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# Rationale Arts

## Yearly Report: 2019 -2020

### **Trustee's:**

Vignesh Murali (Chair) Author

Jason King

Chris Morris

### **Employee's:**

Nathan Geering – Charity Director



## 1. Mission Statement

Rationale Arts is a registered charitable arts organisation with the key aims to promote, improve, and maintain public education and appreciation of the arts. Specifically, but not exclusively the art of dance, music, and theatre.

We aim to achieve our mission mainly through 4 avenues.

- **Community engagement:** We work with communities on topics they feel are relevant to them and develop bespoke arts packages to tackle specific issues the community faces.
- **Theatre:** We pride ourselves on creating professional standard accessible theatrical productions that are created in consultation with the communities we are trying to engage with.
- **Injury Prevention:** We deliver special courses to people with visual impairment that incorporates b-boying (Breakdance) as a means of injury prevention to improve spatial awareness.
- **Workshops:** We offer a variety of artistic workshops including:
  - Theatre Skills
  - Hip Hop Dance
  - Contemporary Dance
  - Desk jockey'ing and Music Production

## 2. Background

Rationale Arts officially received charity status in February 2019 from the charity commission. Our first board meeting took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2019. The Trustee's went through a rigorous process of setting up a Bank account etc subsequently and it was not until end of May 2019 that we were able to make our first funding bid to the National Lottery. During the initial period we set up various social media platforms on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to develop a presence and promote the work we were aiming to do. We also reached out to various stakeholders locally with the aim of building relationships and creating pathways to achieve our mission.

## 3. Review of 2019-20

We started our Mission by delivering a bedside beat boxing workshop in partnership with Sheffield Children's Charity within the Children's Hospital in Sheffield. We received amazing feedback, and this opened an opportunity for us to work with the Children's Charity monthly going forward, the funding had been agreed however due to COVID we have had to indefinitely postpone the project. On running a pilot 'Beatboxing' workshop with Rationale Arts we received supportive feedback which informed the need to create a bespoke programme:

***"I was very surprised by how inclusive the Bedside Beatboxing was. Nathan (the facilitator) was fab with the kids and got to their level. Lily (my daughter) has complex needs and thoroughly enjoyed this"* Sally Harley - Parent**

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We were successful with our funding bid of £10,000 to the National Lottery to deliver our state-of-the-Art Injury Prevention course in 2 separate venues. We delivered the first course consisting of eight sessions between September 2019- December 2019 by working with Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB) and Sheffield International Venues (SIV), we received exceptional feedback and we were featured in the SRSB newsletter (link below).

<http://www.srsb.org.uk/Feeds.aspx?Key=10848a1c-2c91-43c8-aa2b-8c6c61006b70&FeedType=DYN>

During December 2019 we had the opportunity to promote festive cheer by firstly by providing a Street Art and Hip Hop Hand Play workshops in partnership with Bluebell Wood children's hospice to their Youth group and secondly sending out breakdancing Santa's to fundraise for the Children's Hospital (photos on our website). Feedback from Bluebell wood can be seen below.

***“Nathan and Leigh from Rationale Arts visited our Youth Group at Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice in February to work with the young adults in our care. The afternoon was an absolute whirlwind of activity – the team helped us create some absolutely ‘smashing’ graffiti street art and try our hand at ‘hiphop hand play’.***

***“Leigh started off by showing us some graffiti art by creating stylised versions of our names, and then our Youth Group were able to practice ‘tagging’ their own names. We were then treated to a fantastic performance of street dance and finished with Nathan demonstrating and teaching us how to do hip hop hand and arm movements, which has got us thinking about our own dance moves!***

***“Nathan and Leigh made the session completely inclusive and we all had so much fun. Thank you so much!”***

**Jane Field**

**Physiotherapist, Bluebell Wood**

In January 2020 we delivered our second Injury Prevention course in Partnership with Joseph Clarke School in London, instead of providing one session a week for 8 weeks we provided 2 sessions a week through a matched funding agreement with the school, we delivered 14 out of 16 sessions prior to COVID putting a stop to the course, we are hopeful we can work with Joseph Clarke School again when it is safe to do so.

In February 2020 we had our first pilot Theatre production working in partnership with Derbyshire Council and Derby Theatres. Please read about our ‘Trust in Care’ work on the below link.

<https://www.rationalearts.com/trust-in-care-young-people-arts>

We received excellent feedback (below) and we will carry on working to refine the theatre production.

***‘I attended the performance/workshop on the evening of Friday 21st Feb 2020 at Derby theatre and just wanted to say ‘thank you’ for a brilliant evening! I’ve worked with Children in Care for 17 years now and have rarely seen such a positive, empowering***



***performance. It's easy (and entirely understandable) for 'our' children to get stuck in a mire of negativity and it's hard as a professional and a human being to be able to draw out hope and positivity without sounding insensitive.***

***I was so moved to see some of the performances, but I remember all those young people from when they were in junior school.***

***Helen Pridmore***

***Assistant Head, Virtual School for Children in Care, Derbyshire County Council***

#### **4. Other Activities**

- We developed a state-of-the-art website showcasing our work which can be accessed at [www.rationalearts.com](http://www.rationalearts.com).
- We invested in equipment to provide workshops; this equipment will serve the community well in the years to come.
- We raised £501 through a Just Giving Campaign which we used to provide free workshops to bluebell wood, develop the website and invest in equipment.

#### **5. Finance Accounts**

During the financial year 2019-20 the Charity received a total income of £10,751 and had total expenditure of £8,949 which left a surplus of £1,802. Most of the surplus was created due free venue hire through SIV for our first Injury prevention course and due to unpaid invoices for delivering the Injury prevention course. We were waiting for the matched funding to be paid by Joseph Clarke School before paying our invoices.

Any Surplus is used towards the running costs of the Charity such as Insurance and other relevant subscriptions.



<b>2019 Overview</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Jul-19	£10,000	£0
Aug-19	£0	£1,673
Sep-19	£429	£425
Oct-19	£195.60	£650
Nov-19	£0	£425
Dec-19	£0	£3,104
Jan-20	£127	£105
Feb-20	£0	£1,867
Mar-20	£0	£701
Totals	£10,751	£8,949
Closing Balance		<b>£1,802.83</b>

## 6. Summary

Overall a very successful first year in which we created some inroads into our mission and built some sustainability into the Charity functions. COVID will clearly affect our work in 2020-21 however we will continue with our mission to ***'Make Art Accessible'***