

The Cultural Partnership: 'more arts.'

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) no. 1154785

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Trustees Annual Report 2022-2023

This report covers the period from April 6th, 2022 to April 5th, 2023, our latest financial year.

Background

The Cultural Partnership is an independent, arts development charity which benefits people of all ages by enabling community hands-on arts opportunities, curating bespoke community exhibitions, transforming empty shops into temporary arts spaces, supporting and providing opportunities for artists, delivering a 'what's on' website and a Local Arts Loan programme. The ultimate beneficiaries of our charitable activities are the residents of the broader area around Wokingham Borough in Berkshire.

The Cultural Partnership is managed by a group of volunteer Trustees.

The charity promotes itself using the brand 'more arts.' and that is how the charity is referred to in much of this report. In our literature we refer to ourselves as The Cultural Partnership: '*more arts.*'

Income arises primarily from local artists using our facilities, fees for arts activities commissioned by Wokingham Town Council, fees from companies & other organisations as clients of our Local Arts Loan programme, commission from sales recorded at UK retailers including Amazon Smile, donations submitted through InvestMyCommunity and LocalGiving.com, plus public donations at our Hands-on-Art events.

We sponsor local arts activities, especially to help vulnerable young people, through a simple grant application process. Applications are assessed & approved by the Trustees.

Expenditure pays for contracted staff services, local artists and local arts suppliers. Delivery of most of our activities relies on volunteers. We have no employees.

Key Activities during 2022-2023

The activities of the charity are delivered by its volunteers who work with the Trustees on every project. Normally we deliver a range of activities throughout the year, but the 2022-2023 year was marked by our steady recovery from the restrictions of the Covid-19 period from 2020.

The **Living Advent Calendar** is usually organised by 'more arts.' in conjunction with Wokingham Town Council from 1st-24th December each year, every day leading up to Christmas. In December 2021 we arranged a reduced series of 4 musical performances in Wokingham Town Hall. Unfortunately, during December 2022 our key professional music team were unavailable, so we were unable to run any Living Advent Calendar events. As we'd been funded by Wokingham Town Council to deliver some LAC events in December 2022, we have, with their agreement, carried over the funding to December 2023.

The **Hands-on-Art** marquee hosts local professional artists at local village fairs/fetes across the Wokingham Borough. At each event, we contract professional artists to guide youngsters in creative art activities. We pay a daily fee to each artist and reimburse all their material costs.

During summer 2022 we were able to resume our events following the Covid-19 pause and we delivered Hands-on-Art at Wokingham May Fayre, Wokingham Fun Day, Wokingham Royal Jubilee Day, Twyford Donkey Derby and Wokingham Summer Festival. In addition, in cooperation with the Chinese community in Wokingham, we mounted Hands-on-Art at the

Chinese Lunar New Year in January 2023.

The Local Arts Loan Programme provides 'A-Level standard' artwork sourced from local secondary schools for hire to commercial businesses and public sector organisations, who pay a small weekly sum per piece. We were able to continue the Local Arts Loan programme during 2022-2023, but only our two largest existing clients retained their artworks throughout the year. Unfortunately, both organisations decide to change their priorities and terminated their participation in April 2023. We are now actively seeking new Local Arts Loan clients.

During 2022-2023 we received £11,492 from our clients and we shared this with the schools from where the artwork had been sourced, paying out £4,525 to 7 local secondary schools. In addition, the clients donated £2,704 towards our ring-fenced Legacy Fund (see below).

In addition to hiring artwork to paying clients, during the past 4 years we have extended the programme to install artwork free-of-charge in local care homes. We began with just 2 care homes in 2017 and the programme now provides paintings on a rotational basis, one piece at a time to each of 15 care homes in the local area. This programme has proved very popular among care home residents. We refer to this programme as A4A (Art for the 4th Age). Whilst no hire fee is charged, we credit schools their share of a reduced fee which would have been earned from a paying client.

Legacy fund. Legacy Fund income arises from Local Arts Loan (see above) clients as a voluntary donation additional to their loan fees.

During 2022-2023 demand for the fund was reduced following the complete cessation of the scheme during the pandemic, so we paid nothing from the fund to sponsor activities during the year.

Empty Shops. The charity has strived to offer local artists a venue for exhibition and presentation of their work to the public. Unfortunately, during the past year suitable empty shops have been difficult to find, and the pandemic prevented us finding any suitable premises.

During 2022-2023 we did not open a pop-up art gallery.

Marketing & Promoting 'more arts.' Locally 'more arts.' maintains a website (www.morearts.org.uk) to promote both its own activities and the wide range of music, theatre, creative arts, film, photography and book events that occur locally. In particular, the arts events pages promote online the wide variety of arts events delivered by local people.

Following the end of the pandemic, very many local performing and creative groups resumed their activities and we publicised online a long list of local events, especially those arranged by local libraries and local theatres.

Community events: We sponsor 'arts related' activities throughout Wokingham Borough, where demands arise from a variety of sources:

- Sponsor 'Wokingham Book Festival 2022', for schoolchildren, to encourage reading events at local schools. Most of the events were arranged virtually.
- We made a donation towards funding an artwork ('The Arc') which will be installed outside the new Wokingham Carnival Hub, completed in 2022.
- Provide start-up sponsorship for 'YouTooMusic', a charity which provides opportunities for 'lapsed' musicians to get together and rekindle their skills.

Donations: We are fortunate to received modest donations from several sources:

- We encourage private donations through InvestMyCommunity.com, who collect Gift Aid on our behalf.
- We receive small donations through LocalGiving.com where we used to be a subscriber.
- At Hands-on-Art events, although we promote them as 'free', we receive small cash donation from parents, of participating children, who wish to express their appreciation for the programme.
- We earned a small sales commission on online purchases made by our supporters at Amazon.co.uk. Amazon terminated the Amazon Smile commission scheme in February 2023.

'more arts.' Partners

'more arts.' works with various community partners and would particularly like to thank Wokingham Town Council and our local artists and performers who share their talent and expertise to enable more people to access more arts activities. We also appreciate the support of Wokingham Borough Council and our clients of our Local Arts Loan programme.

A special "thank you" is due to the people of Wokingham Borough who have supported and encouraged us in our activities.

Calendar

The Cultural Partnership's year runs from April to March. This report and the financial accounts summary (see later) refer to the year from April 6th, 2022 to April 5th, 2023.

Early in each year the Cultural Partnership agrees a Business Plan and estimates the costs of a set of deliverable programmes for the coming year. The Business Plan is maintained and adapted as the year progresses. Accounts are maintained to show spending on each major activity and sources of funds throughout the year. Detailed financial reports are presented to the Trustees at each monthly meeting and to the Annual General Meeting, normally held each year in August or September.

Governance

The Partnership is managed by a group of volunteer Trustees, elected annually by members who attend the Annual General Meeting, who meet monthly to manage the charity.

We fund training courses for Trustees to help improve their skills, including Risk Assessment, Data Protection, Trustee Roles & Responsibilities,

During the year 2022-2023, the volunteer Trustees were:

- Jim Stockley (Chairman)
- Robert Grindley (Treasurer)
- Mick McNicholas
- Martin Beecher
- Robin Scurlock (until July 2022)
- Gregor Murray

Finance

The charity is not registered for VAT. VAT paid is tracked and charged to our reserves at the end of each year.

Through two Charity Assured insurance policies with BHIB, the charity is fully insured for Trustees Indemnity and for general business risks.

We rent a secure space of 130 sq. ft. from a commercial storage company in Wokingham, where our materials are stored.

Employees

The Cultural Partnership has no paid employees.

Contracted Services

The Cultural Partnership did not contract any regular workers during the year to run the charity. We did, however, pay several professional artists for providing services to our Hands-on-Art events (see above).

The Charity relies upon volunteers to help run events throughout the year.

Key Goals for 2023-2024

Key programmes for 2023-2024

- o Living Advent Calendar 2023, with a limited series of live events.
- o Find new clients for the Local Arts Loan programme.
- o Continue Local Arts Loan at care homes (A4A).
- o Hands-on-Arts summer programme 2023 for young people.
- o Legacy Arts Fund for projects helping vulnerable young people
- o Empty Shop Gallery exhibitions (subject to finding pop-up shop premises)
- o Expand our activity in Instagram and Facebook to promote ourselves
- o Maintain local arts events website to publicise local art events at www.morearts.org.uk
- Recruit more volunteers to support the Partnership.
- Carefully manage funds & expenditure to keep a healthy cash balance through the year to ensure our financial survival

The Cultural Partnership –Annual Accounts 2022-2023

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP: More Arts		As at:	05 April 2023	05 April 2022
BALANCE SHEET			2022-2023	2021-2022
ASSETS				
FIXED assets (computers & software)	£	415.48		
CURRENT Assets: Cash HSBC Business & Charity a/c's	£	58,481.92		
Inc. ring-fenced Legacy Fund £13564.57			£	58,897.40
Debtors (NOTE 1):			£	45,078.69
Various	£	50.19		
			£	50.19
			£	8,300.99
TOTAL ASSETS			£	58,947.59
			£	53,379.68
LIABILITIES				
Creditors:				
Various	£	204.69		
			£	204.69
			£	179.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES			£	204.69
			£	179.00
NET ASSETS			£	58,742.90
			£	53,200.68
CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDS (Capital & Reserves)				
			2022-2023	2021-2022
Funds at start of year	£	53,200.68		
Surplus (-loss) for the year	£	5,542.22		
Funds at end of year			£	58,742.90
			£	53,200.68
INCOME/EXPENDITURE				
			2022-2023	2021-2022
INCOME				
Commissioned work (Local Arts Loan clients)	£	22,476.59		
Commission from WTC (Living Advent Calendar)	£	4,700.00		
Income from sales & fees (art galleries, etc.)	£	-		
WLAC Donations	£	-		
'more arts.' Donations	£	768.99		
Other income	£	-		
TOTAL	£	27,945.58		
VAT Received	£	-		
Less depreciation	-£	138.00		
Exclude debtors from previous year	-£	8,300.99		
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	£	-		
TOTAL INCOME			£	19,506.59
			£	15,329.82
EXPENDITURE				
Contractor Services	£	-		
Printing, Framing	£	-		
Utilities & Rates	£	412.75		
Share of Local Arts Loan income to schools	£	4,525.28		
Artist Services	£	2,105.00		
Legacy Fund projects	£	-		
Community Projects	£	3,800.00		
Sponsored projects	£	-		
Suppliers	£	2,328.06		
Marketing	£	185.20		

	Other expenditure	£	-		
	TOTAL	£	13,356.29		
	VAT Paid	£	787.08		
	Exclude creditors from previous year	-£	179.00		
	Exclude capital expenditure	£	-		
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE			£	13,964.37
				£	12,509.08
NET INCOME				£	5,542.22
				£	2,820.74
CASH FLOW					
				2022-2023	2021-2022
Cash at bank at start of the year		£	44,525.21	£	49,605.57
Net income	£	5,542.22			
Less capital expenditure	£	-			
Depreciation	£	138.00			
Gain on sale of assets	£	-			
Less increase in debtors	£	8,250.80			
Plus increase in creditors	£	25.69			
Cash at bank at end of year		£	58,481.92	£	44,525.21
Cash flow in (out) for the year		£	13,956.71	-£	5,080.36

NOTE 1: One of the Local Arts Loan programme clients was invoiced £8,268.00 during 2021-2022 but, due an administrative error, the invoice remained unpaid at year end. The invoice was paid in April 2022. This accounts for a high value of Debtors and negative cash flow for 2021-2022 and unusually high cash flow for 2022-2023.