



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Art: Genesis Bloom by Sean Marais
Photo: Gautier Berr





Art: The JunkaNooNoos
Photo: Gautier Berr

Afrika Burns Creative Projects - A CHANCE TO INVENT THE WORLD ANEW

AfrikaBurn projects and activities foster a BRIGHTER FUTURE to share with the world

“South Africans will be more conscious of the things they have in common than their differences. Their lived experiences will progressively undermine and cut across the divisions of race, gender, space and class. The nation will be more accepting of people's' multiple identities.

In this South Africa there will be:

- Broad-based knowledge about and support for a set of values shared by all South Africans including the values contained in the Constitution.
- An inclusive society and economy. This means tackling the factors that sustain inequality of opportunity and outcomes by building capabilities and redressing the wrongs of the past.
- Increased interaction between South Africans from different social and racial groups.
- Strong leadership across society and a mobilised, active and responsible citizenry.” *



Artwork: Umkhati by Neo Monnapule
Photo: Gautier Berr

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 community-building ethos, in South Africa and the African continent.

**Our future - make it work, National Development Plan 2023, National Planning Commission*



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.



Chillaz Exchange - Sergeant
Photo: Candle



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



Photo: Lorenzo Nerantzis



Art: Scratch by Nathan V Honey
Photo: Jacques Grobler



A call for 'furious dancing'

Two steps back, two steps forward

Creation - in many ways - showed recovery of the progress lost during COVID, we had envisioned during those times this would be a recovery year, and so it was.

Beyond an increase in gees, an up in headcount among our team and event participants, it also saw a return of many former MIA faces, in various spaces.

More importantly, it saw a foregrounding of philosophical conversations, debating the principles, setting the boundaries, testing them and in a lot of instances, keeping them.



Mutant: Dust Piranha
Photo: Sam Arn

AfrikaBurn is not an exact science, in some respects it's an exercise in embracing discomfort. We all know we wouldn't do it if it were easy.

Hard choices were required this cycle - in the default, and in Tankwa Town. We continue to learn from these experiments that are organisation and community wide. Even in the midst of the magic and music, these have been and are still 'hard times' and we heed the words of Alice Walker.





Art: Sandfish by Chip Snaddon
Photo: Gautier Berr

A YEAR OVERVIEW

A year of renewal and return, plans becoming actions, experiments creating impacts and our horizon square ahead.

We brought back some programming that reaches far beyond the Binnekring and the organisation itself expanded its internal development.

Our calendar filled with activities in town and the Tankwa, and we tried some new things, including a young graduate residency, which hosted two artists, and which culminated in an exhibition at our old digs at The Bijou, Observatory.

In this cycle (August 2023 - July 2024) we hosted four additional young interns and began building our capacity in communications, and development. The operations team returned to a near pre-pandemic complement, and some sought new opportunities, making space for succession.

We embraced new board members and reignited our candidate member programme to strengthen and diversify our governance spheres.



OUTREACH

Through community-led interventions, Outreach is a key touch point in the Tankwa. Activities ramped up in spring, and our support included:

Volunteers supported the community day at the Tankwa Padstal, running the tombola.

39 equines were treated in a donkey drive by Cart Horse Protection Association

26 domestic animals were sterilized in a spayathon by EnviroVet Community Veterinary Clinics.

25 primary school learners stocked up with Collexodus goodies in the pantry.

2 high school learners' school and hostel fees were funded at Hoërskool Calvinia for the academic year.

2 teaching assistant posts at Elandsvlei NGK Primêre Skool were covered for the year.



Photos: Lauren Groenewald





Photo: Maya Bogaert

STREETOPIA

With the signature Silver Cloud raised over Lower Main Road, Observatory, the community-driven Streetopia returned as a tour de force. A “Special Event” for the 5th time, on the municipality’s calendar, the streets in the business precinct became a kaleidoscope of festivities with:

- a mutant drag (queen) race
- *Parklet* launched by Observatory Improvement District
- 2 radio stations
- 3 sound stages
- 13 installations forming an art route.
- dozens of street performers
- 46 Stalls
- 100s of gifted meals





Photo: Jessica Shamley

RISE

Resilience In Shared Endeavour returned for its second iteration in the summer. 38 women and gender non binary people, headed this time to the coast for an immersive experience.

The programme tackled the hard topics of gender based violence, through learning the nuances of personal experiences. We found new ways together through craft, movement, dance, song; and voices through storytelling and making “bad” art.

The group unravelled tensions through deep conversations, handiwork, meditative practices, playing with fire, and committed to a network of support.



Online 6,387,185 people were reached on social media. With 160,413 online followers and 370,000 website users, they distilled into a temporary community of 10 867 Burners in real life.

They showed up in Tankwa Town as:

60% South African
40% International with participants purchasing tickets across 98 countries, with Kenya, Mauritius, Reunion, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe featuring in the top 30.

10 867 Event Participants
158(ish) Mutant Vehicles
95 Theme Camps
80 Artworks
26 Burns
20 Performances
15 Binnekring Events
10 Roving Artworks
ONE CREATION



Photo: Kim van Zyl





Art and Photo: Tshepo "Gaza" Maseko

Spark Grants

Following a community-wide call, 11 default world projects by Creation participants were selected by a voluntary panel from the operations team. **The Sparks Grants aim to further the 11 Guiding Principles across South Africa, and in this cycle they were awarded to:**

Bonteheuvel : KinoKadre Community Cinema Circle
 Cape Town : Threads of continuity
 George : Hand knitting workshop
 Langa : Eco-Art Innovations: Giving life to recycled materials
 Maitland : Magical Marvellous Maitland Murals
 Makhanda : Ubuhlobo Makhanda
 Mamelodi : Re mmogo
 Observatory : Vape Shapes
 Riebeek Kasteel : Respek
 Van Wyksdorp : Play Park
 Wupperthal : Road to Wupperthal

Guiding Principles linked to these projects are:

Each One Teach One
 Radical Inclusion
 Communal Effort
 Gifting
 Radical Self-Expression
 Leaving No Trace



Afrika Burns Creative Projects NPC,

Directors:

Coenraad Middel

Dane Marrison

Jan Bester

Johanna Richtje Rianna

Lorraine Tanner

Mike 'tsas-Rolfes

Nic Raubenheimer

Sam Bendzulla

Sydney Mathebula

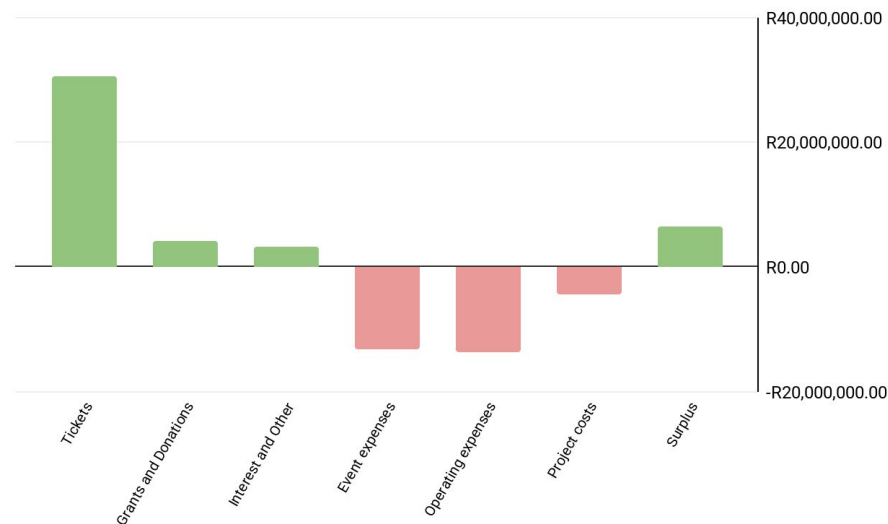


If you know who did this, please tell us.
Photo: Reza Assar

Income Statement

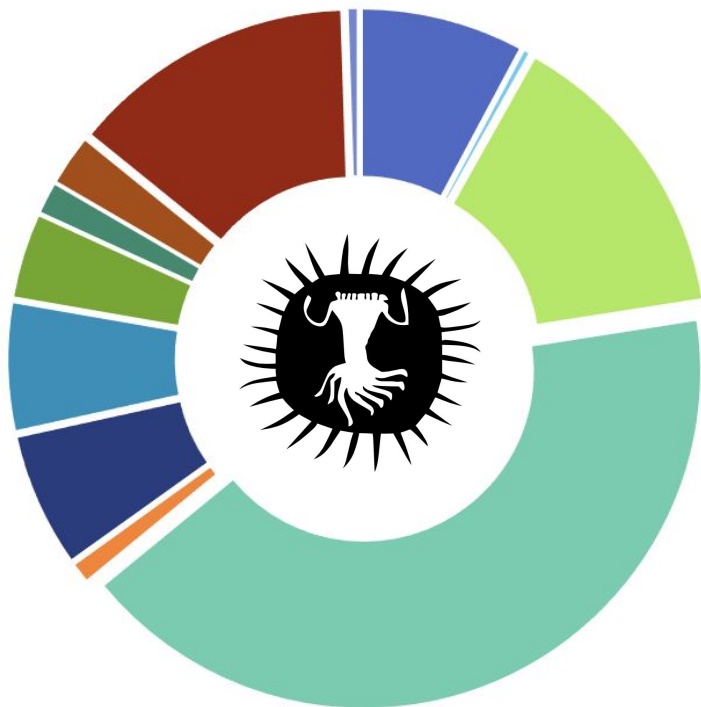
[CLICK TO VIEW AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS](#)

INCOME	(R)
Tickets	30 622 121
Grants and Donations	4 071 496
Ice & Water; Interest, Other	3 326 450
EXPENDITURE	(R)
Event expenses	13 306 502
Operating expenses	13 700 839
Project costs	4 486 659
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	6 526 067
SURPLUS FOR PREVIOUS YEAR	8 478 331



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 and ensure longevity.





- Anathi programme
- Burner exchange
- Clan grant
- Creative grants
- Culture grants
- Hammerschool
- Mutant vehicle grants
- Outreach
- Quaggafontein circular & regeneration
- Resilience In Shared Endeavour
- Spark grants
- Streetopia Obs
- Ubuntu

Anathi programme	350 718
Burner exchange	15 000
Clan grant	645 344
Creative grants	1 863 748
Culture grants	45 000
Hammerschool	2 300
Mutant vehicle grants	289 000
Outreach	276 511
Quaggafontein circular & regeneration	183 589
Resilience In Shared Endeavour	69 797
Spark grants	110 000
Streetopia Obs	612 798
Ubuntu	22 854

Project Costs 2024



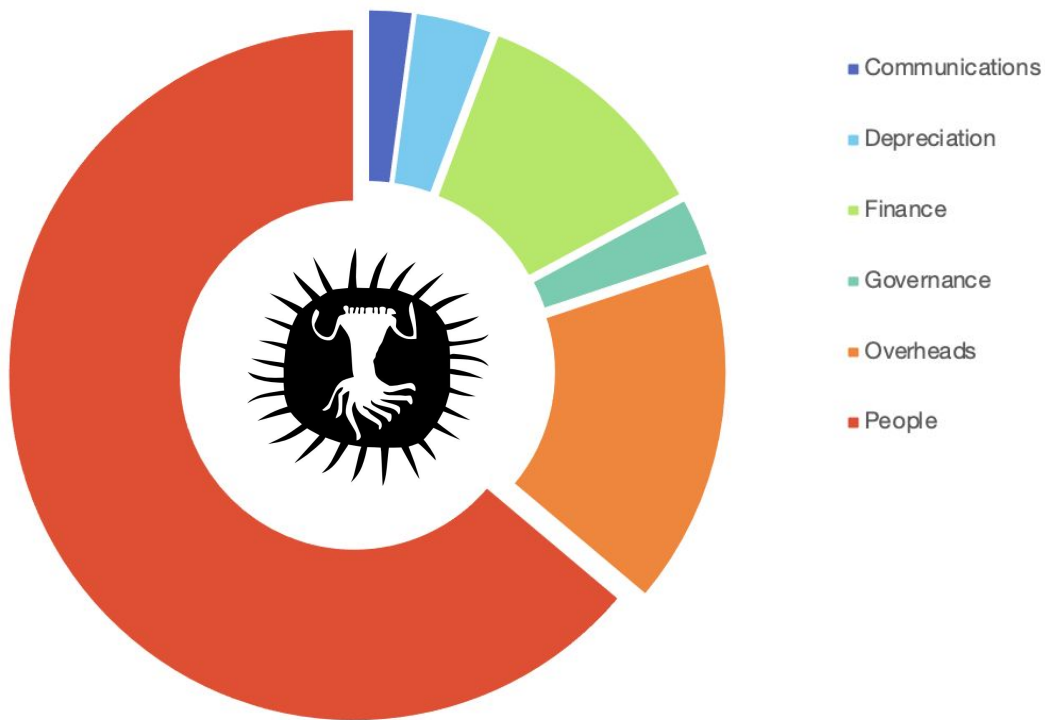


- Arteria, Mutant Vehicles, Theme Camps
- Communications
- DPW
- Kitchen
- Medical and insurance
- Operations and logistics
- Safety and security
- Volunteer community services

Arteria, Mutant Vehicles, Theme Camps	293 110
Communications	363 246
Department of Public Works	3 375 718
Kitchen	1 237 038
Medical and insurance	2 165 068
Operations and logistics	3 941 953
Safety and security	1 203 665
Volunteer community services	726 704

Event Expenses 2024





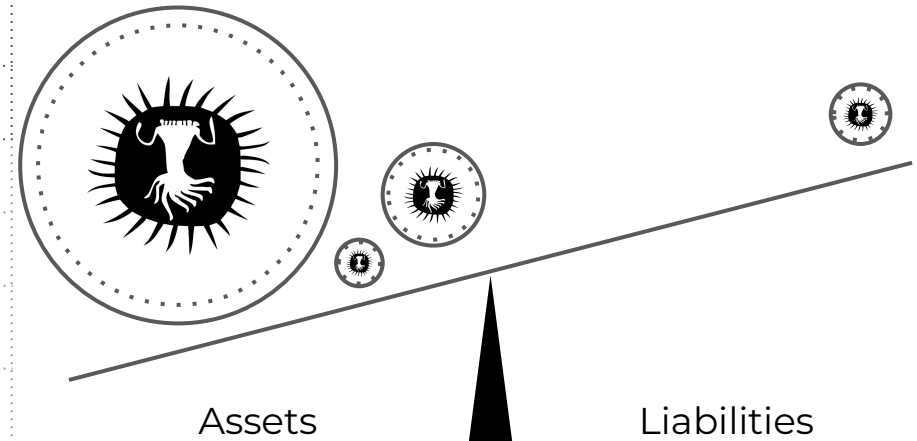
Communications	286 717
Depreciation	496 448
Finance	1 565 473
Governance	377 302
Overheads	2 225 664
People	8 749 235



Operating Expenses 2024

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	(R)
Fixed Assets	3 325 097
Bank	21 019 225
Debtors	436 124
LIABILITIES	(R)
Creditors	171 642
EQUITY	24 608 804



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



A huge “THANK YOU” to our Donors

- Art Bank of South Africa
- City Of Cape Town
- Department of Sport, Arts and Culture
- Geoff Saunders
- Loki
- Mapula Trust
- National Arts Council
- Pamoja Project
- Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme
- Sand Mandala Foundation
- Stanisław Trzebiński Studios
- Western Cape Government
- 1 x Anonymous donor
- 1201 x Mayday donors
- 1304 x New Horizon donors



Photo: Gautier Berr



Art: Lizzy Egon Tania
Photo: Steven Morrow

What's that on the horizon?

In this cycle we started to gain traction with our strategic plan, committing to a long view and purpose:

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

Which links the spheres in which we work:

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

To global imperatives, through the pathways of:

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

Milestones began to emerge, as we stepped into our future now.



Photo: Kirk Schaeren



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

Reduced usage of water and energy by 9.3% overall for FY24 (compared to FY23), by tracking our data and monitoring consumption on a monthly basis to eliminate wasteful use.

Recruited three young people of colour into Operations and Communications.

Participated in a national programme, as a funded host, for work-based experience in arts for six graduates.



Zama Cebisile Mwandla
Photo: Tash Casey



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

Facilitated the crew behind the Tree of Stories (constructed and powered on renewables) to donate their solar rig to the Elandsvlei NGK Skool; and linked them with University College London students who helped design how the artwork would burn, reducing their use of accelerants.

Furthered the AfrikaBurn Chillaz x Burning Man Center Camp Canopy exchange by sending Candle to Black Rock City to complete the first exchange, and welcomed Sergeant in Tankwa Town opening the second cycle.

Stewarded community fundraising efforts that were channelled towards Creative grants, Chillaz, and the Anathi programme, as well as provincial government support for event services.



Art: Tree of Stories by Laurence Brown
Photo: Steven Morrow



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

Upgraded the barn facilities at the Vaalfontein homestead in the Tankwa, to make the place better able to host community members for a variety of activities during spring.

Restored Streetopia and RISE to the annual calendar - building dedicated project teams to bring fresh ideas and vigour to our year-round work.

Seed-funded The Happening to go independent from Streetopia, as a free, creative community-run event in Melville, Johannesburg.



Art: Silver Cloud
Photo: Maya Bogaert



**“THE SUPPLIER CHANGE WAS THE BIGGEST SHIFT IN
A LONG TIME AND IT PAID OFF, SO MANY ART PIECES
AND WAY MORE CONTRIBUTION.”**

**“I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM THIS EVENT. I REMEMBERED HOW TO
ENGAGE WITH HUMANS WITHOUT JUDGEMENT.”**

**“THESE KINDS OF THINGS NEED FUNDS
AND BELIEF IN WHAT WE’RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE
AND YOU OFFERED BOTH, THANK YOU.”**

**“I LEARNT THE VALUE OF BEING IN A TEAM BASED ON COMPLIMENTARY
FUNCTIONALITY RATHER THAN HIERARCHY. IT MADE SENSE -
EQUITY - COMMUNITY - FUNCTIONALITY - SUCCESS.”**

You Have a Unique Gift

The community is made up of the dreams, hopes and talents of those who love to work and play.

This is the power of AfrikaBurn - the gift of energy and intention from a million you's and me's accelerates our impact on and in the world around us.

There are many ways we can continue to contribute to positive change in and beyond the Binnekring.

AfrikaBurn's year-round activities offer various spaces, places and expressions of an ethos, awakened through collaboration.

<https://www.afrikaburn.org/donate/>

Thank you for dancing with us.



Photo: Gautier Berr





Invent the world anew.



Art: LuminEssence - 2024 Temple
Photo: Gautier Berr