

Belfast Exposed Photography

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Belfast Exposed Photography

Charity registration number 104973

Company registration number NI041605

Principal office and registered office The Exchange Place
23 Donegall Street
Belfast
BT1 2FF

The trustees

CE Doran	
Mr A Leonard	(Resigned 26 March 2024)
Miss A Early	(Resigned 1 September 2024)
Ms M Harte	
Mr C Heath	
Mr A M Jones	(Resigned 19 February 2024)
Ms S Chakravarti	(Appointed 16 April 2023)
Mrs S Beatty	(Appointed 16 April 2023)
Ms H Morris- Cafiero	
Mr T Corr	(Resigned 17 April 2023)

Auditor FEB Chartered Accountants
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Linenhall Exchange
1st Floor,
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT2 8BG

Bankers Danske Bank Limited
8/9 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GJ

Solicitors Millar McCall & Wylie
370-374 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3EY

Belfast Exposed Photography

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees report

As trustees of Belfast Exposed, we are delighted to present this annual report, outlining the remarkable achievements and impactful work undertaken by the organisation from April 2023 to March 2024. Throughout this period, Belfast Exposed has continued to flourish as Northern Ireland's foremost photography organisation, delivering creative and inclusive programmes that empower individuals, build stronger community connections, and address vital societal challenges. This year has exemplified growth, resilience, and an unwavering dedication to utilising photography as a transformative force for positive change.

Belfast Exposed remains steadfast in its mission to promote photography as a tool for empowerment, social change, and inclusivity. The organisation believes in the transformative power of photography, which serves as both a medium for personal expression and a catalyst for collective transformation. By creating accessible and high-quality opportunities, Belfast Exposed ensures that people from all walks of life can engage with the photographic arts, fostering creativity, dialogue, and understanding.

Belfast Exposed Photography

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements over the year

The past year has been rich with achievements that underscore Belfast Exposed's impact on individuals and communities. Between April 1 2023 and March 31 2024, Belfast Exposed curated a series of compelling exhibitions that showcased a diverse array of photographic works, engaging both local and international audiences. The programme commenced with the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 4 Touring Exhibition, running from April 6 to May 20 2023. This exhibition featured innovative works from emerging artists, reflecting contemporary themes and practices in photography. Concurrently, from April 6 to May 20, 2023, the gallery presented "A Door, a Picture Frame and the Number 52," an exhibition that invited viewers to explore narrative and abstraction through a unique photographic lens. In May 2023, "BANSHEE" was showcased from May 11 to May 20, offering a profound exploration of cultural myths and their contemporary resonances.

June 2023 featured the Alain Le Garsmeur Retrospective, running from June 1 to July 22. This exhibition provided a comprehensive look at the esteemed photographer's work, highlighting his contributions to documentary photography. Simultaneously, from June 1 to July 22, 2023, "Else Time," the Ulster University MFA Photography Exhibition, showcased emerging talents, offering fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to the medium. In August, Belfast Exposed presented "Portrait of Humanity Vol. 5" from August 3 to September 23, 2023, celebrating the diversity and unity of human experiences through powerful imagery. Alongside this, "Showcase: Coronation Generation 2023" was displayed from August 4 to August 25, highlighting the creative expressions of a new generation of photographers.

The autumn season featured "Not Surrendering," exhibited from October 5 to November 4, 2023, delving into themes of resilience and identity. In November, "Type 1 Through the Lens," in partnership with Diabetes UK Northern Ireland, was showcased from November 14 to November 18, 2023, raising awareness about diabetes through personal photographic narratives. The year concluded with "The Big Christmas Photo Sale 2023," running from November 21, 2023, to January 13, 2024, offering the public an opportunity to acquire unique photographic works. In December, "Seeing Through a Different Lens" was exhibited from December 7, 2023, to January 13, 2024, presenting diverse perspectives and challenging conventional viewpoints.

The programme continued into the new year with "Now & Then - 40 Years of Belfast Exposed," from February 1 to March 23, 2024, celebrating the gallery's four-decade legacy in promoting photographic arts. Concurrently, "Navigating Queer Landscapes" was on display from February 6 to March 30, 2024, exploring LGBTQ+ narratives and spaces through photography. In March, "Memorial UnMemorial" was exhibited from March 7 to March 23, 2024, offering a poignant reflection on memory and commemoration. This exhibition attracted significant media interest and was featured on BBC News.

Simultaneously, "Our Archive: 40 Years of Belfast Exposed," running from March 7 to June 1, 2024, provided an in-depth look into the gallery's extensive archival collections, highlighting its enduring impact on the photographic landscape. These exhibitions collectively underscored Belfast Exposed's commitment to fostering artistic expression, cultural dialogue, and community engagement through the medium of photography. This exhibition attracted 4,000 on the launch night.

The gallery served as a vibrant hub, with audiences in excess of 60,000. These exhibitions were more than just displays of art; they provided platforms for dialogue and reflection. That included public events and talks. Notable highlights included "Resilience in Focus," which highlighted Northern Ireland's political and social evolution, and "The Lens of Neurodiversity," an inspiring collaboration with Lorraine Tuck that highlighted the lived experiences of families navigating autism and intellectual disabilities. Through these events, we received enthusiastic feedback attesting to the accessibility and relevance of the showcased works.

Belfast Exposed Photography

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Beyond the gallery walls, Belfast Exposed delivered over 5,000 therapeutic photography workshops delivered to 150 groups to 1150 individuals. These initiatives prioritised mental health, engaging diverse groups such as older adults, trauma survivors, and individuals facing social isolation. Projects like "Connecting Lives: Women of Ballybeen and Falls United" exemplified the organisation's dedication to fostering cross-community relationships and reducing loneliness. Meanwhile, "Creative Memory Workshops" supported individuals with Alzheimer's, using photography to preserve memories and enhance well-being. The impact of these programmes was profound, with 85% of participants reporting significant improvements in mental health, confidence, and social connections.

Community engagement continued to be a cornerstone of Belfast Exposed's work. Over 1,150 individuals from diverse backgrounds participated in mental health and community programmes. Many of these programmes were cross-community, building bridges of understanding through collaborative workshops and exhibitions. The organisation also extended its reach to rural areas, ensuring underserved communities could access the benefits of photography.

The Belfast Exposed Archive remains a vital resource, preserving Northern Ireland's photographic history. This year, efforts to expand and digitise the archive gained momentum, ensuring its continued accessibility for future generations. Additionally, plans were set in motion for a semi-permanent conflict exhibition, designed to showcase Belfast's stories while supporting cultural tourism initiatives.

Training programmes

Belfast Exposed's training programmes are an essential part of its mission to empower individuals and build skills through photography. The organisation offers a range of training opportunities tailored to suit various needs, from beginners exploring photography for the first time to advanced practitioners honing their craft. Over the past year, training programmes focused on technical proficiency, creative development, and professional opportunities, ensuring accessibility for all participants.

The Futures Programme has been a standout success, mentoring 20 emerging photographers and equipping them with the skills and confidence to embark on professional careers. Participants gained hands-on experience through workshops, mentorship, and portfolio reviews, culminating in opportunities to showcase their work in public exhibitions. Additionally, Belfast Exposed delivered over 50 training workshops to schools, universities, and community groups, engaging more than 1,000 participants. These workshops introduced the fundamentals of photography, explored storytelling techniques, and demonstrated the potential of photography as a tool for advocacy and expression.

Many of these training programmes also addressed cross-cutting themes, such as mental health and social cohesion. For example, specialised workshops provided participants with therapeutic tools to navigate personal challenges and build resilience. Others fostered dialogue and collaboration among diverse communities, demonstrating the power of photography to bridge divides and promote understanding.

The training programmes are supported by a dedicated team of professionals who bring a wealth of expertise and passion to their work. Their efforts have ensured that Belfast Exposed's training initiatives remain a vital and transformative part of the organisation's impact, contributing to the development of a thriving photographic community in Northern Ireland.

Belfast Exposed Photography

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Healing through photography conference

In April 2024, Belfast Exposed hosted the highly anticipated Healing Through Photography conference, which brought together artists, mental health practitioners, and community leaders to explore the transformative power of photography as a tool for healing and social change. This event highlighted the organisation's commitment to addressing mental health challenges through innovative approaches to art and engagement.

The conference featured keynote speeches from renowned mental health experts and photographers who shared insights into how visual storytelling can aid in mental well-being. Panel discussions delved into the intersection of creativity and therapy, showcasing real-life examples of how photography has been used to foster resilience, reduce isolation, and support recovery. Workshops provided participants with practical tools and techniques for incorporating photography into therapeutic practices, fostering both dialogue and skill-building.

The event was attended by over 200 delegates, including healthcare professionals, artists, and community representatives. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the conference for its thought-provoking content and practical applications. This landmark event further cemented Belfast Exposed's reputation as a leader in harnessing the arts for social impact and healing. Further to the conference both the Engagement Manager and Engagement Manager undertook a Postgraduate Degree in therapeutic photography at the Robert Gordon University. This has led to significant skills development and has elevated Belfast Exposed to have specialist in the field of therapeutic photography.

Dormant accounts fund award

In a significant achievement, Belfast Exposed was successfully awarded £100,000 funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund for a three-year period. This funding has been instrumental in enabling the organisation to expand its reach and enhance its core operations. The award has supported the delivery of innovative programmes that focus on mental health, cross-community engagement, and skill-building through photography. Additionally, the funding has facilitated the digitisation of archival resources, ensuring their preservation and accessibility for future generations. The Dormant Accounts Fund has also enabled Belfast Exposed to invest in staff training and development, strengthening the organisation's capacity to deliver impactful and sustainable initiatives across Northern Ireland.

Looking ahead

As Belfast Exposed looks to the future, several key priorities have been identified. Expanding mental health initiatives remains at the forefront, with plans to scale therapeutic photography projects to reach even more communities. The launch of a semi-permanent conflict exhibition aims to attract an additional 5,000 visitors annually, further enhancing cultural tourism. Partnerships with organisations like Diabetes UK will address the intersection of mental and physical health, while continued environmental efforts will integrate sustainable practices across operations.

Gratitude and closing thoughts

The trustees express their deepest gratitude to the staff, volunteers, funders, and participants whose dedication and support have been instrumental to Belfast Exposed's success. This year has been one of remarkable achievements and meaningful impact, affirming the organisation's role as a vital force for positive change in Northern Ireland. As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to growth, innovation, and the empowerment of communities through the power of photography.

Belfast Exposed Photography

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Belfast Exposed Photography

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees' annual report was approved on 12 December 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:


Ciaran Elizabeth Doran (Dec 17, 2024 14:45 GMT)

CE Doran
Trustee