

# INDIANIA ANNUAL REPORT 2025



# Contents:

- Introduction
- Vision, Objects, Principles
- Organisation view
- Report on the year
- Financials
- Strategic Pathways
- Invitation to participate



Art: Palm 2 Soul by Jacques Mollentze & Scratch, by Nathan V Honey  
Photo: Jacques Mollentze





Art: Fossil Clan, by the Fossil Clan crew  
Photo: Jacques Grobler

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

**Inspiring creative experiments in the art of inclusive and regenerative community culture.**

**Taking stock of the past 4 cycles, since emerging from the pandemic, the “world gone mad” is normalised to the point of absurdity and apathy.**

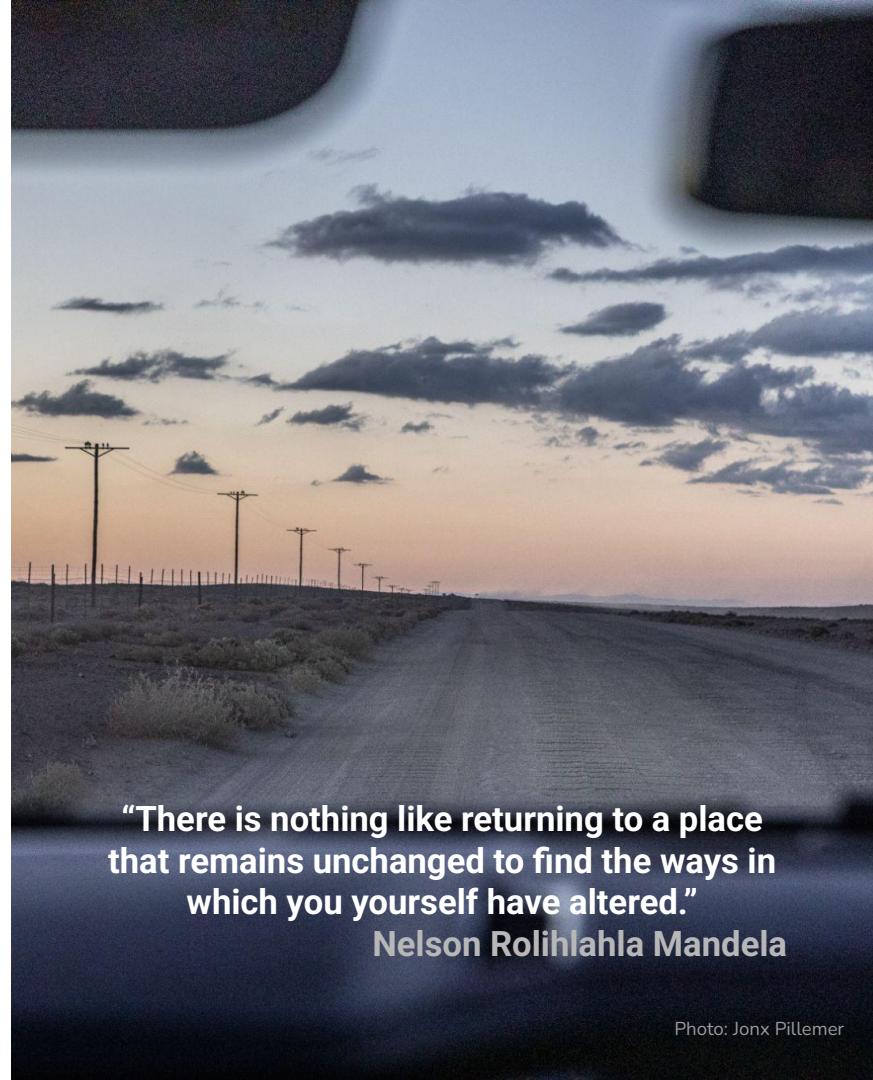
And while the Tankwa Karoo appears timeless, the AfrikaBurn community is ever-evolving, experimenting and poised for change.

The annual AfrikaBurn event is an affiliate of the Burning Man Regional Network, with an event population second only to the “Gerlach Regional”. This bestows upon its organisers, Afrika Burns Creative Projects NPC, the role of being a strategic driver of an internationally shared and distributed community-building ethos, in the African continent.

In the most unequal country, it is incumbent upon us as an organisation and creative community to continue evolving to ensure our activities hold relevance, and provide benefit and meaning to South Africans.

We will have no real impact on future generations unless we act with urgency and turn towards a better world for all beings.

**This invites and requires creativity and action.**



**“There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.”**

**Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela**

Photo: Jonx Pillemer



# 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.



Performance: Underdog  
Photo: Reza Assar



# 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





AfrikaBurn Event Site 2025  
Photo: Reza Assar

## WITH PATIENCE AND PASSION

Most of the Members started the year cycle with the first **Bosberaad at the Vaalfontein Homestead in Tankwa**. Joining the wider organisation, the Members explored Tankwa Town and the farms at ground level, and did some creative embodied explorations of time and space, grounding ourselves in the place and the process.

In the 2025 cycle, the Members prioritised **governance, intellectual property, inclusion, community wellbeing, and organisational sustainability**.

Strengthening internal development, the Membership focussed on policy and procedures that govern member conduct as well as improving the mechanisms and oversight, for renewal and succession within the governance spheres, including reviewing the Memorandum of Incorporation. Ratifying and advancing the Strategic Pathways, the Members acted on promotion of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion - by recruiting and onboarding a number of candidate members of colour, and extended their commitment by electing a more representative Board.



Performance: Baba Yaya, Image: Jacques Grobter

This in turn, has brought closer to the Membership the lived experiences of our community, such as racism at the event, and raised awareness for clearer reporting mechanisms and the need for resources to support people at AfrikaBurn. **As the cycle came to a close the Members remained committed to an evolving organisation.**

In financial year 2025, the Membership grew to a total of 26 voting members.



# FAR AND WIDE

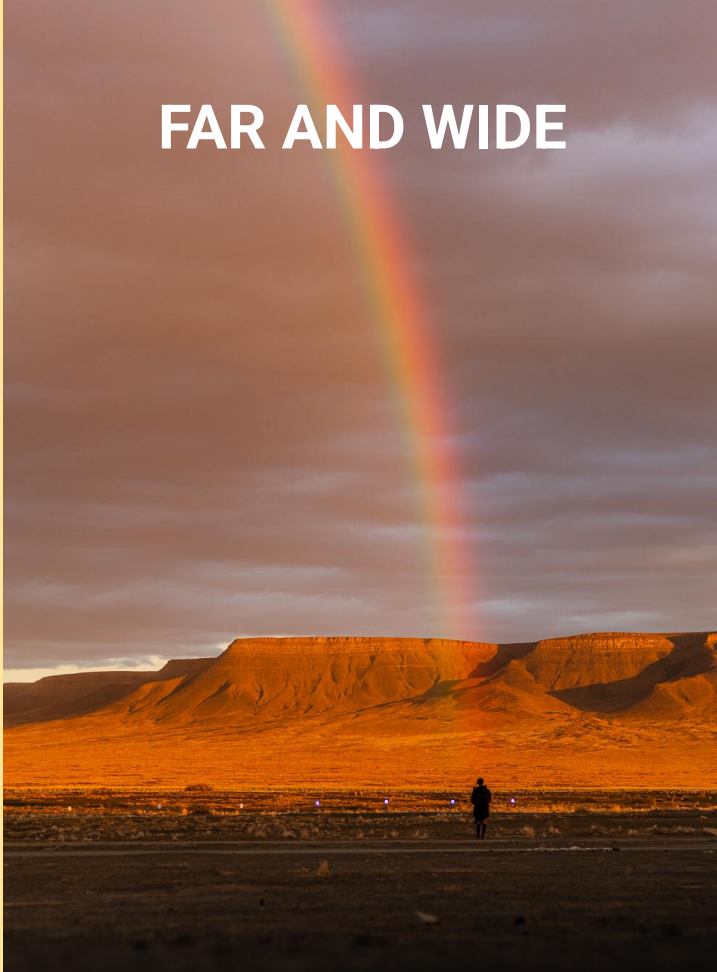


Photo: Kim van Zyl

## **It was a year of opening up.**

The renovations to the Vaalfontein homestead were ready for the start of Spring Hosting Season, where artists and crew leads visited Quaggafontein and Vaalfontein to immerse themselves and gain inspiration, validation and creative direction from the land. The first audit of activities on the land was completed and met with approval by the landowners.

The beat of the Junction Hotel as always, punctuated throughout the year by the open house vibe of weekend volunteer days, town halls, and various event focussed workshops and trainings.

The run up to summer saw the core programmes become more rooted, and yet also unlocking of collaboration and evolution. The Art team experimented with segmented creative granting, which welcomed new professional artists into our creative network, and in turn new visual language into the Binnekring.

Out Of The Blue had more participants from the African continent than ever before, and the annual event still attracts 40% new participation. Event operations basked in the sunshine of renewable energy, with a solar array in Off Centre Camp, a leap towards net positivity.

**We closed the cycle welcoming the return of Decompression in Cape Town, in time for the organisation's 18th birthday.**





Art: Picked Flower by Ren de Gersigny  
Photo: Lauren Barnard

The 2025 cycle began with a new intake for **Hammerschool**, with a diverse group from across Cape Town, with ages spanning 4 decades ranging from their early 20s to mid 50s.

The skills training programme was birthed by AfrikaBurn's Department of Public Works and is designed, coordinated and taught by former DPW co-leads and current Hammer Council at ABHQ, Junction Hotel, Salt River.

The programme empowered 25 women and non-binary folk, by getting them confident using power tools, designing and making art.

18 students created and exhibited a public artwork, incorporating the skills learnt in design-thinking, carpentry, welding and painting. The process was captured in individual portfolios documenting progress over the five months.

**“This is an incredible journey that cements the purpose of AfrikaBurn”**





Photo: Sapho Wulana

## “Shame dies when stories are told in safe places.”

At the end of spring, **Resilience In Shared Endeavour** returned home to the Tankwa. And with the Supermoon, it shone in it’s long form programme of desert isolation and harsh beauty for six days.

A renewed cohort - including burners from neighbouring Botswana and Lesotho along with participants from Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Northern and Western Capes - the programme’s alumni expanded. The third iteration tipped the balance - creating a more diverse, inclusive gathering of the AfrikaBurn network.

Sitting with, and working through, the uncomfortable stuff, together; making time for deep dialogue and engaging with the nuance of lived experiences; and forging kinships and connections through creative activities; are the kindling for an equitable future.

“At RISE I got a big sister that I didn’t know that I needed. We have grown so close and seems like it’s been a lifetime.”





Art: Sandfish by Chip Snaddon  
Photo: Sakhile Rampa

The seventh **Streetopia** happened on the last Saturday of November, with one of the highlights a pop-up exhibition by Hammerschool's students on the Village Green, in addition to:

- A mutant drag (queen) race
- 2 radio stations
- 4 sound stages
- 14 installations forming a public art route
- Dozens of street performers from:
  - Delft
  - Langa
  - Khayelitsha
  - Kommetjie
  - Masiphumelele
  - Ocean View
  - Riebeeck Wes
- 73 stalls, including local NGOs
- 100s of gifted meals
- And around 4500 people throughout the day on the streets, and in the bars, shops and restaurants of Observatory.





Photo: Lauren Groenewald

[Watch the documentary](#)

In a hot, parched December, off the back of participating in local community days, **Outreach** mounted some basic training for local karretjiemense in the Tankwa, with Cart Horse Protection Association. A short documentary of the experience at the Vaalfontein Homestead serves as a resource for training and for visibility of the 11-year relationship between the organisations.

**22 primary school learners stocked up with Collexodus goodies in the pantry, powering them towards a 95% pass rate at the end of the academic year.**

**4 high school learners' school and hostel fees were funded at Hoërskool Calvinia.**

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

Outreach also supported the Da Doer padstal community Christmas event.



3,752,667 people reached worldwide.  
175,000 website users and  
168,536 online followers distilled into a temporary  
community of 10,782 Burners in real life.  
Out Of The Blue...

They showed up in Tankwa Town as:

61% South African  
39% International with participants purchasing  
tickets across 107 countries, with Kenya,  
Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Reunion, and  
Zimbabwe featuring in the top 30.

10 728 Ticket Holders  
1372 Survey Respondents  
1073 volunteers  
174(ish) Mutant Vehicles  
109 Theme Camps  
61 Artworks  
18 Burns  
17 Performances  
11 Roving Artworks  
8 Binnekring Events





Eco Arts Innovation Workshop- Mischka Lewis

**Community-based projects actualised in this cycle reached over 3000 beneficiaries. Two projects in rural Western Cape sparked national and international support.**

**Post-event, 11 default world projects, proposed by Out of The Blue participants, were selected for the coming year. The Spark Grants, which aim to further the 11 Guiding Principles across South Africa, were awarded by a voluntary panel from the operations team, to the following communities:**

Kwantu, Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal  
 Hammanskraal, North West  
 Khayelitsha, Western Cape  
 Ocean View, Western Cape  
 Port Nolloth, Northern Cape  
 Pretoria, Gauteng  
 Bapsfontein, Mpumalanga  
 Philippi, Western Cape  
 Dunoon, Western Cape  
 Dobsonville, Soweto, Gauteng  
 Pretoria, Gauteng

Project: MANIFESTO  
 Project: Art Crusade  
 Project: Play Our Way  
 Project: Waste2Art  
 Project: Vessel  
 Project: The Merchants of Sound  
 Project: MBEWU MPANDE  
 Project: Just Love with Philippi township  
 Project: The 7AM Club  
 Project: Keep Dobsi Clean  
 Project: Babel's Potluck

**Guiding Principles linked to these projects are:**

Communal Effort  
 Each one - Teach one  
 Gifting  
 Leaving no trace  
 Participation  
 Radical Inclusion  
 Radical Self Expression  
 Radical Self Reliance





**Afrika Burns Creative Projects  
NPC, Directors:**

**Coenraad Middel  
Dane Marrison  
Jan Bester  
Lorraine Tanner  
Mike 't sas-Rolfes  
Nic Raubenheimer  
Sam Bendzulla  
Sydney Mathebula**

# Financial Performance 2022 - 2025

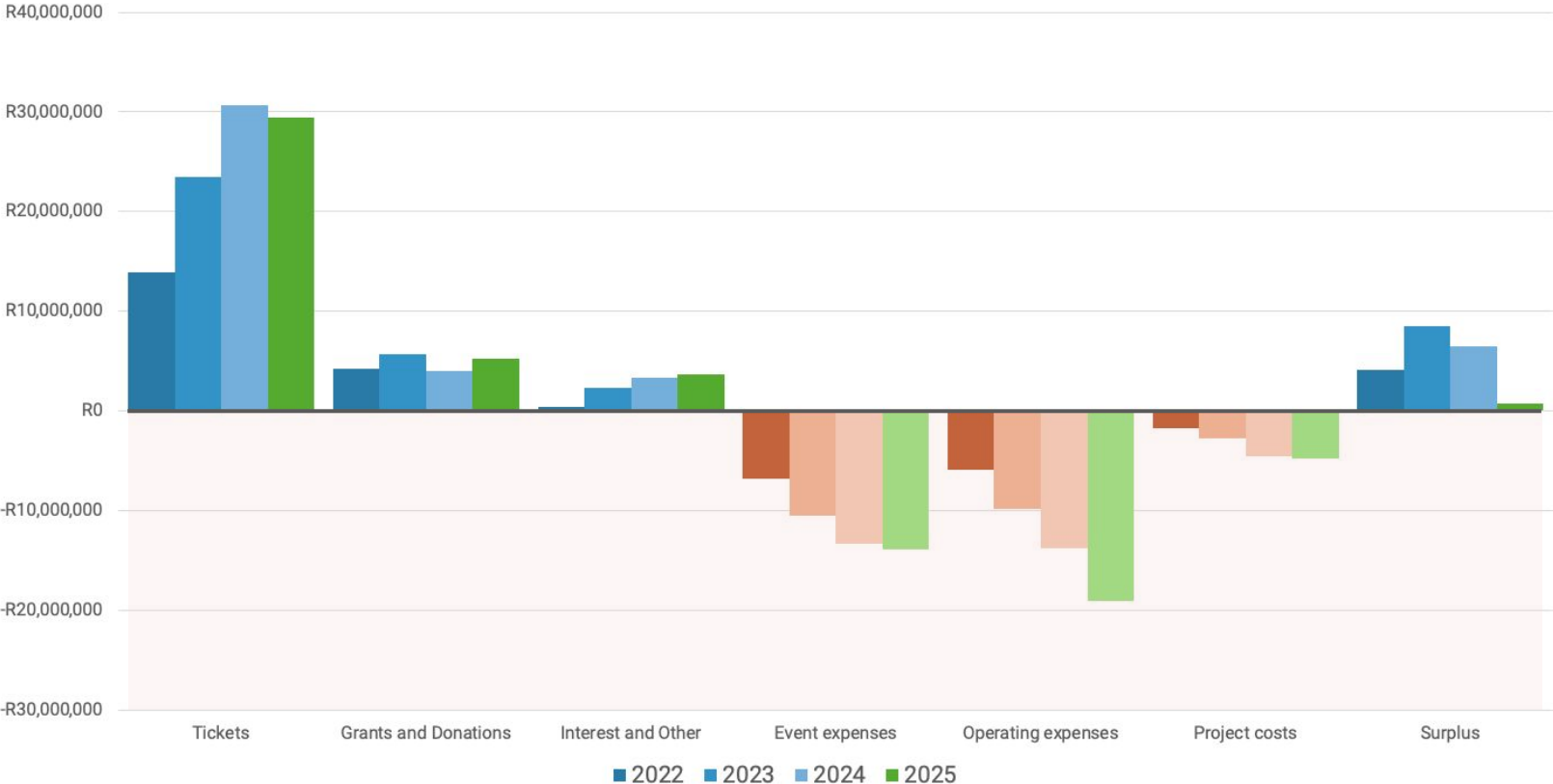
	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Tickets</b>	R13,901,000	R23,425,885	R30,622,121	R29,388,072
<b>Grants and Donations</b>	R4,220,000	R5,700,416	R4,071,496	R5,241,637
<b>Interest and Other</b>	R395,000	R2,312,695	R3,326,450	R3,713,586
<b>Event expenses</b>	-R6,732,000	-R10,431,782	-R13,306,502	-R13,828,653
<b>Operating expenses</b>	-R5,888,000	-R9,813,145	-R13,700,839	-R19,002,685
<b>Project costs</b>	-R1,765,000	-R2,715,738	-R4,486,659	-R4,790,337
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>R4,131,000</b>	<b>R8,478,331</b>	<b>R6,526,067</b>	<b>R721,620</b>

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.

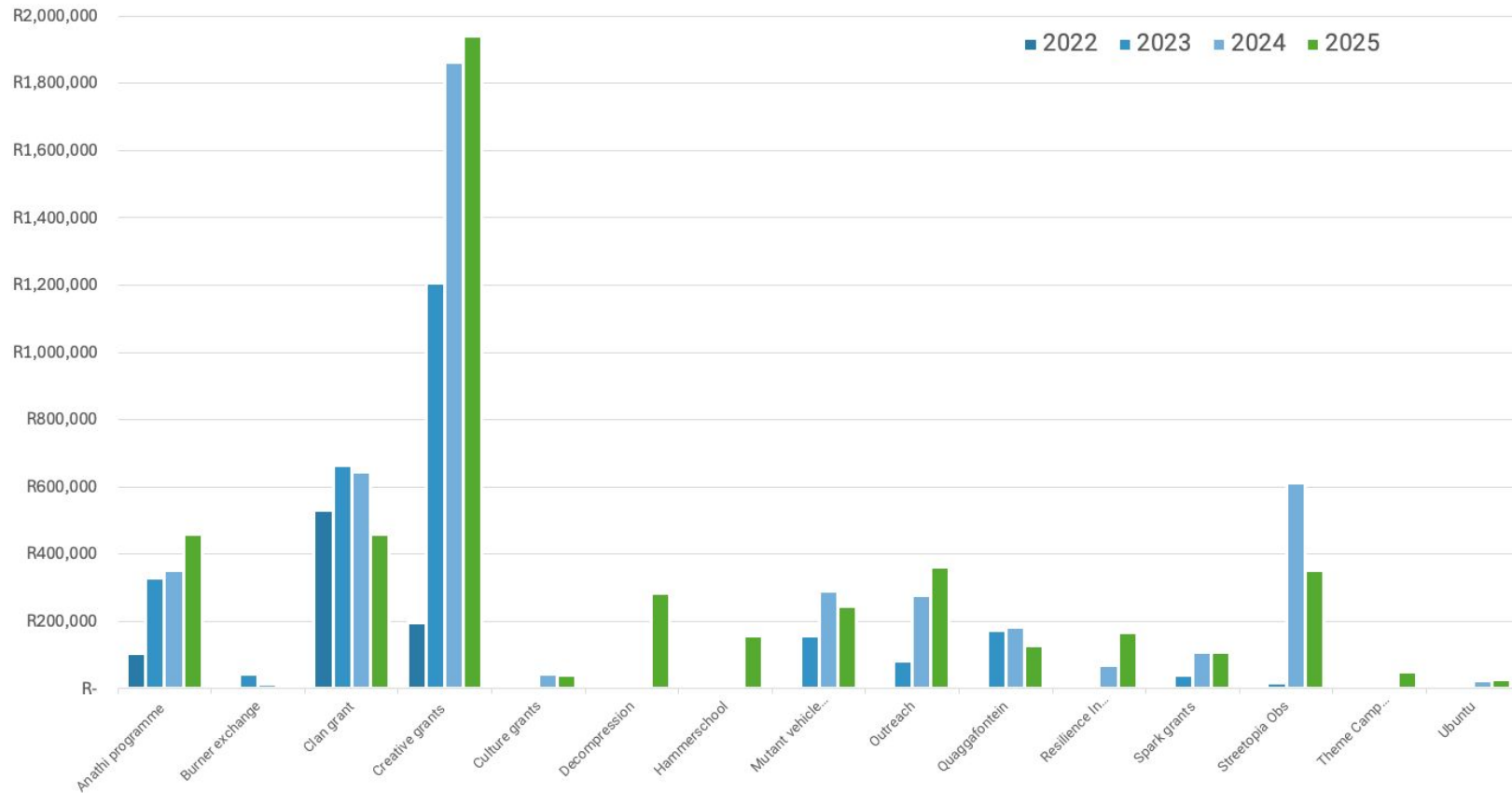
[Link to audited financial statements](#)



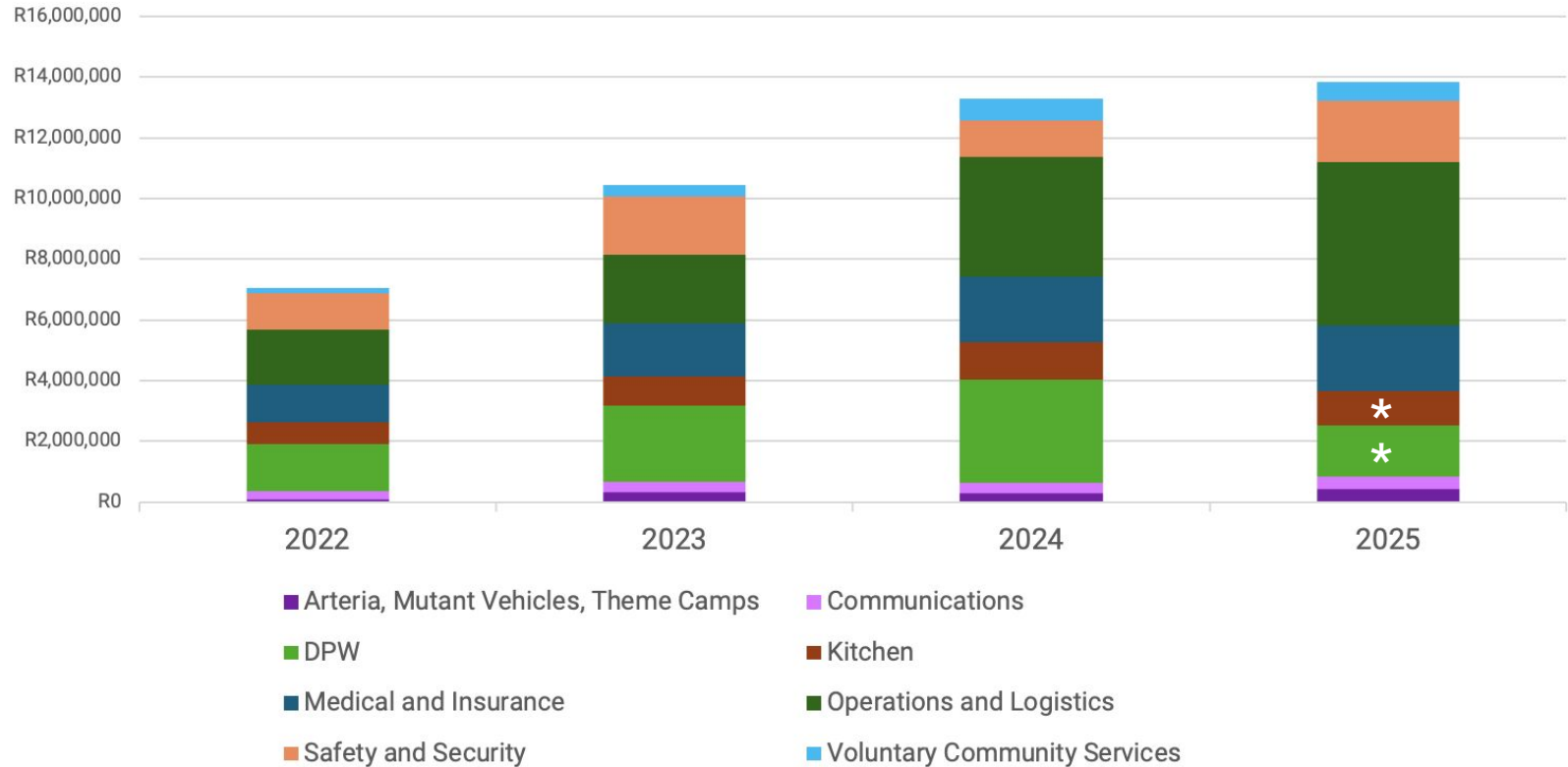
# Financial Performance 2022 - 2025



# Project and Programme Outflows 2022 - 2025



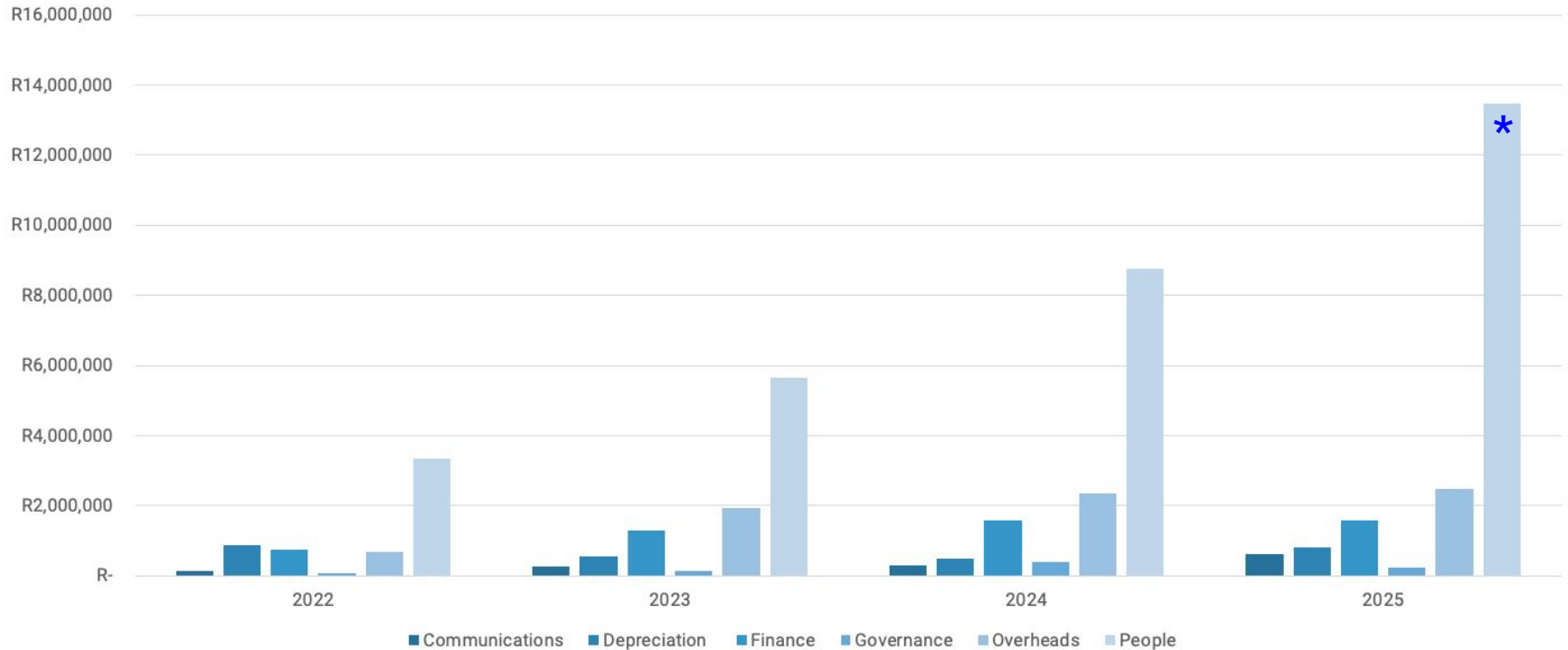
# Event Expenses 2022 - 2025



\*Event budget has been recast in 2025, taking the DPW and Kitchen teams across to People costs in the Operating budget.



# Operating Expenses 2022 - 2025



\* People budget has been recast in 2025, to include DPW and Kitchen teams, formerly within the Event budget.



# Financial Position 2022 - 2025



# A huge “THANK YOU” to our donors

- Art Bank of South Africa
- Burner Bizarre
- City Of Cape Town
- “Jenni Dodd”
- Linko (Streetopia)
- Mapula Trust
- Obscene Parrot (Streetopia)
- Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme
- Sand Mandala Foundation
- The Scrumpy Jack (Streetopia)
- 1 Anonymous donor
- 804 Blue Sky donors
- 1303 New Horizon donors



Art: RED. by Nathan V Honey  
Photo: Shaun Phillips



Photo: Jamie Massau

# Perpetuum Mobile

At the beginning of the financial year, Afrika Burns Creative Projects ratified three **Strategic Pathways**: environment and regeneration; justice, equity, diversity and inclusion; and resource mobilization at the beginning of the financial year.

Plotting waypoints towards our horizon, the three pathways, envisioned, developed and debated throughout the organisation, and in consultation with community members, are cross-cutting.

## And they specifically ask of us to:

- make our events and operations a reflection of the world we wish to cultivate – one where human activity restores and enhances the natural environment.
- model our events, operations and movement as a propeller of the world we are moving towards. One where who we are and how we are enhances social cohesion, and
- make our movement self-replenishing, able to withstand shocks and unanticipated events.

Concurrently, we are ever conscious that South Africa is the most unequal country in the world.



Photo: Kim van Zyl





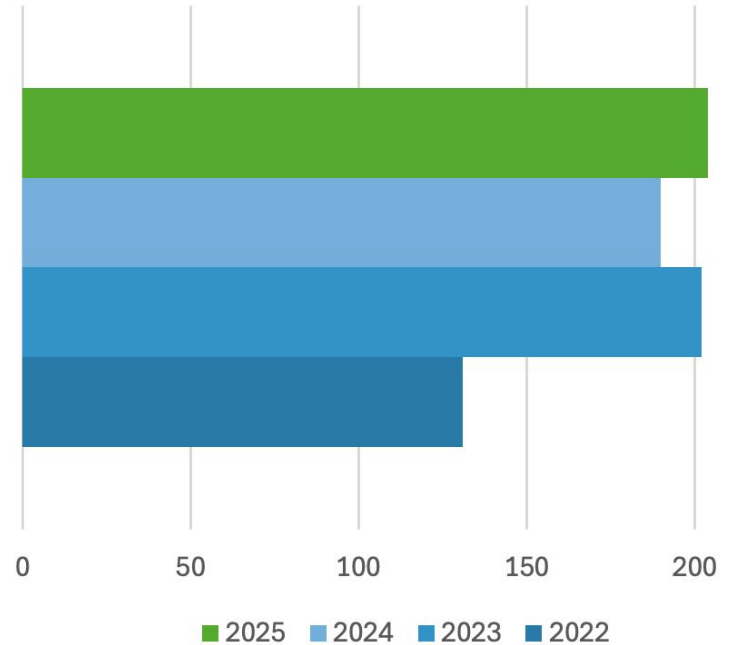
## A pathway of **Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

(JEDI) doesn't just *happen*. We can not expect that organically we can reverse an intervention that was institutionalised on all levels.

Through JEDI our shared experiences will encourage us to be more embracing of people's diverse identities. Umntu ngumntu ngabantu (a person is a person through others).

- Foregrounding our commitment to JEDI, we employed a Development Administrator, who plays a key role in implementing RISE, Chillaz and Spark Grants.
- A strategic commitment was made to create access to the annual AfrikaBurn event, by awarding a grant to accompany each Anathi ticket (10% of the regular ticket price). Over R434 000 was disbursed to support 204 Anathi ticket holders.
- Beyond the anecdotal "transformational experience" of the annual event, we have researched, adopted and adapted Depth of Impact methodology to start measuring our activities. Data collection will start in the 2026 cycle and build a longer term view of the impact of Afrika Burns Creative Projects.

Number of Anathi tickets purchased by year



A pathway of **Resource Mobilisation** recognises that monetary wealth never correlates with access to, nor holds any status whatsoever in our community.

Inventing the world anew compels us to seek alternatives to the industrial growth model and transactional relationships, and protect the longevity of our culture through circulating the many gifts of our community.

- Work began in earnest on the creation of a long-term finance plan that is aligned with the Strategic Pathways. This a process that continues into the coming financial year.
- Research into various platforms and engagement with Burning Man Project about tech stacks and platform choices took place over the cycle, settling on a choice for registrations for FY27.
- Diversifying resources through a fundraising plan is also a work in progress. In this cycle Hammerschool continued to be funded independently and Streetopia co-funded - both receiving municipal support.



**I want to acknowledge and deeply thank the entire Afrikaburn team** for the immense heart, dedication, and unseen work that goes into holding this transformative container. It is no small feat, and the impact on individual lives, communities, and creative expression is profound.

**I am so grateful for this experience. I happy cried so many times.** I loved the naked people running around the burns and loved the beautiful artworks and chaos from random music all over.

**It was my first burn, I had fears and a lot of excitement.** I felt unsure how it would be. But for me it was perfect, I heard people saying it was different from previous years, but I had the gift of ignorance this year which I will not have when I return but I will enjoy it next time for what burn is then.

**This year was my second Burn.** I volunteered and participated way more than my first time, and it felt amazing.

**At the age of 71, I found so much to enjoy** - from music, performances and theme camp living, to the strangers I met, the music I loved and the wide open spaces for early morning walks.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!❤️ you have changed my life.

**I understand that there were reasons,** but I was disappointed that there was no temple and no superstar DJs like Monolink. I also missed some of the big stages this year. But well done, and thank you!! The burn was still incredible.

**AB helped me find my inner joy and lightness again.** THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOUUUUUUU!!! One of my best, favourite Burns ever. Music was off the chain! Special thank you's to the toilet guys. Loo's remained clean through-out the Burn. So appreciated.





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

**The community is a patchwork 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.

[Click here to donate to AfrikaBurn](#)

Art: Sudara by Thomas McKay  
& Catherine Cartwright  
Photo: Jacques Grobler

“Seek patience and passion in equal amounts.  
Patience alone will not build the temple.  
Passion alone will destroy its walls.”

Maya Angelou

