

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date 01/04/2018

Period end date 31/03/2019

Charity name: D'Sign

Charity registration number: 105202

Objectives and Activities

<p>Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document</p>	<p>D'Sign Arts was formed in 2016 and is a charity aimed for Deaf people, the hard of hearing, CODAs (Children of Deaf Adults) and hearing people with an interest in the arts to come together to create devised theatre and attend Workshops on a range of topics from Art and Drama to Yoga and Wellbeing. We aim to achieve equality of access of all arts and culture to Sign Language users and promote equality for Deaf performers as well as Deaf audiences. We also aim to accomplish the mixing of Deaf and Hearing artists improving integration between the two communities and promoting Deaf Awareness. All of this in turn aims to empower Deaf people, the hard of hearing, CODA (Child of Deaf Adults) and hearing people with an interest in the arts & Deaf community for the purpose of personal growth and helping them realise their abilities and potential.</p>
<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.</p>	<p>Amanda's Acting Techniques 24th June 2018 We hosted an accessible to all drama workshop taken by the amazing Amanda Doherty in All Souls Church on Elmwood Avenue in the heart of Belfast. The ticket admissions for this event raised £138.00 pounds to go towards our next project. We had 9 participants who all left in a very positive mindset having learnt a lot and made several new connections.</p> <p>Louise's acting workshop for beginners 7th July 2018 This was our follow up workshop to Amanda's in the same location, this workshop focused on the basics of Acting we had 5 participants in this workshop and raised £46.00 for our future projects. The true benefit of these two events was to train our own pool of actors so that we do not have to look outside of our own community for acting talent we can perform our projects ourselves. This is very important to us and the basis for holding these workshops.</p> <p>AGM 30th November 2018 The AGM was beneficial to us not only because we voted in our new committee but that we started a registration for members as we had not been doing this effectively before and it was unclear who were and were not members of D'Sign so now we have our official enrollment we can expand our member base and reach more people.</p>

	<p>Tesco Crumlin Bag Pack 2nd December 2018 Our new board members held a bag pack in Tesco Crumlin with our festive gear on we managed to raise £392.81 and awareness of our charity.</p> <p>Pub Quiz Fundraiser 8th December 2018 The Pub Quiz was something we really wanted to repeat after the success of our first one in 2017. We hired a free space in The Sunflower Bar in Belfast and made a total profit of £516 as the room, raffle prizes and MC's time were all donated for free. Using our new online enrollment for members we managed to make thirty new D'Sign members by bringing the ipad and asking the quiz participants if they wanted to become members. This was a two pronged strategy to raise money and attract new members to our charity.</p>
<p>Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</p>	<p>We have complied with our duty to have due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.</p>

Achievements and Performance

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Theatre Workshops with Amanda Doherty</p> <p>Amanda Doherty teamed up with D'Sign on the 24th June 2018 to facilitate for us two contrasting but complementary methodologies in one acting workshop with the aim to train and develop the skills of our members to enhance future performances.</p> <p>Amanda's chosen approaches were: The Laban technique and Lucid Body. Amanda has been trained in New York (The Lucid body House) and London (Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts), she also works with non-actors, with groups comprising of refugee women, ethnic minority community groups, inner city youth and those with various forms of disability or special needs. For her, this diversity and inclusion in opportunity is paramount.</p> <p>This class was provided in both spoken English and British Sign Language and was open to professionals hoping to consider new ideas, and complete beginners seeking a safe, non-judgemental space to take new risks. We had nine participants with a great mix of abilities from level one sign language students, CODA's, Hearing Actors and Deaf Actors. This unique blend of people made the workshop explosive with creativity and ideas. Admittance was £16 per person and we made £138 from ticket sales which we have saved for our next</p>
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production. We got our participants from a well planned out and exciting series of social media posts, we also used Eventbrite to safely and responsibly handle peoples money and booking information. We viewed this workshop as a successful event as we made a profit and the people who attended came back for our next workshop which we think proves how much they enjoyed the experience.

Louise Conaghan Deaf Friendly Acting Workshop

Louise Conaghan lead an Acting Masterclass for Beginners for us on the 7th July 2018. Louise Conaghan is a freelance actor, street theatre performer and writer from Donegal, currently based in Belfast. She received her BA in Drama from The University of Ulster and National Diploma from the North West Regional College. Her notable training includes Clown Training in The Actors Space, Barcelona; In Your Space Circus, Derry; under Mooky Cornish - lead clown in Cirque de Soleil; and Amadan Theatre Company, Belfast. She is a very well established Street performer with comedy character acts all over Northern Ireland, interacting with audiences on the street and from the stage. She has been facilitating and directing since 2009, and has worked with large groups of people of varying ages and abilities and this is why we were delighted to have her on board working with us.

We took a pole of our members to see what type of workshops where the most desireable and Drama classes were by far the most popular. This class focused on how to best portray a Character on stage and stripped back to the basics of acting, looking at wants and objectives. This session was for people looking to continue with D'Sign as actors and people just looking to have some fun on a Saturday.

The class was provided in both spoken English and British Sign Language and was very fun and welcoming we had 5 participants at this event, we felt that the numbers where lower as the event was on a Sunday and have learned from that to make events a Friday or Saturday, the more events we create the more we are learning. Admission was £16 for new participants and £10 for those who were at our last workshop as an incentive to book both workshops. We made £46.00 again we used Eventbrite and PayPal to make sure we were being safe with people's money and personal Data.

The 2018 D'Sign Annual General Meeting

Our AGM this year took place on the 30th November 2018, we took this opportunity to invite as many people as possible to the meeting and take peoples names and email addresses to

	<p>officially add them to our Members list. This increased our official members list which we think was very beneficial.</p> <p>Tesco Crumlin Road Bag Pack Day.</p> <p>On the second of December we organised a backpack in the Crumlin branch of Tesco. Our aim was to raise money for our next production. We had both hearing and Deaf members out all day so that we could communicate with all members of the public, we were in our D'Sign T shirts and had our penguin stand up for people to come over and have a chat about what we stand for and hope to achieve. We found this to be an extremely successful event as we raised £392.81. We will definitely be taking this fundraising technique further as it is clearly very beneficial.</p> <p>Sunflower Bar Pub Quiz</p> <p>On the 8th december 2018 we ran a pub quiz fundraiser to raise money for our next project. We were overwhelmed by our support from our members who donated great prizes for our raffle and by the turn out for the quiz. We sold 18 tickets online raising £180 tickets where how much and we sold how much at the door. so including ticket prices and the raffle we managed to raise £516. We had a pub quiz last year that raised £400 so we managed to increase our total from last year and we can see that this is an extremely useful fundraising technique and plan to carry on the Christmas Quiz as a D'Sign tradition.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	The Charity is in profit of £137.06 at the end of the financial period 01.04.2018 - 31.03.2019
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	As we do not have any monthly expenses due to the fact that we do not have a premises etc. and we only incur expenses when workshops or performances are organised we currently do not hold any reserves and therefore only raise money as and when needed. This is something we

	plan to change in the coming year however at the moment we have been unable to as we are such a small charity.
Amount of reserves held	0.00
Reasons for holding zero reserves	We do not have any monthly expenses due to the fact that we do not have a premises etc. and we only incur expenses when workshops or performances are organised we currently do not hold any reserves and therefore only raise money as and when needed.
Details of fund materially in deficit	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	We have rectified our problem from the previous years by allocating some key roles on our board to hearing members, they have been able to turn our position around and set in place vital policies and procedures as well as organise our documentation and set up training opportunities for our committee members to allow for these issues not to arise again in the future. Due to this, this year has not seen the most profit, however we feel as now all of this is in place we can look forward to a more profitable year in 2020.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Unincorporated charitable association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Trustees are elected at the AGM by a vote which is seconded.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity Name: D'Sign

Other names the Charity uses: D'Sign Arts

Charity Number: 105202

Charity's principal Address: 33 Manor Drive, Lisburn, County Antrim, BT28 1JH

Name of Charity Trustees who manage the charity Now

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted
1	Enter chair	Chairperson	date of agm - present
2	Enter Secretary	Secretary	date of agm to present
3	Malachy McBurney	Treasurer	01/09/2017 - Present
4	Robert Skelly	Vice Chairperson	30/11/18 - Present
5	Paula Clarke	Trustee	30/11/18 - Present
6	Paul Keenan	Trustee	30/11/18 - Present
7	Enter new member		

Name of Charity Trustees who managed the charity in the year in question

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted
Paula Clarke	Secretary	01/04/2017-30/11/2018
Robert Skelly	Chairperson	01/09/2017- 30/11/2018
Malachy McBurney	Treasurer	01/09/2017-Present
Kevin Blair	Trustee	01/04/2016 - 30/11/2018

Changes after the 2018 AGM

Megan Keenan	Chairperson	30/11/18 - 23/01/2020
Hazel Wilson	Secretary	30/11/18 - 23/01/2020
Robert Skelly	Vice Chairperson	30/11/18 - Present
Malachy Mcburney	Treasurere	01/09/2017-Present
Paula Clarke	Trustee	30/11/18 - Present
Paul Keenan	Trustee	30/11/18 - Present
Bernie Cooney	Trustee	30/11/18 - 23/01/2020

Declarations

The board declares that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Board

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Signature
MEGAN KEENE	Chairperson	M Keene
Hazel Wilson	Secretary	H. Wilson
MALACHY MCBURNEY	Treasurer	malachy mcburney
Robert Shelly	Vice Chairperson	R Shelly