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FESTIVAL

# **SQIFF (Scottish Queer International Film Festival)**

## **Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts**

Period From 26th August 2024 to 31st March 2025

Scottish Charity Number: SC053597

SQIFF  
Centre for Contemporary Arts  
350 Auchiehall St  
Glasgow  
G2 3JD

[www.SQIFF.org](http://www.SQIFF.org)





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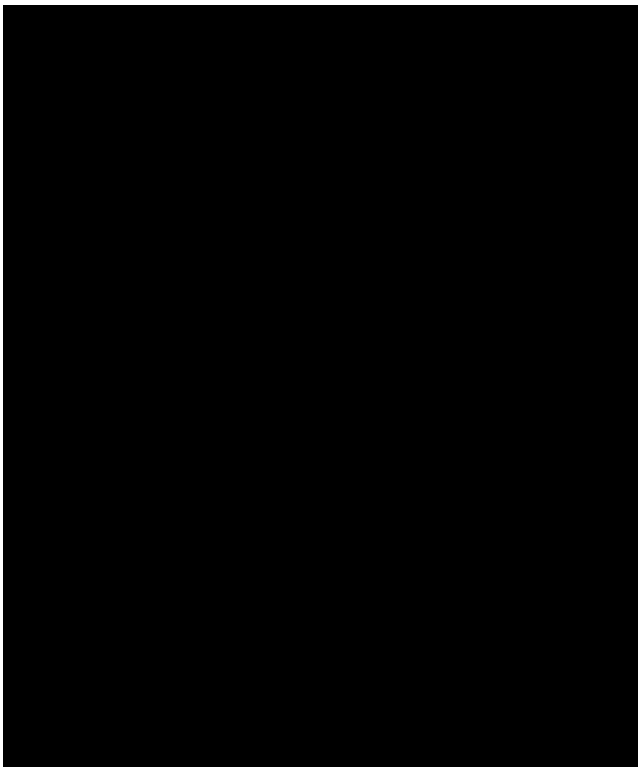
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## **A - Charity Trustees**



## **B - Objectives and activities**

SQIFF's charitable purposes are a) the advancement of citizenship or community development b) the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science, c) the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving conditions of life for the persons who the facilities or activities are primarily intended d) the promotion of equality and diversity



## **C - Structure, governance and management**

SQIFF is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 26th August 2025. Another entity organised as a private company limited by guarantee (SC530512) uses the SQIFF name and previously operated the Scottish Queer International Film Festival.

The assets of the company will be transferred to the SCIO upon the winding up of the company. SQIFF has a single-tier structure, and as such, the trustees are the members of the charity.

### **Trustee recruitment and appointment**

The board of trustees typically meets quarterly at a formal board meeting, these meetings are facilitated by the Chair. SQIFF appoints Officer Bearers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) to ensure good governance at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is held in August. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of eight trustees.

## **D - Achievements and performance**

The period from 26 August 2024 to 31 March 2025 marked a significant chapter in the development of the Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF). Transitioning the operations of the festival to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) opens up new opportunities for delivering year-round inclusive, accessible, and community-driven cultural programming for Scotland's LGBTQIA+ communities.

The achievements outlined below were delivered by the company, which previously received funding to carry out this work. As that funding period has now ended, the newly established charity will continue these activities, with funding now being received directly by and operations performed by the SCIO from the 2025/26 tax year onwards.

Our most visible achievement during this period was the successful delivery of the ninth edition of the Scottish Queer International Film Festival, held in Glasgow from 8 to 12 October 2024. The festival brought together an expansive programme of queer cinema, showcasing feature films, short films, and community events at the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) and the Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT). The 2024 programme included standout works such as *Lesvia*, a lyrical exploration of lesbian



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identity, and the Scottish premiere of *Bye Bye Love* (1974), a rediscovered and previously censored piece of queer cinema history. Alongside these, we curated fifteen short film programmes exploring a wide range of themes, including queer love, resistance through music, speculative futures, neurodiversity, and drag under censorship. We were especially proud to collaborate with the Oska Bright Film Festival on our *Wild Women* strand, which showcased work by women and non-binary filmmakers with learning disabilities and/or autism.

In addition to our core screenings, we expanded our public engagement through workshops, panel discussions, and social events designed to foster connection and dialogue within Scotland's queer and trans communities. These included accessible filmmakers' networking events, a queer craft fair with local artists, and a closing party featuring QTIPOC+ performers with BSL interpretation. Our commitment to accessibility remained central throughout, with all events offered on a sliding-scale, pay-what-you-can basis with a free option, and supported by measures including descriptive subtitles, audio description, BSL-English interpretation, live captioning, wheelchair-accessible venues, quiet spaces, and travel and access funds for attendees, which were mainly used for travel and childcare costs.

Our accessibility efforts continued to receive external recognition during this reporting period. We were highlighted by publications such as DIVA, Disability Arts Online, and the Independent Cinema Office as a leader in inclusive practice within the UK film exhibition sector. This recognition reflects not only our commitment to making queer cinema available to all but also the dedication of our staff and volunteers in delivering an environment of care, dignity, and participation.

In addition to our festival and public programming, we continued to support queer creative development through our SQIFF Filmmaking Workshops for trans and non-binary people as well as QTIPOC+ and Queer Filmmakers Group, both of which ran throughout the 2024/25 tax year and continue into the next tax-year. These initiatives provided structured, accessible opportunities for LGBTQIA+ individuals, particularly those who are underrepresented in the film industry, to gain skills, develop projects, and build networks in a supportive environment. The workshops covered a range of practical and creative topics, from story development and directing to sound design and post-production, and were designed to be welcoming to participants at all experience levels. The films created will premiere at SQIFF 2025 later this year. The Queer Filmmakers Group met regularly to share works-in-progress, offer peer feedback, and foster a sense of community among queer film creatives in Scotland. As part of this work, we also launched a dedicated Discord server, which now hosts over 130 LGBTQIA+ film workers across Scotland, providing an ongoing digital space for connection, collaboration, and mutual support.



Both strands played a vital role in nurturing emerging talent and strengthening the grassroots infrastructure for queer filmmaking locally.

Alongside programming, we focused on strengthening our organisational frameworks to ensure our values are reflected across all areas of our operations. We reviewed and publicly published key policies, including our Environmental and Sustainability Policy, which outlines our commitment to reducing emissions and minimising environmental impact across our activities. Our policies demonstrate our proactive approach to governance, transparency, and ethical responsibility.

This first period as an SCIO has been one of consolidation and renewed purpose. We have continued to centre marginalised voices, challenge access barriers in the arts, and offer joyful, affirming spaces for queer storytelling and community-building. As we look ahead to the next year of activity, we remain committed to developing our year-round programme, nurturing new partnerships, and preparing for our landmark tenth festival edition in 2025.

## **E - Financial review**

During the tax year of 2024-25, SQIFF did not receive any income or incur any expenses. As explained above, the charity was previously run as a company limited by guarantee (SC530512) before taking the step to transition to the charitable legal status as an SCIO. The funding for the programming and activities described above was awarded to the company trading under the same name. The assets of the company will be transferred to the SCIO upon the winding up of the company.

In March 2025 the board of trustees also introduced a Delegated Authorities Limit as a financial control to ensure the good governance of the charity. This policy outlines the authority limit of SQIFFs Employees and Board Members. This will help the charity function effectively while minimizing risks and ensuring that decisions are made in the best interests of the charity and its stakeholders.

### **Statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

SQIFF commits to working towards retaining a Reserves amount of £5000, equal to the organisation's running costs for 1 month. This figure is subject to change in relation to cost of labour, resources and activity.



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SQIFF did not receive any income or incur any expenses during the 2024-25 tax year. Thus, the charity had no deficit for this tax year.

During this reporting period, SQIFF did not donate any facilities or services.

## **F - Future plans**

Looking ahead to the landmark 10th edition of SQIFF, scheduled to take place in Glasgow from 27 October to 1 November 2025, our team is actively shaping a bold and inclusive celebration of queer cinema. We warmly invite audiences and supporters to follow our progress through our website and social media channels, where you can find the full programme available for the festival.

Having received a strong response to our call for submissions, we're delighted to report a significant rise in Scottish-made queer films, 12.7% of submissions now originate from Scotland, compared to just 7.5% in 2024, 8.7% in 2023, and 5% in 2021, highlighting the impact of our ongoing year-round initiatives, including filmmaking workshops for QTIPOC+, trans and non-binary artists, refugees and asylum seekers, our Filmmakers' Group, and our Pitch Fund.

We're also committed to deepening community-building efforts via our Discord space for queer filmmakers in Scotland, offering connection, peer feedback, equipment sharing, and collaborative possibilities.

Behind the scenes, as we enter our second year of operating as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), efforts continue to expand our year-round capacity and secure sustainable funding streams. This includes the growth of our Patreon and PayPal donation streams, which are critical in supporting our programming and ensuring long-term resilience.

Our decade milestone is not just about celebrating past achievements; it renews the organisation's vision to deepen accessibility, foster queer storytelling, nurture local filmmaking talent, and affirm our role as a welcoming, community-rooted cultural platform for people across Scotland and beyond.

## **G - Additional information**

N/A



**Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31st  
March 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Ended 31/03/2025
<b>Receipts</b>			
Donations			£0
Grants			£0
<b>Total Receipts</b>			£0

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Ended 31/03/20 25
<b>Payments</b>			
Cost of charitable activities			£0
Governance Costs			£0
<b>Total Payments</b>			£0
<b>Surplus for the year</b>			£0



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## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



**SQIFF**  
**A Scottish Charity**

**Trustees Reports and Financial Statements**  
**for the period 26th August 2024 to 31st March 2025**

**SQIFF**  
**An Incorporated Scottish Charity**

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**SQIFF**

**Legal and administrative information**

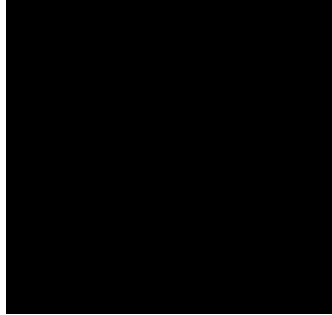
**Charity number**

SC053597

**Charity Address**

Centre for Contemporary Arts  
350 Sauchiehall Street  
Glasgow G2 3JD

**Trustees**



**Accountant**



**SQIFF  
SC053597**

**Trustees Report  
for the period ended 31st March 2025**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2025

**Objects and aims of the Charity**

*Objects*

a) the advancement of citizenship or community development b) the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science c) the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended d) the promotion of equality and diversity.

*Aims*

The advancement of education, the advancement of citizenship or community development, the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture of science.

**Report of the Trustees**  
**for the period ending 31st March 2025**

**Financial Review**

The charity was inactive in the period and no financial transactions took place.

**Risk Policy**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust, and are satisfied that systems are place to mitigate any exposure to these risks.

**Reserves Policy**

The reserves are maintained and distributed in line with the charity's objectives and also the Constitution. The policy of the Charity is to aim to retain sufficient reserves to meet the cost of any regular commitments, as well as a contingency to enable it to continue to develop further projects.

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**(An unincorporated Scottish Charity)**

**SC053597**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustee of SQIFF**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31st March 2025

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and 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.

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 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 statement**

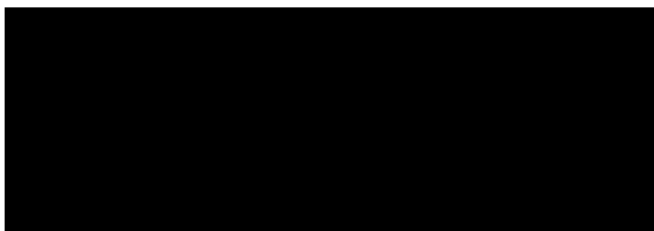
My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures 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 to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met.

2. which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Date**

**12th June 2025**

**SQIFF****(An unincorporated Scottish Charity)****SC053597****Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)****For the year ended 31st March 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Incoming Resources from generating funds:				
Donations including membership fees		-	-	-
Grants	2	-	-	-
Receipts from fundraising activities		-	-	-
Activities for generating funds	3	-	-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	4	-	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Expenses for fundraising activities				
		-	-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities				
		-	-	-
Governance costs:				
Independent Examination		-	-	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year</b>		-	-	-
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		-	-	-
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The notes on page 8 form an integral part of these financial statements

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**(An Incorporated Scottish Charity)**

**SC053597**

**Statement of Balances**  
**as at 31st March 2025**

<b>Cash Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>		<b>2025 Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash and bank balances at start of year	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	-	-	-
Cash and bank balances at end of year	-	-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade Creditors	-	-	-

**Signed by and on behalf of the Trustees**

**Signature**

**Print Name**

**Date of  
approval**



**SQIFF**  
**(An Incorporated Scottish Charity)**

**SC053597**

**Notes to financial statements**  
**for the period ended 31st March 2025**

**C1 Nature and purpose of funds**

£

Donations and membership fees

**C2 Grants**

No grants were received in the period

**C3 Trustee Remuneration**

No remuneration was paid to the Trustees or to any person connected to the Trustees

**C4 Trustee Expenses**

No expenses were paid to any Trustee in the period