



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

Financial Statements
For the year ended
31 March 2024

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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: 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
Stuart Bell

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

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

Memoriam of Founding Trustee Bahal Singh Dhindsa MBE (11/01/1923 – 04/09/2023)

With deep respect and heartfelt gratitude, we acknowledge the passing of Bahal Singh Dhindsa MBE on 4th September 2023, a visionary leader and dedicated founding trustee of GVEMSG. He played a pivotal role in shaping the mission and values of our organisation, leaving an indelible mark on our journey and impact.

Bahal ji's unwavering commitment, wisdom, and generosity were instrumental in laying the foundation for creating an all-inclusive multi-cultural society and to address racism and discrimination in all its forms. His legacy continues to inspire us as we carry forward the work he held so dear.

We were honoured and blessed to have celebrated his 100th birthday, his life and incredible contribution to the North East.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, community and all who were fortunate to know and work alongside Bahal Ji. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

In honour of Bahal Singh Dhindsa MBE we remain steadfast in our commitment to the vision he helped create.

2023/24 – Activities & Achievements:

In 2023/24 we have engaged, supported and worked with over 2000 people from across all age ranges, faith communities and ethnicities.

The COVID19 pandemic, cost of living and energy crisis have 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.

GVEMSG has further developed the capacity of the organisation in terms of governance, operational, monitoring, reporting and financial management system. We continue to 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, creative 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 volunteering, employment and enterprise.

Between April to July 2023 as part of GemArts Cultural Threads creative health programme the group worked with artist Pui Lee over 6 sessions to develop painting and paper folding skills; and after that worked with artist Shiori over 7 sessions to develop Japanese dying, printing and embroidery techniques called Shibori which produces patterns on fabric. These were displayed at GemArts Masala Festival.

October to December 2023 the group participated in 11 sessions with artist Donna Cheshire to develop textile skills.

January – March 2024 the Feel Good Group worked with artists Emma Sheridan to create a large scale banner exploring themes of spring, new life and new beginnings. They engaged in conversations about learning, traditions, creativity and social chat while making their work.

The final banner was displayed at GemArts Holi celebrations on 30th March at Baltic. Exhibiting the work in an international gallery for family, friends, wider community and thousands of visitors, created a real sense of pride, achievement, wellbeing and belonging for the participants.

Throughout year we delivered Tai Chi and Zumba sessions with the Feel Good Group and during our Wednesday drop in sessions. The sessions have offered more than just physical exercise; they provide a holistic approach to mental health and wellbeing. The Bollywood and Bhangra music, which the participants chose for Zumba sessions, and energetic movements released endorphins, there was lots of smiling and laughing, reducing stress and anxiety. Participants experienced a sense of community and connection, boosting mood and self-esteem. The sessions fostered mindfulness, helping individuals stay present and grounded. Overall, the structured yet fun environment enhanced both physical and emotional wellbeing.

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 continue to be very popular with up to 30 learners in each session and we have offered refreshments/hot food and through funding from Lankelly Chase we cover their travel expenses to 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: The sessions offer 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, snacks, hot food and is welcomed by one of our staff members and volunteers. Our staff and volunteers speak various community languages and help 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, improving their health and wellbeing, and creating a sense of belonging.

Sector/Strategic Development:

Trustees, staff and volunteers also contribute to other boards and forums including - Bensham Grove Community Centre, Citizens Advice Gateshead, Northern Stage, Newcastle University Court, Gateshead Voluntary Sector Leaders Group, plus others.

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. We are truly grateful for their passion and commitment and value their contributions enormously.

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 in 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.

In 2023/24 GemArts delivered an ambitious and inspiring artistic programme across all strands of work, collaborating with flagship venues, community spaces and national touring partners, supporting artists at every stage of their career, ensuring that talent and artistic excellence is diverse, thriving and celebrated. As covid restrictions lifted we were able to re-establish our international programme of work. We produced and programmed 34 performances/exhibitions spanning traditional and contemporary works, employed 177 individual artists, and attracted in excess of 24,000 live audiences from diverse communities and 45,500 on-line audiences.

GemArts added to its critically acclaimed Riverside Ragas concert series at The Glasshouse, 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). This was also a remarkable year for international programming. Amongst many highlights, GemArts have brought to the region three of the world's most outstanding Sarod players of our

generation, Debasmitha Bhattacharya, Prattyush Banerjee and Abhishek Borkar who collaborated with kathak dancer Saberi Misra; all of who were accompanied by the finest UK talent on tabla including, Gurdain Rayatt and Pt Rajkumar Misra. In addition, tabla virtuoso Shahbaz Hussain accompanied Grammy Award winner Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, international sitar maestro Shakir Khan and UK based sitarist Baluji Shrivastav to capacity audiences and to standing ovations!

We continued to engage new audiences working in partnership with venues of different size and scale across the region. With long term collaborators Jazz North East, we programmed at Jesmond Reform Church, spellbinding pianist and visionary composer, Zoe Rahman, who presented her new album "Colour of Sound" featuring an all-star line-up to a full house. Then in November at Gosforth Civic Theatre, Yorkston Thorne Ghatak explored the crossover worlds of Indian Classical, Jazz and Folk music. At Culture Lab, Newcastle University, GemArts presented legendary Khyal vocalist Pandit Sajan Misra, accompanied by Pandit Sanju Sahai on tabla, vocalist Swaransh Mishra and Kirpal Singh Panesar on harmonium. Also, at Culture Lab with NCLA we supported the launch of Chitra Ramaswamy's new book *Homelands: The History of a Friendship* in conversation with Sinéad Morrissey. And at Northern Stage comedy theatre Happy Birthday Sunita was received joyfully by audiences.

Strengthening our partnership with Durham University, GemArts collaborated on the third edition of Indian Spring Colours in March with a stellar line up of concerts over two days including brilliant sarangi player Satwinder Pal Singh, vocalist Sanchita Pal and rising star and santoor player Eeshar Sigh.

GemArts commitment to supporting traditional and contemporary dance was absolutely demonstrated this year through an exceptional programme. In stage 1 at Northern Stage world renowned kathak dancer Aditi Mangaldas presented FORBIDDEN, outstanding new work exploring female sexuality. In collaboration with Dance City we programmed Akash Odedra's Little Murmur a dance theatre show for children and families, featuring ground-breaking projection, an extraordinary soundscape and a blizzard of paper and confetti. This stunning visual treat is an honest and heart felt conversation about the trials and tribulations of living with dyslexia, facing challenges and overcoming the odds. GemArts was delighted to co-commission and present Payal Ramchandani's *The Forest Dream* – a multi-styled dance-theatre work highlighting climate emergency to a capacity audience.

GemArts' award-winning Masala Festival returned from 17th to 23rd July 2023, celebrating South Asian cultural goodness! The festival opened with *Roshni* by Sonia Sabri Company, a stunning fusion of dance and live music at Dance City. Music highlights included *Mitra* at Cluny 2, blending blues and Hindustani sounds; and GemArts collaborated with BBC Proms and Sage Gateshead for a late night special of extraordinary music performed by two leading lights of the British jazz scene - Yazz Ahmed and Arun Ghosh, which was broadcast on Radio 3 reaching thousands of audiences and received fantastic 5-star reviews. We were thrilled to announce a new partnership with Tyne and Wear Metro who will be our headline sponsors. To celebrate we programmed an incredible dance and live music performance event at Monument Metro You&Me by Amina Khyam. Visual arts featured emerging artist Sajil Kaleem's *Fabricated* at The Newbridge Project, while films like *Rehana Maryam Noor* at Tyneside Cinema and *Topographies* at BAL TIC showcased diverse South Asian landscapes. Workshops, Dabbawal's delicious street food, and the Masala Festival Mini Mela finale at Bensham Grove capped a vibrant week of arts, creativity, and family fun!

For the third year GemArts delivered Holi Festival of Colours on 30th March 2024 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 has become 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 commissioned 3 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; *Masala Festival – Topographies: Places and Faces* at Baltic, a programme of short films

takes us on a journey through urban and rural landscapes across South Asia curated by regional film maker Sonali Joshi; and we commissioned Middlesbrough based artist Rumana Yasmin to produce a Mini Book Fair at Masala Festival celebrating creators and characters of South Asian heritage in children's publishing bringing 3 publishers together Bok Bok Books, AdiDev Press and Parakeet Books for readings and workshops.

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 2023/24 our Creative Associates Programme supported 16 artists whose work reflects creative and cultural diversity through training, developmental, participatory and performance opportunities. Of those, 13 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 young people 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 2023/24 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 52 artists in participatory settings, and delivered, in formal education and community settings, 715 sessions with over 18,300 participants (and 45,604 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 minority ethnic and wider communities to reduce loneliness and isolation, keep people connected, creative, improving health and wellbeing.

- GemArts was awarded additional funding from Gateshead Community Mental Health fund to expand our Cultural Threads programme in Gateshead.

Between May and July 2023, the programme included: Shibori textile sessions with artists Shiori and the Feel-Good Women's Group; and willow lantern-making sessions with artist Saya Naruse for people seeking sanctuary at Hillside Church. Final artworks were showcased at Mini Mela on 23rd July.

From October to December 2023, activities included: textile workshops with the Feel-Good Women's Group delivered with Donna Cheshire; artist Pui Lee delivered DIY magazine sessions with Hillside Church participants, and painting and craft sessions with visual artist Jayamini and women from the Millin Centre. Thirty-five craft packs by Yvette Ja were distributed, and a celebration event on 20th December at Bensham Grove exhibited participants' work, engaging 100 attendees.

Between January to March 2024, artist Emma Sheridan led workshops with our Feel Good Group to create a banner for GemArts Holi celebrations at Baltic.

Over the programme we delivered Tai Chi and Zumba sessions with our Feel-Good Group and at our Wednesday drop in sessions. We worked with 320 participants and engaged over 5000 audience members far exceeding our target. We worked with a total of 9 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 programme was highlighted in the Transformation in Gateshead – The Story So far video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uQmTyTqEaA>

- 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. and when needed signposting NHS staff to professional help and support, to improve their mental, physical and social health and wellbeing. Final on-line Chinese Watercolour sessions with visual artist Chun Chao began in June 2023 on Monday and Tuesday evenings. We delivered 12 sessions with 68 participants and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and despite continuing to evidence the impact the sessions have had on improving NHS staff health and wellbeing the funding has been pulled due to NHS cuts.

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 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 a new set of Cultural Threads sessions between June – October 2023: 12 sessions with Lily Daniels on nature textile dyeing; 1 session with Saya Naruse exploring nature print making; 3 sessions with Sofia Barton creating nature rangoli and Gond Art; 2 sessions with Michelle Wood creating concertinas booklets inspired by nature. We engaged with 60 participants. Lily also delivered a Willow tray workshops on 16th September at celebratory event.

- 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 7 weeks delivered a Recycling Decoupage project, followed by another 5 weeks focusing on textiles, sewing and mixed media. The women are from Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran. They all contributed to a shared piece of art work which is proudly displayed in the centre as well as creating their own individual pieces to take home. The sessions also enable the group to develop English language skills, networks and access to further services.

GemArts Cultural Threads programme continues to reiterate our knowledge that the need for culturally relevant practitioners to deliver creative projects is significant. When working with historically marginalised communities, it is imperative to consider inclusivity, accessibility, lived experience and a sense of belonging within every aspect of the project to ensure that we are meeting the cultural and personal needs of participants in relation to improving mental health and wellbeing.

The National Centre for Creative Health (NCCH) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing (APPG AHW) launched the report of the Creative Health Review <https://ncch.org.uk/creative-health-review> on 6th December 2023 where GemArts Cultural Threads programme is included as a case study, in particular highlighting GemArts culturally relevant arts practice to engage with minority ethnic communities. The Report highlights the potential for creative health to help tackle pressing issues in health and social care and more widely, including health inequalities and the additional challenges we face as we recover from Covid-19.

As well as many other sessions in community settings GemArts teamed up with Gateshead Art Diamonds to deliver Emerald Explorer sessions to engage people of retirement age in creative workshops during Masala Festival including Bollywood dance with Breeze George, Mystical Tote Bag Printing with artists Mani Kambo and make your own Concertina Books in Boxes with Michelle Wood;

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 the reach and depth of 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, summer transition and contributed towards SMSC development. We worked with 30 schools (primary and secondary), delivered 166 sessions, engaged with 5645 young people and supported 8 schools across the North East to achieve and maintain Arts Mark as well as delivering creative CPD sessions with teachers in 2 primary schools.

GemArts supported 10 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.

Highlights include:

Between May-June 2023 GemArts delivered a diverse range of artists residencies with the Roman Road Primary in Gateshead working with all year groups and engaging 250 young people. Emma Sheridan worked with all school years exploring collage, print making, collagraph, and painting; Fanuel delivered African Drumming; and we commissioned Andy Morley to create a new Mural on a storage container working with Year 6 pupils who have been researching and inspired by Brazilian artist Romero Britto. A celebration event was held at in July where all the art work was displayed, and young people performed with Fanuel to invited guests, family and friends.

Richard Avenue, in Sunderland is a new school and GemArts was highly recommended to them. We delivered South American percussion with David Olatunji and Tinku dance sessions with Yuvel Soria over 7 weeks to develop a performance at the end of the school year for a Carnival event with 120 pupils. Art teachers worked with pupils to create masks and costumes and received CPD from GemArts. The feedback from the school has been excellent and teachers commented that our artists have also engaged brilliantly with young people that have behavioural issues.

Working in partnership with the South Tyneside Music Hub we have collaborated with 6 schools (one of them special school) across South Shields to deliver African drumming school assembly performances, workshops and teachers CPD engaging with 550 pupils.

At Brighton Avenue Primary, Gateshead Mani Kambo worked with 6 classes across Key Stage 2 (180 pupils) to co-create an installation and banner to exhibit at Masala Festival. We worked closely with teachers to achieve key curriculum objectives.

GemArts collaborated with Durham Council International Office to offer schools artists residencies to support them to work towards gaining accreditation under the British Council's award scheme. We have worked with 10 schools and delivered Capoeira, Steel Pans, African Drumming, World's Visual Arts and Kuchipudi dance sessions. Many of the schools are in some of the most rural parts of County Durham, very white working class with little or no access to cultural provision. The programme has engaged with over 1800 young people and has had fantastic feedback from schools, artists, pupils and parents.

We continued to deliver 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 Side by Side) 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. The celebration and performance event at Sage Gateshead on 1st July 2023 was a huge success, and we also had our annual festive sharing event in December at Life Transformation Church where all the young people performed from across the programme including youth led MC DJ-Toby. Many of the long-term participants have developed into young leaders, volunteers, with 3 becoming paid artists/music leaders. Filip who was a young person on the project in 2015 when he was 11 years old, now 18 year he has now progressed to a paid position as a young leader/musician and is being mentored by Fred and Adam at NBYP. We commissioned a new film to evidence and demonstrate the musical, personal, social and organisational outcomes of EBNE
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJy0OUU5aEA>

GemArts expanded our music provision to Peterlee in County Durham in partnership with Creative Youth Opportunities. Music leaders Adam Cogdon and Kema Kay delivered music production, rap and lyric writing workshops for 6 weeks with young people to prevent anti-social behaviour. In addition, we supported Dhol Drumming session led by music leader Rosh Landa every Friday (term time) at Diversity Hub, Newcastle with 10 young people and 8 adults.

Our Mini Mela at Masala Festival in July and at Caedmon Hall during February half term were both a great success attracting children and family audience of over 900 to both; we extended the Mini Mela offer and programmed a full day of culturally diverse arts activities at the Miners Picnic on 10th June at Woodhorn Museums, Northumberland engaging with 300 new audiences.

GemArts celebrated diverse cultural and faith festival throughout the year. To celebrate Buddhas birthday artist Jayamini delivered a full day of Visak lantern making workshops on 24th April at the Oriental Museum, Durham. In November artist Emma Sheridan created Diwali Lanterns with participants for a parade at Newcastle Hindu Temple's fireworks display where over 3000 audiences attended. In partnership with Durham Council for Chinese New Year 2024 Lip Lee and Pui Lee delivered visual arts sessions to celebrate the year of the Dragon whilst Wendy Chan demonstrated Tai Chi engaging with 3500 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 £412,845 and total outgoing resources of £300,768 with the balance from 2022-23 of £586,130 this leaves assets of £698,207 of which £395,109 are restricted funds and £170,500 are designated funds as per our reserves policy. This leaves £132,598 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 £170,500. This required an additional £30,000 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	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature		Date	24/01/25

Name	Angela Singh	Position	Treasurer
Signature		Date	24/01/25

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees/members of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 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

24/01/25

Signed



Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2024



	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Note	£	£	£	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and Legacies	11,060	0	0	11,060	2,077
Charitable Activities	87,976	0	312,796	400,772	213,641
Other Trading Activities	0	0	0	0	89,997
Investments	1,013	0	0	1,013	0
Total Income and Endowments	100,049	0	312,796	412,845	305,715
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	52,596	0	248,172	300,768	284,017
Other resources expended	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	52,596	0	248,172	300,768	284,017
Income less Expenditure before transfers	47,453	0	64,624	112,077	21,698
Transfers	(30,000)	30,000		0	0
<i>Total Funds brought forward</i>	115,145	140,500	330,485	586,130	564,432
Total funds carried forward	132,598	170,500	395,109	698,207	586,130

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	Total Funds 2023-24 £	Total Funds 2022-23 £
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>		698,207	586,130
Total Current Assets		698,207	586,130
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>		697,907	585,830
The Funds of the Charity:			
<i>Restricted income funds</i>		395,109	330,485
<i>Designated Funds</i>		170,500	140,500
<i>Unrestricted income funds</i>		132,598	115,145
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		698,207	586,130

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

Name	Manjit Singh Dhindsa	Position	Secretary
Signature		Date	24/01/25
Name	Angela Singh	Position	Treasurer
Signature		Date	24/01/25

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period to 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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 6 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	3,051	2,225	(836)	0	4,440
GVEMSG Total	3,051	2,225	(836)	0	4,440
GEM ARTS					
Arts Council England - NPO	93,550	182,208	(173,525)		102,233
Catalyst	75,688	20,000	0.00		95,688
National Foundation for Youth Music	42,102	19,089	(42,039)		19,152
Gateshead Council - ESF - CLLD	27,044	0.00	0.00		27,044
Town Hall	7,770	0.00	0.00		7,770
ACE - Culture Against Racism	2,817	0.00	(300)		2,517
GMBC - Gateshead Covid	15,324	0.00	0.00		15,324
Champions Programme					
Bluestone Collaborative - WellNewcastleGateshead	4,948	0.00	0.00		4,948
Cumbria NHS	29,489	0.00	(3,144)		26,345
Lankelly Chase - Bridgebuilder	20,820	58,320	(12,952)		66,188
Lankelly Chase - English Language Enquiry	2,265	12,000	(4,081)		10,184
GMBC - Gateshead VCS Community Health	5,617	10,000	(8,423)		7,194
Lankelly Chase – Deaf Festival	0.00	8,954	(2,872)		6,082
GEM ARTS Total	327,434	310,571	(247,336)	0	390,669
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	330,434	312,796	(248,172)		395,109
Designated Funds					
Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Contingency and Redundancy Liability	140,500			30,000	170,500
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	140,500	0	0	30,000	170,500
Unrestricted Funds					
Fund Name	Balances b/f	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
GVEMSG - General Fund	6,600	0	(60)		6,540
GEM Arts - General Fund	108,545	100,049	(52,536)	(30,000)	155,992
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	115,145	100,049	(52,596)	(30,000)	132,532
TOTAL FUNDS	586,130	412,845	(300,786)		698,207

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

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2023-24

Income and Endowments from:

Donations and Legacies

GEM ARTS

Sponsorship and Donations

GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total

GVEMSG

Box Office

Grants

GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total

GEM ARTS

Arts Council England - NPO

National Foundation for Youth Music

Lankelly Chase – Bridgebuilder

Lankelly Chase – English Language Enquiry

GMBC – Gateshead Community Health

Lankelly Chase – Deaf Festival

GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total

Other Incoming Resources

Total Income and Endowments

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
				-
Sponsorship and Donations	11,060			11,060
				0
				0
GEM ARTS Donations and Legacies Total	11,060	0	0	11,060
				0
Box Office	0			0
Grants	0		2,225	2,225
GVEMSG Charitable Activities Total	0	0	2,225	2,225
Arts Council England - NPO			202,208	202,208
National Foundation for Youth Music			19,089	19,089
Lankelly Chase – Bridgebuilder			58,320	58,320
Lankelly Chase – English Language Enquiry			12,000	12,000
GMBC – Gateshead Community Health			10,000	10,000
Lankelly Chase – Deaf Festival			8,954	8,954
GEM ARTS Charitable Activities Total	0	0	310,571	310,571
	0	0	312,796	312,796
Other Incoming Resources	87,976	0	0	87,976
	87,976	0	0	87,976
Total Income and Endowments	100,049	0	312,796	412,845

**Expenditure on:
Charitable Activities**

GVEMSG

Refreshments/Catering				0
Bank Charges	60			60
Rent/Telephone/Internet				0
Training and Development				0
Venue Hire				0
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				0
Community Worker wages				0
GVEMSG Total Charitable Activities	60	0	0	60

GEM Arts

Artist Fees, Materials & Production	52,536	88,833		141,369
Food Deliveries and Volunteer Expenses		4,226		4,226
Venue & Tech		6,520		6,520
Org Dev and Catalyst		3,625		3,625
Marketing/PR/Doc		8,019		8,019
Evaluation		0		0
IT and Equipment		1,892		1,892
Stationery/Printing/Postage		255		255
Insurance		1,116		1,116
Phone/Internet		944		944
Rent		2,475		2,475
Expenses		1,808		1,808
Wages and Pensions		127,571		127,571
Payroll Admin	0	526		526
Independent Examination of Accounts		300		300
Bank Charges		62		62
GEM ARTS Total Charitable Activities	52,536	0	248,172	300,708

Raising Funds

				0
	0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended	52,536	0	248,172	300,768

Support Costs

Support Cost Type

GVEMSG

	Fundraising	Charitable	Governance	Total
	Activity	Activity	Activity	Cost
	£	£	£	£
Insurance				-
Rent/Telephone/Internet				-
Sessional Staff				-
Stationery/Equipment				-
Training and Development				-
Volunteer Expenses/travel/transport				-
Community Worker wages				-
GVEMSG Total Support Costs				-

GEM ARTS

Venue & Tech		6,520		6,520
Marketing/PR/Doc		8,019		8,019
Evaluation		-		-
IT and Equipment		1,892		1,892
Stationery/Printing/Postage		255		255
Insurance		1,116		1,116
Phone/Internet		944		944
Expenses		1,808		1,808
Wages		127,571		127,571

Payroll Admin	526		526
Independent Examination of Accounts		300	300
GEM ARTS Total Support Costs	148,651	300	148,951
Total Support Costs	148,651	300	148,951

3 Staff Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023-24 Total £
GVEMSG			0
Salaries and NI	0		0
GVEMSG Total Employee Costs		0	0
GEM ARTS			
Salaries and NI		122,271	122,271
Pension		5,300	5,300
Child Care Vouchers			0
Payroll Fees		526	526
GEM ARTS Total Employee Costs	0	128,097	128,097
Total Employee Costs	0	128,097	128,097

3 full time and 3 part time employees	2023-24 Number
	6

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 £	2023-24 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.