



SQIFF (Scottish Queer International Film Festival)

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Period From 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Scottish Charity Number: SC053597

SQIFF
Clyde Offices
2nd Floor
48 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 1BP

www.SQIFF.org

info@sqiff.org



Contents

A - Chair's Introduction

B - Charity trustees

C - Objectives and activities

D - Structure, governance and management

E - Achievements and performance

F - Financial review

G - Future plans

H - Additional information

A - Chair's Introduction

It's a pleasure to introduce this year's report, marking an important milestone for SQIFF: our first full year as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), and our festival's 10th anniversary.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, staff, and freelancers, whose hard work and commitment continue to be the heart of everything we do. Thank you!

As we look ahead, we do so with real confidence. Ten years of growth and learning have given us a strong foundation, and becoming a SCIO strengthens our ability to serve our community for many years to come.

Emma Prach
Chair, SQIFF

B - Charity Trustees

- Emma Prach (Chair)
 - Appointed 26th August 2024
- Heath Virgoe
 - Appointed 26th August 2024
- Gina Gwenffrewi
 - Appointed 26th August 2024
- Sandra Leeming
 - Appointed 26th August 2024
- Xuanlin Tham
 - Appointed 26th August 2024



- Talitha Piggott (Co-Secretary)
 - Appointed 26th August 2024
- Khaleel Andrew Johnson
 - Appointed 26th August 2024
- Coleman Anthony Tharpe (Treasurer)
 - Appointed 26th August 2024
- Kevin McGowan (Co-Secretary)
 - Appointed 26th August 2024

C - 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

D - 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.

E - Achievements and performance

The period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 marked a significant chapter in the development of the Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF). This is the first year we received funding as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

SQIFF

(SCIO) to deliver our projects. Being a SCIO opens up new opportunities for delivering year-round inclusive, accessible, and community-driven cultural programming for Scotland's LGBTQIA+ communities.

Our most visible achievement during this period was the successful delivery of the tenth edition of the Scottish Queer International Film Festival, held in Glasgow from 27 October to 1 November 2025. The festival brought together an expansive programme of queer cinema, showcasing feature films, short films, and community events at the Social Hub, GMAC Film, Listen Gallery, Boardwalk Theatre and The Art School. The festival programme featured 96 films in total, across 26 events. We were supported by the Brazilian Embassy to deliver a dedicated screening of Brazilian queer short films, marking a new collaboration with Mostra Luminosa. As part of this partnership, the Best Brazilian Short from Mostra Luminosa was screened at SQIFF. We also delivered two screenings in partnership with Queer East, one screening with Take One Action Film Festival, and one with Oska Bright Film Festival, alongside 14 screenings curated by our main curators, Nat Lall and Huss. All events were accompanied by complementary activities, including music performances, workshops, panel discussions, presentations, and community-led elements such as chai tea served by local aunties. We had incredible feedback on having activities outside screenings where people can meet each other, talk about the events they've been to, and to build community.

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 QTPOC+ performers. 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.

This year, we also worked with a PR Consultant alongside our PR and Marketing Coordinator, as well as engaging a Branding Consultant for the first time. These collaborations were highly successful, resulting in stronger, more consistent branding, increased press coverage, and an improved national profile for SQIFF. Branding assets developed through this process will be used across our year-round activity to ensure continuity and recognition.

Our accessibility efforts continued to receive external recognition during this reporting period. We achieved strong coverage from queer writers and a mix of small and large publications, radio, and television. We built on established relationships

SQIFF

with outlets such as The Skinny, SNACK, and Jack Arts Scotland, while also engaging new media partners. The PR campaign generated 47 pieces of online and print coverage, with an estimated reach of 37.4 million views (based on Similarweb statistics), including notable visibility through Dua Lipa's Service95 social media channels. 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.

While our SQIFF Filmmaking Workshops and Queer Filmmakers Group did not run during this reporting period, a key achievement this year was securing funding to bring both initiatives back in a significantly expanded form. This investment will support a structured filmmaking course for 30 queer filmmakers, working in groups of three to produce 10 short films over ten weeks, alongside the relaunch of our Queer Filmmakers Group with regular monthly sessions. Both programmes begin in the 2026/27 tax year, from 1 April 2026, and are detailed further in our Future Plans below. As part of this work, we also continued to maintain our dedicated Discord server, which now hosts over 170 LGBTQIA+ film workers across Scotland, providing an ongoing digital space for connection, collaboration, and mutual support.

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, which demonstrate our proactive approach to governance, transparency, and ethical responsibility.

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 eleventh festival edition in 2026.

F - Financial review

During the tax year of 2025–26, SQIFF received income of £115,352 as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), including funding secured to deliver our expanded Filmmaking Workshops and the relaunch of our Queer Filmmakers Group, both of which begin delivery in the 2026/27 tax year from 1 April 2026. The charity incurred expenses of £98,075 during the period, relating to the running costs of the projects and the charity.

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 limits for SQIFF's employees and board members, helping the charity function effectively while minimising risk and ensuring decisions are made in the best interests of the charity and its stakeholders.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We principally hold reserves to:

1. protect the continuity of SQIFF's work against uncertain future income streams
2. provide the capital needed to finance investment in operations
3. provide funds to replace assets
4. to cover for specific liabilities and identifiable risks
5. to allow SQIFF to respond to unexpected opportunities that can further mission
6. to allow SQIFF to meet contractual obligations.

The trustees have set optimal free reserves at approximately three (3) months unrestricted expenditure. This figure is subject to change in relation to cost of labour, resources and activity. As at 23 July 2026, the level of Free Reserves (defined as total general unrestricted funds, less tangible assets and long-term commitments) stands below the optimal reserves figure.

Restricted reserves relate to income to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by funders and therefore do not form part of general reserves.

G - Future plans

Looking ahead to the landmark 11th edition of SQIFF, scheduled to take place in Glasgow from 19th - 24th October 2026, 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.

We're delighted to be launching two major creative development initiatives in the year ahead, both made possible by funding secured during 2025/26. Our expanded Filmmaking Workshops will support 30 queer filmmakers to create 10 short films in collaborative groups of three, over a structured ten-week course. Alongside this, our Queer Filmmakers Group will relaunch with monthly sessions, giving queer film creatives across Scotland a regular space to share work-in-progress, receive peer feedback, and build community. Both projects begin in the next tax year starting on 1st April 2026.

SQIFF

We're 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 third 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.

H - Additional information

N/A

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Prach', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Print name: Emma Prach

Role: Chair of Board of Trustees

Date: 24/07/2026

Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF)
Scottish Charity - SC053597

Trustees Reports and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF)
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Contents	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' report	2-4
Independent examiner's report	5
Receipts and Payments Statement	6
Statement of Balances	7
Notes to the financial statements	8

Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF)

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	SC053597
Charity Address	Clyde Offices 2nd Floor 48 West George Street Glasgow G2 1BP
Trustees	Xuanlin Tham Heath Virgoe Khaleel Andrew Johnson Kevin McGowan Sandra Leeming Gina Gwenffrewi Talitha Piggott Emma Prach (Chair) Coleman Anthony Tharpe

Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF)
SCO53597

Trustees Report
for the year ended 31st March 2026

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2026

Objects and aims of the Charity

Objects

The organisation'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 the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended d) the promotion of equality and diversity

Aims

SQIFF (Scottish Queer International Film Festival) is a charity formed with the aim of showcasing diverse queer cinema and uplifting creative voices from the LGBTQIA+ community in Scotland and beyond. The organisation runs an annual film festival in Glasgow, pop-up and year-round events, and community-focused programmes across Scotland.

Community is at the heart of SQIFF. We believe that cinema is for everyone, and SQIFF has been a champion in creating an accessible festival environment. We were one of the first festivals to adopt a pay-what-you-can (sliding scale) pricing model for our events, a practice that has since been embraced by many other festivals and institutions across the nation. As a leading advocate for accessibility, we implement various measures including large-print text, live captioning, BSL-English interpretation, descriptive subtitles, audio description to ensure that all audience members can participate in SQIFF, regardless of their needs. Our goal is to challenge inequalities and remove barriers to accessing arts and culture. We aim to support the sector to be better equipped with knowledge about accessibility to serve a wider audience.

SQIFF has been collaborating with partners across the UK to initiate programmes and projects that empower emerging filmmakers and amplify grassroots voices. Our initiatives include Filmmaking Workshops, Queer Filmmakers Group, and SQIFF Queer Talent Directory, among others. Beyond film exhibition, we aim to support marginalised groups within the LGBTQIA+ community by providing a networking system for queer filmmakers to further develop their skills and inspire those who want to share their stories through moving images. We currently run a Discord server with over 130 members who work in the film industry in Scotland.

SQIFF is a BAFTA and BIFA-qualifying festival, enabling accepted UK filmmakers to apply for the BAFTAs and the BIFAs respectively. As a BAFTA-qualifying festival, British short films screened at our event may be eligible to enter the British Short Film and British Short Animation categories at the annual EE BAFTA Film Awards. And as a BIFA-qualifying festival, British short films screened at our event may be eligible to enter the British Short Film category at the annual BIFAs. Our team will notify the filmmakers who qualify to submit.

Review of Activities & Finances

The period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 marked a significant chapter in the development of the Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF). This is the first year we received funding as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to deliver our projects. Being a SCIO opens up new opportunities for delivering year-round inclusive, accessible, and community-driven cultural programming for Scotland's LGBTQIA+ communities.

Our most visible achievement during this period was the successful delivery of the tenth edition of the Scottish Queer International Film Festival, held in Glasgow from 27 October to 1 November 2025. The festival brought together an expansive programme of queer cinema, showcasing feature films, short films, and community events at the Social Hub, GMAC Film, Listen Gallery, Boardwalk Theatre and The Art School. The festival programme featured 96 films in total, across 26 events. We were supported by the Brazilian Embassy to deliver a dedicated screening of Brazilian queer short films, marking a new collaboration with Mostra Luminosa. As part of this partnership, the Best Brazilian Short from Mostra Luminosa was screened at SQIFF. We also delivered two screenings in partnership with Queer East, one screening with Take One Action Film Festival, and one with Oska Bright Film Festival, alongside 14 screenings curated by our main curators, Nat Lall and Huss. All events were accompanied by complementary activities, including music performances, workshops, panel discussions, presentations, and community-led elements such as chai tea served by local aunties. We had incredible feedback on having activities outside screenings where people can meet each other, talk about the events they've been to, and to build community.

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 in 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.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustee of Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026

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.

Signed:



Name: Ian Reid

Address: Ardluing, Kilmun, Argyll PA23 8RY

23rd July 2026

Scottish Queer International Film Festival (SQIFF)
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

SC053597

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31st March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 total £	2025
Incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from generating funds:					
Donations		2,399	-	2,399	-
Grants	2	-	91,000	91,000	-
Receipts from fundraising activities		21,953	-	21,953	-
Activities for generating funds	3	-	-	-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	4	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		24,352	91,000	115,352	0
Resources Expended					
Expenses for fundraising activities					
Payments relating directly to charitable activities		7,500	90,575	98,075	-
Governance costs:		-	-	-	-
Other costs		-	-	-	-
Total resources expended		7,500	90,575	98,075	0
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year		16,852	425	17,277	-
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		16,852	425	17,277	0

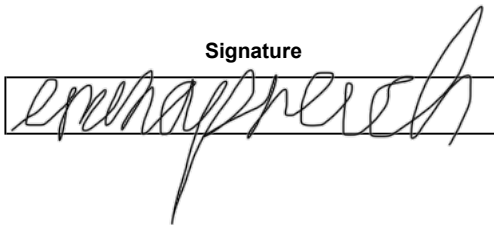
The notes on page 8 form an integral part of these financial statements

Statement of Balances
as at 31st March 2026

Cash Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2026	2025
	£	£	£	
Cash and bank balances at start of year	-	-	0	-
Surplus/(deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	16,852	425	17,277	-
Cash and bank balances at end of year	16,852	425	17,277	0

Liabilities				
Deferred Income	-	12,750	12,750	

Signed by and on behalf of the Trustees

Signature


Print Name	Date of approval
Emma Prach	23/07/2026

**Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31st March 2026**

C1 Nature and purpose of funds

£

Donations and membership fees

C2 Grants

Film Hub Scotland	6,000	
BFI - Audience Fund	36,000	
Screen Scotland Festival Fund	47,000	
Brazilian Consulate	2,000	
		91,000

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