

Artsawonder TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

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 processes which create the space for transformative dialogue, utilising the potential of the arts for healing and mutual understanding directed at specific groups of leaders and/or 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.

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

The Rostrevor Ongoing Conversation (ROC-TT) or Rostrevor Group continued to meet with 4 face to face meetings and 3 zoom meetings, one of such meetings being 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. The Project is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs (RoI).

Artshealing - This pioneering project consists 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 and how it can help further Peace and Reconciliation. Open to the public, the seminar examines the historic relationship between medicine and music, bringing us up to date with the very latest scientific evidence available. It took place in Rostrevor and was also organised in Cambridge University. This project is funded by private donors.

Diversity Summer Camp - This project is design for children aged 6 to 15yrs old. It brings together children from different nationalities, religions and ethnicities. Through games, crafts, arts and sports, they discover different cultures with respect and interest. The wealth offered by a variety of cultures was highlighted. This project was funded by Peace 4 through the Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

This year Artsawonder spent significant time appraising new projects, establishing new contacts and looking for funding to increase activities in the future.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

The trustees of the charity are :

Chairperson: Catherine Bescond-Sands

Secretary: Mary Bernadette Verner (Resigned 12 April 2024)

Treasurer: Ciara Foster (Appointed 01 April 2023)

William Graham

Mrs Jennifer Lawson Clark (Resigned 01 September 24)

Dr Gabriel Scally

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

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.

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The Rostrevor Ongoing Conversation (ROC-TT) or Rostrevor Group is not a public event but benefits are expressed through circles of influence and ultimately to the wider cohort of end beneficiaries which is the citizenry of Northern Ireland.

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

The ArtsHealing projects involves academics and adds 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 £13,335 (2023 - £20,664) and liabilities of £0.00 (2023 - £0.00). The net assets of the charity have decreased by £7,329.

Reserves Position and Policy

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

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Catherine Bescond Sands
Trustee