and supported a culturally diverse workforce of 60 artists in participatory settings, and delivered, in formal education and community settings, 780 sessions with over 17,300 participants (and 10,470 on-line) from minority ethnic and wider communities that are least engaged and across protected characteristics and age ranges. Highlights include:

Cultural Threads - GemArts arts, health and wellbeing programme provides culturally relevant arts opportunities with vulnerable minority ethnic and wider communities to reduce loneliness and isolation, keep people connected, creative, improving health and wellbeing.

- GemArts was awarded funding from Gateshead Community Mental Health fund to expand our Cultural Threads programme in Gateshead. Building on the success from the first phase, during Feb – March 2023 we delivered 6 half day sessions each week with 3 groups to create decorative art works to be displayed at Baltic for GemArts Holi Celebrations:
 - Mani Kambo worked with City Refugee Welcome Project: Women, children and men in Gateshead co-created hanging decorations with beads and Pom Poms as well as paper flower decorations
 - Michelle Wood worked with GVEMSG Feel Good Group to co-create 'Colour Burst' banners and decorative paper hangings
 - Pui Lee worked with a diverse group of women that access the Millin Charity. The group learned a variety of different mindful papercut and crafting techniques to make colourful and vibrant hand-made 3D pieces, which are brought together to form a unique abstract paper-craft installation.
 - GemArts worked with over 230 participants and engaged over 5000 audience members far exceeding our target. We worked with a total of 4 professional artists. Participant backgrounds include those who are from Sudan, Ukraine, Russia, Albania, Rwanda,

Kurdistan, Iraq, Guatemala, El Salvador, Iran, Kuwait, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, India and England/Gateshead.

- GemArts Cultural Threads featured in The Chronicle on 6th March 2023: [Gateshead arts charity boss explains how £10,000 transformed mental health offering in one of the borough's most deprived areas - Chronicle Live](#)
- GemArts Cultural Threads programme was highlighted in the Transformation in Gateshead – The Story So far video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uQmTyTqEaA>
- On 27th February 2023 Alice Wiseman (Director of Public Health Gateshead) and Hannah Waterson (Research and Policy Manager from National Centre for Creative Health) visited GemArts Cultural Threads project with our Feel Good Group which is to be used as a case study to evidence excellent practice as part of the Creative Health Review Overview.

- Cultural Threads - NHS Sessions

GemArts continued our Cultural Threads programme to work with partners at NHS who identify frontline staff from the whole of the health and social care sector. We are working with staff members who are battling COVID-19, and have faced and continue to experience burn out, fatigue, trauma and bereavement, be that their family, friends and/or colleagues. We are currently engaging up to 80 staff members each week from across Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear in high quality culturally diverse on-line arts sessions, including Chinese Water Color sessions with artists Chun Chao Chui, visual arts with Jayamini de Silvia, dance/movement with Breeze George and Yuvel Soria, and creative writing with Tahmina Ali; and when needed signposting NHS staff to professional help and support, to improve their mental, physical and social health and wellbeing.

The feedback from participants has been incredible with 100% reporting that the sessions have improved their health and wellbeing through developing new creative skills.

Researchers at NHS have also evidenced through initial data gathering that the Cultural Threads sessions are having the same positive impact on staff's wellbeing as those being referred to clinical psychologist/therapists.

- Spring Bank Pavilion, Leazes Park

In partnership with Urban Green and The Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust GemArts delivered our Cultural Threads sessions over 19 weeks between Sept 2022 – March 2023 with artist Pui Lee to explore themes of nature, space, community, and wellbeing, through various methods of print making with participants. A final celebration event took place at Spring Bank on 1st April which included a video installation of the work created by participants and Pui delivered a half day of drop in sessions.

- Culture Exchange Group, Byker

Visual artist Emma Sheridan worked with Barnardo's Newcastle Family Hub East, a group for refugees and those seeking asylum. Over 16 weeks delivered a textile and sewing project. The women are from Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran. The sessions also enable the group to develop English language skills, networks and access to further services.

We Stand Together: GemArts worked with 40 volunteers and participants at Comfrey Project to co-create a beautiful large-scale mosaic with professional artist Emma Sheridan. Over 12 sessions, the participatory arts project enabled the group to develop new creative skills, discuss and raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it, whilst exploring themes of respect, welcoming communities, diversity, belonging and nature. The participants incorporated all these ideas into the final artwork which is displayed permanently at The Comfrey Project. There was a final celebration event on 13th May attended by over 250 people and the art work was unveiled by Ian Mearns MP.

As well as many other sessions in community settings GemArts teamed up with Gateshead Art Diamonds to engage people of retirement age in creative workshops during Masala Festival including Mystical Pattern Prints with Mani Kambo; Paper Tea Cup Making and Peacock Prints with Michelle Wood; Bollywood Dance with Suzy; and Tapestry Workshops with Sajil Kaleem. We also delivered a

range of African drumming workshops with musician Fanuel engaging adults and carers across South Shields and Sunderland.

GemArts expanded our rich cultural offer for Children and Young People across the region within schools and community settings offering unparalleled access to high quality culturally diverse arts opportunities. Working in some of the most deprived wards in the region GemArts schools programme supported curriculum topics, diversity weeks, arts weeks and summer transition. We worked with 27 schools (primary and secondary) and supported 8 schools across the North East to achieve and maintain Arts Mark.

GemArts supported 15 children and young people to achieve Arts Award (Discover and Bronze). From experience, we know accessible, accredited learning like Arts Award makes a huge difference to young people from minority ethnic communities and starts to address the balance in attainment gaps.

It was great to be back working in schools again after covid restrictions had been lifted. Between May – July 2022 GemArts delivered a diverse range of artists residencies with the Roman Road Primary in Gateshead working with all year groups and engaging 220 young people, with the theme of celebrating cultures and countries. Art forms included South American percussion and carnival, Chinese block printing and calligraphy, African drumming, song and dance, mask making, Bollywood dance and Indian peacock prints, plus much more which culminated in a final showcase performance and exhibition event at the school where parents and carers were invited to.

GemArts worked with 7 schools across County Durham to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. We delivered 5 artists residencies over 5 weeks including Steel Pans, African drumming, Bollywood Dance, Kuchipudi Dance and Gospel singing introduced pupils to the culture, music and dance of different parts of the Commonwealth, resulting in a special celebratory concert at Gala Durham on Tuesday 14 June, which included performances by Voices of Virtue Choir, Mandingo Bay Warriors and Breeze George. We worked with 300 children, 20 artists and welcomed 1300 audience members to two shows. The concerts were presided over by Her Majesty's personal representative, The Lord-Lieutenant of Durham and other VIP guests. Incredible project and amazing feedback from artists, teachers, children and audiences all summed up in this short film https://youtu.be/Zzmre_FaEYM

We delivered Music Production and DJ'ing sessions at Woodlands PRU in Durham during term time with music leader Adam Cogdon every Wednesday. These are one to one session with 13 young people who are SEN. In addition, music leader April Olatunji is delivering vocal, choir and piano sessions on Thursday and Friday's at Excelsior Academy with young people from diverse communities.

GemArts flagship East by North East youth music programme has continued to engage over 200 young people each week strengthening partnerships across 6 host organisations (North Benwell Youth Project, Life Transformational Church, Excelsior Academy, Benfield School and Gateshead Resettlement Team) in the west and east end of Newcastle, and in Gateshead, to provide young people living in challenging circumstances from Global Majority and wider communities to participate in high quality culturally diverse music making opportunities.

The programme is young person led and includes regular weekly music sessions, accreditation, progressions routes, sharing events and performances. In addition, a key element of the programme is to further diversify the music skills and workforce of music practitioners in the North East and we offer CPD, training and development.

We advocate the benefits of using music to break down barriers to social change and greater community cohesion; evidencing the personal, social and musical impact on young people's lives that the programme has had, enabling them to build their confidence and trust by sharing their musical genres/traditions, and empowering them to reassert their cultural identity; promoting gender equality and progression routes. Many of the long-term participants have developed into young leaders, volunteers, with 3 becoming paid artists/music leaders.

Our Mini Mela at Caedmon Hall during February half term was another great success attracting children and family audience of over 600 throughout the day; we extended the Mini Mela offer and programmed a

full day of arts activities at Darlington Hippodrome engaging more than 1000 new audiences! We partnered up with Arbela Roman Fort again to deliver a full day of creative drop in sessions to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Artists included Pui Lee delivered block printing, Emma Sheridan – tile printing and Henna by Gurbax with 200 people attending throughout the day; and with Durham Council for Chinese New Year 2022 Lip Lee and Pui Lee delivered visual arts sessions to celebrate the year of the Rabbit whilst Wendy Chan demonstrated Tai Chi engaging with 3000 audiences and participants.

GemArts participatory arts programme has continued to engage with diverse communities that are marginalised and least engaged, 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.

Sector wide, GemArts has taken a leadership role in advocating the benefits of creativity and diversity at a strategic level. GemArts has demonstrated exemplary practice and contributed to the development needs of minority ethnic communities, artists, practitioners, and leaders, enabling the organisation to achieve and maintain the highest 'Outstanding' rating from Arts Council England.

We know that people from our communities' face racism and discrimination. We are an anti-racist charity. 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.

Despite many challenges, GemArts has shown exceptional leadership and is adaptable, and demonstrates resilience and innovation in working and meeting local, regional and national policy agendas. Our work with local authorities, educational institutions, children and adult services, cultural, voluntary and public sector organisations, continues to strengthen the reach and long term impact of our work, enabling us to secure commissioning grants and funding from trusts and foundations to meet wider strategic objectives.

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.

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 £305,715 and total outgoing resources of £284,017 with the balance from 2021-22 of £564,432 this leaves assets of £586,130 of which £330,485 are restricted funds and £130,500 are designated funds as per our reserves policy. This leaves £125,145 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 due to increased costs has increased to £140,500. This required an additional £10,000 to be transferred from the unrestricted fund to the designated fund. 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	27.1.24
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature	<i>MSD</i>	Date	27.1.24

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 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.

Keith Blackett FMAAT

Date 27 JAN 24

Signed 

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2023

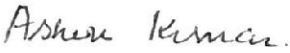

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
Note	Funds £	Funds £	Funds £	Funds 2022-23 £	Funds 2021-22 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and Legacies	2,077	0	0	2,077	908
Charitable Activities	767	0	212,874	213,641	271,956
Other Trading Activities	89,997			89,997	14,853
Investments		0	0	0	0
Total Income and Endowments	92,841	0	212,874	305,715	287,717
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds				0	0
Charitable Activities	54,195		229,822	284,017	203,561
Other resources expended				0	0
Total Expenditure	54,195	0	229,822	284,017	203,561
Income less Expenditure before transfers	38,646	0	(16,948)	21,698	84,156
Transfers	(10,000)	10,000		0	0
<i>Total Funds brought forward</i>	<i>86,499</i>	<i>130,500</i>	<i>347,433</i>	<i>564,432</i>	<i>480,276</i>
Total funds carried forward	115,145	140,500	330,485	586,130	564,432

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2023

		Note	Total Funds 2021-22 £	Total Funds 2020-21 £
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>		586,130	564,732
Total Current Assets			586,130	564,732
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>			585,830	564,432
 The Funds of the Charity:				
	Restricted income funds		330,485	347,433
	Designated Funds		140,500	130,500
	Unrestricted income funds		115,145	86,499
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			586,130	564,432

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

Name	Mr Ashok Kumar	Position	Chair
Signature		Date	27.1.24.
Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature		Date	27.1.24.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period to 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

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 and Warm Spaces	2,051	1,000	0	0	3,051
GVEMSG Total	2,051	1,000	0	0	3,051
GEM ARTS					
Arts Council England - NPO	91,879.00	122,208.00	(120,537.00)		93,550
Catalyst	75,688.00	0.00	0.00		75,688
National Foundation for Youth Music	63,377.00	37,498.00	(58,773.00)		42,102
Police & Crime Commissioners Fund	4,375.00	0.00	(4,375.00)		0
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD	28,735.00	0.00	(1,691.00)		27,044
Town Hall	7,770.00	0.00	0.00		7,770
ACE - Culture Against Racism	2,415.00	750.00	(348.00)		2,817
GMBC - Gateshead Covid	18,624.00	0.00	(3,300.00)		15,324
Champions Programme					
Community Foundation - Gateshead	3,894.00	0.00	(3,894.00)		0
Housing Co					
Bluestone Collaborative -	4,948.00	0.00	0.00		4,948
WellNewcastleGateshead					
Sport England - This Girl Can	2,290.00	0.00	(2,290.00)		0
Cumbria NHS	41,387.00	0.00	(11,898.00)		29,489
Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder	0.00	36,418.00	(15,598.00)		20,820
Lankelly Chase - English Language	0.00	5,000.00	(2,735.00)		2,265
Enquiry					
GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community	0.00	10,000.00	(4,383.00)		5,617
Health					
GEM ARTS Total	345,382	211,874	(229,822)	0	327,434
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	347,433	212,874	(229,822)		330,485
Designated Funds					
Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Contingency and Redundancy	130,500			10,000	140,500
Liability					
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	130,500	0	0	10,000	140,500
Unrestricted Funds					
Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
GVEMSG - General Fund	6,446	767	(613)		6,600
GEM Arts - General Fund	80,053	92,075	(53,583)	(10,000)	108,545
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	86,499	92,842	(54,196)	(10,000)	115,145
TOTAL FUNDS	564,432	305,716	(284,018)	0	586,130

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) 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.
- f) Town Hall – for the delivery of a South Asian music and performance programme.
- g) Arts Council England/Donations – sector support/partnership to deliver Culture Against Racism.
- h) GMBC and Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community Champions Fund - Gateshead Covid Champions Programme.
- i) 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.
- j) Bluestone Collaborative – Well NewcastleGateshead – The grant is for the delivery of 'Hyem' a high quality arts, health and wellbeing programme.
- k) Sport England - This Girl Can – The Grant is for the delivery of a high quality movement and dance programme.
- l) Cumbria NHS – The grant is for the delivery of Cultural Threads an arts health and wellbeing programme with NHS staff in Cumbria, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear.
- m) Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder funding to support wages and core costs.
- n) Lankelly Chase - to support English Language Enquiry with people seeking sanctuary
- o) GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community Health - The grant is to deliver Cultural Threads arts, health and wellbeing programme in Gateshead.

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2021-2

Income and Endowments from:

Donations and Legacies

GEM ARTS

Sponsorship and Donations

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
				-
	2,077			2,077
				0
				0
GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total	2,077	0	0	2,077
				0
GVEMSG				0
Box Office	767			767
Grants	0		1,000	1,000
GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total	767	0	1,000	1,767

GEM ARTS

Arts Council England - NPO

National Foundation for Youth Music

ACE – Culture Against Racism

Lankelly Chase – Bridgebuilder

Lankelly Chase – English Language Enquiry

GMBC – Gateshead Community Health

Other incoming resources

GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total

			122,208	122,208
			37,498	37,498
			750	750
			36,418	36,418
			5,000	5,000
			10,000	10,000
				0
GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total	0	0	211,874	211,874

	767	0	212,874	213,641
Other Incoming Resources				
	89,997	0	0	89,997
	89,997	0	0	89,997
Total Income and Endowments	92,841	0	212,874	305,715
Expenditure on:				
Charitable Activities				
GVEMSG				
Refreshments/Catering				0
Bank Charges	60			60
Rent/Telephone/Internet	300			300
Training and Development				0
Venue Hire				0
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport	157			157
Community Worker wages	96			96
GVEMSG Total Charitable Activities	613	0	0	613
GEM Arts				
Artist Fees, Materials & Production	53,582		84,246	137,828
Food Deliveries and Volunteer Expenses			3,415	3,415
Venue & Tech			6,414	6,414
Org Dev and Catalyst			4,394	4,394
Marketing/PR/Doc			7,937	7,937
Evaluation			0	0
IT and Equipment			1,470	1,470
Stationery/Printing/Postage			449	449
Insurance			1,091	1,091
Phone/Internet			1,079	1,079
Rent			2,500	2,500
Expenses			4,079	4,079
Wages and Pensions			111,655	111,655
Payroll Admin	0		730	730
Independent Examination of Accounts			300	300
Bank Charges			63	63
GEM ARTS Total Charitable Activities	53,582	0	229,822	283,404
Raising Funds				
				0
	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	54,195	0	229,822	284,017

Support Costs

Support Cost Type

	Fundraising	Charitable	Governance	Total Cost
	Activity	Activity	Activity	Cost
	£	£	£	£
GVEMSG				-
Insurance				-
Rent/Telephone/Internet				-
Sessional Staff				-
Stationery/Equipment				-
Training and Development				-
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				-
Community Worker wages		96		96
GVEMSG Total Support Costs		96		96
GEM ARTS				-
Venue & Tech		6,414		6,414
Marketing/PR/Doc		7,937		7,937

Evaluation	-		
IT and Equipment	1,470		1,470
Stationery/Printing/Postage	449		449
Insurance	1,091		1,091
Phone/Internet	1,079		1,079
Expenses	4,079		4,079
Wages	111,655		111,655
Payroll Admin	730		730
Independent Examination of Accounts		300	300
GEM ARTS Total Support Costs	134,904	300	135,204
Total Support Costs	135,000	300	135,300

3 Staff Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021-22 Total £
GVEMSG			0
Salaries and NI	96		2,240
GVEMSG Total Employee Costs		0	2,240
GEM ARTS			
Salaries and NI		106,042	103,907
Pension		5,613	4,866
Child Care Vouchers			0
Payroll Fees		730	578
GEM ARTS Total Employee Costs	0	112,385	109,351
Total Employee Costs	96	112,385	111,591
			2022-23 Number
			6

3 full time and 3 part time employees

These costs were for the employment of 3 full time and 3 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.

9 Transfer

Due to increased costs there was a requirement to transfer additional funds to the designated fund, to ensure that the reserves policy would be met.