



Annual Report



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Afrika Burns Creative Projects is an established cultural platform that harnesses the collective power of community, through which everyone is invited to co-create positive change.



AfrikaBurn projects and activities foster the top skills of tomorrow* from the ground up

- analytical thinking and innovation
- active learning and learning strategies
- complex problem solving
- critical thinking and analysis
- creativity, originality and initiative
- leadership and social influence

and weaves a strong participatory network in South Africa and internationally.

A collectivist organisation and member of the Burning Man Regional Network, Afrika Burns Creative Projects is the strategic driver of an internationally shared and distributed ethos, in South Africa and the African continent.

**Top skills for 2025, Future of Jobs Survey 2020, World Economic Forum*



Swarm Theory 3.0 by Well Worn Theatre Company
Image: Alastair McLachlan



Vision, Mission, Values

We en**VISION** a world anew where everyone has the space to dream, create, and act in pursuit of purpose and play in community.

We are on a **MISSION** to make, share and support spaces and relationships that unlock personal growth, transformation, and community diversity. We enable inspired acts that make our guiding principles tangible.

Our core **VALUES**:

- **Abundance:** This philosophy underpins our movement. Welcoming our gifts empowers participation and celebrates diversity.
- **Active Cohesion:** Individually, we have the agency and responsibility to participate. Together, we align in action through volunteerism, open communication, transparency, accountability, and collaboration.
- **Transformational Experimentation:** Our efforts create space for our community to invent the world anew. We approach goals and challenges creatively without fear of failure.



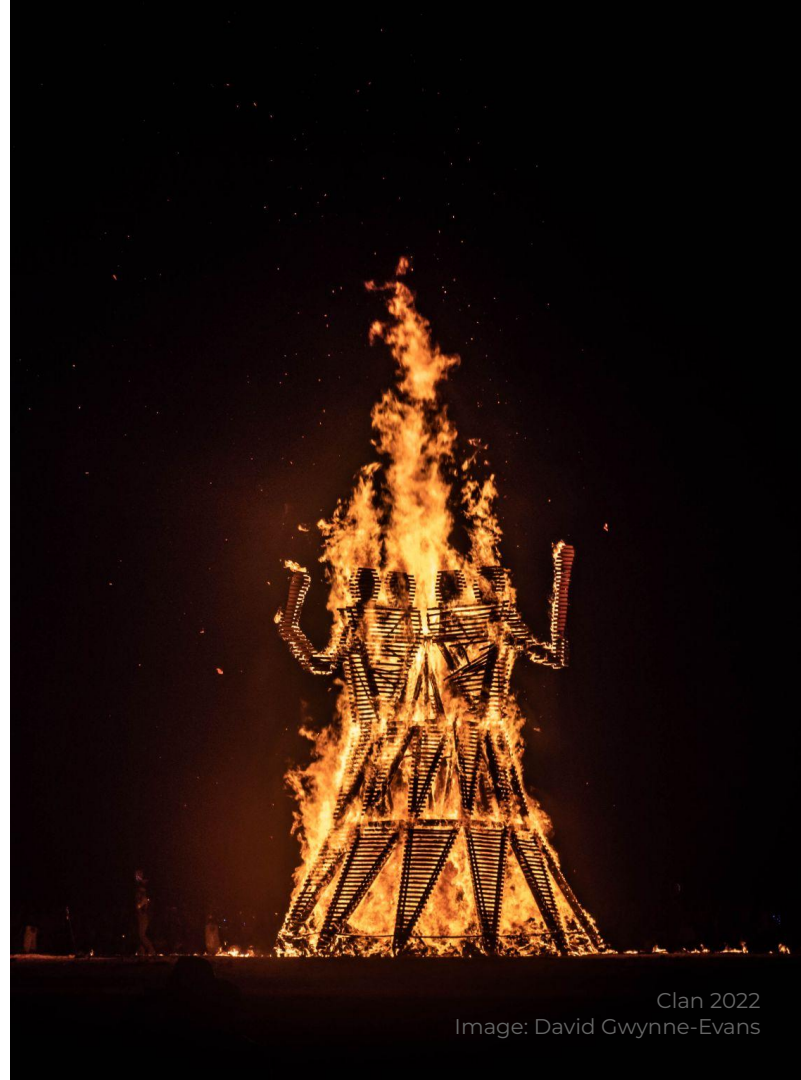
Image: Patrick Barylla



We Exist:

To advance a culture of creativity: upholding and promoting freedom and diversity of expression, inclusive community building and volunteerism with the aim of fostering positive social change, which:

- **Creates a blank canvas** to actualise and promote a wide spectrum of arts and culture in South Africa at and through the annual AfrikaBurn and other events;
- **Implements** developmental, creative social outreach projects that uplift and include the marginalised and underprivileged;
- **Innovates and collaborates** with local and international partners to foster cultural, skills and knowledge exchange in the AfrikaBurn community, the Burning Man Regional Network and beyond; and
- **Implements and supports** projects which enrich education, provide bursary support, preserve and regenerate the planet and protect non-human life from abuse and degradation.



Guiding Principles

- COMMUNAL EFFORT
- CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY
- DECOMMODIFICATION
- PARTICIPATION
- IMMEDIACY
- GIFTING
- LEAVING NO TRACE
- RADICAL SELF-RELIANCE
- RADICAL SELF- EXPRESSION
- RADICAL INCLUSION
- EACH ONE TEACH ONE



Image: Jessica Devnani





Image: Alastair McLachlan



Journey Log

**We stood at the threshold of the gifted land,
long dreamed ...**

when the storm hit.

**A scouring,
tectonic upheaval**

Shaking all, sparing none.

**The skeleton crew, brave and few
faced that wind.**

Us... but more so, you.

**All eyes cast down, held fast,
to the immediate and imminent.**

Facing the faceless, steely-eyed.

**And through this changed terrain,
We picked our way.**

Fires were lit, circles gathered,
Themselves sparks of a tenacious flame.

**Now the dusty crew
dare to look up**

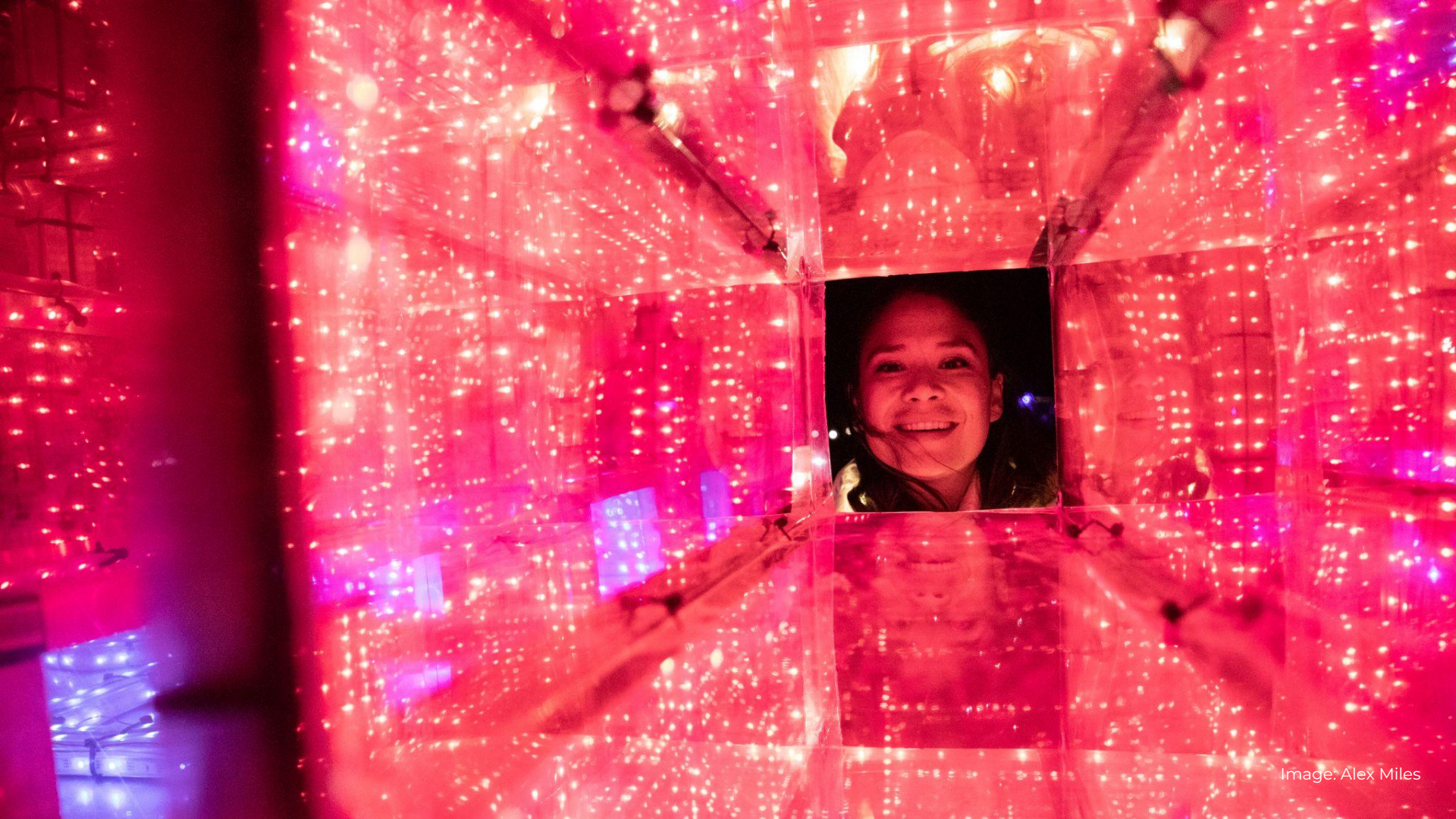
To the clearing sky.
Horizon!

**Around us,
the land long sought, hard fought -**

The land of what might be.

**Here we find each other,
Around the fire
dancing!**







Images: Angela Mac Pherson

Re(dis)covery

It was a year of navigating a world anew. At Quaggafontein **Resilience In Shared Endeavour (RISE)** gathered forty women and gender non-binary folk, who engaged in the moment, with the soil and air, in the silence of the Tankwa.

A co-created programme, **RISE centred the self-expression of diverse, yet shared gendered experiences** of navigating South African society. The participants formed an active network of solidarity.



RISE RESILIENCE IN
SHARED ENDEAVOUR





Images: Shannon Smith

The second edition of **EcoTrip** furthered permaculture and food gardening work and play at the homestead on Quaggafontein.

An eager team of 78 participants and crew planted locally sourced Tankwa succulents to re-establish ground cover, dug pondings to catch rainwater run off and continued the composting, trenching and upgrades in the food garden.



A BLANK CANVAS





Hammerschool adapted the Department of Public Works desert experience as an **urban programme** based in the Junction Hotel. Initially angled towards youth, it was adopted by the lost generation of marginalised women, keen to develop themselves by learning practical skills.

Taking design thinking through to electrics, carpentry, metalwork and public art, the series of introductory workshops was a roaring success involving 40 women from across Cape Town.





Image: Nicolette van der Merwe

Despite the significant financial setbacks from the pandemic, **Outreach** continued to cover the school and hostel fees for the 5 learners from the Tankwa who attend Calvinia High School, and Collexodus - donations of food collected from participants on exit at the end of the event stocked the Elandsvlei NGK Skool pantry for the year once again.

Joining hands with others, the **Organisation's** advocacy work took a legal stand against maladministration of public funds, resulting in win across the sector.

Our local **partnerships** with educational institutions continued to expand - giving young South Africans opportunities to learn and excel in the creative industries.





AfrikaBurn 2022

We proceeded with cautious optimism building Tankwa Town in 2022, the inaugural **AfrikaBurn** event on Quaggafontein.

The first on-site operations meeting was an emotional homecoming and the camaraderie was palpable as **our community, and our grit and grace carried us through.**

We checked in a total of 6065 participants from a distribution of 6808 tickets that were purchased across a staggering 93 territories. We interacted with 54 theme camps, 62 artworks and performances, 18 Binnekring events and 76 mutant vehicles.

Our volunteers were upstanding, outstanding and, amazingly, still standing as the Temple burned on the last night with **crisp, quiet perfection.**



AfrikaBurn Directors:

Lorraine Tanner

Lungile Zakwe

Malilimalo Phaswana

Nic Raubenheimer

Ralph Borland

Rianna Postma

Roger van Wyk

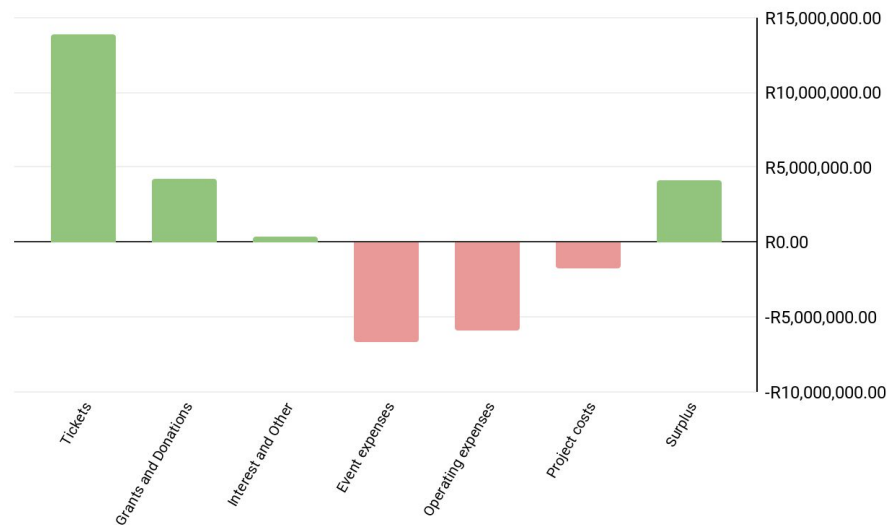


The Other Thing
Image: Jessica Devnani

Income Statement

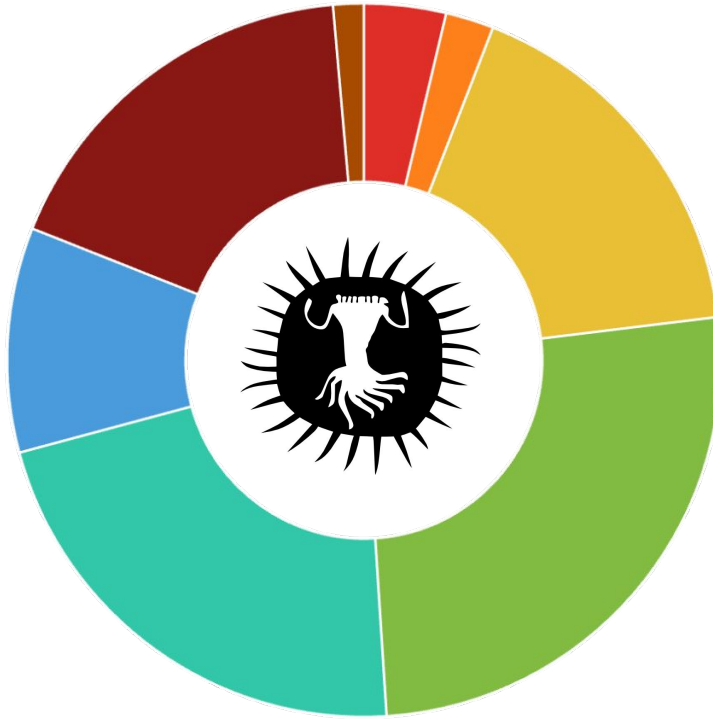
[Click to view detailed AFS](#)

INCOME	(R)
Tickets	13 901 000
Grants and Donations	4 220 000
Interest and Other	395 000
EXPENDITURE	(R)
Event expenses	6 732 000
Operating expenses	5 888 000
Project costs	1 765 000
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	4 131 000
DEFICIT IN PREVIOUS YEAR	(1 993 304)



As a registered Non Profit Company and Public Benefit Organisation all surpluses are retained within Afrika Burns Creative Projects to continue the work of the organisation.



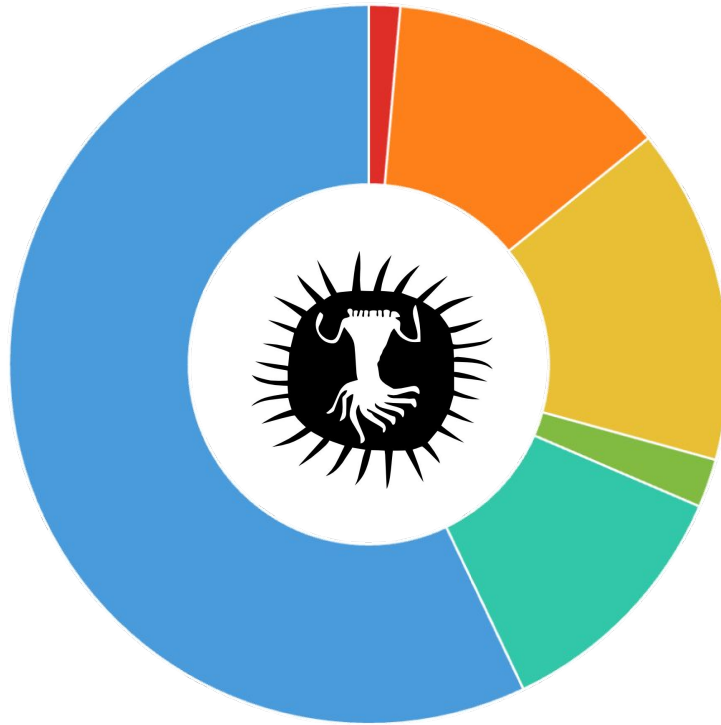


- Communications
- Voluntary Community Services
- Safety and Security
- Operations and Logistics
- DPW
- Kitchen
- Medical and insurance
- Arteria, Mutant Vehicles, Theme Camps

Communications	R261,686.00
Voluntary Community Services	R153,892.00
Safety and Security	R1,209,813.00
Operations and Logistics	R1,825,984.00
DPW	R1,539,163.00
Kitchen	R717,977.00
Medical and insurance	R1,240,275.00
Arteria, Mutant Vehicles, Theme Camps	R97,552.00

Event Expenses 2022

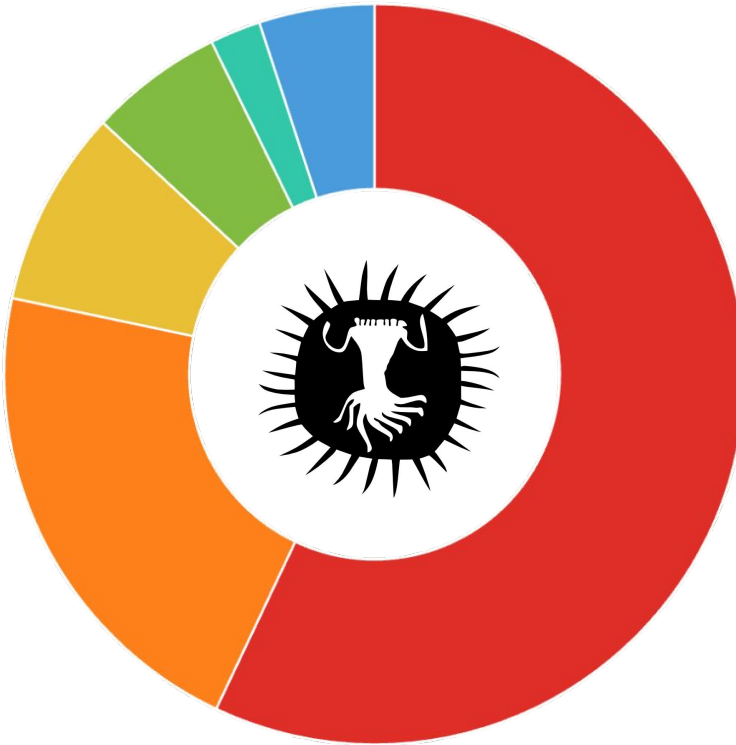




- Governance
- Finance
- Depreciation
- Communications
- Overheads
- People

Governance	R82,096.00
Finance	R745,952.00
Depreciation	R883,307.00
Communications	R127,530.00
Overheads	R670,393.00
People	R3,335,944.00

Operating Expenses 2022



- Event Grants
- Quaggafontein Regeneration
- RISE
- Quagga Creative Projects
- Hammerschool
- Outreach

Event Grants	R820,579.00
Quaggafontein Regeneration	R305,974.00
RISE	R123,675.00
Quagga Creative Projects	R84,205.00
Hammer School	R31,879.00
Outreach	R72,500.00

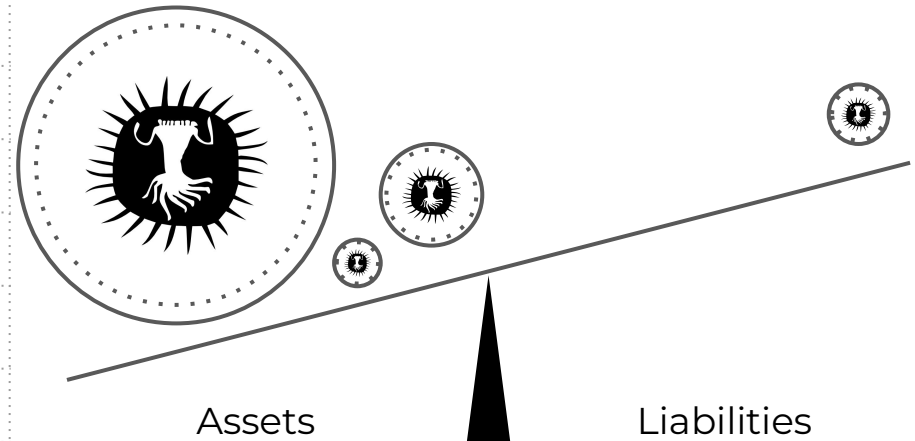


Project Costs 2022

Balance Sheet

[Click to view detailed AFS](#)

ASSETS	(R)
Fixed Assets	1 018 000
Bank	8 585 000
Debtors	132 000
LIABILITIES	(R)
Creditors	197 000
EQUITY	9 540 000



As a year round endeavour, retained income covers ongoing operating costs into the new event cycle.



A HUGE “thank you” to our Donors

Andreas Betz
Ann-Sophie Claus
Antony Cooper
Axel Goedecke
Charles Mayer
Charlotte Angst
Dayna Kozlowski
Dee Hutchison
Dirk Fourie
Douglas Wood
Egor Gotovets
Eugene Pienaar
Planet Theia
Gary Regan
Gillian Viljoen
Ingrid Olmesdahl
Ivo Tempelman
Heleen Wachters
Jessica Du Toit

Kady van der Walt
Laura Cuenca Serrano
Mapula Trust
Marja Baas
Mark Tanton
Mitun Patel
Morpheus
National Arts Council
National Lotteries Commission
Pieter van Wijk
Randy Groover
Rob Nolten
Rowena Smuts
Sophia Deininger
Star of Peace Quinn
Stephan Koster
Sven Thomas
Tim Fearnhead
Western Cape Government
10 x anonymous donations



“It Was Better Next Year”

2023 Strategy:

“A Successful Event”


Popping out the other side of event #14 with a sense of achievement, proving to ourselves that we still could, was hard won. A pared down operational strategy was devised for 2023, with a singular focus to actualize “A SUCCESSFUL EVENT” so that the organisation can plan for a broader impact.

There are of course interpretations of success ...



Image: Stephen Elliott



A large, intense bonfire burns brightly at night, casting a warm orange glow. A crowd of people is gathered in the foreground, their silhouettes visible against the dark ground. The fire is the central focus, with a massive plume of smoke and sparks rising into the dark sky. The scene is set in an open field, and the overall atmosphere is one of communal celebration and warmth.

“Edgy. If we feel too safe it means
we’re not pushing it as far as we could.”

Isa Marques, Art and Performance

“Less fear of failure, more
confidence and celebration ... the
springboard from which we can leap”
Brian Palmer, Communications.

“Cohesion born out of chaos supports
the team to work well together and
builds capacity to do more”
Kristy Derbyshire, Operations

There's More Work To Be Done

A gift that keeps on giving

The fragility of dependency on an (almost) single source of income for our operations and activities, hit home during COVID-19, when **lockdown put our events and activities on hiatus** and forced us to adapt to survive.

Moving towards financial recovery, diversifying revenue and leveraging opportunity is mission critical for our future.

In this cycle we:

- changed the ticketing structure, enabling bona fide donations built on top of the event ticket price
- expanded our public benefit activities, offering South Africans the opportunity to receive Section 18A tax deductions for their contribution to the bigger picture
- secured a fiscal sponsor in the USA to offer tax relief to American donors who support our activities

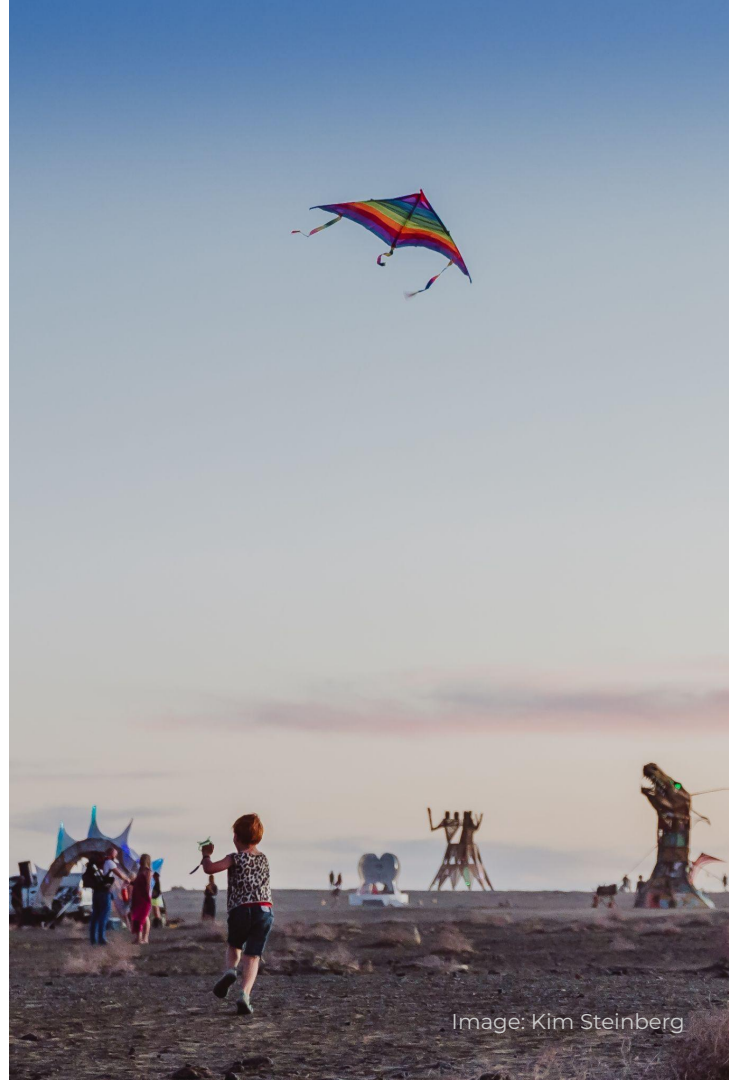


Image: Kim Steinberg



Radical Inclusion is transformation

Participation at AfrikaBurn event shows up as the “**photo negative**” of South African society, mirroring who has agency in our country.

We need to confront the complexities of historic and current systemic injustice

and acknowledge that economic disparity is only one of the negative impacts. We have instituted long term developments to remove barriers to participation:

- Anathi programme overcoming economic barriers to participation in the annual event
- New programming that offers different avenues into the AfrikaBurn community
- Internships through partnership with local educational institutions

The labour of transformation is ours to do as an organisation and a community – we need to radically address the diversity of our decision making circles - so that our shared experiences will progressively erode constructed divisions of race, gender and class.



Image: Stephen Elliott



Leaving no trace towards environmental regeneration

Actualising our first flagship event at Quaggafontein in this cycle, we grapple with the shifting sands of impermanence to permanence and the relationship between Tankwa Town, the temporary creative city, and Quaggafontein the rural base of operations and resource for an expanding and diversifying community of participants.

This requires us to:

- Learn and interpret Quaggafontein's past to give direction for its future.
- Develop and review policies and plans with inputs and guidance from a broad range of actors
- Work with diligence and purpose to make good choices for the long term



Event site 2022



Participate

There are many year-round volunteer opportunities that propel the growth and health of our creative community. We draw on a range of skills and talents.

Regular Volunteer Days are hands on sessions for making things and friends in preparation for events and activities.

Professional skills are welcomed into our creative hivemind, there are various volunteer driven committees to participate in from strategic planning to ground up operations.

The sky's the limit

<https://afrikaburn.org/>

<https://donate.afrikaburn.com/>



Image: Alastair McLachlan

WE DON'T JUST BURN THINGS, WE BUILD THINGS TOO



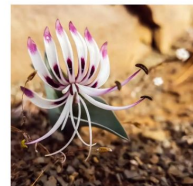
CHILDREN

Education and development for Tankwa's school age learners.



ANIMALS

Animal Welfare service provision for Tankwa's donkeys and horses.



PLANTS

Rehabilitation and protection of the Tankwa habitat.



PLANET

Sustainable development programmes on Quaggafontein.



EMPOWERMENT

Applying our methods to capacity building, self-help and skills transfer.





Invent the world anew.

Swarm Theory 3.0 by Well Worn Theatre Company
Image: Alastair McLachlan