

CIC 34

Community Interest Company Report

For official use
(Please leave blank)

--

*Please
complete in
typescript, or
in bold black
capitals.*

**Company Name in
full**

The Black Sheep Collective CIC

Company Number

8769882

Year Ending

31-3-2023

(The date format is required in full)

Please ensure the company name is consistent with the company name entered on the accounts.

This template illustrates what the Regulator of Community Interest Companies considers to be best practice for completing a simplified community interest company report. All such reports must be delivered in accordance with section 34 of the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 and contain the information required by Part 7 of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005. For further guidance see chapter 8 of the Regulator's guidance notes and the alternate example provided for a more complex company with more detailed notes.

(N.B. A Filing Fee of £15 is payable on this document. Please enclose a cheque or postal order payable to Companies House)

PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

In the space provided below, please insert a general account of the company's activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a description of how they have benefited the community.

The Black Sheep Collective CIC is an artistic and cultural education, development and performance activation company. Operating a social enterprise framework to trade with both public and private organisations as well as deliver cultural services, arts provision and facilitate networks and partnerships, within and between the VCSE, Arts and Private sectors.

Bar Bar Black Sheep – Social Enterprise Coffee Shop, Gallery and Community Hub

Bar Bar Black Sheep is Milton Keynes' only social enterprise coffee shop, arts space and community/social organising hub. It was established via successful crowd funding (2016) and is the main hub/departure point for activity as well as publicly designated 'safe space' for marginalized, minority and/or 'othered' individuals and communities. From Autumn 2021, we were able to re-activate our community program or engagement, arts and cultural activities. Utilizing the town square outside our coffee shop and galleries, we mounted seasonal theatre performances for children, families and young people. Our regular community groups returned (post pandemic restrictions) including Milton Keynes Cannabis Social Club, Q:offee (LGBTQ+) Social Club, Bar Bar Book Club and our weekly Creativity Social, all returned to sellout/full subscription from audiences and participants.

Bar Bar has continued to run its regular monthly events. After collaborating with local movement, Break to the Beat, there have been monthly vinyl sessions within the coffee shop, allowing local DJ's and MCs to play music and provide free entertainment to the community. The group then run an exhibition showcasing the hip-hop scene and graffiti art within Milton Keynes during the late 80's and 90's. The end of 2022 also saw a new monthly spoken word session beginning, giving local poets and writers a platform for their work to be heard. The Bard of the spoken word session then went on to use the coffee shop as a venue to record a music video for his band.

Stakeholder led workshops this year, included flower arranging to card making, jewellery making and watercolour painting workshops, the latter of which was facilitated by a local, older peoples' watercolour society that, exhibited in the shop's gallery. McIntyre charity ran workshops with their service users, engaged in social-material art practices, creative learning and therapeutic development.

At the beginning of 2023, Bar Bar was approached by a local volunteer formed litter picking group; seeking financial support for equipment and to help recruit volunteers, from within the customer base connecting local guests with volunteers, for an environment care movement. The volunteers continue to meet monthly and share quality time together in the café post-collections.

We collaborated with another local initiative 'Girl Pack' to be a collection point for free sanitary packs for girls/women who experience period poverty. Like our suspended coffee scheme, these are free to be claimed by anyone. There were also free food parcels and Christmas gifts put together by 'Together at Christmas' in which Bar Bar acted as another collection point.

Bar Bar employed 2 new members of staff this year. A local student, who joins post positive, work experience placement which the directors felt demonstrated all the necessary qualities, as well as the young person's essential differences which further expands our diverse tribe and positive, authentic employee environment.

Bar Bar helped four students from the local area to complete work experience. Following such positive placements, the young people continue to volunteer at the café's community events and workshops. We continue to support their professional development in return, via training, qualifications, and lifelong learning alignments.

With sincere thanks, our guests donated 1984 'suspended coffees and activity/opportunity placements for children and young people during the cost-of-living crisis. We continue to be the only coffee shop in the city of Milton Keynes, to deliver this socially beneficial and people and planet, before profit- social enterprise model.

We note that Milton Keynes City Council choose to remove the discretionary business rate relief during this period. Energy suppliers increased their direct debits by 190% in early 2022 and these remain high, which accrued profit to date is used to fund. This suggests the parameters within which, social enterprises can be viable in the city, are beginning to shift. These social shifts will inevitably inform, the future of the coffee shop post its current lease's end date. We must ensure that the entire organisation is meeting critical social value indicators, principles, funding outcomes and agreements, and the needs and aspirations of stakeholders, before increasing resource to other parties and suppliers in growth during the cost-of-living crisis. People and Planet will always remain priority over profit.

Theatre & Outreach Department

In this period, the Theatre and Outreach strand of the organisation focused on producing and creating work that explored unrepresented stories. We collaborated with marginalised communities, such as young refugees and people from low socio-economic backgrounds, to discover and explore their perspectives. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was a huge celebration where we presented these alternative perspectives. 'I wear my crown like I make my decisions' and 'Lizzie's Carriage' are two examples of this work. Both original pieces were performed in the community for stakeholders and various residents in Wolverton.

We demonstrated the value of our work with young people in delivering well attended projects, planned and facilitated with young people at the centre of them.

One of these projects was our performing arts camps which took place during the school holidays. We received HAF funding for Easter and Winter provision, to provide free places and meals to young people who qualified for free school meals. When this funding wasn't available, we continued to fund and provide free places and meals to those who needed it ourselves. In total, over the period, we supported 325 children and young people, 234 free places and 72 free meals. We also secured funding from the Arts Award Access Fund to provide 10 young people with the opportunity to take part in an Arts Award Qualification for free working alongside professional artists to realise this.

During this period, we established a new partnership with Stantonbury Theatre. In this partnership, Black Sheep Collective will deliver the youth theatre and adult acting provision for the theatre. We envision this partnership will develop into supporting the programming of the theatre and delivering quality outreach work for the venue.

In this period, we were approached by Wolverton and Greenley's Town Council to deliver and manage a youth club that would be based at Bar Bar Black Sheep. The project known as 'The Lounge', was initially a six-month trial. Over this period, it was proven to be a success supporting and engaging on average 15 young people a week. This provision is supported by the Town Council, and we hope we can develop a presence in the community to continue to provide a warm and safe space for young people in the local area.

Projects in this period

Name of Project: 'I wear my Crown like I make my decisions' performance project

Dates: May 2022

Participants: 20 young people, refugees living in Look Ahead hostels in MK

Outcome: Collaboration with young people, opportunity to share their stories of moving to the UK. Resulting in a community outdoor performance.

Name of Project: 'Lizzie's Carriage'

Dates: June 2022

Participants: 5 young people, 50 older people.

Outcome: To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, we produced an original script inspired by Wolverton Works. This was performed by youth theatre members to 50 older people who attended a tea party in celebration of the event.

Name of Project: 'Once upon a Crime'

Dates: July 2022

Participants: 30 young people, 50 audience members

Outcome: An outdoor interactive murder mystery created by youth theatre members based on traditional fairy tales. Opportunity to bring all of the youth theatre together in a community event.

Name of Project: Summer Performance Arts Camp

Dates: August 2022

Participants: 161 young people, 127 free places, 21 free meals were provided.

Outcome: Workshops for young people to attend based on the circus performance and art from around the world. Bursary places were offered to those who needed it.

Name of Project: Stantonbury Youth Theatre and Adult Programme

Dates: September 2022

Participants: 15 young people and 10 adults

Outcome: Weekly drama sessions for adults and young people, inclusive, affordable and professionally delivered.

Name of Project: Arts Award Access Fund

Dates: October 2022

Participants: 10 young people

Outcome: Funding to provide 10 young people with the opportunity to work towards an Arts Award certificate completely free.

Name of Project: Performing Arts Camp: Monster Mash

Dates: October 2022

Participants: 102 young people, 66 free places and 10 free meals were provided.

Outcome: A series of spooky halloween-inspired workshops for children and young people over the October half term.

Name of Project: HAF Winter Wonderland

Dates: December 2022

Participants: 62 young people, 41 free places and 41 free meals were provided.

Outcome: Funded by HAF Milton Keynes, a week of wintery workshops for children and young people over the Christmas holidays.

Name of Project: The Lounge – local youth led, safe space

Dates: September 2022

Participants: Weekly average of 15

Outcome: Free weekly drop-in for young people 11–18 years of age, with access to services, charities, projects and opportunities across arts, culture, personal growth, collaboration and independent learning.

Artistic & Performance Portfolio

We continued our successful management agreement with CBRE and Australian Super, to activate their asset, 'Centre:MK' with public performances of local artists and cultural engagement. Within this we continue to develop a Social Value framework to be adopted across Centre:MK's operations and strategic planning and enable them to effectively and accurately track and measure their social impact(s).

We were commissioned to deliver site specific performances for Social Enterprise UK Awards at London's Roundhouse, The Gunpowder Plot at the Tower of London, Break light Films, Queer-Circa and various corporate receptions, launches and exhibitions. This provided new professional, high end performance work for practicing artists within our tribes. In particular, one older woman artist (65+yrs) and one emerging black female artist have both now become registered self-employed artists, engaged in commercial contracts, editorials and campaigns.

Governance, Strategy and Development of CIC and Social Enterprise

Extensive research took place to pursue comments made in Director's Report 21-2022; with regards to the organisations future objectives, post successful completion of its existing, singular focused goal, we have undergone 10 months of academically informed and aligned, ethnographic and stakeholder centric research to uncover new objectives that align the current natural progression of the organisation and the people we collaborate, engage, create and conspire with to turn spaces into Places. Where People and Planet, flourish before Profit. The results of this research conclude that focus on work with, by and for queer and black people and experiences and those of women, have become primary concerns for our stakeholders, our tribes and our artistic creation, education and production arms. New objectives will be tabled at a Directors meeting in period 22-2023 and filed as required under companies' house regulations.

Black Sheep were delighted to be asked to speak at the Social Enterprise World Forum 2022 in Brisbane. Gathering with social entrepreneurs, enterprises, projects and tribe members has informed the development of the cic, as per new objectives to be tabled (Above). Our talk to an over-crowded lecture theatre, discussed social enterprise in the creative industries to which extensive invitations to work with international organisations continue to be received.

We have begun international conversations to explore partnerships and programmes with representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Japan and continue to embed the security of our relationships with EU commission funded, now ex-partners as valued and critical to our work. Where possible opportunities to work together were explored with potential cross nation arts programmes to be mounted.

We began extensive development of a new programme, QueerArtsFestival for Milton Keynes, connecting with local LGBTQ groups and retaining those from our international invites above, which will increase opportunities, projects and events for queer and black people, and women led works. New connections and learning from international collaborations, led by local practitioners will inform a festival to add to the city's emerging queer dimension (Pride MK and Q:Alliance), and the consideration of black experiences and narratives as critical (Black History Month programmes, Black Business Expo and Multi-cultural Eastern Group MK).

Funding will come from profit generated via social enterprise trade activity and grant aid where necessary.

(If applicable, please just state "A social audit report covering these points is attached").

(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS – Please indicate who the company's stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

The company's stakeholders include Participants, Artists, Freelancers, Practitioners, Customers, Partners and/or Clients. They are consulted via ongoing, 360-degree practices derived from a Theory of Change and measured against Social Progress Indicators and CIC Governing Articles and Objects.

(If applicable, please just state "A social audit report covering these points is attached").

PART 3 – DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION – if you have provided full details in your accounts you need not reproduce it here. Please clearly identify the information within the accounts and confirm that, "There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director's loss of office, which require to be disclosed" (See example with full notes). If no remuneration was received you must state that "no remuneration was received" below.

See attached accounts. There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director's loss of office, which require to be disclosed.

PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION – Please insert full details of any transfers of assets other than for full consideration e.g. Donations to outside bodies. If this does not apply you must state that "no transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made" below.

No transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made.

(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)

PART 5 – SIGNATORY (Please note this must be a live signature)

(DD/MM/YY)

The original report must be signed by a director or secretary of the company

Signed

Date

Please note that it is a legal requirement for the date format to be provided in full throughout the CIC34 report.

Applications will be rejected if this information is incorrect.

Office held (delete as appropriate) Director/Secretary

You do not have to give any contact information in the box opposite but if you do, it will help the Registrar of Companies to contact you if there is a query on the form. The contact information that you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

	Tel
DX Number	DX Exchange

When you have completed and signed the form, please attach it to the accounts and send both forms by post to the Registrar of Companies at:

For companies registered in England and Wales: Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ
DX 33050 Cardiff

For companies registered in Scotland: Companies House, 4th Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139
Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9FF DX 235 Edinburgh or LP – 4 Edinburgh 2

For companies registered in Northern Ireland: Companies House, 2nd Floor, The Linenhall, 32-38
Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BG

(N.B. Please enclose a cheque for £15 payable to Companies House)