

Company Registration Number: 3768201

Charity Registration Number: 1079821

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

Directors' Report and Certified Accounts

Year Ended 31 May 2022

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

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Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

Directors & Company Information

Chairman

Mr David Martins

Treasurer

Mr Frank McKinson

Secretary

Mr John Downie

Office Address

Unit 1,
Resource Business Centre
537 Norwood Road
London
SE27 9DL

Reporting Accountants

BOSeCO
309 Regents Park Road
London
N3 1XT

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
West Norwood & Tulse Hill Branch
270 Norwood Road
London
SE27 9AP

Registered Office

Unit 1
Resource Business Centre
537 Norwood Road
London
SE27 9DL

Registered Number

3768201

Registered Charity Number

1079821

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)
Accountants Report

Accountants' report on the Certified Accounts to the Directors of the company, Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA).

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled these certified accounts in order to assist you to fulfil your statutory responsibilities, from the accounting records and information and explanations you have supplied to us.

This report is made to the Company so that we might state to them those matters we are required to state them in our report and for no other purposes. In our opinion:

- The accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the year ended 31 May 2022 and of the surplus for the year ended: and
- The accounts and the Company's report has been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006



BOSeCO
Chartered Accountants

309 Regents Park Road
Finchley
London
N3 1DP

11 April 2023

Directors' Report
For the year ended 31 May 2022

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2022

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company during the year is to be interdisciplinary arts as a Charity organisation

Directors

The directors who served during the year had no interest in the kind of share capital of the company.

The company is limited by guarantee

The directors who served during the year are as stated below:

David Martins
Franklyn McKinson
John Downie

Small company special provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the board on 11 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by



David Martins
Director

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

**Statement of income and retained earnings
Year ended 31 May 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover		352,428	186,425
Cost of sales		-	-
Distribution costs		(37,469)	(14,868)
Administrative expenses		(203,620)	(127,464)
Operating profit		<u>111,339</u>	<u>44,093</u>
Profit before taxation		111,339	44,093
Tax on profit		-	-
Profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income		<u>111,339</u>	<u>44,093</u>
Retained earnings at the start of the year		114,406	70,313
Retained earnings at the end of the year		<u>225,745</u>	<u>114,406</u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

**Statement of financial position
31 May 2022**

	Note	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	6	20,000		20,000	
			20,000		20,000
Current assets					
Debtors	7	135,298		16,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		105,288		260,986	
		240,586		276,986	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(2,650)		(142,580)	
Net current assets			237,936		134,406
Total assets less current liabilities			257,936		154,406
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	9		(32,191)		(40,000)
Net assets			225,745		114,406
Capital and reserves					
Profit and loss account			225,745		114,406
Shareholders funds			225,745		114,406

For the year ending 31 May 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

Statement of financial position (continued)
31 May 2022

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 11 April 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Martin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr David Martin
Director

Company registration number: 3768201

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 May 2022

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by shares, registered in England. The address of the registered office is Unit 1 Resource Business Centre, 537 Norwwood Road, London, SE27 9DL.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of FRS 102, Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The Triennial review 2017 amendments to the standard have been early adopted.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, net of discounts and Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the buyer (usually on despatch of the goods); the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity; and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in capital and reserves, respectively.

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

Notes to the financial statements (continued) **Year ended 31 May 2022**

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in profit or loss.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Year ended 31 May 2022

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Employee numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to Nil (2021: Nil).

5. Tangible assets

	Freehold property	Plant and machinery	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 June 2021 and 31 May 2022	12,500	4,082	8,400	24,982
Depreciation				
At 1 June 2021 and 31 May 2022	12,500	4,082	8,400	24,982
Carrying amount				
At 31 May 2022	-	-	-	-
At 31 May 2021	-	-	-	-

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 May 2022

6. Investments

	Loans to group undertakings and participating interests £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 June 2021 and 31 May 2022	20,000	20,000
Impairment		
At 1 June 2021 and 31 May 2022	-	-
Carrying amount		
At 31 May 2022	20,000	20,000
At 31 May 2021	20,000	20,000

7. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	-	16,000
Other debtors	135,298	-
	135,298	16,000

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Social security and other taxes	-	5,293
Other creditors	2,650	137,287
	2,650	142,580

9. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	32,191	40,000

10. Directors advances, credits and guarantees

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

**Detailed income statement
Year ended 31 May 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Turnover		
Sales	14,120	48,500
Event Sales	10,982	24,317
Grants	327,326	113,608
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	352,428	186,425
Gross profit	<hr/>	<hr/>
	352,428	186,425
Gross profit percentage	100.0%	100.0%
Overheads		
Distribution costs		
Venue Hire	(37,469)	(14,868)
Administrative expenses		
Temporary Staff	(5,821)	(8,440)
Staff training	(12,798)	(6,415)
Management expenses	(45,239)	(21,395)
Rent payable	(29,257)	(17,560)
Rates	(779)	-
Service charges	(30,996)	(31,120)
Insurance	(3,882)	(445)
Light and heat	(4,273)	(6,504)
Repairs and maintenance	(1,550)	-
Printing, postage and stationery	(11,622)	(4,720)
Advertising	(7,228)	(4,235)
Telephone	(7,077)	(3,838)
Computer costs	(10,995)	(2,065)
Hire of equipment	(7,410)	(3,530)
Motor expenses	(3,051)	(7,530)
Travelling and entertainment	(2,633)	-
Legal and professional	(2,626)	-
Consultancy fees	(11,290)	(6,485)
Accountancy fees	(2,070)	(1,770)
Bank charges	(1,126)	(292)
Staff welfare	-	(1,120)
Subscriptions	(1,897)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(241,089)	(142,332)
Operating profit	<hr/>	<hr/>
	111,339	44,093
Operating profit percentage	31.6%	23.7%
Profit before taxation	<hr/>	<hr/>
	111,339	44,093



Society for the Advancement of Black Arts (SABA)

**Charity 1079821
& Company Ltd by Guarantee 3768201**

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 May 2022

**Prepared by John Downie
Secretary
30th March 2023**



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Trustees Report Overview

Over the past financial year of 2021/22 we strengthened our financial reserves even further than ever before. This was necessary to see us through the last of the lockdown and guide us back into the “new normal”. Whilst we were happy to have seen the end of the lockdowns, we decided to move with caution into what was described as being the new normal within the post-Covid era. This has introduced new ways of working with more online productions and people having greater expectations of being able to work from home.

Within our network we placed a greater emphasis was across our Your Digital Network (YDN), as this could be participated in at any place around us. We saw further expansion across the west of England in the counties of Devon & Cornwall, especially with TDN Radio Tresegel and Club 27, based in central Plymouth. This led to further

Amongst our sectors where we could place our emphasis included broadcasting and the support for entities across the SABA Network. This was underpinned by the continuation of our partnership with the BBO Project, which works with creative unemployed people across the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. With our centres in Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes, we have continued to be a rallying centre for those organisations who would like to use our strategy to engage their creative talents into micro-businesses.

Strengthening Reserves:

We followed the strategy of the previous year and successfully ensured our reserves were expanded:

- 1) Increased our contracted revenue through BBO delivery,
- 2) Expanding our Joint Delivery programming with our referral strategy.
- 3) On ongoing reallocation of programmes with community networks

This overall strategy of reserve strengthening continues to ensure our ongoing stability. In these uncertain times, the precariousness of grants is no longer a determinant of our future as the reserve growth makes sure of our independence. The growing Joint Delivery strategy is also expanding the HiCrEc eco-system that helps to ring-fence our independence.

We have solidified our presence in the areas of the country where we have a presence. This means the consent of the HiCrEc has been endorsed by communities nationally. The centre point of HiCrEc working within these communities has been the focus YDN broadcast centres being established and delivered.

This means we have created the environment in which the HiCrEc concept has been accepted and recognised in the local communities. Community, YDN broadcast centres have also contributed to the regeneration of their local areas as they too have determined their own sustainability as we also secure ourselves.

SABA Joint Delivery Micro-Business Start-Ups:

There has been a continued growth in the numbers of new start micro-businesses seeking our assistance. They have been engaging our business planning strategies and forming ongoing community projects which are benefiting more at risk people in deprived communities.

There have been a number of success stories that have come through the joint Delivery strategies that are now engaging in their own sustainability. This includes:

- Street Fusion
- AFND – Always Furthering, Nurturing & Developing
- Return MK

These organisations are now flag bearers that show they can become self-sustaining following their take up of our support.

BBO Delivery:

Our delivery of the BBO project has continued to provide outlets for many new start Joint Delivery start ups. This engages unemployed people and supports them back to employment or creative new business HiCrEc start-ups. The main areas still continue to be across the creative industries and digital media. Their continued growth shows a way for creative people facing financial constraints to review their options and follow a new path to ongoing sustainability

SABA Project Achievements

SEMLEP – Unemployment into HiCrEc Project:

Throughout this financial year we continued our HiCrEc delivery across London and Bedfordshire deprived areas. The beneficiaries who come through this go on to build on strategies through which they can turn their creative talent and interests into sustainable income streams

These are the main areas we had shown successes in getting unemployed creatives to build new community entities:

- **Digital Skills:** The types of digital start ups that we have helped to develop have grown from just a radio type format to modern podcast centres. This is now the most popular way in which people consume visual content and news. Through our network we are now establishing our unemployed beneficiaries into these areas of digital media. Therefore we are guiding people at risk from social exclusion and into expanding industries.
- **Employability Skills:** This aspect of training has supported those unemployed who were requiring skills development without wanting to venture into commercial entities. This aspect was more connected to people's self-development and personal growth.
- **Financial Management Skills:** We took the current cost of living crisis in mind and worked to empower people to manage whatever income streams they are accessible to. The success of this has assisted people to having the skills to acceptable levels of sustainability in these trying times.

Brent BCAP:

We were funded by Brent's BCAP organisation to create an outreach programme to develop a group of aspiring young creatives into our HiCrEc programme. We worked on this with members of our SABA Network who developed 25 new start ups. Both of our lead outreach community members came through the HiCrEc process and are now also significant deliverers within Brent. They are www.afnd.org.uk and www.streetfusion.org.uk.

The creative genres that have come through this initiative have varied from performance, through to production. Several of these new start ups have been further engaged within other borough wide delivery schedules. Each of those who joined us have created their unique business plan towards their own longer term sustainability.

Jack Petchey Foundation:

We were able to award some significant contributions from our young people once again through these awards. The ongoing, and long standing, support from Jack Petchey, has been a major factor in being able to consistently engage with this demographic. Their involvement in our work helps to keep us relevant in their communities when they have o many other distractions and temptations.

We are als seeing the progression of several of these young people into youth work. This creates a tangible progression route of support in our community for the youths.

TCHC Unemployed Support Projects:

Working with TCHC across the 3 counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire we have continued to engage with a variety of categories of unemployed people. This continued success with TCHC first started in 2013 and continues to evolve into project extensions and verifications. Throughout this time we have attained measurable improvements to the lives of the beneficiaries who participate in our work.

The TCHC delivery continues to evolve both online and in person delivery since the lockdown times, and the need has always been met through our work. Our delivery component continues to be underpinned through our ethos of HiCrEc support. This term is now a recognised concept throughout local authorities in the targeted areas and can stand on its own premise at this point.

BBC Children In Need / Youth Futures Foundation – Inspiring Futures:

The challenges of the Covid period meant this project delivery had to revise its delivery to meet the restricted conditions. Despite the challenges, we still managed to achieve our objectives as both an online and in-person initiative. The work centred around the engagement of young people into work experience opportunities, along with aspects of self-development. All the young people who we worked with fully engaged with our team of mentors at the BBMC in north-west London, also were fully embraced at our broadcast centre base in Neasden, Brent.

This BBC Children in Need and Inspiring Futures project helped create the 7 step ethos which became the founding principles for our “All in One Learning Centre” that the BBMC has now become. These 7 steps are listed as follows: was successful in us being able to create our curriculum for alternative learning for young people.

- 1) Enter our centre with your idea and a positive attitude and willingness to learn
- 2) Educate yourself on developing your idea in our education department
- 3) Rehearse your idea in our rehearsal facilities
- 4) Record your idea in our studio facilities
- 5) Perform your idea in our performance area
- 6) Broadcast your idea through our YDN broadcast group
- 7) Learn to apply commercial principles to your idea to make it sustainable

Creative Inclusion & YDN Community Broadcasts:

Creative Inclusion and Your Digital Network (YDN) have joined together to support the growth of YDN Broadcast Centres. This has extended across the country and throughout derived HiCrEc areas around UK regions. These areas have their own challenges ranging from genuine poverty, industrial decline and high levels of generational unemployment. Therefore our YDN strategy is able to contribute to the regeneration of these areas. This starts with being given the tools to create their own broadcast centres with results in us reaching even more HiCrEc areas than previously initiated.

The outer most points of the south west of England continues to display the most focused areas of growth. SoulFood, our YDN representative there has worked diligently to recruit new YDN deliverers and community broadcasters. From this, we have developed our platform to find growing routes to keep the YDN supported and sustained over the longer term. In extending our programme further across the UK, has increased our need to ensure we provision of these places with appropriate resources and assistance.

Brent Borough of Culture:

We made significant contributions to Brent's Borough of Culture programming with our Mini-Festival that was held at our base at the Grange. This provided a platform for various Brent based talent and artists. In addition, it gave local community groups opportunities to promote their services throughout the borough and access new sources of support.

Through this funding we were able to do productions at the BBMC, as a multi-music and media complex that was first established in 1985. This funding allowed the first level of high profiled productions there in over 30 years.

Brent Museum Project:

This was an event is about the BBMC highlighting the talents of several legends who have contributed to Brent's rich musical and cultural heritage over the past 5 decades. Attendees will also witness the passing of the UK Reggae baton to the next generation to continue the great work. The production featured a cross section of performers who could trace their journey through the setting up and growth of the BBMC from its 1985 beginnings.

Brent Museums & Archives also supported the project to document our musical history. Brent Museum and Being Brent embraced plans to use Reggae Music to promote good mental health and wellbeing. Ronald “Fergy” Amanze, Ambassador for the Alzheimer's Society & Trustee for Arts 4 Dementia, also supported us in this endeavour and dedicated a poem to the event. The project worked to teach current generations about the BBMC legacy and to include the older people who helped to create the legacy at its very beginning.

UK Youth:

We have been working with UK Youth across various projects for the past 5 years. The most recent project we delivered with them were Generation Code, Be Internet Citizen & Reach Up:

Generation Code: We delivered this programme to help youths appreciate the range of opportunities made accessible through computing and coding. This was supported by Microsoft and opened routes for them to see how they can work towards careers in this field.

Our strategy included youth peer trainers being developed to explain coding to other young people to gain that peer recognition. This was delivered over two years and included youths who would not normally be aware how they can access such career opportunities.

Be Internet Citizen: Through this project our objective was to build a safe, yet inspiring online space for young people. Within this young people were empowered to learn, share, be creative, express themselves and experience a sense of belonging as digital citizens. We helped them to engage with critical thinking and media literacy skills so they can practice positive digital citizenship, as opposed to be continually led down online rabbit holes.

Reach Up: During the lockdowns, various BAME youths missed out on opportunities to continue their learning. As a result, many of them used lockdowns to drop out of mainstream learning system, or to have their learning standards, negatively affected. All throughout our Reach Up delivery we applied learning delivery to supporting BAME youths to raise their expectations to employment industry standards to match demanded learning requirements. We measured our success by the levels that the young people were from the standard bar that was set.

Go Fund Me:

From being sent a video clip of a blind DJ in Jamaica called DJ Squeeze Eye, we set up a Go Fund Me campaign to buy him the equipment he needed to help him pursue his talent. We successfully raised just above the targeted £1000 which enabled him to purchase a lap top and full sound system which he now calls Squeeze Eye Movements. Since setting up this up, DJ Squeeze Eye has been able to get bookings throughout his music selecting talents around the area where he lives.

L&Q Place Makers Fund:

Through our work with L&Q Housing Association, and prior to the lockdowns, we had started working with their residents in the Grove Park area. This was subsequently moved to their community centre near Surrey Keyes where we were delivering until the lockdown. When the lockdown was enforced we moved our L&Q project to the New Life Sanctuary on Lewisham High Street.

The project delivery was focused on a range of digital media and performance productions. This included the setting up of www.soulzradio.com and UK UNSIGNED Gospel. The projects were well supported by the young people and are continuing even after their funding has ended.

UNTOLD GLA:

This project will produce a mural and plaques on the walls of Brent's most iconic community centre known as the BBMC (Brent Black Music Cooperative). The BBMC opened in 1985 as a multi music community centre at 385 High Road, Willesden, London, NW10 1QB, providing music based community services including:

- Rehearsals
- Recording
- Performances
- Community event hosting
- Music based education

Our overall ambition is to bring the Untold Historic Stories of how BBMC helped shape music culture across Brent, London & the UK through the Murals & Plaques. Since 1985, BBMC brought local Brent communities together for family gatherings, community celebrations and services for local musicians, especially within Reggae. This project will help to tell the story with the final unveiling to be presented in September 2023.

Luton Airport Sponsorship:

We delivered the Luton & Bedfordshire Windrush Awards at the Hat Factory in Luton. The success of the event was proving in the fact that it was over-subscribed with attendees. This support covered event production items such as marketing, venue hire and the awards themselves.

We engaged a variety of Luton residents in the project including some who were unemployed. In addition, we also included people who represented the Luton area within our YDN initiative. These awards both recognised the contributions of the Luton & Bedfordshire's original Windrush generation, along with the work of their descendants over the decades.

Bedfordshire & Luton Community Grant:

This funding was awarded for a project to engage local people into our YDN community broadcast network. Through this we worked with selected young people who were at risk from social exclusion and would benefit from receiving skills within digital technology. From the 15 young people we engaged with, we provided routes into the sector should they want to pursue digital technology with broadcasting as an option.

We delivered this project across the estates of March Farm, Lewesly Farm and Stopsley. From this we have now developed YDN Luton for both the general communities and the youth section, with the Luton Youth Digital Network.

Bedfordshire & Luton Community Grant:

We received this funding to support our project to engage older people into digital technology. As we started this within the lockdown times, the older people were reluctant to engage with anyone as most of them were isolating themselves from Covid infections. We did manage to support them through online intervention and with the support of their families when available.

Along with older residents, we went on to develop the Luton Youth Digital Network. This set up 2 new YDN community broadcast centres that have enabled various young people to pursue skills development and career options in this sector that was previously excluded from them before.

Luton Council:

Working with Heritage Associates and the Ghana society, we partnered together to create the first ever Luton Baako Festival. Baako is a Ghanian word for Unity and this Festival was aimed at promoting unity between Luton's Ghanian and Caribbean communities. The event included performances from artists and performers from Africa, the Caribbean and the UK.

Amongst the areas of Festival production that the funding covered included venue hire, volunteers, staging and equipment hire. The event was evaluated by the University of Bedfordshire. Their report highlighted the appreciation of the event by Luton's residents and their wish for this Festival to continue in the future.

CONCLUSION

This past financial year (2021 / 22) saw continued our growth surpassing the past couple of years, showing our organisation is becoming an institution within the areas we serve. We have sealed our sustainability as our reserves show, and they are now larger than previous total income amounts from past years. It is our intention to work to keep these levels so that we can remain independent and sustainable for the life of this organisation and for generations to come.

Throughout our delivery strategies, we have each action undertaken by teams of volunteers and delivery practitioners. We are entirely grateful for their patience in the earlier years and trust that they can see this as having paid off from where we currently stand. Having come through the period of lockdowns we believe we have come through one of the most challenging periods in our lifetimes. However, throughout our targeted communities we are now having to guide them through this cost of living crisis amongst other pressures.

As a society we all have to try and support each other to see ourselves through these times. To date, it appears that our HiCrEc strategies have worked with our support with these troubled groups in navigating these concerns. Therefore throughout 2022 and 2023 we will build on all those facets that have worked to this point.

The main past partners who we have worked with, such as TCHC, UK Youth and SEMLEP, will continue to be our partners throughout the forthcoming times. We will be happy to continue these partnerships throughout the new financial year. This is because the standard of living amongst those in need is set to decline throughout the next financial year. Newer partners, who we have taken on, includes BCAP and Luton Council, and they are well aware of the needs of those who we provide our support to. Therefore we look forward to increased successful partnerships with them.

As we have started to do during the past financial year, we shall be getting our network partners even more involved in our delivery across the regions. This includes grassroots strategy partners with groups like Street Fusion and AFND, but also includes accredited partners such as IFALL and SABA UK UNSIGNED Performance and Education.

Newer partners coming on board through our Joint Delivery Network initiatives, continues to see our influence growing across the country. These delivery programmes will continue to provide creative start up opportunities for those in sectors as varied as digital broadcasts, community training, mentoring and event management.

Overall, we have survived the lockdowns of the pandemic, and are slowly progressing back to some kind of normality, but we believe we can now face the future with positivity. The restrictions made us refocus our efforts and gave us the opportunity to plan for our future progression. We will see even more unemployed people becoming engaged with our self-development initiatives along with creative start up opportunities.

As we enter our 24th year of registered charity existence, we have solidified what has now been recognised as our core concepts of HiCrEc and YDN. The success of where we have been able to introduce these concepts have reached more areas around the UK than ever before. We look forward to some major plans in 2023 and for our concepts to be fully integrated within the regeneration of varied deprived areas.



John Downie,
Secretary
Date: 30th March 2023