

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Scottish Charity Number SC044658
Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018

Current Trustees

Carolyn Yates (appointed 11th July 2016)
Anne Barclay (appointed 15th July 2015)
Davie McMillan (appointed 4th April 2016)
Stephen Lacey (appointed 4th April 2016)
Matt Baker (appointed 11th July 2016)

Karen Ward Boyd (appointed 8th August 2016)
Cathy Agnew (appointed 8th August 2016)
Katharine Wheeler (appointed 20th December 2017)
David Smith (appointed 20th December 2017)

Other Trustees

Janet Brennan (resigned 9th October 2017)
Bea Last (resigned 9th October 2017)
Dave Currie (resigned 9th October 2017)

Contact Address

C/o Dumfries & Galloway Council Offices, Municipal Chambers, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries, DG1 2AD.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

All of the Chamber's trustees are appointed or re-appointed by the trustees at the annual general meeting each year.

Governing Document

The Chamber is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in the constitution. The SCIO was incorporated on 13th February 2014 and prior to this the Chamber operated as an unincorporated association, known as the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Partnership.

Charitable Purposes

The Chamber's purposes are the advancement of the arts, heritage and culture in Dumfries and Galloway and elsewhere and principally for the benefit of the people of Dumfries and Galloway. And in furtherance thereof:-

1. advance the arts, heritage and culture in Dumfries and Galloway for the benefit of the people of the region,
2. provide expert advice to Dumfries and Galloway Council and others on policy, programmes and projects relating to the arts, heritage and culture; and
3. encourage greater involvement in the arts, heritage and culture by the provision of support to practitioners, participants and local organisations.

DGU (or DGUnlimited) is the day-to-day operating name of the Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts. It is a membership organisation that works with, and provides a voice for, Dumfries and Galloway's creative sector. DGU champions and advocates the vital role creative practitioners and organisations play in contributing to the wellbeing of our communities and economy.

Activities and Achievements

The 2017/18 financial year saw DG Unlimited (DGU) continue to support and represent the collective strengths of Dumfries and Galloway's creative sector. The charity published its first Strategic Plan in October 2017 called Distil, which outlines DGU's purpose, vision, mission and strategic aims for the next four years.

Distil sets the tone and ways of working for DGU moving forwards, through a team of four part-time freelance commissions delivering the activities required to meet the charity's strategic aims.

The commissions are issued through an open tendering process currently operated by Dumfries and Galloway Council and consist of an Arts Development Director, Administration and Communications Co-ordinator, and two regional Development Officers.

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In parallel to the development of the strategic plan the board of DGU conducted a review of the constitution that governs the organisation, to clarify arrangements. The essential objectives and purposes of the organisation are unchanged but the amendments served to clarify and simplify how DGU operates, bringing the constitution into line with current practice. The proposed changes were fully accepted by members at the charity's AGM on Monday 9th October 2017 at Cample Line.

The charity continues to maintain a low level of operational costs through its freelance team who operate flexibly across the region providing advice, guidance and support to individuals and organisations. The regular drop-in service called 'Connecting with You' continues to be popular, with members and non-members seeking advice and guidance to help with their professional development; as is Connected our twice a month e-bulletin which shares the latest news and opportunities in the creative sector regionally and nationally.

DGU supported and provided advice to Dumfries and Galloway Council in the distribution of £75,000 to the creative sector through the Regional Arts Fund 5. 24 applications were received with 14 projects funded, which for every £1 of Council funding levered an additional £6 into the region from other sources. The fund continues to demonstrate its important contribution to the region's economy, the creative industries workforce and public benefit through a wide range of high quality activities and events.

The charity administered two funds: Get Involved, Get Inspired which supports projects that benefit people in their communities; and Innovate, Create, Cultivate which supports creative practitioners professional development. A total of 32 applications were received with 26 being successfully awarded, for projects taking place across Dumfries and Galloway.

Details of the funding schemes and previously funded projects can be found on our new website that was successfully developed and launched in January 2018 using a cost effective online web-builder. The need for a new website is one of the key objectives identified in the organisation's newly developed Communications Strategy.

DGU worked with the Partners group to submit a consortium bid to the Freelands Foundation's Artist Programme. Whilst the proposal was not successful the group acknowledged that the process of collaborating on the bid was a very positive experience and reflects how DGU has matured, and gained the trust of stakeholders to lead consortium bids.

The charity was awarded funds by The Holywood Trust and Dumfries and Galloway Council to commission the development of a Youth Arts Framework for the region. Following an open recruitment process the commission was awarded to The Articulate Cultural Trust. The framework is expected to be launched at the biennial DGU conference in December 2018.

DGU sponsored the Visual Artist Maker of the Year category at the D&G Life Awards.

DGU represented the region's creative sector on a number of strategic groups this year including Dumfries and Galloway Council's Year of Young People strategic planning group, Major Events Strategy Partners Group and their Community Learning and Development Partnership. The Arts Development Director also chaired the region's Creative Industries Working Group that held a successful event called Creative Ambitions which formed part of Business Week in October 2017.

Creative Scotland held a Place Partnership networking event in Dumfries which was hosted by The Stove in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council and DGU. Delegates from all over Scotland spent 2 days in Dumfries focusing on areas outwith large cities, hearing from different communities on the challenges and successes in developing local approaches to supporting and encouraging artists and creative businesses in their area. DGU organised a Civic Reception opened by Councillor Elaine Murray the leader of the Council and curated a programme that showcased some of the region's creative practitioners.

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Consultant Lawrence Kenny delivered a free professional development opportunity - 'Artists as leaders and leaders as artists'. 11 creative practitioners took part and feedback was very positive. The charity is planning to launch a regular programme of Members Networking and Social Events.

Future plans

Over the next 12 months the Company plans to deliver a range of new activities including:

Revenue model - Dumfries and Galloway Council reduced its Strategic Arts budget by £25,000 from £149,588 to £124,588 per annum. In 2018/19 DGU will absorb the majority of this cut through a reduced grant from the Council but moving forwards there's a need to secure funding from other sources.

Members Survey - An annual members survey will be launched to enable the charity to hear directly from members on a regular basis about their ideas, the types of support they are seeking, and how DGU might help.

Members Networking and Social Events – promotion of a regular programme of relaxed and informative, practitioner networking and social events for members.

Participatory budgeting (PB) – investigate options and opportunities to develop a PB scheme for Dumfries and Galloway's creative sector.

Scottish Government's Cultural Strategy for Scotland – contribute to the consultation process for developing a Cultural Strategy for Scotland.

South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership – contribute to the Partnership's consultation process in developing a South of Scotland Enterprise Agency.

Borderlands Initiative – develop links with the Borderlands Initiative and jointly investigate options to support the region's creative industries.

DGU Conference – deliver the charity's biennial conference.

Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

None of the trustees received remuneration for their services or were reimbursed for any expenditure during the year, except for the following trustees who reclaimed travel, telephone and hospitality costs:-

Bea Last - £63.00	David McMillan - £486.40	Carolyn Yates - £137.20
Anne Barclay - £591.00	Cathy Agnew - £1,488.05	Janet Brennan - £88.80

Reserves

At the year end, the Chamber had restricted funds of £2,972 and unrestricted funds of £14,863.

The accounts for the year are attached and form part of this report.

This report was approved by the trustees on 19th November 2018 and signed on their behalf by:

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Catherine Agnew
Chairman

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Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2018

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Young Peoples Project	8,000	-	8,000	-
Creative Scotland	1,500	-	1,500	-
Dumfries & Galloway Council	62,500	-	62,500	48,700
	<u>72,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,000</u>	<u>48,700</u>
Total Receipts				
<u>Payments</u>				
Charitable Activities:				
Administration and Communications Co-ordinator	14,512	-	14,512	-
Regional Convenor/Policy Commission	-	-	-	1,500
Conference Commission	-	-	-	6,093
Arts Development Director	21,825	-	21,825	16,200
	<u>36,337</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,337</u>	<u>23,793</u>
Governance Costs:				
Administrative costs	26,073	-	26,073	19,492
	<u>26,073</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,073</u>	<u>19,492</u>
Total Payments	<u>62,410</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,410</u>	<u>43,285</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>9,590</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,590</u>	<u>5,415</u>

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Statement of Balances as at 31st March 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
<u>Bank and Cash in Hand</u>		
Opening Balances	8,245	2,830
Surplus for the year	9,590	5,415
Closing Balances	<u>17,835</u>	<u>8,245</u>
<u>Reserves</u>		
Restricted Funds	2,972	2,972
General Unrestricted Fund	<u>14,863</u>	<u>5,273</u>
Total Funds	<u>17,835</u>	<u>8,245</u>

The Trust has no other investments, assets or material liabilities.

The balance on restricted funds consists of the unspent portion of grants received from Dumfries & Galloway Council for the following commissions:-

- Regional Arts Hub Convenor
- Communications Structure and Strategy
- Annual Conference for the Arts

Approved by the trustees on 19th November 2018 and signed on their behalf by:

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Catherine Agnew
Chairman

Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of the Arts
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2018 set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements;
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 accounts Regulations; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mrs G Gray, BAcc CA
Carson & Trotter
Chartered Accountants
123 Irish Street
Dumfries
DG1 2PE

19th November 2018