

lighthouse

Arts & Entertainment | Poole

A Year in Review

lighthouse
Arts & Entertainment | Poole

APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022

| Different every day

458 productions &
879 performances / screenings /
digital performances

(2020/21: 125 productions, 190 performances)

143,116 tickets sold

(2020/21: 7,428)

287 workshops, classes and
participation sessions for
4,049 young people aged 0-19

(2020/21: 281 sessions for 3,845 participants)

Over 22,000
tickets subsidised

(2020/21: 2,435)

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Welcome to Lighthouse

Writing this document well into 2022, it is easy to forget that the impact of Covid on the theatre and entertainment industry continued across 2021 and into 2022. The restrictions and changes to ways of working became part of our new normal and moving more events throughout the spring and summer months as Covid continued to disrupt our lives no longer seemed unusual.

We were able to provide 50% of our usual programme, however 90 shows were subsequently cancelled or rescheduled by the artists. Our decision to place most of the summer programme outside was fortuitous as audiences remained cautious about coming into venues.

We handed over our Sherling Studio theatre to artists to use as part of our Sanctuary scheme – supporting theatre makers with space, tech support and living expenses which was oversubscribed and we are told, was extremely helpful to many artists.

From September 2021 we were able to present a full and unrestricted public programme and what a terrific range of performances we presented. For many artists and companies these were their first performances for many months, and it was emotional for all to be back on stage. Our first gig to open the season was Nick Cave and Warren Ellis and restrictions introduced for audience, staff and artists safety were very tight, leading to queues snaking around the outside of the building as ticket holders showed proof of being Covid-free. Our fears that these restrictions would be a barrier to our audiences and performers were unfounded and the autumn continued well with audiences and artists thrilled to be back.

Global Rainbow, a monumental outdoor laser installation by American artist Yvette Mattern illuminated the night sky from Lighthouse to The Isle of Wight and really resonated across our whole community.

However, the arrival of the Omicron variant in December was a particularly challenging moment for the organisation as we opened our in-house production of Beauty and the Beast. Staff sickness had been limited, but in December 2021 many of the team succumbed giving serious cause for concern not only for their health but for the delivery of our Christmas programme which carries with it high financial risk.

Our senior management team stepped in to enable the Pantomime to go on, covering duty management, lighting operator and cinema projectionist roles. Fortunately, our cast and company remained covid free, so we didn't have to try our hand at acting! We were one of very few venues to present a full pantomime run. I am very grateful to our Head of Programming/panto producer Tim Colegate and our panto director and lead performer Chris Jarvis for getting this production on the stage and delighting our audiences.



The final quarter of the year continued without restrictions although we saw a reduction in audiences and revenue of 10% less than 2019/20.

We are truly grateful to the Arts Council, HM Government, and the local authority, BCP Council, for their continued support throughout the year. Funding from the Culture Recovery Fund (CRF), the extension of National Portfolio funding from Arts Council, annual grant funding from BCP Council as well as support from the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), along with support from Trusts and Foundations and fundraising has enabled financial stability as we continue to navigate the unknown. Despite all the uncertainties and the continued impact of Covid, we ended the year with replenished reserves that will enable Lighthouse to be sustainable in what is an increasingly volatile world position. Rising costs, high inflation and the impact of war makes for an uneasy and challenging year ahead but what we know is that our community wants and needs culture - whatever the external pressures - and Lighthouse will continue to provide it.

We are very grateful to our Chair, Mark Powell who stands down after 9 years. Mark has provided such support and guidance through one of the most uncertain and precarious periods of the organisation's history. We are delighted to welcome MT Rainey OBE as incoming Chair in October 2022.

We are now looking ahead with exciting plans as we begin to deliver our new five-year business plan. We launch Lighthouse Academy, providing training and career development for our community, a brand refresh, and welcome new trustees.

My personal thanks to all our staff who make what we provide for our community possible, in particular to the senior management team who have continued to work tirelessly, with such great humour and spirit.

Elspeth, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Powell, Chair

Spencer Clarke, Deputy Chair

MT Rainey OBE

Richard Hendry

Professor Donald Nordberg

Jane Webster

Monika Barnes

Alison Gannagé-Stewart



Our Values

INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE Accredited
Until 2021

Vision

A nationally significant and regionally important multi-arts venue that is one of the cultural gems of Dorset, at the heart of our community and locally loved. A dynamic, vibrant place where people feel inspired, entertained, welcomed, and where artists and performers feel supported and empowered to do their best work.

Mission

To provide the community of Poole and the wider region with a vibrant, diverse, and relevant cultural programme of live performances, film, engagement, and participation. To entertain, move, surprise and challenge our audiences through an ever-changing programme which stretches from the popular and familiar to the eclectic and innovative.

To ensure and encourage all artists to create, rehearse and perform their work using Lighthouse and its

world-class facilities to inspire and delight those who encounter it and support the national arts ecology.

To be an active and collaborative partner with other creative organisations; to support the local cultural strategy by delivering a world-class cultural offer to our community; and establish the region as a vibrant cultural place to live, work and visit.

To maintain a leading-edge iconic venue, with the latest digital, broadcast, streaming and ticketing technology and a bright, safe, and environmentally responsible facility, with a range of attractive amenities.

Values

Our values define us and are a part of who we are, what we stand for and how we act. Everything we do is driven by our values and everyone has a part to play.

ASPIRATIONAL
WELCOMING
EXCELLENT

We are up for it! We passionately believe in the power and the value of the Lighthouse. We believe that bold, audacious arts can enrich and inspire the lives of our community through shared cultural experiences. We strive to improve and develop in everything we do and lead innovative ways of working.

We welcome our staff, volunteers, artists, audiences, partners and our community into our work. We are friendly, inclusive and work together effectively and safely, ensuring that teamwork is at the heart of everything we do.

Everything we do is of the absolute highest quality. We strive to achieve excellence in every aspect of our work and how we deliver it.

Delivering a wide-ranging Arts Programme

Lighthouse is increasingly well-known for its diverse programme and high-quality output. 80% of our work is received, and up to 20% is self-produced or enabled by Lighthouse. 25% of our programme is aimed at Children and Young People and Families.

This model continued despite obstacles to full recovery from Covid with the year's programme under half the level it would normally be, including a further 92 events that were cancelled.

The amazing funding received from the Weston Culture Fund enabled Lighthouse to take financial risks with the artistic programme and we brought several high-profile productions and events to the community including Hairspray, The Rocky Horror Show, Matthew Bourne's 'Midnight Bell', Gecko's 'The Wedding' and 'Private Lives' with Nigel Havers and Patricia Hodge.

We also were pleased to be able to present our first completely self-produced traditional Christmas pantomime, Beauty & The Beast which was heartily welcomed back by audience members keen to enjoy live entertainment once again.

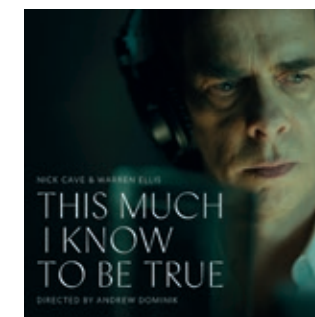
Lighthouse:OUTSIDE returned for season two in summer 2021 and was welcomed with similar enthusiasm by audiences keen to get back to the theatre while enjoying the relative comfort of the outdoor space.

Culture Recovery Fund money enabled Lighthouse to introduce screening facilities into the main Theatre. 'Screen on Stage' was launched in April 2021, creating the region's largest and best-equipped independent cinema screen. This is now used for live and recorded screenings of cultural content such as NT Live as well as block buster films.

The capacity to film our own work has also been introduced, with Beauty & The Beast the first show to benefit.



Beauty and the Beast



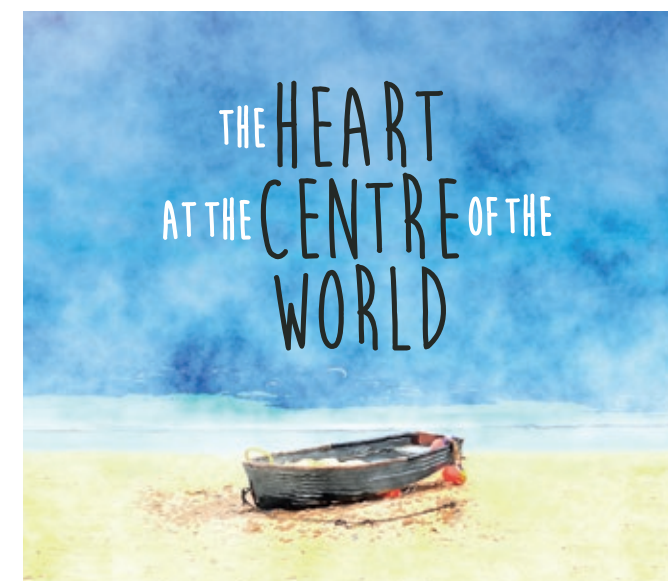
Nick Cave



Lighthouse Outside



Rocky Horror



The Heart At The Centre of The World



The Midnight Bell



Private Lives

The Creative Heart of the Local Community

Lighthouse provides a significant range of opportunities for people of all backgrounds within our community to take part in a wide range of cultural activities, see inspiring, entertaining, thought provoking and exciting performances through a high-quality cultural programme.

The pandemic has increased our resolve to ensure that Lighthouse is relevant and provides opportunities for our community. A new post of Creative Engagement Manager was created mid-2022.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Lighthouse received a bronze award for Global Rainbow at the Dorset Tourism Awards in 2022



The organisation was delighted to win the #inlovewithlocal / Muddy Stilettoes award for 'Best Theatre / Arts Venue' in the year.

Global Rainbow, by internationally acclaimed light artist Yvette Mattern was installed on the roof of the building for eight days in November 2021 (see inside cover). This stunning installation was a great way to re-connect with the our community and signalled to audiences that Lighthouse was back and open for business in a really positive way.

Lighthouse commissioned playwright Andrew Muir to write 'The Heart at the Centre of the World', as a partner in the national Future Arts Centres programme celebrating 25 years of the National Lottery. The play was co-created with local young people and based on their experiences of the last year. This was performed by them in several locations.

Roundabout returned this year to Hamworthy Park – a new location for Paines Ploughs' travelling theatre tent.

Developing Creative People

Incredibly, this year we have managed to keep a substantial proportion of our Learning and Participation programme in place.

Our outreach has included visiting artists, workshops and pre and post-show talks and we have developed a range of bespoke new programmes of our own:

Young Writers programme 38 Young people took part

Young Technicians programme 12 Young Techs completed the programme, two of whom are working for Lighthouse as technicians.

Partner Schools programme 12 schools were supported and inspired to connect with the extraordinary work Lighthouse offers.

Partner Schools include:

- Lytchett Minster School
- Winchelsea School (SEN)
- Poole High School
- Parkstone Grammar School
- Leaf Academy
- Montacute School (SEN)
- Oakdale Junior School
- St Aldhelms School
- Yarrell's School
- Poole Grammar School
- Magna Academy
- Ferndown Middle School
- Wimborne St Giles First School
- Courthill Infant School
- Bourne Academy
- Cornerstone Academy
- Avonbourne Academy
- Upton Infant School
- The Bishop of Winchester Academy

We continued to support Extraordinary Bodies Young Artists who premiered and streamed several new pieces of work this year. EBYA Human, was a particular highlight.

The weekly 'Training Tuesday' supports the development of young performers as well as older visual artists and singers. Groups include Stagewise, Dorset School of Acting, Poole Leisure Painters and Bournemouth Symphony Youth Chorus.



Extraordinary Bodies Young Artists: Human



Young Techs



| Artists

We launched our new artists support programme 'Sanctuary.' Designed to offer artists space to develop new shows or ideas, it continues to go from strength to strength with 215 artists and 48 companies benefitting already.

Sanctuary

Under our Sanctuary scheme we have supported the following artist: Dorset School of Acting, Alumnus and former Lighthouse employee Will Dowland, DorsetBorn (Modern Shelleys), DorsetBorn/Tabby Hayward (Fort), Annie Herridge (Red Hot Pokers), Transatanty2 (The Lab), Norvil and Josephine (The Egyptian Hall, working title), Elizabeth Gunawan (The Promised Land), Emilie Barton (The Call), Holly Joy (Hole), Grace Lovelass (Graceful!), Moneypenny and Tuffrey (30 Bouquets), Ryan Murphy and Maia Ayling (Shush), SISATA (Wuthering Heights.), Stuff and Nonsense (The Little Red Hen), and Tilted Wig (Spitfire Girls).

Playwriting Competition

A rehearsed reading was performed of St Ives, the winning play of our inaugural playwright competition written by D.A. Nixon.

Commissions

We commissioned Paul O'Donnell (dia-betes), Gecko Theatre (KiN), Stuff & Nonsense (Pinnochio), Lockett-Vetesse Band, Dante or Die (Odds On) and Bournemouth Symphony Chorus (Paul Carr/Four New Seasons) to make new work.

We supported our Resident Orchestra BSO to continue socially distanced rehearsals and live performances where permitted with specific modifications to the Concert Hall stage and a successful first season of live and recorded concerts.



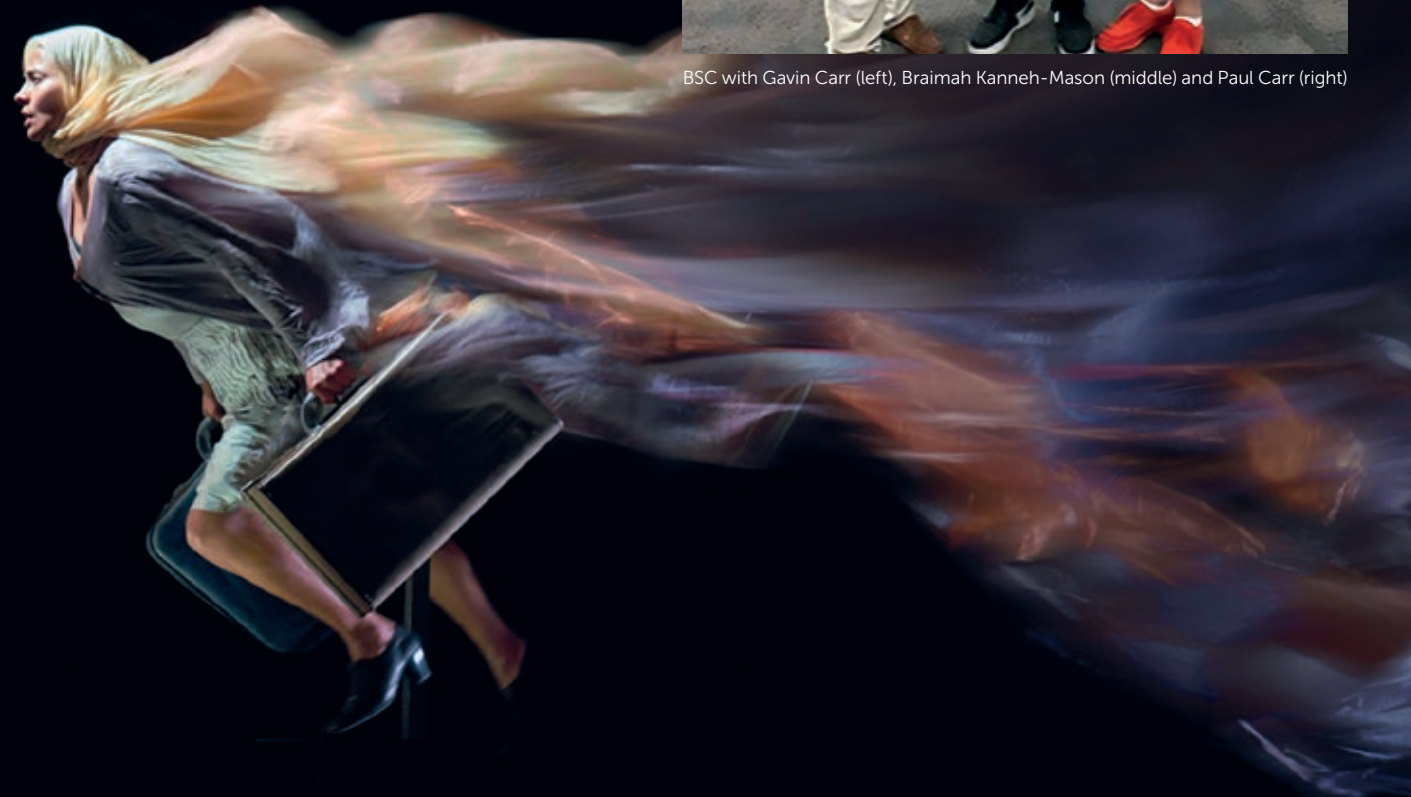
BSC with Gavin Carr (left), Braimah Kanneh-Mason (middle) and Paul Carr (right)

| Audiences

Lighthouse has welcomed close to 200,000 customers to shows, screenings and events since the lifting of Covid restrictions in September. This has enabled performances to enjoy full houses once again, with a strong programme supported by the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Our website received over half a million visits during the year. Our social media following continued to grow with almost 40,000 people liking and following our pages.

Approximately 50% of our audiences are based in the BCP area with 26% from wider Dorset - the rest of our audiences travelling from across the South Coast and South West. Despite a strong recovery, audiences have been slow to return not only to Lighthouse, but to all venues across the UK.



Maintaining a World-Class Venue

Our people

Since the end of mandatory COVID testing in May 2021, Lighthouse has maintained its own rigorous COVID-safe working practices, to provide a venue that is safe for audiences, artists, and staff alike.

Covid has continued to impact staff resources and the toll on the arts and entertainment industry has seen recruitment a challenge in most areas of the organisation.

- We retained and progressed in our Investors in People (IIP) accreditation
- We supported internships in the Marketing team, and recruited three young people from the Governments Kickstart scheme
- We employed a Technical Apprentice
- We appointed our first Mental Health First aiders in November 2021

During 2021, Lighthouse commissioned an independent review into its inclusion and engagement with people from ethnically diverse backgrounds, including staff, volunteers, audiences, and stakeholders.

We are taking a positive step in re-evaluating our resources and processes to be truly inclusive for all. It is important that lighthouse is reflective of not only its core community in the local demographic, but also reaches out to new and growing minority communities to build trust and remain inclusive and relevant.



Being Environmentally Sustainable & Responsible

Lighthouse is committed to reducing our energy and carbon outputs wherever possible. Our building continues to surpass benchmark expectations for our industry sector in terms of its energy efficiency.

We have phased out single-use plastics in the Beacon Café.

LED lighting units have been phased in with movement sensors to minimise wastage.

Finance

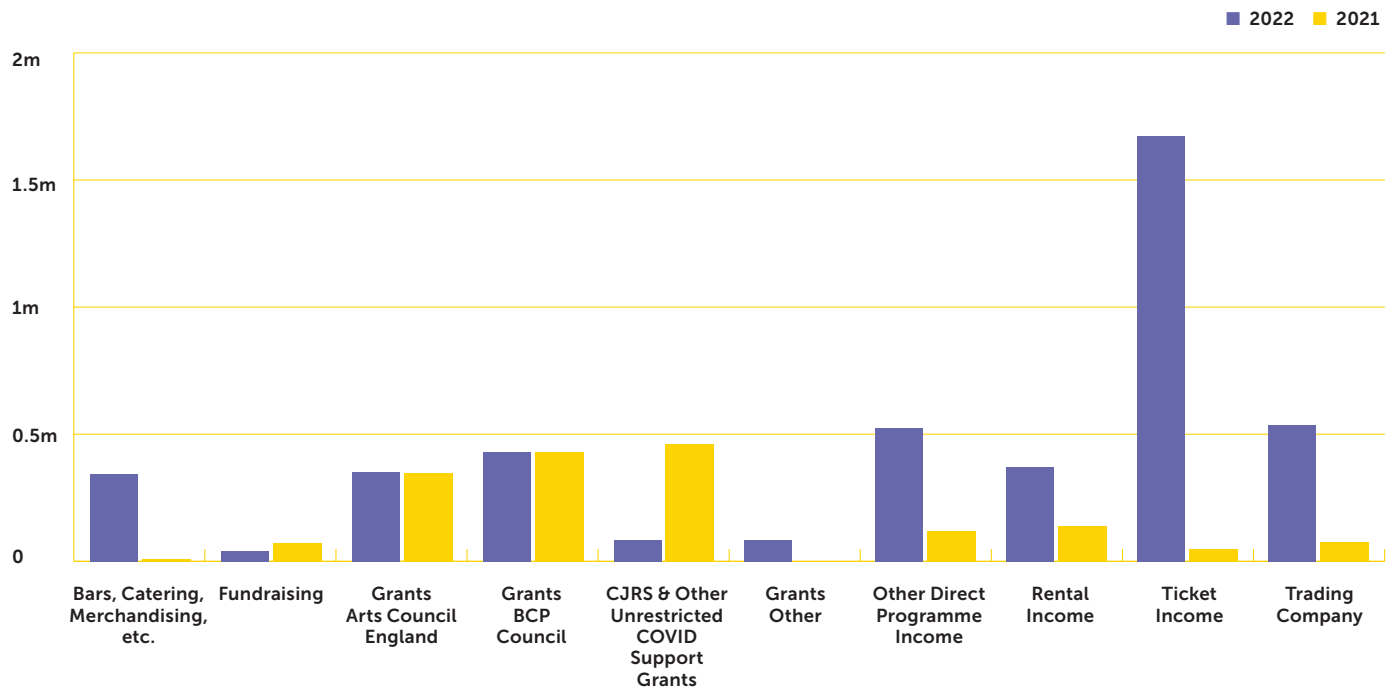
Lighthouse has been sustained by the generosity of the Government, the local authority, the Arts Council and through generous donations and grants.

The organisation has recovered but is not yet at full strength after the pandemic. The current economic situation is going to make that take longer than we had planned and growth from earned income will be a vital aspect to getting back to full recovery. Figures include 2019/20 for comparison in a more 'normal' year.

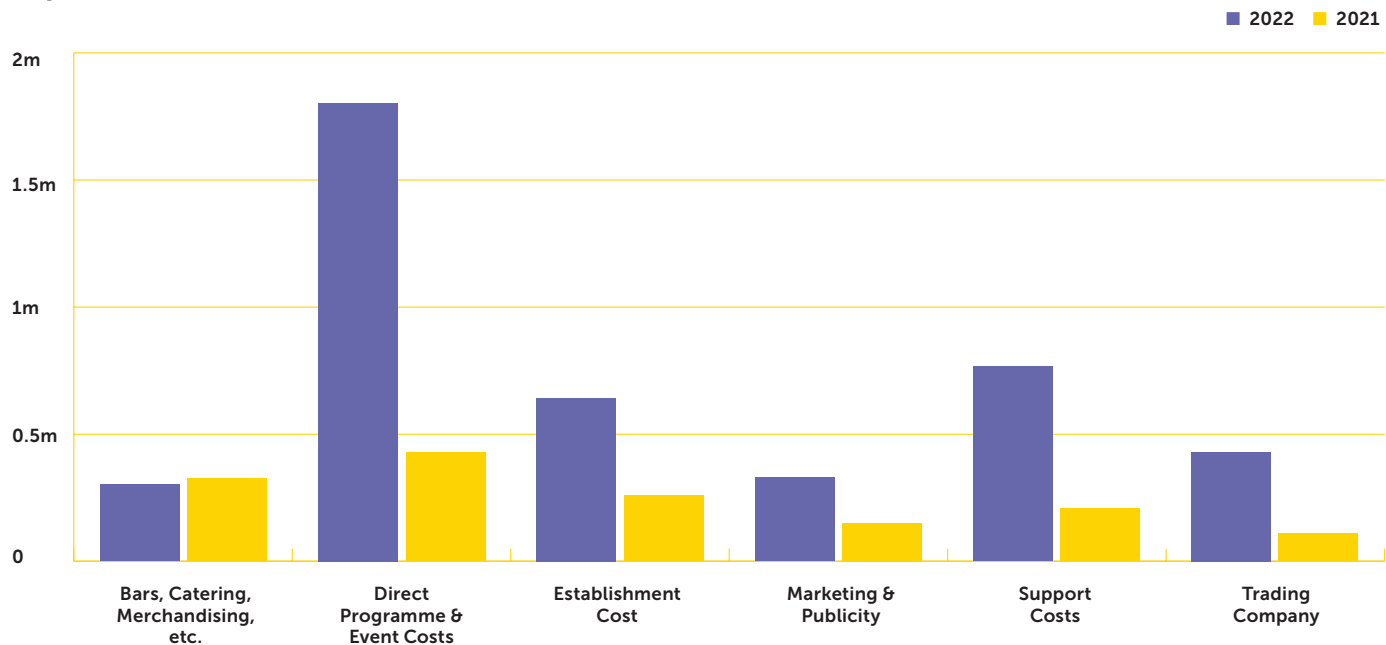
Financial Summary

	2022	2021	2020
Earned Income	£2,918,287	£323,582	£3,284,050
Ticket Sales	£1,671,990	£49,211	£1,903,488
Secondary Income	£346,708	£10,305	£452,499
Grants	£2,034,410	£2,696,721	£773,216
Donations / Fundraising	£117,684	£104,169	£106,155
Unrestricted Surplus / Deficit	£182,568	£34,536	£38,719

Income



Expenditure



The Power of Partnerships

Lighthouse forges partnerships with a range of cultural organisations and artists to realise their artistic projects. Lighthouse drives economic activity worth millions of pounds, promoting the town and its facilities, attracting investment and enhancing the region's reputation as a beautiful place in which to live and work and visit.

NETWORKS

We work with many partners and are grateful to them for ensuring that we deliver strong art and culture in our region.

- Arts Development Company
- Arts Marketing Association
- British Association of Concert Halls
- The Cultural Compact (BCP)
- Dorset Theatre Promoters Consortium
- Music Beyond Mainstream
- Regional Touring Network

PARTNERSHIPS

- Activate
- Arts University Bournemouth
- Arts Council England
- Arts Development Company
- Arts by the Sea Festival
- BCP Tourism
- Bournemouth and Poole College
- Bournemouth Symphony Chorus
- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
- Diverse City
- Dorset School of Acting
- Extraordinary Bodies Young Artists
- Inside Out Festival
- Paines Plough
- Pavilion Dance South West
- Poole BID
- The Powerhouse
- Soundstorm
- Stagewise
- Wave

SUPPORTERS

We want to thank all the trusts, foundations, companies and individuals who have supported Lighthouse with donations and gifts.

MAJOR DONORS

- Lyn Glass
- Mike and Pam Jeffries
- Clive and Sally Sherling
- Ralph and Janet Marshall
- Mrs M Anderson
- Mr and Mrs Heffer
- The Kinson Community Association Players
- John Mills
- ...And our anonymous donors

CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Breeze Motor Group
- Ocean Automotive

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Wolfson Foundation
- The Theatres Trust
- The Leonardo Trust
- The Wootton Grange Charitable Trust
- The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Foundation
- The John and Celia Bonham Christie Charitable Trust

Plans for the Future

Challenges for 2022-23

The overwhelming challenge for 2022-23 will be to make the most of the support we have received to survive during the period of the pandemic, to retain staff, maintain delivery, rebuild demand and capacity and to begin, once again, delivering on our overall business plan objectives in the new environment. The cultural and hospitality sectors have been severely wounded first by Covid and now by the impact of world events. We are particularly concerned about inflation and the huge hikes in energy costs as well as pressure on funders and the overall impact on demand as audiences feel the cost of living increases.

Lighthouse Academy

We are thrilled to launch Lighthouse Academy as the new umbrella for all Creative Engagement and Artist Development activity for the organisation. Developing and maximising learning, participation and talent development programmes that support people to develop their creative interests.

Financial Sustainability

Maintaining cash reserves to further mitigate business risks and support overall charitable objectives is vital, and never more so in a period of financial uncertainty. The current situation has served to underscore the relative frailties of this ambition, but it remains a core aim of the organisation to build and maintain reserves to provide resilience and grow as an organisation.

Here for our community

Continuing to ensure that we are accessible and relevant to our community, and to achieve this, we are undertaking a complete brand refresh to include signage and updated website.



A Year in Review

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Arts & Entertainment | Poole



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ENGLAND**

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IN PEOPLE**



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