Docusign Envelope ID: 7F119CD1-1698-82C2-836A-0E1A84057632

Company number 07359937
Charity number 1198895

Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Breckman & Company Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
49 South Molton Street
London W1K 5LH

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details

Constitution
The charitable company is a private company limited by guarantee registered in EW - England and Wales, company number 07359937 incorporated under the Companies Act and its governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Company is a registered charity, number 1198895.

Directors and trustees
The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees are ongoing and incorporated indirectly into the regular trustees meetings.

The trustees during the year and since the year end, were:

Matthew Ian Burbedge
Sarah Helen Crompton
Blaise Grimes-Viort
Anna Barton-King appointed 5 December 2025
Gareth James Clayton
Natalie Sarah Merritt
Lydia Ashman

Artistic Directors/day to day management
Angeline Conaghan and Gareth Howells

Independent Examiners
Breckman & Company Ltd, Chartered Certified Accountants, 49 South Molton Street, London W1K 5LH.

Bankers
Metro Bank, One Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HA.

Registered office and operation address
Stroud Green Primary School (The Big Red Building), Woodstock Road, London, N4 3EX.

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their annual report together with the Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and 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).

The reference and administrative details set out on page 1 form part of this report.

Objectives

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are:

- to advance education for the public benefit with reference to (but not limited by) delivering arts programmes for children and young people and providing training and professional development for teachers and educators to integrate arts and culture into the curriculum and community.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Aims

Groundswell Arts was established in 2010 as a not-for-profit organisation by founders Angeline Conaghan and Gareth Howells. In 2022 Groundswell Arts made a step change to become a charity.

This year we continued to embed our new Vision, Mission and Theory of Change, developed with Jenn Raven and Callum Given and refined throughout 2025–26. This work will underpin our strategic planning, fundraising, and communications, including our new website launching in 2026.

Our Vision – Groundswell Arts envisions a world where all people feel seen, heard and valued.

Our Mission – Groundswell Arts facilitates creative arts experiences giving time and space for children, families, artists, and practitioners to connect and see each other in new ways.

Our initiatives aim to support children's creativity, reduce educational disadvantage, and promote children's wellbeing. We do this through designing programmes of work and projects that involve children, their families and their educators in exploring creativity together.

We use a range of art forms to support the wellbeing of children and their families, paying particular attention to developing children's language and communication skills, their attachment relationships, self-confidence, self-esteem, and resilience. We believe that parents and carers play a primary role as influencers and educators, and all our projects nurture this link between parents/carers and their children. We work closely with education and community settings to engage parents/carers experiencing social isolation or challenging circumstances.

Our approach and process are child-centered, responding to children's ideas and building on their innate capacity for creativity. We promote an inclusive approach to education and consider how every programme can be accessed by all learners. We encourage and empower early years and primary educators to develop and use arts practices and skills in their work with children and young people, equipping them with the confidence to incorporate this work into their own teaching practice through peer support and training.

We want to share our knowledge with educators and the wider creative sector to share successful approaches to co-creation of work with children, families and educators.

Whilst continuing to work in local communities we want to extend our work nationally through developing new models of our projects and developing partnerships with other organisations.

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report

Strategies for achieving the charity's aims and objectives

Our work will be carried out across three main pillars

- Regular programmes and sessions
- Theatre and environments
- Artist and educator development

Strategic Planning 2026–2031

Groundswell Arts enters the next year with a renewed commitment to co-creation, connection and creative identity. Our strategic planning is rooted in our Theory of Change, our organisational values, and fifteen years of learning from children, families, educators, artists and communities. It responds directly to the opportunities and challenges identified through consultation with staff, trustees, partners and participants.

1. Strategic Intent

Between 2026 and 2027, Groundswell Arts will deepen its locally rooted practice in Haringey while expanding its national reach across the Early Years, SEND and creative education sectors. We will strengthen organisational resilience, diversify income streams, and invest in the people, partnerships, and spaces that enable high-quality, inclusive creative work. We will begin development on more touring work expanding our range of venues for touring nationally and ultimately move towards the possibility of finding a venue where we can create work and invite audiences to visit us as well. We intend to ensure that every child, family and practitioner we work with feels seen, heard and valued — and that our organisation is equipped to sustain this mission long into the future.

- **1. Deepen Co-Creation and Participant-Led Practice:**
    - We will embed a framework for co-creation across all programmes, by continuing to develop and review our existing work to make sure we are prioritising our participants' contribution to projects and outcomes.
    - Expand work with families facing disadvantage, care-experienced children, and SEND communities, through our relationships with local Councils, Kinship carers, Special schools, Portage and Haringey, North London Adoption services.
    - Strengthen reflective, trauma-informed and relational practice, Work further with Kazzum Arts to develop more trauma awareness across the organisation.
    - Ensure participant voice shapes programme design, delivery and evaluation, by Encouraging constructive feedback on programme planning & design, and its structure and delivery.
- **2. Strengthen and Diversify Programme Delivery Across the Three Pillars**
    - Scale core programmes (Sing Our Story, The Communication Pod, Light Box) - Using our established network of early years partners across the country and developing new connections we will tour our core programming to settings, across the country.
    - Grow Artist & Educator Development to meet sector demand by Marketing training and development offers through London Early Years Advisors Forum and through our marketing channels online.
    - Increase reach in schools, museums, galleries, libraries and community spaces by researching and developing new strategic partnerships for our touring work across London and Nationally.

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- **3. Build Organisational Resilience and Capacity**
    - Develop new income streams (touring, consultancy, training, direct sales) by Developing or marketing strategy and increasing or present market training CPD offers more widely
    - Restructure to include comms and project management roles
    - Invest in leadership development and succession planning by Continuing to work with Rhona Matheson around developing our business plan and leadership model.

Activities & Achievements

Groundswell Arts has several core programs operating both in schools and the community. In the past year we have worked with 4,842 children and young people and parents, delivered 47 training and CPD sessions to over 330 educators, and delivered 885 creative sessions. Figures from YM show the organisation supported a further 1,045 children and 750 adults.

Sing Our Story

Sing Our Story continues to be our flagship programme and is a bespoke song-writing project delivered in schools, children's centres, nurseries and online. In this programme a skilled musician works with a parent/carer and their child to produce a bespoke song with music and lyrics directly inspired by the family's stories. Delivery continued to grow, with programmes delivered across London, Somerset, and the North East.

Key achievements:

- Delivered SOS in Haringey, Brent, Barnet, Waltham Forest, Barking & Dagenham, and Somerset.
- Expanded Portage partnerships, including new work in Barking & Dagenham and Haringey.
- Completed a successful pilot with Take Art in Somerset and began planning a second pilot.
- Secured £100,000 over two years from Youth Music to continue SOS from 2026–28.
- Built new relationships with Barnet, Camden, Brent and Waltham Forest Music Hubs as potential match funders.
- Developed a partnership agreement with Blue Cabin to ensure appropriate crediting and IP protection.
- Continued to support care experienced children through Rayne Foundation funding.

Learning Partner (Youth Music Energiser Fund)

In our role as the Learning Partner for the Youth Music Energiser fund we have continued to curate a programme of learning for 11 National Arts organisations working with the Early Sector in a variety of art forms from music to dance, drama and environments. Working alongside a research partner, we have developed a mentoring scheme, run online yearly trainings, monthly organisation reflection meetings, and two-yearly conference events.

This body of work aims to build a community of Early years practitioners all working together to build a research-based framework around the practice of Co-creation with children age 2-4.

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Key Achievements

- Delivered monthly online learning sessions and two major national in-person events (Manchester and Bristol), bringing together 11 early years arts organisations.
- Produced sector-leading resources, including the widely shared. 'Exploring Co-Creation' guide.
- Supported the development of a national learning community focused on co-creation with 2–4-year-olds, contributing to a growing research-based framework for early years practice.
- Built valuable national partnerships, generating testimonials and case studies for Groundswell's new website and strategic communications.

Impact

The Learning Partner role has positioned Groundswell Arts as a national thought leader in early years co-creation, influencing practice across the UK and strengthening our organisational profile.

The Communication Pod

Designed for the Early Years Foundation Stage, The Communication Pod uses natural resources and interactive technology, built into a child-friendly environment that encourages play, exploration, and storytelling. The Pod is an inviting space where young children can express themselves and explore different forms of writing and artistic expression. The Communication Pod programme has a strong focus on supporting children's speech and language development.

This year the Pod toured extensively across Brent, Enfield and Barking & Dagenham, supported by John Lyon's Charity, the Speech, Language & Hearing Foundation, and Big Give donors.

- Delivered an 8 week tour across 6 schools and 2 libraries.
- Developed new SEND focused strands in libraries.
- Identified increased wear and tear and staffing pressures, leading to new planning for resource replenishment and staffing resilience.
- Submitted new bids to expand Pod access in Edmonton and Enfield.

"Encouraging conversation and communication even from our quietest children." — Teacher

Light Box

Light Box is an interactive STEAM project that invites children into an illuminated space and encourages them to explore the use of light, dark, reflection, shadow, and colours. Light Box engages children in creative and scientific observation and investigation leading to puppetry and storytelling. We work with approximately 180-250 early years children per year on this programme.

Key Achievements

- Delivered 11 CPD sessions and 11 full-day school visits across London as part of A New Direction's Primary Arts programme.
- Reached 11 schools, including 5 special schools, offering immersive sensory learning for early years and KS1 children.
- Built relationships with 8 new schools and strengthened partnerships with 3 returning schools.

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- Delivered additional Light Box commissions at:
    - Tate Modern (I Am Festival)
    - The V&A (SEND sessions)
    - London Museum(Mudlarking festival)
    - Castlebar School (SEND specialist setting)
- Invited to apply for a 'second A New Direction tour', recognising the programme's quality and impact.

Impact

Light Box has become a flagship STEAM and sensory arts programme, strengthening Groundswell's profile with major cultural institutions and demonstrating excellence in inclusive creative practice.

"We have been lucky to work with Groundswell Arts over a number of years… All incredibly enriching opportunities that give children experiences far beyond those we would be able to offer." — Head Teacher, Haringey

Dancing Together

Dancing Together was originally funded by Sports Unites and Peabody Housing in 2022/23 and continued through into 2024/25 with funding through City Bridge Trust, and Haringey Community Chest. This year we were funded for 2 years with a Grant from the London Marathon Foundation, Haringey and Barking & Dagenham Family Hubs and continued support from City Bridge Trust.

- Delivered 6 sessions per week across 'Barking & Dagenham, Haringey and Barnet', supported by the London Marathon Foundation, City Bridge Trust, and Family Hubs.
- Secured '£60,000 over three years' from the London Marathon Foundation.
- Received an additional '£11,000 commission' from Barking & Dagenham Family Hubs to expand delivery.
- Developed new CPD strands linked to the programme, with strong demand from early years practitioners.
- Began work with a researcher to develop a 'robust evaluation framework' to evidence impact.
- Supported the development of a new baby-dance performance project led by the programme's lead practitioner, with Groundswell as partner producer.

Impact

Dancing Together is now a well-established, multi-borough programme supporting early years wellbeing, strengthening parent-child relationships, and building community connection.

"What truly sets Groundswell Arts apart… is their ability to combine high-quality creative practice with a deep understanding of child development… an exceptional partner and a powerful contributor to positive outcomes for children and families." B&D Family Hubs

Invention Lab

Invention Lab uses physical theatre, circus, and design technology to set up a narrative that requires each class to contribute to solving a dilemma using 'Rube Goldberg' contraptions (chain reaction machines) and the school Physics curriculum.

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Despite strong development work, our ACE application for touring was unsuccessful twice. We are now exploring partnerships with producers such as Jacksons Lane to strengthen future bids.

Creative Music Making & Let's Create

We received another commission from Haringey Early Years to deliver a creative music making project for early years professional development and also deliver a series of family activities around the 'Schemas' for the Haringey Family Hubs.

Key Achievements

- Delivered Creative Music Making in 15 early years settings, culminating in a successful practitioner sharing event.
- Completed the final round of Let's Create with Haringey Family Hubs, with strong attendance and - learning around safeguarding and commissioning processes.

Training

We continue to develop CPD for Waltham Forest early years team linked to Sing Our Story with new CPD in puppetry and dance planned for 2025/26 alongside this.

We delivered online CPD for early years music Scotland.

Key Achievements

- Delivered 47 training and CPD sessions to over 330 educators
- Expanded training offers in:
    - Puppetry
    - Dance
    - Light Box
    - Creative Music Making
    - Sing Our Story-related CPD
- Delivered Creative Music Making training across '15 early years settings', culminating in a successful practitioner sharing event.

Delivered Light Box training as part of:

- Waltham Forest Early Years Conference
- A Haringey conference on boys' engagement
- Continued to deliver online CPD for Early Years Music Scotland.

Strengthened internal learning through safeguarding reviews, commissioning processes, and partnership management.

Impact

Groundswell's training offer is increasingly recognised for its 'quality, relevance, and practitioner-centred approach', supporting educators to embed creative practice confidently and sustainably.

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Funding

Our main funders this year have continued to be Youth Music, John Lyon's Charity and City Bridge Trust, the London Marathon Foundation and the Rayne Foundation, along with new support and partnerships with A New Direction, Speech and Language Foundation, Big Give, Edmonton Community Partnership, Barking & Dagenham and Haringey Family Hubs, Local Authorities and schools.

Successful funding included:

- Youth Music (Energiser) – £157,000 over three years
- Youth Music (Catalyser) – £100, 000 over two years
- John Lyon's Charity – £120,000 - 3 year support for SOS and the Pod
- The London Marathon Foundation – £60,000 over three years
- The Rayne Foundation – £20,000 for care experienced children
- A New Direction – £30,000 for Light Box tour
- Speech, Language & Hearing Foundation – £5,000
- Big Give – £4,200
- Edmonton Community Partnership – £800
- Barking & Dagenham Family Hubs – £11,000

We continue to develop a more strategic approach to core funding, supported by our new Theory of Change and forthcoming website.

Environmental Sustainability

At core our carbon footprint remains negligible: we have two full-time staff members. We have a small office space and are based inside a school.

We currently work alongside the school's recycling efforts and are a member of the local scrap projects to,where possible, use recycled materials on all our projects.

We are signed up to Julie's Bicycle and use the Creative Green Tools - Carbon Calculator in planning our tours, this enables us to analyse where we have most impact and plan our tours accordingly.

We are signed up with the Theatre Green Book framework and regularly use these resources as part of ongoing good practice.

We have implemented a yearly environmental staff audit and policy review. Our policy is included in our staff and board induction packs.

Leaders will attend training on environmental impact, and it will be a standing item in board meetings.

More widely, environmental sustainability will be linked to our social media campaigns throughout the year where we will raise awareness about different issues that may be relevant to our audience, for example supporting children with climate anxiety.

- Active members of Julie's Bicycle and users of the Creative Green Tools.
- Aligned with the Theatre Green Book.
- Annual environmental audit and policy review.
- Sustainability embedded in social media and programme planning.

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IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equality and Access

Groundswell Arts' approach to IDEA is rooted in our belief that all people should feel seen, heard and valued. We recognise that IDEA is not a separate strand of work, but part of the culture, care and accountability that sits at the heart of our practice.

This year we continued to:

- Create welcoming, responsive spaces where children and families can take part in ways that feel safe, joyful and meaningful.
- Strengthen our SEND and disability-inclusive practice across programmes, touring work and professional development. Developing and producing accessible resources and materials to support sessions.
- Work relationally with families, educators, artists, and partners, adapting activities to different needs, cultures, languages, and lived experiences
- Develop co-created practice that values children, families, and participants as active contributors, not just participants.
- Support a diverse freelance creative workforce through collaboration, learning and reflective practice
- Build partnerships that help us reach communities who face barriers to cultural, creative and early years opportunities.
- Keep access, representation and equity central to programme design, evaluation and future planning.

Financial review

The charity continued to build its reserves

Free reserves at 31 March 2026: £21,664
Restricted funds at 31 March 2026: £51,040
Designated funds at 31 March 2026: £0

Reserves Policy

The company relies on core funding from grant-aiding bodies supplemented by the generation of income from performances, commissions, fundraising and donations. The reserves policy is to maintain a level of free reserves that would sustain its operation over a three-month period. Reserves remain below target due to the timing of multi-year funding cycles but are improving.

Risk management

Financial controls are in place at operational and board level. Budgets are set and approved by the board who also receive quarterly management accounts. Our Artistic Director, with support from our bookkeeper and the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, manages ongoing accounts.

Our accountants are Breckman and Company, the recognised leading chartered accountancy firm in the specialised field of accountancy for theatrical organisations of all types and sizes.

We have full Employers and Public Liability insurance, Trustees' insurance and our assets are insured at £37K.

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Core company costs are carefully calibrated inline with income streams, and project costs are always shared with commissioning partners to mitigate potential financial risks.

Our core structures are minimal and appropriately costed and we have free office space in Stroud Green Primary School. This allows us to maximize finance for our artistic output. As a streamlined core with resources geared towards our creative activities, financial risk increases in periods of project delivery and requires management specific to each project.

- Quarterly board oversight of budgets and management accounts.
- Strong financial controls and shared project costing with partners.
- Insurance in place including Employers', Public Liability and Trustees' cover.
- Minimal core structure and free office space at Stroud Green Primary School help mitigate financial risk.
- Project specific risk management is embedded across all programmes.

Structure, governance and management

Groundswell Arts is a charitable company (limited by guarantee) governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. First registered as a Not for Profit on 27 August 2010. Groundswell Arts made the step change to become a charity and amended its articles and obtained charitable status on 10 May 2022. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

The charity's board meets on a quarterly basis to review the previous quarter and to make decisions on future matters. All key decisions on company matters are made by the Trustees.

The company has a streamlined and sustainable board structure, and a management core which comprises two Artistic Directors, with project-based production support and fractional bookkeeping support. This allows us to keep core costs to a minimum and dedicate maximum revenue towards creative activities for the public benefit.

Related Parties

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with Groundswell Arts.

Any connection between a Trustee with a co-producer, contracted Artist or other worker must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

Stroud Green Primary School provides Groundswell Arts with free office space on an ongoing basis.

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report

Small company exemptions

This report is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Signed by:
BBFC9FB2B10241D...
Matthew Burbedge

Trustee / Treasurer

Signed by:
397073BA3CC242D...
Natalie Merritt

Trustee / Chair

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Groundswell Arts

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 13 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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

· examine the accounts under section 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 independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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

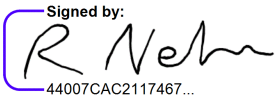
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

· to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

· to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

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

Signed by:

44007CAC2117467...

Richard Nelson FCCA
Breckman & Company Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants

49 South Molton Street
London W1K 5LH

30 September 2026

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Income and endowments from:	**2**						
Donations and legacies - page 14		24,300		24,300	22,100		22,100
Charitable activities:							
Theatre - page 14		35,680	253,792	289,472	65,560	164,934	230,494
Total		59,980	253,792	313,772	87,660	164,934	252,594
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities:							
Theatre - page 15		84,144	247,652	331,796	80,756	212,162	292,918
Total		84,144	247,652	331,796	80,756	212,162	292,918
Net income / (expenditure)	**3**	(24,164)	6,140	(18,024)	6,904	(47,228)	(40,324)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		45,828	44,900	90,728	38,924	92,128	131,052
Total funds carried forward	**12, 13**	21,664	51,040	72,704	45,828	44,900	90,728

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

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Year ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Income from donations and legacies		
Donations		
Other donations	-	500
In-kind support: Stroud Green School	24,300	21,600
	24,300	22,100
Income from charitable activities		
Theatre		
Theatre income		
Fee income	2,800	14,435
Training income	-	650
Local authority income	7,150	15,000
Fee Income - non school	25,730	35,475
	35,680	65,560
Project specific funding		
Grants		
Rayne Foundation	19,950	-
John Lyons	40,000	-
London Marathon	30,000	2,450
Big Give Campaign	4,138	-
Speech, Language and Hearing Foundation	5,000	-
A New Direction	32,080	-
Arts Council England	-	2,997
City Bridge	49,790	49,790
Youth Music	72,834	108,197
Bagheera Trust	-	1,500
	253,792	164,934

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Year ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Theatre		
Production/project costs		
Project costs	181,571	156,927
	181,571	156,927
Support costs - page 16	139,294	130,433
Governance costs - page 16	10,931	5,558
	331,796	292,918

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Year ended 31 March 2026

	2026		2025	
	£	£	£	£
Support and governance costs				
Support costs				
Office overheads				
Rent - in kind	24,300		21,600	
Telephone/internet	243		611	
Insurance	1,360		1,317	
Repairs/maintenance	204		646	
Depreciation of equipment	587		1,144	
		26,694		25,318
Administration costs				
Salaries/support staff	102,277		91,242	
Social security costs	2,174		4,910	
Staff pension costs	2,461		2,326	
Staff training	300		645	
Website/computer/software	1,995		2,138	
Travel/transport	2,478		2,547	
Entertaining	303		88	
Printing/postage/stationery	128		473	
Subscriptions	85		81	
Sundries	127		173	
		112,328		104,623
Professional/financial				
Legal/professional	263		482	
Bank charges	9		-	
Bad debts	-		10	
		272		492
		139,294		130,433
Governance costs				
Accountancy	2,800		3,150	
Bookkeeping	8,131		2,408	
		10,931		5,558
		150,225		135,991

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Balance Sheet
31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**8**		817		1,138
Current assets					
Debtors	**9**	33,382		3,200	
Cash at bank and in hand		51,025		104,005	
		84,407		107,205	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**10**	(12,520)		(17,615)	
Net current assets			71,887		89,590
Total assets less current liabilities			72,704		90,728
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds					
- General fund	**12**		21,664		14,298
- Designated funds			-		31,530
Total unrestricted funds			21,664		45,828
Restricted funds	**13**		51,040		44,900
Total charity funds			72,704		90,728

For the year ending 31 March 2026 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;

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

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 September 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Signed by:
BBFC9FB2B10241D...
Matthew Burbedge
Trustee / Treasurer

Signed by:
Natalie Merritt
397073BA3CC242D...
Natalie Merritt
Trustee / Chair

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Groundswell Arts

(Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2026

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (issued October 2019) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity 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).

1.2. Going Concern

The charity is dependent on the continued support of grant aiding bodies. The trustees believe that the charity will continue to receive this support and accordingly consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

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1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when:

- the charity is legally entitled to the funds
- any performance conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable
- the amount can be reliably measured

- Donations and legacies

Grants/donations are recognised in incoming resources in the year in which they are receivable, except as follows:

- when donors specify that grants/donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods
- when donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the preconditions for use are met.

- Charitable activities

Theatrical income - income from box office, performance fees and sundry other theatrical income is included in incoming resources in the period in which the relevant show takes place.

Project specific funding - when donors specify that donations and grants are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

- Donated services and facilities

Donated services or facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. On receipt, donated services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

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1.4. Expenditure

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered and is recognised when:

- there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment
- it is probable that settlement will be required
- the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably

- Costs of raising funds

Costs incurred in attracting donations, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

- Charitable activities

Theatre production costs - costs incurred in production and running of productions toured in the year.

- Support costs

The administrative and overhead costs associated with running the office from which the company operates as well as governance costs. Support costs are wholly attributable to theatre production costs.

- Governance costs

Costs associated with the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

1.5. Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

- Designated funds - these are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

- Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

1.6. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual fixed assets costing £250 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at annual rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Computer Equipment	-	Straight line over 3 years

1.7. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

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1.8. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.9. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.10. Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value, and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.11. Significant Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In determining the carrying amounts of certain assets and liabilities, the charity makes assumptions of the effects of uncertain future events on those assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. The charity's estimates and assumptions are based on historical experience and expectation of future events and are reviewed annually.

1.12. Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are recognised as expenditure when due.

2. Incoming resources

The total incoming resources for the year have been derived from the principal activity undertaken wholly in the UK.

3. Net income/(expenditure) for the year is stated after charging:

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	587	1,144
Indepedent examiner's remuneration - independent examination	2,800	3,150

4. Trustees' emoluments and reimbursed expenses

The trustees received no remuneration during the year (2025 - £nil).

The aggregated amount reimbursed to trustees during the year was £nil (2025 - £nil).

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5. Staff costs and numbers

	2026	2025
	£	£
Staff costs		
Salary costs	90,000	90,000
Social security costs	2,174	4,910
Pension costs	2,461	2,326
	94,635	97,236

No employee earned £60,000 or more during the year (2025 - £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Senior Management Team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £92,326 (2025 - £92,326).

Staff numbers

The average numbers of employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was made up as follows:

	2026	2025
	Number	Number
Support/production	2	3

6. Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of its employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £2,461 (2025 - £2,326).

7. Corporation Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

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8. Fixed assets - tangible assets

	Computer Equipment
	£
Cost	
1 April 2025	13,821
Additions	266
31 March 2026	14,087
Depreciation	
1 April 2025	12,683
Charge for year	587
31 March 2026	13,270
Net book values	
31 March 2026	817
31 March 2025	1,138

9. Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	16,780	3,150
Other debtors	-	50
Prepayments and accrued income	16,602	-
	33,382	3,200

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,693	2,151
Other taxation/social security	2,674	2,339
Accruals	8,153	13,125
	12,520	17,615

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11. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee, registered in EW - England & Wales, and does not have a share capital. Each member gives a guarantee to contribute a sum, not exceeding £1, to the company should it be wound up. At 31 March 2026 there were 7 members.

12. Unrestricted funds

	Brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
General fund	14,298	59,980	(84,144)	31,530	21,664
Designated funds:					
Haringey Council Family Hubs	3,413	-	-	(3,413)	-
YM SOS School Fees	17,795	-	-	(17,795)	-
Tate/Lightbox	497	-	-	(497)	-
Haringey Council	9,825	-	-	(9,825)	-
	45,828	59,980	(84,144)	-	21,664

Haringey Council Family Hubs
Commissioned 3 x 8 week family workshops to explore 'Schemas' (Child development through play) alongside the parents and carers. Creating immersive environments around each schema theme and creating take home DIY workshops for families.

YM SOS School Fees
Additional match fund required buy in for schools to take part in the Sing Our Story, Youth Music Funded Project.

Tate/Lightbox
A New Direction commissioned light box project to support the 'I am festival' at the Tate Modern.

Haringey Council
A council commissioned training for early years practitioners around confidence building around the use of music in settings as a tool for transitions, emotional regulation and development.

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13. Restricted funds

	Brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Carried forward £
Rayne Foundation	-	19,950	(14,418)	5,532
Youth Music Charity	20,047	72,834	(69,235)	23,646
London Marathon	-	30,000	(21,663)	8,337
Big Give Campaign	-	4,138	(4,138)	-
Speech, Language and Hearing Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
John Lyons Charitable Trust	9,118	40,000	(35,593)	13,525
A New Direction	-	32,080	(32,080)	-
City Bridge	14,235	49,790	(64,025)	-
Bagheera Trust	1,500	-	(1,500)	-
	44,900	253,792	(247,652)	51,040

Rayne Foundation

Towards developing our Sing Our Story programme specifically for children within the care sector. Testing our successful intervention of bespoke songwriting with children and their adult carers in several different National contexts with a view to developing longer-term plans for work in this sector.

Youth Music Charity

Youth Music Energiser Fund - Learning Partner
To partner with Youth Music to curate the Energiser Fund focusing on the voice and creative development of 2 to 4-year-olds - supporting a programme of learning for 11 National Arts organisations working with the Early Sector in a variety of art forms from music to dance, drama and environments.

Youth Music - Catalyser Fund
To Support our Sing Our Story Programme Sing Our Story is a bespoke song-writing programme delivered in schools, children's centres, nurseries and online. In this programme a skilled musician works with a parent/carer and their child to produce a bespoke song with music and lyrics directly inspired by the family's stories. To date we have created over 3,000 unique songs for families in this programme.

London Marathon

To Support our Dancing Together programme that takes place in Children's Centres supporting both mother and baby groups and carer and toddler groups through dance. Sessions have focused on connection both between carers and children through gentle movement and creativity and through shared social connections.

Big Give Campaign

To support the tour of the Communication Pod to five UK settings. Alongside our John Lyons schedule and with support from the Speech, Language and Hearing Foundation.

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Speech, Language and Hearing Foundation
To support the tour of the Communication Pod to five UK settings. Alongside our John Lyons schedule and with support from the Big Give Campaign.

John Lyons Charitable Trust
To support the development of our Dancing together & Communication project in the boroughs of Camden, Brent, Barnet. Dancing Together programme that takes place in Children's Centres supporting both mother and baby groups and carer and toddler groups through dance. Sessions have focused on connection both between carers and children through gentle movement and creativity and through shared social connections through groups. Mother and Baby sessions have a particular focus on postnatal wellbeing and self-care. The Communication Pod is designed for the early year's foundation stage, its is a child friendly environment that encourages play, exploration, and storytelling.

A New Direction
For Delivery of our Light box project as part of their Primary Arts on Tour 2026.

City Bridge
To cover the costs of running the creative wellbeing sessions, including session practitioners' and a production engineer's fees, a portion of the Artistic Directors' salaries, and a contribution to overheads and administration.

Bagheera Trust
To cover the cost of new workshop and project musical instruments.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2026 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	817	-	817
Net current assets	20,847	51,040	71,887
	21,664	51,040	72,704

15. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.