

Company Registration Number: NI060389  
Charity Number: NIC102412

**Arts Ekta**

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

**Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements**

**for the financial year ended 31 March 2023**

DNTCA Limited  
Ormeau House  
91-97 Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 1SH

## **Arts Ekta**

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

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## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

### TRUSTEES' AND OTHER INFORMATION

<b>Trustees</b>	Mr M Sharma MBE DL Ms A Lo MBE Ms H Francey Ms J Smith Ms L Stevenson Ms P Ballantine Dr M S Kumar Mr S McGarry
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Ms Nisha Tandon OBE
<b>Charity Number in Northern Ireland</b>	NIC102412
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	NI060389
<b>Registered Office and Principal Address</b>	Glendinning House 6 Murray Street Belfast BT1 6DN
<b>Auditors</b>	DNTCA Limited Ormeau House 91-97 Ormeau Road Belfast BT7 1SH
<b>Principal Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland 4-8 High Street Belfast BT1 2BA
<b>Solicitors</b>	Carson McDowell LLP Murray House, 4 Murray Street Belfast BT1 6DN

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for year ended 31st March 2023

## OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

ArtsEkta is established for the advancement of intercultural exchange and to promote ethnic arts to people from the north and south of Ireland regardless of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion. ArtsEkta unites the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and citizens in a common effort to promote integration and inclusion.

The objects of the charity are to:

(1) To promote Indian and ethnic arts, culture and heritage by:

- (i) organising, promoting, presenting, producing and managing festivals, concerts, performances, events, broadcasts, entertainments and exhibitions;
- (ii) stimulating the artistic creativity of people by the provision of training, support, facilities for artistic expression and the opportunity to take part in performances;
- (iii) encouraging appreciation for, understanding of and active participation in Indian and ethnic arts, culture and heritage.

(2) To advance community development and, in particular, the promotion of the community and voluntary sector for the benefit of the public by providing support, information, services, and facilities to community and voluntary groups and encouraging and facilitating such organisations to participate in arts and cultural events.

(3) To promote integration, inclusion, diversity and equality, cultural understanding and social cohesion.

ArtsEkta has translated these objects into a strategic vision for the organisation covering the period April 2021 to March 2024

### Vision

- An inclusive society that respects different cultures and communities in Northern Ireland

### Mission

- Encourage cultural understanding by delivering innovative arts and heritage-led programmes in the heart of the community.

### Beliefs & Values

- We believe that arts and heritage are powerful facilitators of exchange and learning
- We believe in empowering people and communities to tell and exchange their own stories
- We value all people and believe no one should face barriers to participation

### Aims

- Deliver cutting edge intercultural outreach programme using arts and heritage across the education and community sectors in Northern Ireland
- Present high quality events that celebrate cultural diversity, develop shared cultural spaces and create economic impact
- Support the professional development of artists from local and minority ethnic communities to strengthen intercultural arts practice
- Position ArtsEkta as a key service provider for meeting cross cutting policy areas across the Programme for Government
- Be a well-resourced, fit for purpose and sustainable organisation

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

### Public Benefit

We have referred to Charities Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Directors consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Our Public Benefit includes:

- Provision of high quality, low cost and accessible arts, culture and heritage events for members of the general public to engage with as audiences and participants
- Provision of subsidised arts, cultural and heritage outreach programmes across education and community settings, in addition to employment and professional development programmes for creative practitioners primarily in the local arts sector
- Provision of subsidised intercultural exchange programmes that help to combat racism and sectarianism and lead to the development of a shared and vibrant society

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

#### Governing document

ArtsEkta is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC102412) and company limited by guarantee (NI060389). The company was formally constituted on the 4th August 2006. The organisation operates in accordance with a legally defined memorandum and articles of association. ArtsEkta wholly owns the subsidiary company Ekta Events C.I.C.

#### Appointment of new directors

As set out in the Articles of Association the directors are appointed at the Annual General Meeting. The Board of Directors may also appoint a new director at a General Meeting. In these circumstances the director so appointed holds office only until the next Annual General Meeting. The directors are not remunerated for any of the voluntary services they provide as directors of the charity.

#### Organisational structure

The Board of Directors administers the charity. The Board meets quarterly and sub committees may be convened on a needs basis to assist with specific operational areas. A Business Management Team (BMT) are appointed by the Directors to manage the day to day operations of the charity. They are assisted with freelance staff who are tasked with specific project management responsibilities. To facilitate effective operations, the BMT has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the directors, for operational matters including finance, marketing, sales, project management, employment and the artistic programme of the charity. During the period, the BMT consisted of the following positions:

Nisha Tandon	Chief Executive
Krishan Tandon	Creative Producer
Aoife McCrory	Programme & Participation Manager
Lindsey Mairs	Business Development Officer
Ashling Hegarty	Finance & Administration Officer
Catherine McGivern	Administration Assistant
Nabeela Yasin-Ianelli	Project Assistant
Sonia McCourt	Marketing Assistant

The charity operates with a range of policies relating to risk management, equal opportunities, child protection, health & safety, conflicts of interest and financial controls. Policies are reviewed annually. The Directors have undertaken an assessment of risk, presented and monitored via a risk register, and measures are in place to minimise risks to operations.

#### Induction and training of the new directors

New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the contents of the memorandum and articles of association, the operation and decision-making processes of the Board, the business plan, and the recent financial performance of the charity. The directors are encouraged to experience the work of the charity first hand and attend external training programmes to help them fulfil their role.

## Arts Ekta

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# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

### Related parties

In 2013, the directors of the charity established a wholly owned trading subsidiary, Ekta Events CIC, in order to deliver commercial activities which fall outside the charitable objects. There is an intercompany trading relationship established between ArtsEkta and Ekta Events CIC. Each year the trading company aims to make a charitable donation from profits to the charity and it also pays management fees to cover the costs of the resources used. A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed by each company outlining the trading relationship and working arrangements.

### ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

In the period under review ArtsEkta continued to produce high quality, best practice initiatives delivering positively on the interlinked themes of intercultural exchange, good relations and cultural diversity across the arts, education, tourism, community and heritage sectors. Programming activity through the year attracted a live audience of 150,235 people and 12,154 participants.

#### Belfast Mela

Over the year we delivered the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Northern Ireland's largest celebration of cultural diversity. With Covid-19 pandemic declared over, the festival was able to return to its first full live format since 2019. The festival featured over events over nine days employing 316 local artists and attracting a live audience of 54,732 people. This year's programme featured two flagship opening and closing events including Mela Carnival across Belfast City Centre on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, finishing with Mela Day at Botanic Gardens on 28<sup>th</sup> August. Mela Carnival is a new addition to the festival which featured nearly 1,000 local participants in a carnival parade from Writers Square to City Hall, followed by a dramatic aerial spectacle in the grounds of City Hall. Alongside the large scale events was a further programme of events between 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August at varying scales in different venues and public spaces across the city.

The key impact results from the festival are summarised below:

#### Engagement

- 54,732 attendees
- 1,606 participants
- Key audience demographic was women aged 31-50 attending in family groups
- 56.6% of the audience were first time attendees demonstrating audience development from new programme elements
- 401 local artists employed with 60% from BAME communities
- 38 volunteers

#### Audience experience

- 76% of audiences rated the overall festival good to extremely good
- 89% of audiences reported increased awareness of the city's cultural diversity
- 90% of audiences felt the festival promoted Belfast as an inclusive and welcoming city
- 98% of audiences agreed that Mela should continue over a full week and would attend again in the future
- 62% of audiences attended more than one festival event

#### Economic impact

- For every £1 of public funding invested, £8.28 was generated for the local economy with a total direct economic impact of £1,521,822
- 48% of the audience visited from outside of Belfast
- 1829 bednights were generated

#### Media coverage

- 22.71m press and broadcast reach
- 156 media pieces
- £1m advertising value equivalent

The event was principally funded by Belfast City Council, The Executive Office, Community Relations Council and Tourism NI, with corporate sponsorship from Sensata Technologies and UTV.

## **Arts Ekta**

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# **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

### **Cultural Coach**

With principal funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland via its Annual Funding Programme, ArtsEkta continued to deliver its highly successful 'Cultural Coach' programme. The Cultural Coach Programme is ArtsEkta's major outreach initiative providing arts and intercultural workshops to people of all ages across Northern Ireland. Cultural Coach comprises delivery of introductory sessions to multi-arts forms during 'One World Days' or extended Cultural Coach programmes where participants are enabled to work more closely with minority ethnic artists to explore the stories, music, dance, drama, folklore and traditions, visual arts and crafts of a country of their choice in more depth. The programme is flexible, accessible to all ages, participatory and encourages people to extend their imagination, creative skills and awakens consciousness and curiosity towards other cultures.

'One World Days' and the Cultural Coach extended programme were delivered in partnership with regional and local community organisations over the 12 month period of the programme. Over 2022/23, we have completed our three year engagement programmes including performing arts project 'Fusion & Inclusion', visual art project 'Luminate' and storytelling project 'World of Words'. R&D also commenced for the development of the new three year participation programme.

### **Art Route Collective**

Our ongoing Service Level Agreement with the Public Health Agency continues to enable a concentrated programme of work with Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Art Route Collective works with refugee and asylum seekers with the aim of improving emotional health and social wellbeing. We have continued our work with a group of women from Syria, Somalia, Kurdistan and Zimbabwe to develop their personal skills and support their cultural identity through participative arts based programmes on a weekly basis.

### **Creative Communities**

During the year we also continued our Creative Communities (CC) programmed funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. CC is a large scale, region wide community engagement programme with the primary objective of creating opportunities to empower vulnerable groups within black & minority ethnic communities (BME) to take part in civic life as well as promoting intercultural exchange through outreach and celebration activities. CC involves three distinct strands that have been designed with our target participants in response to extensive consultations and the success of previous pilot schemes. Working with a diverse range of partners, the project will be delivered until August 2023 culminating in a large scale shared cultural celebration as part of the Belfast Mela.

### **You, Me & Tea**

In tangent, we commenced You, Me and Tea, our new social heritage project supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Participating groups are exploring the heritage of tea in NI and connections with China and India. The project is working with seven community groups in Belfast, Coleraine, Derry/Londonderry and Glengormley. The most important part of the programme is bringing the Chinese, Indian and indigenous communities together as participants, artists and volunteers to explore: the origins and history of tea; the connections with China and India; tea's original journey to the Northern Ireland; the stories of past tea merchants and present tea suppliers. The project was completed in August 2022 and in total engaged with 5,452 participants.

### **Forth Meadow Community Greenway**

During the year, ArtsEkta continued to design, develop and manage a series of events along the new Peace IV-funded Forth Meadow Community Greenway on behalf of Belfast City Council. Forth Meadow Community Greenway is a new £5.1 million EU PEACE IV-funded project to connect existing open spaces in north and west Belfast along a 12 km route from Clarendon Playing Fields to the new Transport Hub in the city centre. We worked alongside the council and communities in the area to co-design a 8 month programme of 20 events across key spaces along the greenway. The programme finished with in October 2022 and attracted a total audience of 8,211 people. The council commissioned ArtsEkta to further deliver an extended programme to May 2023.

### **Belfast Equinox**

ArtsEkta were commissioned by Belfast City Council to design a audience development project that engaged participants from diverse communities across the city. Belfast Equinox was an immersive, cross cultural storytelling experience developed with citizens from across the city to celebrate age-old mythology surrounding the Equinox. In many cultures, the equinox marks a time of transition and new beginnings. This project celebrates age-old mythology, rituals and traditions from around the world re-told through music, dance, procession, lighting and fire. On 25th March 2022, we transformed the Belfast Harbour Marina with a free event that brought over 300 citizens of the city together to tell the story of the Equinox through the elements of Earth, Water, Fire and Air. The event attracted an audience of 2,567 people.

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for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

### 'MENII Memories, MENII Voices' (MMMV)

MMMV is a public engagement project exploring Northern Ireland's entanglement with global histories of colonialism and imperialism. The project will showcase social and community heritage as well as participant contributions which reflect on the interactions of Northern Irish identities, memories and objects. The MMMV project is intended to promote understanding of intersecting themes of shared futures, diversity, and the decolonisation of heritage in Northern Ireland, and aims to amplify community voice in understanding how colonial and imperial histories relate to contemporary society in Northern Ireland. MMMV is in partnership with Queens University Belfast and the Irish Museums Association and is led by researchers Emma Reisz and Briony Widdis.

### Artistic Development

ArtsEkta recognises the contribution that new artists are bringing to our society, particularly from minority ethnic communities and addresses the need for their professional development. We provide a platform of support in order to develop and encourage the individual artist to flourish, while at the same time facilitating learning and interaction with indigenous communities, enabling social integration and civic participation. Over the year ArtsEkta has continued to support artists with training needs assessments, in-house and signposted training, performance opportunities, project development support, networking & public relations opportunities and acting as a voice to advocate for the needs of artists to relevant stakeholder groups.

### Future Commissioning

Commissioning and new project development remains a core part of ArtsEkta's future strategy. The creative team of the organisation is now working towards the framework for a new transformative outdoor arts project, *Little Amal*, with the ambition of creating a new large scale outdoor spectacle in 2024. Little Amal is the 12 foot puppet of a 10 year old Syrian refugee child at the heart of The Walk. She has become a global symbol of human rights, especially those of refugees. Since July 2021, Amal has travelled over 6,000 miles to 97 towns and cities in 15 countries and been welcomed by more than a million people on the street, including hundreds of artists and civil society and faith leaders, as well as by tens of millions online. Her journeys are festivals of art and hope that draw attention to the huge numbers of children fleeing war, violence and persecution, each with their own story.

A commission of £250,000 has been secured from Belfast City Council under the Belfast 2024 cultural programme to deliver this project. This would be a major new project for organisation with artistic development, participation, and skills development at its core.

### Resilience

In 2021, the directors have developed a three year resilience plan to help plan for Covid 19 recovery and safeguard the future sustainability of the charity. Subsequent funding of £82,906 was secured from the National Lottery Community Fund through The Dormant Accounts Fund to support implementation. A new part time business development officer was recruited during the period to drive forward elements of the resilience plan.

The key priorities in the resilience plan:

- A new role within the organisation with a focus on business development, sales and marketing to drive forward social enterprise.
- A rounded programme of training and capacity building to develop skills of existing team in developing & selling products and services
- Audit of organisation's current approach to marketing (including digital/e-commerce) and a new strategy for future development
- A programme of new product and service development to create new income streams within the organisation e.g. One World Box
- A three year plan that considers the long term impact of the pandemic and mitigations including an assessment of the external environment in the cultural sector
- A feasibility and options analysis for future capital development in relation to a permanent homebase for ArtsEkta
- Analysis of the way the organisation operates across all key functions: project management, operations, financial management, marketing, monitoring and evaluation with the aim for business improvement
- Improve the way we collect data and evaluate social impact to better position ArtsEkta as a strategic policy partner
- Further development of succession planning in the organisation through board training, implementation plans and staff professional development

## Arts Ekta

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# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year are set out in pages 14-16. The company returned net incoming resources for year of £54,351. At the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 the total funds of the charity amounted to £657,966.

## Reserves Policy

The Directors have compiled a reserves policy to address the need of securing the viability of ArtsEkta beyond the immediate future. In order to be able to provide reliable services over the longer term, the company must be able to absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity. This is achieved by holding unrestricted income in the form of reserves.

It is the company's intention to maintain a fund of unrestricted reserves at the equivalent of six months future core expenditure. The fund would be utilised to provide working capital to maintain the charity's level of operations; in the event of a shortfall in funding of core costs; to cover wind-up costs in the event the charity faces full or partial closure; to take advantage of change and opportunity; or to mitigate against financial risks associated with the delivery of the programme.

The charity currently holds designated & unrestricted reserves of £531,856. This is considered an adequate level needed to meet the objectives of the reserves policy and as such the Directors will continue to maintain to the reserves level.

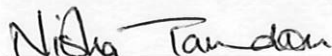
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## Investment policy and objectives

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association the charity has the power to make any investments which the Directors see fit. The charity currently does not hold any investments.

01-12-23

Approved by the Board of Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on its behalf by:



Ms Nisha Tandon OBE  
Secretary

## Arts Ekta

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# STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also directors of Arts Ekta for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees as the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income or expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:


- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the charity's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 01-12-23 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Mr M Sharma MBE DL  
Trustee

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

## **to the Members of Arts Ekta**

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

### **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the charity financial statements of Arts Ekta ('the charity') for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion, when reporting in accordance with a fair presentation framework the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other Information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

## **to the Members of Arts Ekta**

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report.

### **Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 5, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management,
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company,

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- Reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing correspondence with HMRC, Companies House and the company's legal advisors.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## to the Members of Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

### Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

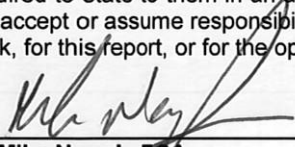
As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



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**Mr Mike Nangle FCA**  
**(Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of  
**DNTCA LIMITED**  
Ormeau House  
91-97 Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 1SH

Date: 01/12/2023

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Income</b>							
Charitable activities							
■ Grants from governments and other co-funders	4.1	-	671,842	671,842	-	668,757	668,757
Other income	4.2	247,485	-	247,485	213,862	2,547	216,409
<b>Total income</b>		<b>247,485</b>	<b>671,842</b>	<b>919,327</b>	<b>213,862</b>	<b>671,304</b>	<b>885,166</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Charitable activities	5.1	189,670	675,306	864,976	107,339	602,583	709,922
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>57,815</b>	<b>(3,464)</b>	<b>54,351</b>	<b>106,523</b>	<b>68,721</b>	<b>175,244</b>
Transfers between funds		(2,368)	2,368	-	77,788	(77,788)	-
<b>Net movement in funds for the financial year</b>		<b>55,447</b>	<b>(1,096)</b>	<b>54,351</b>	<b>184,311</b>	<b>(9,067)</b>	<b>175,244</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds beginning of the year	15	476,409	127,206	603,615	292,098	136,273	428,371
<b>Total funds at the end of the year</b>		<b>531,856</b>	<b>126,110</b>	<b>657,966</b>	<b>476,409</b>	<b>127,206</b>	<b>603,615</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)  
Company Number: NI060389

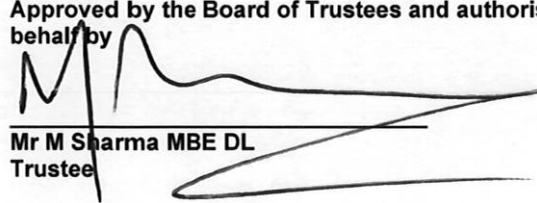
### BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	31,781	19,076
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	11	180,334	143,211
Cash at bank and in hand	12	465,230	461,990
		645,564	605,201
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(19,379)	(20,662)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		626,185	584,538
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		657,966	603,615
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted trust funds		126,110	127,206
Designated funds (Unrestricted)		110,000	110,000
General fund (unrestricted)		421,856	366,409
<b>Total funds</b>	15	657,966	603,615

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 01-12-23 and signed on its behalf by

  
Mr M Sharma MBE DL  
Trustee

**Arts Ekta**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net movement in funds		54,351	175,243
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		7,810	13,625
		<u>62,161</u>	<u>188,868</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in stocks		-	250
Movement in debtors		(33,061)	(39,309)
Movement in creditors		(1,285)	8,344
		<u>27,815</u>	<u>158,153</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(20,513)	-
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Advances to subsidiaries/group companies		(4,062)	(3,674)
<hr/>			
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>3,240</b>	<b>154,479</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>		<b>461,990</b>	<b>307,511</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>465,230</b>	<b>461,990</b>

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Arts Ekta is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office of the charity is Glendinning House, 6 Murray Street, Belfast, BT1 6DN, Northern Ireland which is also the principal place of business of the charity. The financial statements have been presented in Pound (£) which is also the functional currency of the charity.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

As permitted by the Companies Act 2006, the charity has varied the standard formats in that act for the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. Departures from the standard formats are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP and are in compliance with section 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of that SORP.

### Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

### Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

#### Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the charity.

#### Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General and Designated funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the board, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that the board has, at its discretion, set aside for particular purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the board's discretion to apply the fund.

### Income

Income is recognised by inclusion in the Statement of Financial Activities only when the charity is legally entitled to the income, performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, the amounts involved can be measured with sufficient reliability and it is probable that the income will be received by the charity.

### Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities include income earned from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and from performance related grants which have conditions that specify the provision of particular services to be provided by the charity. Income from government and other co-funders is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreements. Where a grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved. Where the charity is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

income.

■ Time based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases the charity recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the charity is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

### Expenditure

Expenditure is analysed between costs of charitable activities and raising funds. The costs of each activity are separately accumulated and disclosed, and analysed according to their major components. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, a transfer of economic benefits is required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but cannot be attributed to one activity. Such costs are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time spent or other suitable measure for each activity.

### Going Concern

The Trustees have not identified any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

### Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 25% Reducing Balance Method
Motor vehicles	- 25% Reducing Balance Method
Website	- Fully depreciated

### Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from government agencies and other co-funders, but not yet received at financial year end, is included in debtors.

### Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months notice of withdrawal.

### Taxation and deferred taxation

No current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable exemption. Irrecoverable valued added tax is expensed as incurred.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events have occurred at that date that will result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future, or a right to pay less tax in the future. Timing differences are temporary differences between the charity's taxable income and its results as stated in the financial statements.

Deferred tax is measured on an undiscounted basis at the tax rates that are anticipated to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

### Grants receivable

Government grants are recognised in the income statement under the accrual model in accordance with FRS 102.

Grants for immediate financial support or to cover costs already incurred are recognised immediately in the income statement. Grants towards general activities of the entity over a specific period are recognised in the income statement over that period.

Covid-19 related grants will be recognised in the Income Statement as income and will not be offset against their related expense. Where an application for a grant under CJRS has been successful but it has not been received by the Statement of Financial Position date, the entity records a debtor balance.

### Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

### 3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENT AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under circumstances.



## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

<b>5. EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>5.1 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>Support Costs</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Governance Costs	-	-	3,360	3,360	2,535
Outreach	531,325	-	89,035	620,360	474,594
Events	44,846	-	-	44,846	124,364
Workshops & Performances	148,471	-	47,939	196,410	108,429
	<u>724,642</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>140,334</u>	<u>864,976</u>	<u>709,922</u>
<b>6. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS</b>				<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
				<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff Costs				102,423	88,149
Depreciation				1,564	2,180
General Office				1,995	1,536
Governance Costs				3,360	2,535
Premises Costs				23,642	17,971
Finance Costs				106	67
Accountancy				6,358	4,600
Communications and IT				886	1,143
				<u>140,334</u>	<u>118,181</u>
<b>7. NET INCOME</b>				<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
				<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Net Income is stated after charging/(crediting):</b>					
Depreciation of tangible assets				7,810	13,625
Auditor's remuneration: - audit services				3,360	2,400
				<u>3,360</u>	<u>2,400</u>
<b>8. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION</b>					
The staff costs comprise:				<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
				<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries				182,623	151,432
Social security costs				17,447	13,676
				<u>200,070</u>	<u>165,108</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2022: 7)

No Employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: nil)

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £45,671 (2022: £42,920)

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

### 9. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The Trustees, nor any person connected with them, have not received remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity.

### 10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Website £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2022	73,799	17,900	15,000	106,699
Additions	20,513	-	-	20,513
At 31 March 2023	<u>94,312</u>	<u>17,900</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>127,212</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2022	55,311	17,312	15,000	87,623
Charge for the financial year	7,661	147	-	7,808
At 31 March 2023	<u>62,972</u>	<u>17,459</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>95,431</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2023	<u><b>31,340</b></u>	<u><b>441</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>31,781</b></u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>18,488</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,076</u>

### 11. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	162,062	130,514
Amounts owed by group entities	14,736	10,674
Prepayments and accrued income	3,536	2,023
	<u>180,334</u>	<u>143,211</u>

### 12. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash and bank balances	<u>465,230</u>	<u>461,990</u>

### 13. CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	15,642	17,390
Other creditors	857	872
Accruals and deferred income	2,880	2,400
	<u>19,379</u>	<u>20,662</u>

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

## 14. RESERVES

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
At the beginning of the year	366,409	110,000	127,206	603,615
Surplus for the financial year	55,447	(1,096)	-	54,351
At the end of the year	<u>421,856</u>	<u>110,000</u>	<u>127,206</u>	<u>657,966</u>

During the period the Directors have retained designated reserves of £110,000 for the following purposes:

### 1. Belfast Mela - £20,000

Mela is historically an outdoor event held on August Bank Holiday weekend and as a result ticket income is significantly weather dependent. The Directors recommend a fund of £20,000 is held to mitigate against future wet weather losses and long term growth plans in line with the festival's five year strategy.

### 2. Pilot projects - £20,000

Arts Ekta's ongoing strategy has been a mixed income model, concentrating on self-generated income rather than the reliance of public funding. The Directors considered that a fund should be established to assist with future project development based on the following criteria as identified in the charity's strategic plan 2021-2024:

- Projects that, once executed, will deliver significant benefit for the organisation in terms of scale, innovation, impact and profile
- Projects that once invested in have the potential to be self-sustainable or attract longer term funding
- Projects that allow the organisation to experiment with new ways of working that wouldn't normally attract traditional project funding
- Projects that meet a number of different strategic aims

### 3. Capital development - £50,000

Based on the strategic aim of 'To continue research, design & funding proposals for capital development' the Directors recommend this fund is to be held whilst the management team continue to undertake feasibility studies for capital development. This could include the purchase of office and workshop space that can accommodate staff with a community hub to facilitate arts, music, dance, and cookery workshops.

### 4. Future resilience - £20,000

In 2021, the charity was successful in securing funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund to implement plans to strengthen the future resilience of the charity. This included the creation of a new business development post. The Directors recommend that a reserve is designated to help enhance the funding and deliver on elements of the three-year resilience strategy including succession planning.

## 15. FUNDS

### 15.1 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
At 1 April 2021	292,098	136,273	428,371
Movement during the financial year	184,311	(9,067)	175,244
At 31 March 2022	476,409	127,206	603,615
Movement during the financial year	55,447	(1,096)	54,351
At 31 March 2023	<u>531,856</u>	<u>126,110</u>	<u>657,966</u>

## Arts Ekta

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

### 15.2 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Cultural Coach	-	52,960	53,111	151	-
General Grants and Sponsorship Mela	127,206	568,704	572,017	2,217	126,110
	-	50,178	50,178	-	-
	<u>127,206</u>	<u>671,842</u>	<u>675,306</u>	<u>2,368</u>	<u>126,110</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Designated Fund	110,000	-	-	-	110,000
Unrestricted General	366,409	247,485	189,670	(2,368)	421,856
	<u>476,409</u>	<u>247,485</u>	<u>(189,670)</u>	<u>(2,368)</u>	<u>531,856</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><b>603,615</b></u>	<u><b>919,327</b></u>	<u><b>864,976</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>657,966</b></u>

### 15.3 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Fixed assets - charity use £	Current assets £	Current liabilities £	Total £
Restricted trust funds	31,781	641,954	(544,076)	129,659
Unrestricted designated funds	-	110,000	-	110,000
Unrestricted general funds	-	437,686	(19,379)	418,307
	-	547,686	(19,379)	528,307
	<u>31,781</u>	<u>1,189,640</u>	<u>(563,455)</u>	<u>657,966</u>

### 16. STATUS

The charity is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one financial year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £ 1.

### 17. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.