

Belfast Platform for the Arts

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Legal and administrative information is contained on the company information page preceeding this report.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Belfast Platform for the Arts (known as Platform) is a voluntary organisation established in May 2009 by a group of concerned individuals to assist persons with artistic talents to promote themselves to the general public and to advance the education and understanding of the public in the promotion and appreciation of the Arts in Belfast and beyond.

We seek to acheive this by holding regular exhibitions and run a programme of events designed to meet these objectives.

We are an artist led studio group and comtemporary art gallery now based in East Belfast. Our role is to actively promote creative expression, presentation and access to contemporary art practice through our Exhibition, Outreach and Studio Programmes. We are managed by a Board of Directors drawn from a wide range of organisations connected with the Arts, all of whom have practical working knowledge of the Arts, and who are well qualifed and experienced in their fields of expertise.

Public benefit

We assist emerging artists in necessitous circumstances to become self-supporting by the provision of studio space and facilities, advice and training, allowing them to develop their talents. We also manage an arena for public art exhibitions, demonstrations and lectures and as a centre for other art related activities which encourages appreciation for and participation in community based arts activities designed to enable members of the general public to explore their creativity. These activities serve to educate and inform the general public in the appreciation of the arts.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

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Achievements and performance

Since opening during 2021 in the Connswater Shopping complex, we have made a strong connection and established ourselves as part of the community and ecosystem there.

East Belfast has seen a creative gentrification initiative which Platform has played a part in. With 'in person' exhibitions returning to post Covid normality in March 2021 we decided to move back from virtual exhibitions to fully re-opening the gallery once again to the public and continue with events similar to those prior to the Covid 19 pandemic.

With our new improved premises this was the time to establish our mark in East Belfast with support from Centre management and other local galleries around. In November 2021 we hosted Platform's first Salonathon Exhibition which was an open invitation for local artists to submit work to be exhibited, resulting in 70 artworks from both professional and novice artists. The exhibition generated a huge amount of interaction and interest as well as donations to the gallery. It was filmed and documented by local TV channel NVTV which put our stamp on our new home in East Belfast. With a newly established residence and the ability to have 'in person' events again the space has also welcomed three new artists in residence which has helped support the gallery with admin and maintenance costs. In 2021-2022 the gallery has received exhibition applications from both local and international artists which is how helping to build Platform's status as an established Belfast artist run, artist led, gallery.

The future goals of this arts organisation are centered around building a stronger community spirit and collective mindset among the members of Platform.

Financial review

Principal funding sources

The main incoming resources are donations from members for the use of studio accomodation. In addition the Platform benefits from the use of the Belfast premises on a rent free basis, the notional rent value of £35,000 p.a. is shown as both an incoming and outgoing resource.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Belfast Platform for the Arts is a company limited by guarantee which is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees, who are also Executive Committee members, are nominated and elected annually by full members at the AGM and also by the Executive Committee during the year to fill casual vacancies should the need arise.

Existing Committee members are eligible for re-election. Office Bearers are elected by the Committee from among their number at the first full Committee meeting after the AGM.

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

Management of the charity is undertaken by the Trustees. No remuneration for services is paid to any Trustee.

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Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Cash flow risk

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in donation and event based income. The use of studio accomodation is closely monitored and regular events are held to maintain income. Interest bearing assets and liabilities are held at fixed rate to ensure certainty of cash flows.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.


Liquidity risk

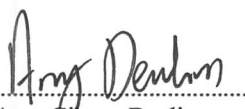
In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity maintains an adequate level of cash reserves.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 15 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


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Ekaterina Solomatina
Director and Trustee


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Amy Gibney Devlin
Director and Trustee