

Poetic Unity

Reports and Financial Statements Period Ended 31st December 2025

Charity number: 1171832
Company number: 09882990

Poetic Unity

Contents of the Financial Statements
Period Ended 31st December 2025

	Page
Company Information	1
Report of the Trustee's	2-5
Report of the Independent Examiner	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9
Income and Expenditure Account	10

Poetic Unity

Company Information
Period Ended 31st December 2025

Trustee's: Sasha Shantel Bennett
Naomi Louise Matthews-Robinson
Lucrecia Seline Augustin
Temwani Melida Mwale
Adekola Adebiyi
Kieran Herman Lewis
Ashleigh Kieran Ferdinand
Sean Stacey Lindsay
Binta Fatou Marie Yade

Secretary: Ryan Junior Matthews-Robinson

Chief Executive: Ryan Junior Matthews-Robinson

Registered Address: 1 Windrush Square, Brixton, London, SW2 1EF

Registered Company Number: 09882990

Registered Charity Number: 1171832

Independent Examiner: Mr P Okusi LCIE AFA MIPA

Poetic Unity

Report of Trustee's
Period Ended 31st December 2025

Incorporation and Registration

Poetic Unity was incorporated on 20th November 2015 and registered with charity commission on 1st March 2017.

Structure, Governance and Management

Poetic Unity is governed by the board of trustees and supported by dedicated staff and volunteers to provide the following objects for our beneficiaries.

1. To advance the education of young people through the subject of poetry and spoken word

2. To act as a resource for young people up to the age of 30 living in London by organising workshops programs and events as a means of:

(a) advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities, and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature, and responsible individuals.

(b) providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, disability, poverty, or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

Poetic Unity works with children and vulnerable adults and has safeguarding and child protection policies in place to ensure our activities are conducted in a safe and friendly environment.

The trustee board ensures Poetic Unity is run in a legal way and is in line with charity commission law. The board, staff and volunteers work together to make sure the objects carried out in the community are done so effectively and responsibly.

Objectives and Activities

In 2025 Poetic Unity marked a significant milestone as we celebrated 10 years of using poetry, creativity and social action to challenge racism and create opportunities for young people. What began in 2015 as a small community-led initiative in Brixton has grown into a Black-led charity supporting young people across the UK and internationally. Throughout the year Poetic Unity continued to deliver programmes, events, workshops, mentoring and creative opportunities, while strengthening partnerships and developing new ways to support young people to thrive.

Throughout 2025 Poetic Unity delivered over 225 programmes and activities, supporting thousands of young people across schools, communities and prisons. Our work continued to focus on improving young people's mental health and wellbeing, creating employment and leadership opportunities, amplifying Black voices and using poetry and social action to challenge racism and inequality. We continued to work with a growing network of partners across the arts, education, youth, health and community sectors, allowing us to reach new audiences and create more opportunities for young people.

A key focus throughout the year was developing our 10-year vision. After turning 10 years old we wanted to think big about the changes we wanted to see in society. We worked closely with our team, young people and stakeholders across the year to create a vision that will tackle racism on a systemic level while continuing to provide support for young people's education, mental health and employment. This is a bold vision that we hope in the long term will contribute to a world free from racism and injustice.

In 2025 we launched Poetic Wales a new quarterly poetry event that's delivered in Cardiff, Wales. This project highlights our commitment to taking our services from Brixton to the world. We have seen a need across the UK for our services and Cardiff is the first city outside of London we are trialling a regular event to see the response. So far hundreds of people have attended, and we look forward to developing this event further.

We continued to develop our culturally rooted approach to mental health. Through our partnership with the Hidden Healing Fund, Poetic Unity was able to strengthen its work supporting young Black people to explore their mental health through poetry, creativity and community. The funding provided an important opportunity for us to develop our approach, recognising the importance of culturally relevant spaces where young people can express themselves, build connections and access support in ways that feel authentic to them.

Our commitment to social action also continued throughout the year. In June we delivered the second edition of our Clean Air for the Ends bike ride, bringing young Black people together to raise awareness of environmental racism and the disproportionate impact of air pollution on Black communities. The event had 150 young people riding on bikes through London and created a space for young people to connect, be active and take collective action around an issue directly affecting their communities.

We also continued to build our partnerships with organisations including Roundhouse, Southbank Centre, Black Cultural Archives, Theatre Peckham, Centre for Mental Health and other organisations across the UK. These partnerships enabled us to deliver programmes in new spaces, strengthen our practice and create opportunities that extended beyond our own organisation. Our partnership with Roundhouse, for example, enabled Poetic Unity to deliver a regular programme supporting young people with their mental health, confidence and personal development, while also benefiting from strategic support to strengthen the organisation.

2025 was also an important year for our research and evaluation work. Poetic Unity started working with Centre for Mental Health to develop an evaluation framework exploring how poetry and culturally rooted creative approaches can support the mental health and wellbeing of young Black people. This work is helping us build a stronger evidence base around our approach and demonstrate the value of creativity, identity, community and self-expression in supporting young people's wellbeing.

A major highlight of 2025 was celebrating Poetic Unity's 10th anniversary. We hosted an unprecedented 8 events across 12 days to celebrate our birthday. We had hundreds of young people join and take part in these events. As part of the celebrations, we announced George the Poet as our first Patron, who will help amplify our work to a wider audience.

2025 was therefore both a year of celebration and a year of transformation for Poetic Unity. After 10 years of growth, we entered our second decade with a clearer sense of purpose, stronger partnerships, increased reach and an ambitious vision for the future. We continued to demonstrate the power of poetry and creativity to bring people together, improve wellbeing, create opportunities and challenge inequality. As we look towards the next 10 years, Poetic Unity remains committed to ensuring that young Black people have the voice, opportunities, support and resources they need not only to survive systemic racism, but to thrive despite it.

Achievements and Performance

Poetic Unity directly supported 1,478 young people in 2025, and it's estimated that up to 9,197 young people aged between 10-30 years old benefited from our services in total in 2025. However, the impact of our work far exceeds the young people we help directly which includes relieving stress on the friends and family of the young people we work with and building community cohesion in boroughs such as Lambeth, which has some of the highest rates of youth violence in London. These services generally provide alternative education, personal development, safe and friendly environments, and mental health support.

Financial Review

In 2025 Poetic Unity is in a healthy financial position due to the continued funding from trusts and foundations. This includes support from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Chimo Trust. Our Esmee Fairbairn funding will come to an end next year and we are already in the process of applying for new grants to ensure financial stability. Poetic Unity's finances in 2025 have seen an uptake on what was made in 2024 due to securing new partners and funding streams. New funders include Berkeley Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation as well as building new partnerships with Myriad USA and Fulham Pier, which has helped Poetic Unity build on its unrestricted income. Poetic Unity has continued to have a good balance of restricted income and unrestricted income in 2025. Although our restricted income is greater it's imperative for the financial health of Poetic Unity that we continue building relationships with partner organisations to receive unrestricted funding that can support Poetic Unity's core costs and reserves. Poetic Unity has continued to receive regular donations and regular donors who support the work we do. Poetic Unity's financial forecast is healthy, and we expect to see more financial growth in 2026 with the need for our services continuing to grow.

Financial Reserves Policy

To ensure the future of Poetic Unity if funding difficulties were to occur, the board has agreed to keep 3 months in financial reserves an amount of £21,000 to ensure main operations can continue for this Year.

The main concerns of the board are to ensure:

- Administrative services such as our registered address, website, QuickBooks and monitoring systems are maintained
- Wages are covered so that staff can continue working, primarily to secure new funding and effectively execute our services

These reserves can only be spent if financial difficulties occur or otherwise agreed by the board.

This policy will be reviewed yearly and whenever there are significant changes in staffing.

Internal Financial Controls

Poetic Unity is committed to managing its funds responsibly, transparently, and in the best interests of the beneficiaries we support. To ensure strong financial stewardship, Poetic Unity maintains internal controls including segregation of duties, clear approval processes, and a delegated authority policy. Financial transactions are authorised by the Board, with no single individual having sole responsibility for the initiation, approval, and recording of payments. Regular monitoring and reporting are carried out to provide oversight and accountability, safeguarding the charity's assets and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

Public Benefit

All the charity's activities are primarily aimed at the development of young people. In creating activities and providing services, the board has taken note of the guidance provided by charity commission on public benefit.

Conflicts of Interest

Poetic Unity is committed to ensuring that all decisions are made in the best interests of the young people and communities we serve. Trustees, staff, and volunteers must act with integrity and avoid any situation were personal, financial, or other interests could, or could be perceived to, conflict with the mission of the charity.

All individuals involved with Poetic Unity are required to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as they arise. These may include financial interests, family or personal relationships, or involvement with other organisations that could influence impartial decision-making. A register of interests is maintained and reviewed regularly by the Board of Trustees.

Where a conflict is identified, the individual concerned will withdraw from discussions and decisions on the relevant matter to protect the integrity and transparency of Poetic Unity's governance. By adhering to this policy, we uphold the trust placed in us by our beneficiaries, funders, and the wider community.

Risk Management

The Board has taken into consideration the major strategic risks, operational risks, and the vulnerability of our beneficiaries. We can confirm our systems have been established to ensure our policies are up to date and reports can be produced when necessary to lessen these risks.

Approved by the board 31/05/2026 and signed their behalf by



……...
Naomi Matthews-Robinson

INDEPENEDENT EXAMINATION REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF POETIC UNITY ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025.

Respective responsibilities of the directors.

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The directors consider that an audit is not required for this year.

I report on the accounts for the Poetic Unity for the year Ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on the following pages.

This report is made solely to Poetic Unity as a body. My review has been undertaken so that I might state, those matters I am required to state to them in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law. I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Directors as a body for my review, for this report or for the opinions I have formed.

It is our aim to:

- Examine the accounts:
- State whether matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent report

Our review was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by Companies House. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide any of 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 statement

In connection with my inspection, 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 of the Act; and
    - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention shown be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Thompson & Co
Approved Independent Examiner
336-338 London Road
Cricket Green
Mitcham
CR4 3UD

POETIC UNITY

Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA)

For the Year Ended 31st December 2025

	Restricted 2025	Unrestricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
Income				
ACLT Charity				1,500
Allianz Commercial		300	300	
Apples and Snakes				1,000
Arts Council	2,988		2,988	26,891
Asthma and Lung UK		2,000	2,000	450
Baringa		300	300	
Berkeley Foundation	22,500		22,500	
Big Creative Academy		200	200	
Bird in Bush School	4,050	4,050	8,100	8,100
Black Thrive		3,900	3,900	
British Film Institute		400	400	
Brixton Bid		200	200	1,000
Brixton House (Oval House)		156	156	
Chestnut Grove Academy		115	115	
Chimo Trust	20,150		20,150	15,000
Chiswick House & Gardens Trust				3,000
Chiva				300
Club Silly				750
Cuckoo		1,000	1,000	900
Donation		3,418	3,418	3,262
Elmgreen School (Dunraven Education Trust)		200	200	
Endeavor				29,985
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	68,000		68,000	60,000
Fulham Pier		2,000	2,000	
Future Men		300	300	
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000		15,000	
Harbottle & Lewis	375	375	750	
Hemingway Design		1,000	1,000	
Henry Fawcett Primary School		300	300	
Homerton College		700	700	
Kings College London				750
Lambeth Council				250
London Community Foundation	10,000		10,000	
London Nautical School				1,500
Maudsley Charity	15,000		15,000	
Mayors Office				6,120
McCann Worldgroup				1,400
Myriad USA		79,478	79,478	
National Lottery Community Fund	20,000		20,000	

Neon Performing Arts		1,310	1,310	2,600
NHS South East London				6,050
Norman Trust				4,000
Norwood School		300	300	
Orii Company Ltd				200
Paradigm Project				525
Peabody Community Foundation				7,110
Peer Power Youth				2,075
Picturehouse		158	158	98
Purpose Foundation				7,750
Reconnect JA				125
Rethink Mental Illness		400	400	
Returns				2
Roundhouse				400
Royal College of Psychiatrists		100	100	
Save The Children				11,870
Skipton Building Society Foundation				250
Southbank Centre		1,200	1,200	
St Marylebone School		1,850	1,850	7,070
The Brixton Project		1,000	1,000	
The Davies Foundation				250
The Media Trust				150
The Methodist Church		1,705	1,705	540
The Poets Corner		6,588	6,588	4,368
The Wellcome Collection				2,625
Theatre Peckham (Income)				1,023
University College London		200	200	
University of Birmingham		158	158	
V&A Museum		3,000	3,000	
Wales Millennium Centre		2,240	2,240	
Wasserman		350	350	
We Are Parable		400	400	2,438
We Group UK		1,000	1,000	
We Live and Breathe	5,200		5,200	
Westminster Council				730
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust				1,320
Windrush Foundation		250	250	
YoungMinds		990	990	450
Total for Income	183,263	123,590	306,853	226,176
Total	183,263	123,590	306,853	226,176
Expenditures				
Accountancy	1250		1250	895
Advertising/Promotional		2,000	2,000	1,047
Black Cultural Archives	5,520	4,700	10,220	
Bookkeeping & Payroll		720	720	585
Centre For Mental Health	8,000		8,000	
Cultural Leader				13,466

Daley Shipping Services	790		790	520
Food Expenses	62	1,446	1,507	299
Insurances	415	88	503	415
Legal & Professional	34	1,248	1,282	2,710
Living Wage Foundation	83		83	
London Youth Membership				150
Materials	948	1,701	2,649	0
Office/General Administrative Expenses	1,179	115	1,295	1,576
Other Professional Services	48,287	33,932	82,220	44,965
Payroll Expenses				
Pension	4,760	-2,052	2,708	2,324
Taxes	18,463	-9,382	9,081	-1,581
Wages		73,572	73,572	57,143
Total for Payroll Expenses	23,223	62,138	85,360	57,886
Photography Videography Services		8,846	8,846	3,480
Raw Material Music and Media	7,671		7,671	
The Orange Room	1,000	260	1,260	
Theatre Peckham	493	775	1,268	747
Training		52	52	40
Travel and Subsistence	14,720	236	14,956	7,060
Uniform/ Merchandise	1,650		1,650	1,672
Upshot Systems	1,248	-1,248	0	0
Venue Hire	5,011	2,379	7,390	1,906
Depreciation Expense		1,122	1,122	1,122
Total for Expenditures	121,584	120,509	241,738	140,541
Net Operating Income	61,679	3,081	64,760	85,635
Balance brought forward	143,509	28,667	172,176	
Opening retained earnings Adjustment	3,147		3,147	
Balance Carried forward	208,335	31,748	240,083	

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing operations.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account required by the Companies Act 2006

POETIC UNITY
Balance Sheet
As At 31 December 2025

	Total
Fixed Asset	
Tangible assets	
Office Equipment Cost	4,487.33
Office Equipment Depreciation	-2,243.66
Total for Tangible assets	£2,243.67
Total for Fixed Asset	£2,243.67
Cash at bank and in hand	
Bank	236,837.90
Total for Cash at bank and in hand	£236,837.90
Debtors	
HMRC Overpayment	2,317.76
Total for Debtors	£2,317.76
NET CURRENT ASSETS	£239,155.66
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	
Trade Creditors	
Creditors	1,250.00
Total for Trade Creditors	1,250.00
Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	£0.00
Student Loan	66.00
Total for Payroll Liabilities	£66.00
Total for Current Liabilities	£66.00
Total for Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	£1,316.00
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£237,839.66
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	£240,083.33
TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£240,083.33
Charity Funds	
Retained Earnings	175,322.96
Surplus/(Deficit)	64,760.37
Total for Charity Funds	£240,083.33

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act 4 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A - Small Entities.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on

Approved by the board 31/05/2026 and signed their behalf by



……...
Naomi Matthews-Robinson
Company Registration No. 09882990
Charity Registration No. 1171832

Poetic Unity
Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 December 2025

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual's basis and under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), second edition (2019), applicable to periods beginning before 1 January 2026. The charity is a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The SoFA serves as the income and expenditure account of the charitable company.

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to be expended at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the charity's objects. Restricted funds are subject to specific donor or grant conditions.

Income & Expenditure recognition

Income from grants, donations and charitable activities are recognised where entitlement exists, receipt is probable and value can be measured reliably. Grants with unmet conditions that prevent entitlement are deferred until the conditions are met. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists, settlement is probable and amount is reliably measurable. Direct costs are charged to their relevant activity, support costs apportioned consistently on an appropriate basis, and costs of raising funds presented separately

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Equipment and fixtures costing £500 or more and held for more than one year are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is provided at 25% per year on a straight-line basis, reflecting actual 2025 depreciation (£1,121.83, being 25% of equipment cost of £4,487.33). Residual values and useful lives are reviewed when appropriate.

Debtors, creditors and financial instruments

Debtors are recognised at recoverable settlement amounts; creditors at the amount expected to settle the obligation.

Taxation

As a charity, qualifying charitable income and gains are generally exempt from corporation tax to the extent statutory exemptions apply and income is applied for charitable purposes.

Employee costs

Employee costs	2025 £
Gross wages	73,571.52
Employer National Insurance/taxes	9,080.79
Employer pension contributions	2,707.92
Total staff costs	85,360.23
Employees	2

Tangible fixed assets

Movement	Cost £	Accumulated depreciation £	Net book value £
At 1 January 2025	4,487.33	1,121.83	3,365.50
Depreciation for year	—	1,121.83	(1,121.83)
At 31 December 2025	4,487.33	2,243.66	2,243.67

Debtors, cash and creditors

Account	2025 £	2024 £
HMRC overpayment debtor	2,317.76	—
Cash	236,837.90	170,657.70
Trade creditors	1250.00	952.00
Student loan payroll liability	66.00	—
Other payroll liability (net)	—	894.95
Total current creditors	1,316.00	1,846.95

Company limited by guarantee

The company has no share capital. Each member guarantees a sum not exceeding the amount specified by the governing document on winding up: £1.

POETIC UNITY

Financial Activities

31-Dec-25

	Arts Council	Berkeley Foundation	Chimo Trust	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Garfield Weston Foundation	General (Core) Funding	London Community Foundation	Maudsley Charity	Myriad USA	Lottery Community Fund	We Live and Breathe	Total
Income												
Allianz Commercial						300.00						300.00
Arts Council	2,988.00											2,988.00
Asthma and Lung UK						2,000.00						2,000.00
Baringa						300.00						300.00
Berkeley Foundation		22,500.00										22,500.00
Big Creative Academy						200.00						200.00
Blind in Bush School						8,100.00						8,100.00
Black Thrive						3,900.00						3,900.00
British Film Institute						400.00						400.00
Brixton Bid						200.00						200.00
Brixton House (Oval House)						155.75						155.75
Chestnut Grove Academy						115.00						115.00
Chimo Trust			20,150.00									20,150.00
Cuckoo						1,000.00						1,000.00
Donation						3,418.01						3,418.01
Elmgreen School (Dunraven Education Trust)						200.00						200.00
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation				68,000.00								68,000.00
Fulham Pier						2,000.00						2,000.00
Future Men						300.00						300.00
Garfield Weston Foundation					15,000.00							15,000.00
Harbottle & Lewis						750.00						750.00
Hemingway Design						1,000.00						1,000.00
Henry Fawcett Primary School						300.00						300.00
Homerton College						700.00						700.00
London Community Foundation							10,000.00					10,000.00
Maudsley Charity								15,000.00				15,000.00
Myriad USA									79,477.94			79,477.94
National Lottery Community Fund										20,000.00		20,000.00
Neon Performing Arts						1,310.00						1,310.00
Norwood School						300.00						300.00
Picturehouse						157.50						157.50
Rethink Mental Illness						400.00						400.00
Royal College of Psychiatrists						100.00						100.00
Southbank Centre						1,200.00						1,200.00
St Marylebone School						1,850.00						1,850.00
The Brixton Project						1,000.00						1,000.00
The Methodist Church						1,705.00						1,705.00
The Poets Corner						6,588.00						6,588.00
University College London						200.00						200.00
University of Birmingham						157.99						157.99
V&A Museum						3,000.00						3,000.00
Wales Millennium Centre						2,240.00						2,240.00
Wasserman						350.00						350.00
We Are Parable						400.00						400.00
We Group UK						1,000.00						1,000.00
We Live and Breathe											5,200.00	5,200.00
Windrush Foundation						250.00						250.00
YoungMinds						990.00						990.00
Total for Income	**2,988.00**	**22,500.00**	**20,150.00**	**68,000.00**	**15,000.00**	**48,537.25**	**10,000.00**	**15,000.00**	**79,477.94**	**20,000.00**	**5,200.00**	**£306,853.19**
Total	**2,988.00**	**22,500.00**	**20,150.00**	**68,000.00**	**15,000.00**	**48,537.25**	**10,000.00**	**15,000.00**	**79,477.94**	**20,000.00**	**5,200.00**	**£306,853.19**

Trustee Expenses

No expenses were claimed by Trustees in their role as Trustees, but some are also volunteers supporting the youth and raising funds through events.

Related Party Transactions.

No transactions with related parties were undertaken such as are required to be disclosed under Financial Reporting Standard.