

ACCESS TO ARTS FOR ALL NI LTD
Company limited by guarantee
Trustees report
Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report them set out on page 1. The report is prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Access To Arts For All NI Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. It was recognised as a charity in November 2020, registration number 107929. The charity is governed by its Articles of Association.

Organisational structure

The charitable company is managed by the trustees. Trustees are chosen based on their skills and professional backgrounds so as to ensure a wide range of experience is represented on the board. Trustees meet bi-monthly to review strategies, assess risk and plan future policies.

Appointment of trustees

New trustees are nominated by current trustees. Induction and training of new trustees is provided by existing trustees.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The trustees continually monitor their exposure to financial risk. Given the size of the company, the trustees have not delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk to a sub committee.

The financial viability and sustainability of the charity is a major risk recognised. The trustees continually strive to source additional or new funding to enhance the facilities and services provided.

Business and financial risk is managed by ensuring trustees, with the necessary experience, are recruited and budgets and forecasts are prepared. The reporting network makes use of IT systems which includes Microsoft Excel/Word which are continuously updated and maintained.

The charitable company's principal financial assets is cash at bank, grant debtors and trade creditors. Associated risks include credit risk and liquidity risk. To minimize credit risk the trustees have implemented policies that require appropriate credit checks on potential customers before transactions take place. To minimize liquidity risk material purchases are carefully planned to ensure appropriate cash flows exist to meet operational costs.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of controls and procedures for authorisation of all transactions.

Related parties

Access to Arts For All NI Ltd works closely with M Forum Trading Limited in meeting its aims and objectives.

Objectives and activities

The principal objective of the charitable company is to provide original and accessible theatre based activities for the entertainment and education of a wider public audience, reaching in particular those who may lack the opportunity due to disability, geographic, economic, mobility or other constraints. The Trustees considered guidance from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to the public benefit statement.

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The aims of the organisation are:-

- to provide opportunities for the inhabitants of the Derry City & Strabane District Council area, without distinction of age, sex, race, political, religious or other opinion, the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance citizenship and promote good health by providing facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants

- to promote inclusivity, good community relations, social cohesion, racial harmony, equality and diversity and

- to advance the education of those who learn differently, in particular but not exclusively through the promotion of the arts such as drama, dance, music, workshops and related activities with a view to providing relief to those in need and developing life skills.

To achieve the objectives above Access To Arts For All NI Ltd provides various facilities at the millennium forum theatre through its links with M Forum Trading Limited.

Public benefit

How are activities deliver public benefit

Our main activities are set out below. All our charitable activities are undertaken to further our aims of providing public benefit.

The main objective is to provide facilities to promote social inclusion for all via theatre based activities such as drama, dance, music, workshops and related activities. To achieve this objective Access To Arts For All NI Ltd provides DJ training courses, Dementia tea dances and Energy of Light discos at the millennium forum.

The trustees believe they are meeting the public benefit test by increasing accessibility to the arts to everyone in the locality from the young to the elderly, from able bodied to those with disabilities and other mobility constraints.

Achievements and performance

Throughout this period, Access to Arts for All provided a range of social engagement and outreach activities in line with our charitable objectives.

Access to Arts for All delivered a 'Youth Arts Engagement Programme' at the Millenium Forum in Derry. This provided social activities for young people with physical, cognitive communication disabilities and their parents/carers. The programme enabled young people to come together and enjoy arts based activities, bringing people together to develop their skills and helping them to re-engage after the difficulties presented by Covid 19. Over a 6 month period, we provided regular engagement which aided social inclusion, interest in the arts and increased belonging for children and their parents with a setting which encouraged arts based activities. Access to Arts provided facilitation, materials and refreshments for participants, including arts activities in drama, dance and performance.

As part of our ongoing work, Access to Arts for All provided Energy of Light Disco's in partnership with the Millenium Forum. These were available to young people to attend, with a particular focus on targeting children with disabilities or mobility issues. This provided creative and social activities through the arts, to improve their circumstance and quality of life. Achievements through this programme included the ability for young people to engage within a safe social environment with peers, expressing their feelings, problem solving, learning new skills and developing new friendships.

In the period, Access to Arts for All provided Dementia Friendly Tea dances within the Millenium Forum. The aim of this programme was to provide relief, through the arts for those with dementia or early signs of dementia. They benefited from connecting with others, reminiscing and reducing feelings of loneliness.

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Financial performance

Income for the year was £3,773 and expenditure £5,038. Operating deficit was (£1,265) (2022 - surplus £4,389). Net assets at the balance sheet date were £1,933 (2022 - £3,198).
Public and private funding and donations continues to be vital to the operation of the charitable company.

Reserves

The trustees over time will try and accumulate an adequate reserve requirement.

Plans for the future

The trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charitable company during these difficult times. The future aims of Access To Arts For All NI Ltd are to

- sustain and expand on the activities outlined above,
- maintain the viability of the charitable company,
- ensure facilities are accessible to all,
- secure funding for new projects, and
- co-operate with other bodies to develop additional facilities.

Trustees responsibility statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period.

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

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small company provisions

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

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 19 December 2023 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Dolores O'Reilly
Trustee

