

# Artsawonder TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

## Mission, Objectives and Strategy

### Mission Statement

In all activities the Charity Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory public benefit guidance to ensure that activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the charity's aims and objectives as well as providing public benefit.

### Objectives

Purpose of Charity

PURPOSE 1: To facilitate events and process which create the space for transformative dialogue, utilising the potential of the arts for healing and mutual understanding directed at specific groups of leaders or/and local civil society in N. Ireland.

PURPOSE 2: To advance education to promote understanding and citizenship utilising the potential of the arts for healing and mutual understanding directed at school groups from primary to secondary level, in the local area and the rest of N. Ireland curriculum, in particular to school groups with a view to encouraging civic leadership.

Main activities undertaken by the charity are:

During the period covered by this report Artsawonder carried out the following activities:

The Rostrevor Ongoing Conversation Think Tank (ROC-TT) continued meeting with 3 face-to-face meetings and 3 Zoom meetings with one of the meetings held in Dublin. These are private meetings of former elected politicians reflecting on the current political situation and using their circle of influence to foster peace and reconciliation. Project funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs (RoI).

Kinship of Difference is a programme which goes out into the various communities and celebrates the hidden possibilities of togetherness. They were held in East Belfast and in Rostrevor. Projects funded by the Community Relations Council (NI).

Artsahealing This pioneering project consisted of a day long seminar with leading Academics and Practitioners looking at the contribution Arts and Music can make to the well-being of society. Open to the public, we examined the historic relationship between medicine and music to bring us up to date with the very latest scientific evidence available. This seminar would later lead to invites from Cambridge University and the Royal Society of Medicine to further explore the concept. This project was funded by private donors.

Diversity Summer Camp This project is designed for Children aged 6 to 15yrs old. It brought together children from diverse nationalities, religions and ethnicities. Through games, crafts and arts they learnt of their different cultures with respect and interest. The wealth of diverse cultures was highlighted. This project was funded via Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through Peace 4.

Guardian of the flame is the name of a film produced by Jonny Clark introducing victims and bereaved from the troubles highlighting how they kept working for peace and reconciliation. The screening was followed by a discussion. The project was repeated in various locations. This project was funded via Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through Peace 4.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Structure

The trustees of the charity are :

Chairperson: Catherine Bescond-Sands

Secretary: Mary Bernadette Verner

Treasurer: William Graham (appointed April 1st 2022)

Mrs Jennifer Lawson Clark

Dr Gabriel Scally (appointed April 1st 2022)

The trustees are chosen according to their interest in Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

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for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

## Governance

The principal document regarding governance of the charity is the constitution. The charity is an unincorporated organisation.

## Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

During all activities, the direct beneficiaries are those taking part in the event and those in the audience. The secondary beneficiaries are those in the circle of influence of the participants.

The ROC-TT is not a public meeting but benefits are expressed through circles of influence and ultimately the wider cohort of end beneficiaries is the citizenry of Northern Ireland.

The activities (Kinship of Difference) fostered a greater inter cultural awareness, increasing individual and community confidence in each community's own cultural and artistic identity, thus also promoting respect for the cultural and artistic identity of another community, as seen in the video documentaries which have all been shown by Northern Vision Community T.V.

The Diversity Summer Camp fostered a greater intercultural awareness among a younger population, increasing confidence and respect in each community's own cultural and artistic identity.

Guardian of the flame: this project furthered reflection on the legacy of the troubles and as it was attended by older and younger members of the community help intergenerational transfer of knowledge.

The Artsahealing project involved academics and added a more scientific affirmation to the intuitive knowledge that arts and music have a role to play in Peace and reconciliation.

Any private benefit gained by these activities were incidental and necessary to the running of the activities.

## Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page 7.

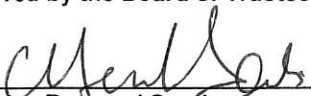
## Results and Dividends

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £20,664 (2022 - £14,032) and liabilities of £0.00 (2022 - £0.00). The net assets of the charity have increased by £6,632.

## Reserves Position and Policy

The reserves are used to further the aims of the charity.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
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Catherine Bescond Sands  
Trustee