

AFR!KABURN

AFRIKA BURNS CREATIVE PROJECTS



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Image: Reza Assar





AFRIKA BURNS CREATIVE PROJECTS - A CHANCE TO INVENT THE WORLD ANEW

AFRIKABURN PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES FOSTER A COLLABORATIVE CRITICAL SKILLS EVOLUTION

- Creative thinking
- Analytical thinking
- Technological literacy
- Curiosity and lifelong learning
- Resilience, flexibility and agility

are globally identified as the top skills for the next five years*.

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.

**Skills on the rise (p39), Future of Jobs Report 2023, World Economic Forum*



Image: Cautier Berr



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: Gautier Berr



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.



Image: Cautier Berg

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: Reza Assar





Image: Grace Coetzee



THE NOT-SO-FINAL FRONTIER

Undeniably, The Elastic Kraal-Art Burning Test represented a triumph over a perfect storm:

Global health, social and financial challenges - that fundamentally changed how we behave, interact, collaborate and communicate - were met by the organisation, with mettle.

It celebrated a shift away from a survival mindset and a return to growth:

It gave us Space.

Space, along with its own set of new challenges, demanded honest reflection on recurring challenges and a deeper contemplation of our principles.

It required building a better understanding of our community, what consensus is, where boundaries are, and what accountability looks like.

Through asking the hard questions and making the tough calls, we have gained a better understanding of who we are, where we are, who we want to be and where we want to go.

But we are not done.

Feet firmly planted in the dust, freshly restocked, sporting a tutu or two and at least one yellow rubber duck, our collective imagination presses the button, takes a breath and...

"All comms! All comms!... BRING IT!"





Image: Reza Assar



INNER SPACE

Though still as lean as ever at the beginning of this orbit around the sun, we found ourselves on firmer foundations. We did a scan of our organisational body. Our gaze turned inwards towards our structural health and development focusing on:

Integration - developing opportunities between the spheres of the organisation and understanding our remits.

Cultivation - growing the operations capacity wisely and supportively.

Regeneration - replenishing our reserves through partnerships to propel the movement forward.





Image: Jonx Pillemer

Our short term strategy was to effect a successful AfrikaBurn event and attend to the groundwork for the return of our other Creative Projects.

For us, success looked like:

- a well-resourced Operations team
- diversity and transformation
- a balance of new skills and institutional knowledge
- policy and procedure development
- accountability and embedded practice
- community driven education
- a thriving community





Online 5 184 376 people were reached on social media. With 139 700 online followers and 306 816 website users, they distilled into a temporary community of 9700 Burners in real life.



They showed up in Tankwa Town as:

Just over half being South African living in South Africa.

2% were South Africans living abroad.

6% internationals living in South Africa.

And just over 40% internationals - with participants purchasing tickets across 91 nations beyond our borders, with Zimbabwe and Kenya featuring in the top 20.

These assorted earthlings translated into a creative collective mobilising:

- 98 Mutant Vehicles
- 74 Theme Camps
- 56 Artworks
- 22 Performances
- 21 Burns

Image: Alex Miles





Outreach continued to fund the school and hostel fees for the 2 learners from the Tankwa who attend Calvinia High School.

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. Outreach conducted a recce across the Tankwa to re-establish community connections, especially on the Northern Cape side of the region.

Eight **Spark Grants** were awarded to community based projects ranging from animal welfare through to urban composting toilets. The Sparks aim to further the 11 Guiding Principles in the default world, in this cycle they were awarded to projects in: Cape Town - Lavender Hill, Mannenberg, Khayelitsha, Bellville. Further afield, awards were given to projects in Stutterheim, Eastern Cape, Ekurhuleni and Pretoria, Gauteng, and Klerksdorp, North West. Principles identified this time around were: Civic Responsibility, Each One Teach One, Gifting, Leaving No Trace, Participation, Radical Self Expression.



**Afrika Burns Creative
Projects NPC Directors:**

Dane Marrison

Jan Bester

Johanna Richtje Rianna

Lorraine Tanner

Malilimalo Phaswana

Marc Anani-Isaac

Mike 'tsas-Rolfes

Nic Raubenheimer

Sam Bendzulla

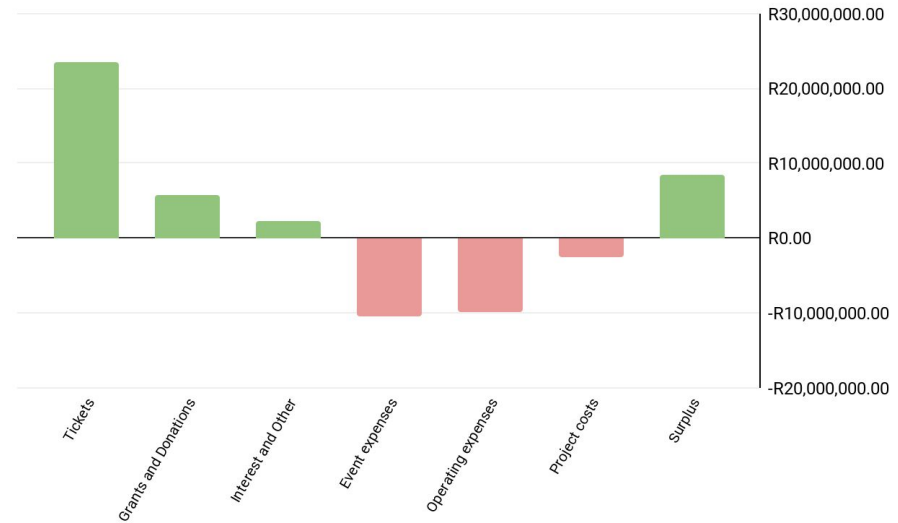


Image: Reza Assar

INCOME STATEMENT

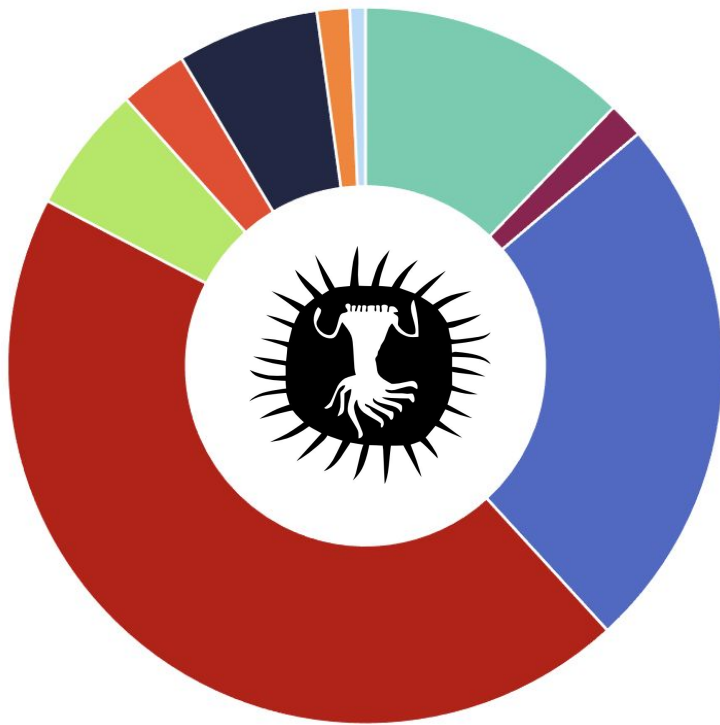
[Click to view detailed AFS](#)

INCOME	(R)
Tickets	23 425 885
Grants and Donations	5 700 416
Ice & Water; Interest, Other	2 312 695
EXPENDITURE	(R)
Event expenses	10 431 782
Operating expenses	9 813 145
Project costs	2 715 738
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	8 478 331
SURPLUS FOR PREVIOUS YEAR	4 195 839



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.



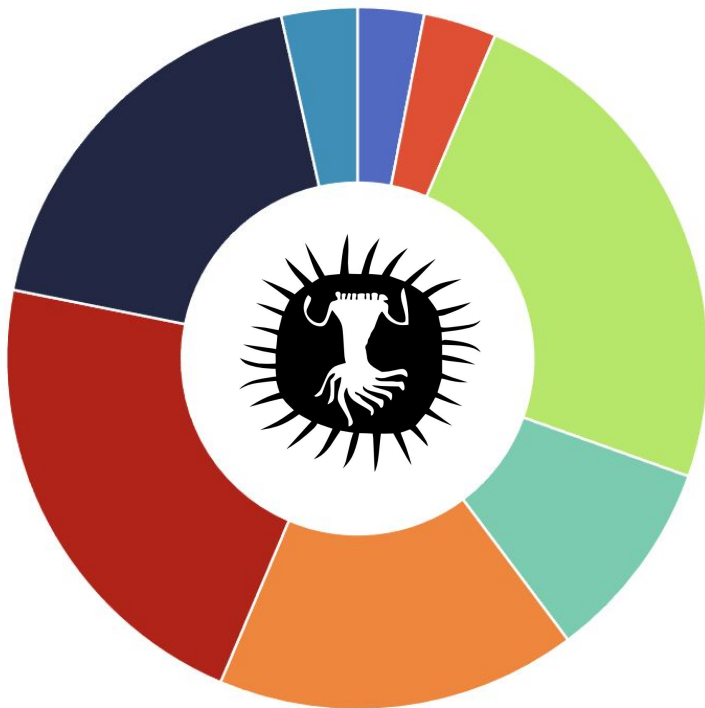


- Anathi programme
- Burner exchange
- Clan grant
- Creative grants
- Mutant vehicle grants
- Outreach
- Quaggafontein regeneration
- Spark grants
- Streetopia Obs

Anathi programme	R331,010.00
Burner exchange	R43485
Clan grant	R663,038.00
Creative grants	R1,205,985.00
Mutant vehicle grants	R155,995.00
Outreach	R83,191.00
Quaggafontein regeneration	R174,034.00
Spark grants	R40,000.00
Streetopia Obs	R19,000.00

PROJECT COSTS 2023





- Arteria, Mutant Vehides, Theme Camps
- Communications
- DPW
- Kitchen
- Medical and insurance
- Operations and logistics
- Safety and security
- Voluntary community services

Arteria, Mutant Vehicles, Theme Camps	R318,555.00
Communications	R350,776.00
Department of Public Works	R2,506,023.00
Kitchen	R974,066.00
Medical and insurance	R1,731,593.00
Operations and logistics	R2,269,465.00
Safety and security	R1,916,813.00
Voluntary community services	R364,491.00

EVENT EXPENSES 2023



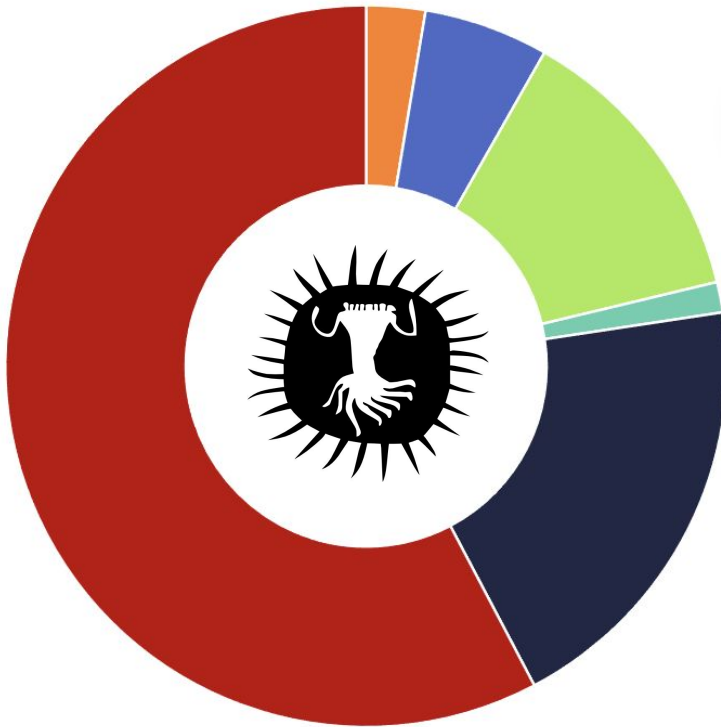


Chart Area

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

Communications	R259,112.00
Depreciation	R54854300
Finance	R1,278,125.00
Governance	R133,551.00
Overheads	R1,931,027.00
People	R5,663,687.00

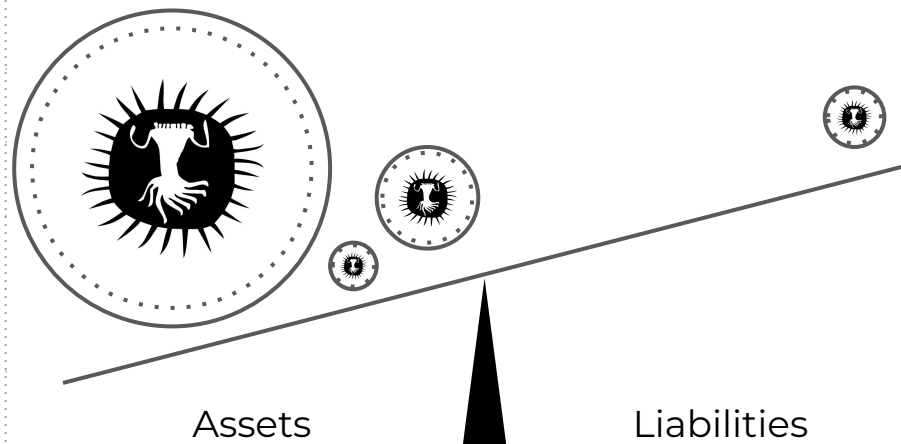


OPERATING EXPENSES 2023

BALANCE SHEET

[Click to view detailed AFS](#)

ASSETS	(R)
Fixed Assets	837 477
Bank	17 212 841
Debtors	201 289
LIABILITIES	(R)
Creditors	168 870
EQUITY	18 082 737



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



A HUGE “THANK YOU” TO OUR DONORS

- City Of Cape Town
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture
- Mad Hatters Village
- Mapula Trust
- National Arts Council
- Pomoja Project
- Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme
- Sand Mandala Foundation
- The Motherfucking Queens
- Western Cape Government
- 2 x Anonymous donors
- 1009 x Mayday donors
- 1105 x New Horizon donors



Image: Kevin Rack



Image: Sam Arn

“IT WAS BETTER NEXT YEAR”

In 2023, we began looking yonder.

Taking in a longitudinal view of where we've been, of community inputs, membership meetings, organisation wide workshops - it's half a generation's worth of thinking and doing. We surveyed our current landscape through the three interlinked dimensions of:

- **organisation - transforming, embodying our principles**
- **annual event - mirroring the change we want to see & be**
- **movement - multiplier effect of the culture in the default**

And in moving towards our horizon, with a strategic purpose of:

INSPIRING CREATIVE EXPERIMENTS IN THE ART OF INCLUSIVE AND REGENERATIVE COMMUNITY CULTURE

That we keep our eyes trained on:

- **environment and regeneration**
- **justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion**
- **resource mobilisation**



Image: Alex Miles



Towards a human scaffold, transforming and embodying our principles, we:

Improved our **swag** procurement ethics - engaging local Salt River manufacturers that use water based inks that are more environmentally friendly - it's a big deal when you've got 900 backs! (Volunteers used **swag** equity in the run up to the event.)

Re-established our **internship programme** with partner institutions as couplers, for growth and diversity of our scaffold.

Leveraged employment stimulus funding towards **people power** - to further grow the event team.



Image: Wies Houtzager



Towards the event as a mirror of the society we want to see & be, we

Helped the energy-reliant **Department of Mutant Vehicles** and **Radio Free Tankwa** to become “cleaner” and get **off grid**, with small scale investments in solar infrastructure.

Evolved our creative grant policies to foster diversity of participation and origination of art at the event by:

- Allocating a percentage of the Grant Pot for piloting a discretionary top up grant for **marginalised artists**.
- Earmarking a community development portion of the Clan Grant for the sole purpose of **crew diversification** and **upskilling through arts**.
- At S P A C E **over one quarter** of creative grants were awarded to **Black, Indigenous, People of Colour** driven projects.

Embraced **participant fundraising** efforts that were and channelled towards **creative grants** and **Anathi programme**, as well as government support for event services.



Image: Gautier Berr



Towards a multiplier effect of the AfrikaBurn culture in the default world, we

Re-established the **Spark Grants**, awarding eight grants to projects across four South African provinces to propel the Guiding Principles in marginalised communities.

Evolved the foundational land zoning work and principled-driven policies, towards future-facing requirements of regeneration and creative projects that will give rise to a range of activities on **Quaggafontein** and **Vaalfontein** farms.

Raised funds for **creative projects** for the coming financial year to return **Streetopia** and **Resilience In Shared Endeavour** to service.



Image: Steven Morrow



AFRIKABURN PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“SO MUCH GRATITUDE TO THE ORGANISERS, VOLUNTEERS AND EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO MAKES AB WHAT IT IS. IT FEELS LIKE HOME, LIKE A PLACE WHERE WE ALL BELONG.”

“THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU! YOU ARE DOING AN AMAZING THING. BE STRONG AND FIGHT HARD TO STICK TO YOUR VISION IN ALL WAYS AND KEEP IT PURE.”



“THIS COMMUNITY HAS REALLY CHANGED MY LIFE FOR THE BETTER. IT’S HELPED ME FIND MYSELF, GIVEN ME THE COURAGE TO BE MYSELF, AND INSPIRED ME TO LEAD OTHERS IN HOPES OF FINDING SIMILAR REALIZATIONS. WHEN I SAID TO A RANDOM FELLOW BURNER “WE’VE CLEARLY FOUND PARADISE”, SHE RESPONDED BY SAYING “WE MADE PARADISE.”

image: Steven Morrow

PARTICIPATE

It's the people that make AfrikaBurn!

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/>



Image: Gautier Berr





INVENT THE WORLD ANEW.

Image: Gautier Berr