



Global Grooves

Project Report
Part III
2017–2020



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Danny Henry at Manchester Mega Mela, 2018

Who are Global Grooves?



Our team at
The Vale, Mossley

Our Vision

We create the environment for Carnival arts, people and communities to thrive!

Since 2003, Global Grooves has studied, practised, developed and shared inspirational Carnival arts throughout the UK and internationally.

We feel incredibly privileged to embrace diverse global traditions with great integrity and respect,

creating projects that motivate more people to connect with the arts as a way of making positive change for both themselves and others.

To read more about what we do and how we do it, click here www.globalgrooves.org/who-we-are

“What’s interesting about Global Grooves is it looks across all the art forms on an equal level. The maturity of the company is around working with those different art forms and getting experts in each of those. That’s the richness that you get with Global Grooves.”

Angela Chappell, Relationship Manager, Arts Council England



'The Robots and I.O.L.A. 2.0'
performing at Bluedot Festival, 2018

Our Work Headlines 2017-2020

YOUNG PEOPLE

FUTURE LEADERS

- New cohort of Future Leaders in 2018
- Advanced top-up weekend in December 2019
- 120 young artists now in this network
- Youth Steering Group development underway

SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS

- 6,644 young people in school workshops
- Workshops in 75 schools and organisations

ORGANISATIONS

- Partnership with over 100 arts organisations, supporting the growth of new and existing organisations and events around the UK

ARTISTS

- 25 masterclasses and courses
- Hundreds of artists around the UK and internationally
- 'Creating Carnival' training model embedded in all of our artist development work

COMMUNITIES

- Reached over 2.8 million audiences across UK and internationally
- 150 events, including annual Mossley Light Festival / Christmas light switch-on festivals
- 22 artists and bands featured in Vale Live online gig series
- Creative Connections online networking and support forum
- Ongoing learning and participation programmes
- The Vale as a community resource within our Capital programme



'The Spice Girls' stilt elephants, Manchester Mega Mela, 2018

NEW PRODUCTIONS AND WALKABOUT ACTS INCLUDING:

- Creating Carnival: Desi Carnival 2017
- Future Leaders final show 2018
- Project Phoenix 2019 (see Productions for more information)
- 39 puppets created

INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES AND STUDY TRIPS

- Trinidad (March 2017)
two Future Leaders, with partner organisation Cabasa
- The Gambia (2018)
illuminated Carnival and workshops programme in Kartong
- Nigeria (2018)
performances at the Imo State Unity Carnival
- Italy (2019)
'Bessemmer' the fire dragon performance
- Qatar (2019)
performances of the 'Robots' at the Spring Festival in Doha



"Terry and Donna" the Pteranodons,
performing in Oldham

Developments

BECOMING AN NPO

After many years of delivering top-notch Carnival work across UK communities and overseas, Global Grooves were delighted to become an Arts Council England 'National Portfolio Organisation' (NPO) for 2018-2022.

As part of our core work, we continue to deliver high quality masterclasses, training courses, community engagement programmes, artist development schemes, our unique 'Future Leaders' programme, Carnival productions and walkabout performances, partnership projects, and learning experiences for our wider community. As the only NPO in Tameside, we also play a key role in supporting the local arts ecology around us.

EXPANDING OUR BOARD

As part of our organisation's growth in advance of becoming an NPO, we established a Board of Directors including:

2017–2020

CHAIR

Scott Darraugh

TRUSTEES / EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Leon Patel (CEO)

Holly Prest (Artistic Director)

Eraldo de Sá Marques (Financial Director)

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Charlie Morrison

Joe Harrison-Greaves

2020–PRESENT

CHAIR

Scott Darraugh

TRUSTEES / EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Leon Patel (CEO)

Holly Prest (Artistic Director)

Eraldo de Sá Marques (Financial Director)

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Charlie Morrison

Rachel Armstrong

Sally Hendry



CAPITAL PROGRAMME

In 2018, we were overjoyed to be awarded a capital refurbishment grant from Arts Council England to develop the Northern Carnival Centre of Excellence, taking our home, Vale Mill, to the next level.

The Northern Carnival Centre of Excellence will enable us to refurbish, renovate and recreate The Vale to provide first-rate facilities for the development of Carnival with high quality performance space, purpose-built studios for a wide range of making activities, additional storage... With facilities like this in-house, we'll be able to host Carnival practitioners from around the world as they nurture their own practice, as well as ensure that our own productions and performers have a tip-top home to call their own.

We are excited to announce that building work will begin in January 2021, with an estimated completion date of summer 2021. When the doors open, the all-new Vale will be the only high-quality arts centre of its kind in Tameside, and only the second dedicated centre to Carnival in the UK.

"The development of The Vale is of national significance to the Carnival arts sector as this will be one of few specialist creation spaces for Carnival arts in the UK and the largest in the North, which we hope will provide new opportunities for innovative work and, in particular, the next generation of Carnival arts leaders and creators."

Angela Chappell, Relationship Manager,
Arts Council England

NEW WEBSITE

In June 2020, we launched our revamped website where our supporters and potential new partners can read all about what's happening and our past work.

www.globalgrooves.org

FUNDERS/SUPPORTERS

We're delighted to have been supported by:

Asda Foundation
Action Together
Arts Council England
Awards For All
Big Lottery Fund /
The National Lottery Community Fund
British Council
Contemporânea
DCMS and HM Treasury
European Social Fund
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Groundwork
Jigsaw Housing
Heritage Lottery Fund
Mossley Town Council
Oldham Council
People's Health Trust
Social Investment Business
Sport England
Tameside Rotary Club
Tesco
The Foyle Foundation
The John Grant Davies Trust
The Manchester Guardian Society
UK Youth Fund
Youth Music
an anonymous legacy gift

...and, of course, our friends and supporters via crowdfunding platforms and donations, as well as our clients across the UK and internationally who have commissioned our work.

Challenges

THE RAY MILL FIRE / PROJECT PHOENIX

In March 2018, a catastrophic fire at our second storage and making space, Ray Mill in Stalybridge, destroyed 15 years' worth of our creative work. It was a devastating blow to lose hundreds of thousands of pounds and hours worth of irreplaceable giant puppets and hand-printed costumes.

With support from Arts Council England and over £8,000 raised through a crowdfunder, partners and private donations, we rose from the ashes and came back stronger than ever. A 60-strong team worked round the clock over three intense months to create the first wave of new large-scale key pieces. Almost 27,000 hours of team work was required to meet the commitments we had made to summer 2018 festivals, including Kendal Calling, Manchester Mega Mela, Manchester Diwali Mela and Carfests North and South. Everyone pulled together in the most amazing way to achieve the impossible.

Rather than recreating old works, we started afresh. New giant puppets created by our artists, makers and volunteers, some reaching up to 5 metres high, include Toni the fire breathing bat, Oxumaré', Kantaben, a herd of elephants on stilts, Valerie the Valkyrie Horse, I.O.L.A.2.0 the robot, and Phil the Phoenix.

Crowds attending the Blue Dot Festival at Jodrell Bank in July 2018 were amongst the first to meet the raucous menagerie of puppets and costumed-characters, accompanied by an illuminated cabal of cyborg percussionists. Our loveable characters and costumes have now been seen by audiences of tens of thousands at over 50 events since.



"Toni" the fire breathing bat, Bluedot Festival

"Despite a temporary set back in recent times as a result of fire damage, Global Grooves has and continues to rise like the phoenix and emerge more strongly than previously in providing nothing short of world class spectacular visual effects and street entertainment." Mossley Town Council

'Phil the Phoenix', Manchester Mega Mela, 2018



THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

In March 2020, news broke of the global Coronavirus pandemic. As an organisation specialising in outdoor arts, bringing together large groups of people and public performances, we knew there were rocky times ahead.

We know the importance of arts and culture in times of crisis. As The Tameside Reporter stated in August 2020: *'Thousands of culture venues and companies are struggling, unable to open up or trade due to the current situation, and Global Grooves are no different. However, the team at the Vale Mill have been hard at work ensuring there was still a job to return to once the pandemic subsides.'*

We banded together to create a number of initiatives and to move existing programmes online to benefit our local communities whilst providing work for our immediate team and our pool of freelancers:

- **The Missing Patch**
- **Creative Careers Camp**
- **Creative Computing**
- **Cotton Culture**

All of which you can read more about in our Creative Connections section on our website.

www.globalgrooves.org/learning/creative-connections

During lockdown, we also partnered with Creative Wellbeing Tameside to develop 'Creative Conversations' to explore the challenges and solutions faced by cultural organisations working with communities to encourage positive change in Tameside. This four-part series, led by guest speakers and practitioners from a number of cultural organisations across the North West, brought together creatives and community activists to explore ways we can work together to create the environment for the arts and creativity to bloom in our borough.

We have worked hard to support artists and organisations in the Carnival sector and in our Tameside community. Through advice, mentoring and funding workshops we helped 25 individuals secure over £200,000 in emergency funding and re-focus their work through the current period.

At the time of authoring this report (close of 2020), it is still somewhat unclear what the longer-term picture of the arts scene is going to be. It is certain, however, that rain or shine Global Grooves will continue to strengthen our resilience and overcome our challenges to ensure that our organisation and others alongside us are ready to spring into action as soon as possible.

Illustrations by Lizzie Rigby



Young People



Aelwyn, a Future Leaders visual artist, making a final group piece in 2018

The Impact of the Future Leaders programme

"The thing I like about Future Leaders is it's led by people who've been on the same journey as the young people who are taking part in it and are starting on that journey themselves. If we're going to give young people a kickstart in getting involved in a career in the arts, I think Future Leaders is a perfect way of doing that."

Dave Moutrey, Director & Chief Executive at HOME and Director of Culture for Manchester City Council

Since beginning our groundbreaking Future Leaders programme, Global Grooves has established a network of over 120 young emerging artists, seven of whom were drawn from international partnership organisations in Trinidad & Tobago, Brazil, Singapore, and India. This 120-strong network of young people are linked to around 100 other leading arts professionals and performance artists around the globe. Together, young artists and established professionals have been able to adopt styles of working and learning, using the programme as a model of best practice.

"I'm learning so many things really fast, not just art but also percussion, music, culture, people, and business, and it's nice to be able to learn all those in one place."

Natasha, 19, FL international student 2016, India

All our Future Leaders are now equipped with the knowledge and inspiration to make waves in their local communities, rippling out to meet other organisations who are also championing and nurturing the talents of their young members and meeting with other artists to affect great change in the wider sector and beyond.

As these young people continue to mature and influence their communities, we expect to see significant national change and development of the Carnival art forms. Over the next 10 years, we predict a Future Leaders network of around 250 young artists, who will form a strong and plentiful core of nationwide UK Carnival artists from which excellent art can grow and thrive.

"I thank both the team and all the kind sponsors for giving my son the opportunity to attend this programme. He leaves with true inspiration that will hopefully develop so he will go onto inspire others in the future. You have filled a void. My gratitude and thanks."

Parent of a Future Leader



Mika and Louise on our workforce development strand, Future Leaders programme

To learn about our groundbreaking Future Leaders programme, click here www.futureleaders.org.uk

OUR MOST RECENT FUTURE LEADERS COHORT (2018)

In 2018, we held our third cohort of the programme for 40 inspiring young dancers, musicians, and visual artists from across the UK. As part of the artistic and business development activities this year, we offered workshops including:

- Batik silk painting
- Bhangra percussion and dance
- Body painting
- Brazilian/Afro-Brazilian percussion and dance
- Capoeira
- Carnival backpack making
- Clay and fibreglass sculpture
- Cuban/Afro-Cuban percussion and dance
- Funding 'clinics'
- Fusion percussion arrangement
- Guest speaker sessions
- LED lighting and electronics
- Making costume for dancers
- Self-reflection and personal development
- Social action projects
- Street dance
- West African percussion and dance
- Yoga and mindfulness

Our residentials were also visited by our patrons, Steve White and Johnny Kalsi, complete with masterclasses and workshops.

We were also joined by guest speakers including the New Carnival Company, Manchester International Festival, Arts Council England, HOME, Slow Education Movement, Mossley Light Festival, Company Chameleon, Outdoor Arts UK, and Thingumajig Theatre, amongst others.

Within the programme, we also hosted the 'Active Citizens' programme for members aged 18+.

"The course has truly been so insightful and has helped me realise my capabilities. Before applying to the course, I viewed myself as just part of a band. I now can see that I've got way more potential than I'd initially seen in myself and that confidence has definitely grown due to the Future Leaders course."

Noah, Future Leader 2018



Bhangra dance workshop at Future Leaders, 2018

Newer programme elements

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

During our 2018 programme, we also worked with 10 music leaders and practitioners to offer them the opportunity to shadow and participate in a full cohort of the programme, working and learning alongside our 12-25 year-old course members and extended artist team. This proved a brilliant CPD experience for all concerned, with younger group members and more experienced adults mixing in class and learning from each other. As a result, we saw increased signposting and creative links being made between all organisations involved.

"I want to immerse myself in a teaching environment in which young people are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and confidence, helping them flourish and thrive as young artists. I have seen the massive impact the Future Leaders programme has on inspiring young people and helping them develop and as a result I recognise the unique opportunity shadowing can provide."

Ed Grimley, workforce development participant,
Future Leaders, 2018





'Dodgy Carpet Carnival' youth collaboration with SambaYaBamba Youth Street Band in Glasgow, 2018



Future Leaders perform at British Airways Fun Run event

BRASS INCLUDED IN MUSIC PROGRAMME FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

Each year we deliver the programme, we find ourselves having exciting conversations with our participants and partner organisations about the vision for the future. Given the huge surge in interest in the collaboration between percussion and melody in street bands today, and inspired by partners working with brass (such as the Incredible Plastic Street Band, SambaYaBamba Youth Street Band, and Oi Musica), we will develop our Future Leaders programme to include brass and melody as a regular fixture within each new cohort. We feel that the FL programme would be a great place to welcome players wanting to expand their knowledge of Carnival and community arts programmes as emerging young leaders in music, dance, and visual arts.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Dodgy Carpet Carnival (Glasgow Encontro 2018)

produced by SambaYaBamba Youth Street Band and Encontro Street Band Festival.

In the summer of 2018, around 10 Future Leaders from around the UK played leading roles in the creation and delivery of a youth collaboration between 80 combined members of Jubacana (Oldham), Juba do Leão (Oldham), SambaYaBamba Youth Street Band (Glasgow), Jack Drum Arts (Durham), Pulse of the Place (Edinburgh), and Banda Alana (Brazil). During several months of online collaboration and an intensive weekend of workshops, a very special new performance was created and performed by the young creatives involved.

British Airways community events

Throughout Global Grooves' history, we have worked closely with the British Airways 'Community and Conservation' programme. In our most recent appearances, we have handed over the reins to our Future Leaders for them to entertain and the community fun-runners and celebrity guests in attendance.



'Dodgy Carpet Carnival' youth collaboration with SambaYaBamba Youth Street Band in Glasgow, 2018

ADVOCACY

Our Global Grooves team and Future Leaders alumni love to get out into the community to share stories about the impact of the programme and explore new avenues for collaboration. Recent advocacy, talks and presentations include:

Tameside Creative Conversations – 2020

Creative Careers Camp – 2020

MMU Events Management Degree – 2020

Reaching Out Youth Network – 2020

Youth Music Awards (Holly Prest nominated for Most Inspirational Music Leader) – 2019

Curious Minds event – 2019

Tameside Leaders Event (Vale Stakeholder event) – 2019

Mela NPO Stakeholders Network Meeting – 2019

Reaching Out Network 'Morecambe' – 2018

Making Waves: Critical Mass – 2017

"Now I've had some time being involved with **Future Leaders and Global Grooves, I'm personally beginning to see the progress that the whole ethos is beginning to make."**

Steve White, Future Leaders Patron and Drum Kit Specialist



Dancer at Festival of the Sky, Cleethorpes, 2019

International: Future Leaders on tour

Since the programme began in 2014, we've been proud to see many of our alumni set off into the world to further their study, work with social projects, and feed their creativity in cities and countries around the globe, including Brazil, Cuba, Germany, India, Ivory Coast, Qatar, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, The Gambia, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Vietnam, and more!

It is such an inspiration to see our Future Leaders alumni furthering their skills through study and international adventures. We have enjoyed visits from international students and artists, leading to long lasting exchange opportunities on both sides. Our most recent international trip at the close of 2019 saw FLs Freya and Keiran join a seven-piece robot percussion touring ensemble as part of the Spring Festival in Qatar.

"It's hard to imagine it happening without Global Grooves' support, to be honest. Global Grooves go out of their way to engage with you. It's this consistency of care and passion for what you're doing, and I'm so grateful for it." Jordan, Future Leader musician, 2014

Future Leaders musician Jordan performing in São Paulo, Brazil



Other work with young people

WORK EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG PRODUCERS AND ARTISTS

Global Grooves are proud to offer exciting out-of-the-ordinary work experience opportunities for young people. These placements come in the form of project management training from our office and at events, performance opportunities, volunteering and skills gathering in our making studio, and more.

We have also worked with the 'Trailblaze' project via Curious Minds, and were shortlisted as a finalist for the North West Cultural Education Awards 2017 under the 'Outstanding Creative Employer' category.

We have continued to nurture the growth of a core of young artists and producers as they develop their cultural leadership skills. Through our community and corporate workshops and performances schedule, we have provided opportunities to dozens of teenagers; some as young as 12 have already got a year of Carnival performances in front of thousands of people under their belts!

Two Future Leader graduates from our 2016 cohort are now working with our core team as office manager and producer/project manager.

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Our school workshop packages celebrate both cultural diversity and our common roots. While the children have fun creating music, visuals and dance from African, South American and Indian cultures, they develop teamwork, thinking skills, coordination and concentration.

Our exciting and innovative primary and secondary school workshops have cross-curriculum relevance for children of all ages and although they stand alone as rich creative experiences, all of our packages can be adapted to celebrate international days, festivals and events.

We also offer music services including instrument tuition, vocal lessons and music ensembles.



A close-up photograph of a robot head. The robot has a red, mesh-like faceplate with small red lights. It has large, circular, glowing green eyes. Several thick, flexible, glowing green tubes are connected to the top and sides of the head. The robot is wearing a dark, metallic-looking helmet with a red visor. The background is a solid green color with a halftone dot pattern.

Artists

'The Robots' performing at Illuminate Festival in Oldham

Global Grooves support artists at every career stage, providing opportunities to develop skills, ambition, and depth in their practice. Our short courses and masterclasses provide training for hundreds of students each year, whilst emerging and experienced artists also have access to international research and development trips, practice-sharing forums, national networks, and employment.

Previous international study trips completed by our core artist and project delivery team between 2017 and 2020 are detailed on our 'International' page.

Several historic trips later developed into what became our 'Creating Carnival' programme: a series of workshops, conferences, and practice-sharing platforms to promote global connection and partnership working. These trips have included aspects from artistic development through to building new partnerships and enterprise overseas.

"Things like this are invaluable in that they really provide an opportunity for young people to not only experience something different but to learn new skills in a platform where they can contribute so they can share what they know."

Raj Gupta, dance artist, Future Leaders tutor 2016

VISUAL ARTS AND PUPPET-MAKING SHADOWING

Our eye-catching puppets have been designed and produced by some of the highest profile puppet makers in the UK. We shaped our commissions so that master puppet-makers could be shadowed by other artists and makers, to develop our wider team and in-house skills and expand our pool of puppet experts at Global Grooves and in the North of England; puppets Bessemer, Aurora, Padmini, Sivaji and the Arctic Fox were made in this way.

STUDY GROUPS

Since 2017, Global Grooves has been delivering Batukada Academy, a weekly Samba percussion class in Manchester city centre. Led by internationally renowned percussionists, Eraldo de Sá Marques and Luiz Fernando Domingos, these specialist workshops have welcomed players of all levels to come together and deepen their musicianship whilst making a mighty samba sound. Eraldo and Luiz 'Mikiba' have brought together their 30 years' experience of performing with championship Brazilian Samba Schools to share their infectious love for and commitment to all things Samba.

We also work closely with lead artist Adriana Rosso and her Carnival Dance Academy to bring together the most exciting dance and performance outfits for events all over the UK and beyond. Adriana began her Afro-Brazilian dance fitness classes many years ago which over time brought together a new group of dancers with shared choreographies ready to hit the streets with Global Grooves.



MASTERCLASSES AND COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

Throughout each year, we offer masterclass workshops in a host of art forms including dance, percussion, song, and visual arts. We format these learning experiences as residential weekends, short courses, and weekly classes to give our participants and supporters the maximum chance to get involved. Wherever we can, we make it a priority to get the community in on the action, too, by hosting special masterclasses linked to high profile events in our annual calendar. Through these projects, we have provided professional performance opportunities to those with little experience but bags of enthusiasm to also work towards joining our lead artist team over time. Some of these learning experiences linked to performances events include:

- **Blue Dot Festival**
- **Kendal Calling**
- **Seby Ntege music and songwriting masterclass**
- **Edun Ara at CarFest South**
- **Sambangra masterclass at CarFest North**
- **RHS Tatton with Cabasa**
- **Zest Fest at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital**
- **Mossley Light Festival**
- **Desi Carnival**
- **Manchester Mega Mela 'Desi street party'**
- **British Airways Runway Fun Run**
- **'Festival of the Sky', Cleethorpes**

Other masterclasses include:

- **Percussion masterclasses in Pandeiro, Timbau, and Tamborim**
- **Festa de Yemanjá dance, percussion, and song**
- **Samba workshops with Eraldo Marques**
- **Afro-Brazilian dance plus drumming for dancers**
- **Percussion and songs of the Orixas residential**

DIGITAL CREATIVE COURSES

Some of our most recent courses include:

- **Creative Computing**
www.globalgrooves.org/whats-on/creative-computing-2
- **Creative Careers Camp**
www.globalgrooves.org/news/click-together-creative-careers-camp-looking-to-work-in-the-arts
- **Creative Wellbeing**
www.globalgrooves.org/learn/creative-wellbeing
- **Create Together**
www.globalgrooves.org/learn/create-together

Danny Henry, performing at Manchester Mega Mela, 2018



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Providing training, mentoring and consultancy coupled with volunteering, participation and performance, we have witnessed that the immersive nature of Carnival can take people on phenomenal journeys, allowing them to discover everything they need for their own personal growth. As such, Global Grooves courses and programmes generally always feature some level of embedded development opportunity for the individual, as well as wider workforce development. In recent years, this has included work experience and paid employment for young artists and managers making the transition into arts careers, our Creating Carnival programme and within our Future Leaders programme.

THE EXTENDED ARTIST TEAM

Closer to home, our artists' development programme has seen a huge growth in our extended artist team, inspiring independent international research trips for even our youngest emerging trainees via Future Leaders, right through to established artists exploring new directions in their delivery.

Global Grooves deliver annual training opportunities for participants influenced by feedback from our student base alongside popular workshop formats including masterclass weekends, short courses, residential training weekends, conference events, and more.

During the development of our Future Leaders programme, a number of high profile industry specialists and experts have joined our extended artist team, and we welcome collaboration with new partner organisations and artists every year.

To meet our Future Leaders delivery team, visit:
www.futureleaders.org.uk

"I'm delighted to be a part of something so exciting and what has momentum and legs for the future."

Johnny Kalsi, founder of The Dhol Foundation / WOMAD ambassador

CELEBRATE FESTIVAL: YOUTH LED COMMUNITY EVENT (2017)

A community festival with a real arts focus, Celebrate was all about celebrating our beautiful, unique community – and everything it has to offer. It was devised and project managed by our very own Freya Bennett-Nielsen (our now office-manager and performance artist, who was just 16 years of age at the time of the event). Freya joined the Future Leaders 2016 cohort and soon joined our team to further her skills and explore the beginnings of a future career in the arts. For more information about Celebrate, please click here

www.globalgrooves.org/portfolio/celebrate-festival



Adriana dancing at Celebrate Festival in Mossley, Tameside, 2017

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow jacket and a crown of warm, glowing lights, is dancing with a young child. The child is also wearing a yellow jacket, a grey beanie, and red boots. They are in a dark, blue-toned environment with a halftone texture. The word "Communities" is written in large white letters across the center.

Communities

Rhiannon, a Future Leader dancer,
performing at Mossley Light Festival, 2017

"Mossley is indeed fortunate to have such an organisation as Global Grooves located within the town. The commitment shown by the organisation to community engagement in everything it does is quite breath-taking." Mossley Town Council

WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

We believe that Carnival isn't just a performance spectated from the sidelines; it's about bringing everyone together in the community and making sure everyone has access to high quality arts. After all, a happy, healthy community is an engaged one, so our year-round artistic programmes are geared towards fostering genuine connections with individuals as well as those organisations already working in the community. We aim to bring people to our home to experience opportunities in the studio, and we also send out our artists to community settings, providing classes, courses and one-off workshops.

Here is a glimpse of some of our more recent projects in the community.

Create Together: Arts for Wellbeing

We know that learning or practicing an art can benefit individuals, providing therapy, focus and fun. It's also the perfect way to bring people together, fostering new-found friendships, and boosting confidence and self-esteem. Read more about arts for wellbeing here www.globalgrooves.org/learn/create-together

Cotton Culture: looking back to move forward

As Global Grooves transforms its home, The Vale, and begins another chapter in the life of Vale Mill, our Heritage Lottery Funded programme, Cotton Culture, explores Vale Mill, its workers and the changing fortunes of the global textile trade – and how it continues to shape life here today. Read more about Cotton Culture here

www.globalgrooves.org/learn/cottonculture

The Missing Patch: creating connections from behind closed doors

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown presented Global Grooves with a conundrum. How could we engage with our audiences, our neighbours and communities when prevented from meeting face-to-face, at a time when they needed us most? After full team brainstorms, evolving over many days, we came up with The Missing Patch, a community arts project with a difference – everything could take place remotely, at home. Read more about The Missing Patch here

www.globalgrooves.org/news/can-you-help-us-with-the-missing-patch



ESF-funded projects: skilling up, boosting confidence, developing networks

The European Social Fund (ESF) is dedicated to improving the prospects of jobseekers and unemployed people. In 2020, we launched an ESF-funded project with three distinct 12-week phases, designed to provide unemployed people in Greater Manchester with creative opportunities to boost their confidence and develop their skills and networks.

We have had tremendous feedback from the participants of these courses, many of whom have been deterred from engaging with learning environments in the past, and we have also developed excellent relationships with signposting organisations, such as the DWP, Action Together's social prescribing service and Ashton Pioneer Homes, who encouraged their customers, clients and service users to take part.

"This festival of light is excellent for community spirit and promoting Mossley where I grew up... brilliant."

Local resident

Providing access and opportunities through volunteering

Exciting, engaging volunteer opportunities help people feel part of the community in which they live. Volunteering enables individuals to learn new skills or put into practice skills they may already have. It can make people feel calm and collected, connected and rejuvenated. It can be a break from a hectic lifestyle, or provide rewarding opportunities in quieter lives. And for Global Grooves, of course, having a lively, engaged volunteer workforce to call upon helps us build capacity and community when we need it!

Volunteers come on board at Global Grooves in many ways. Perhaps the most obvious route is volunteering at a performance. Our regular call-outs for volunteer performers is answered by all sorts of individuals: from emerging artists looking for experience to put in their portfolio, through to people seeking something different for their weekends. And puppeting or performing in a parade is certainly something different! Recently, our volunteer performers have appeared at festivals such as Kendal Calling, Blue Dot, Cotton Clouds, CarFest, and ZestFest.

Until the pandemic hit in 2020, we also held regular volunteer drop-ins, where people could call in and help with a specific project, perhaps the creation of new costumes for our performers or maintenance of our puppets. Once our venue has been transformed and we are back open to the public, our volunteer drop-ins will resume – and we will look forward to welcoming our new friends.



"I think Carnival's unique; it's not one person working in a studio by themselves, it means people coming together to make it happen."

Emily Wood, Lead Artist



'Jab' dancer performing at Mossley Light Festival, 2017

Productions



'Bessemer' the fire breathing dragon

Since our first public performance in 2009, our ambitious presentations have pushed the boundaries of what can be achieved by dreaming big and exploring innovative ways to fund and deliver an exciting artistic vision. Our productions are shaped by global Carnival influences and offer something for everyone from community parades to corporate events.

By collaborating with leading artists from diverse cross-arts disciplines, every Global Grooves production raises the bar higher. In recent years, our courses and masterclasses have culminated in large-scale productions reaching thousands of audience members around the UK.



Development of illuminated work and puppets

From 2016, Global Grooves began to focus on puppet building, illuminated work, and outdoor walkabout shows as a new direction of our work. Our 2017 winter events programme was a particularly prolific time for making, with a set of themed puppets created for Tameside Winter Carnival including The Rose Queen, The Boggart, and The Knight and Horse. A set of puppets were also created for the Mossley Light Festival in the same year on the theme of folk story 'The Tale of Two Giants', featuring Alphin, Alderman, and Rimmon.

Sadly, many of these were lost in the 2018 fire at Ray Mill, but following generous support from Arts Council England and crowdfunding from our incredible supporters, we launched Project Phoenix, an opportunity to bring to life brand new creations. This project brought in master puppet designers, giving our in-house artists a chance to shadow experts in their field.



'Toni' the fire breathing bat

Project Phoenix creations include:

- **Padmini and Sivaji**
designed by Lola Weir
- **Terry & Donna, the Pteranodons**
designed by Tony Mason
- **The Glowing Gastropods**
designed by Tony Mason, costumes by No Eyed Theatre, tech by Jon Mambo and Mike Pattison
- **Phil the Phoenix**
designed by Tony Mason with costumes and silk work by Emily Wood
- **Iola 2.0 and her Robot Drummers**
designed by Lola Weir with costumes by No Eyed Theatre and Chris Anderson
- **Toni the Fire Bat**
designed by Tony Mason with pyrotechnics by Kieran Whitrow
- **The Spice Girls**
designed by Rowan Taylor with costumes by Emily Wood
- **Kantaben the Roller Bird**
designed by Tony Mason with costumes by Emily Wood
- **Oxumaré**
designed by Lola Weir
- **Val and the Valkyries**
designed by Melanie Roberts with costumes by Emily Wood
- **Flags and wings sets**
designed by Emily Wood, Rowan Taylor and Hannah Jones

Other puppet commissions in the last three years include:

- **Arctic Fox**
designed by Tony Mason and supported by Stefan Pope
- **Aurora**
designed by Lola Weir
- **Bessemer**
designed by Tony Mason, costumes by Gordon Banks, pyro by Kieran Whitrow
- **Efe**
designed by Melanie Roberts in collaboration with Jo Portus, tech by Jon Mambo

We also purchased a dinosaur puppet, Tyrone, to complement our pteranodons and other walkabout acts. The Tyrone experience is augmented by costumes and performances by Gordon Banks.

To see photographs and videos of our puppets and costumes in action, please visit the Hire us section of our website: www.globalgrooves.org/hire-us/

"Thank you all so much for making the parade such a fantastic spectacle and event. I was so impressed by all the people and structures involved."

Marie Holland, Tameside Winter Carnival 2019



'Oxumaré'

New productions and performances

(including digital programmes):

- **Desi Carnival** (2017)
our South Asian inspired Carnival production
- **Kartong Festival** (2018)
an illuminated street parade in The Gambia
- **Journey Of The Orixas** (2018)
an adapted stage version of our 2014 street production
- **Efe the digital face** (2019)
a new performance created in collaboration with Jo Portus and Manchester International Festival
- **Street Carnival performance** (2019)
at Festival of the Sky in Cleethorpes
- **The Robots** (2019)
the development of a new street show in Qatar
- **Ready, Steady, Slow!** (2020)
a day of research and development with a director and cast to develop a show incorporating our Glowing Gastropod puppets — this development will continue once lockdown measures are lifted
- **The Hack** (2020)
a digital Carnival arts programme in partnership with Tameside Council

Notable large-scale performance events have included:

- **ZestFest at Manchester Children's Hospital** (2017-2019)
- **CarFest North & South** (2017-2018)
- **Blue Dot Festival** (2018-2019)
- **Kendal Calling Festival** (2018-2019)
- **Manchester Mega Mela** (2017-2018)
- **Cotton Clouds Festival** (2018-2019)
- **Liverpool Riverfest** (2019)
- **Travel Counsellors conference** (2019)
- **Tameside Winter Carnival** (2017-2019)
- **Lightpool Festival, Blackpool** (2019)



All smiles at Festival of the Sky, Cleethorpes



'Efe' at Bluedot Festival

Organisations



'Carnival Dance Academy' dancers performing with Global Grooves, Blackpool Tower Ballroom, 2019

Carnival thrives through connection: collaboration, partnership and learning, sharing and developing skills. It thrives because of the differences between those involved which has taught us to embrace and value everybody we meet on this journey. As such, we seek to forge partnerships with a whole host of different organisations, to cook up great new ideas, reach more and diverse audiences and to deliver the most exciting work we can.

Here's a snapshot of some of the organisations we've been working with between 2017 and 2020.

AT HOME

At The Vale, our home in Mossley, we work alongside and collaborate with a number of exciting organisations, such as:

Abney Orchestra

a fun, friendly, community orchestra that plays light classics and popular film music, rehearses at The Vale and performs in and around the local area.

Bangdrum CIC

delivering interactive schools workshops across the country, Bangdrum uses dance, drumming and percussion to bring the curriculum alive.

Cabasa

highly acclaimed and recognised for world class skills, Cabasa creates impressive structures, large puppets, fantastic costumes and promotes the history and heritage of Carnival and local communities through percussion, dance, melody, and street theatre.

Drum Jam

From body beats to boomwhackers – yes, you heard right – Drum Jam gets colleagues composing, departments drumming and managers moving.

Incredible Plastic Street Band

a brass band specifically for young people aged 5-12 that uses plastic trumpets and trombones as an opportunity to learn in a fun, friendly, affordable and unique way.

Kyla Brox Band

an incredible Blues singer that we're lucky to have on our doorstep. Kyla and her band use the space at The Vale for rehearsals, and we're also delighted she chose to release her album *Throw Away Your Blues* here, too.

Re-Create Mossley

a weekly visual arts group based at The Vale that works to make art and crafting accessible and fun.



Partner organisation, Katumba, join us for Tameside Winter Carnival, 2019

IN THE COMMUNITY

Active Citizens

Working closely with the British Council, we've delivered Active Citizens training to enhance engagement within the community.

Ashton Pioneer Homes

a social landlord that operates across Tameside and very kindly hosted our ESF-funded course, Click Together, in which many of their tenants participated.

Bloco Orixá, Handmade Samba, Manchester School of Samba, Sambafriq

Masterclasses and collaborative performances with local drumming groups at Desi Carnival 2017.

Carnival Dance Academy

Lead Dancer, Adriana Rosso, has been supported by Global Grooves to establish her weekly dance class and Carnival Dance Academy.

Emmaus Mossley

a local chapter of an international network where people experiencing homelessness can live, learn skills and get back on their feet. We collaborate regularly with Emmaus on a whole host of different projects, most recently to provide visual arts workshops for their companions.

Infinity Initiatives

an Ashton-under-Lyne based charity that works to support those deemed to be vulnerable and presenting with multiple needs. Recently, our artists hosted regular visual arts workshops, creating beautiful painted silk flags.

Juba do Leão and Jubacana

two bands – one for adults, one for younger people – inspired by the floor-shaking rhythms and vibrant dances of North-Eastern Brazil and led by Global Grooves' Artistic Director, Holly Prest.

Katumba

We've long admired Liverpool based tour de force, Katumba, and work with them as often as we can, most recently at the Tameside Winter Carnival.

Khush Amdid

a Tameside based association of Muslim women with whom we collaborated on a series of visual arts workshops to design and produce painted silk flags to celebrate Eid.

Mambo Amps

one of our musicians and technicians, Jon is also head honcho of Mambo Amps, a brand of high-quality small yet powerful guitar amps made in Jon's workshop in Mossley.

No Eyed Theatre

a Mossley-based maker of imaginative costumes and productions, we have worked together on a number of projects, including accompanying costumes for many of our puppets.

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Annual performance for patients and staff with our community of volunteer performers.

Tameside Arts

In 2020, we worked with Tameside Arts to kit out their brand new, purpose built theatre and arts space in their Create Connect centre.



FURTHER AFIELD

SambaYaBamba

a 30-piece drumming bateria and brass section from Glasgow. SambaYaBamba is rooted in the musical traditions of Brazilian Carnival and provides performance and progression opportunities to all comers, achieved through beginner adult classes, brass taster sessions, dance workshops and a thriving, vibrant youth band. Global Grooves has been delighted to help SambaYaBamba over the years with advice and support, especially in setting up their amazing street band festival, Encontro.

Jack Drum Arts

a community interest company based in County Durham that provides a whole host of high quality accessible arts activities for people of all ages and abilities.

BeatLife

a fantastic band in Liverpool that organises youth and adult drum workshops across the city and performs up and down the country. We joined forces with BeatLife to visit the Lake of Stars Festival in Malawi, performing and leading workshops.

SambAfric

this band's current musical director, Owen Davies, was trained by Global Grooves' very own Eraldo Marques, and the band play a mix of Samba, Samba Reggae, Maracatu, Afro bloco, Coco and other styles from various parts of Brazil.

Arco Iris

a Cambridge-based community Samba band who do great things. Over the years, we've popped down to Cambridge to teach and lead masterclasses.

More Music

a music and education charity based in the West End of Morecambe, with over 25 years of experience delivering workshops, training, performances and festivals across the district, region and beyond.

Brighter Sound

For almost 20 years, Brighter Sound has been delivering a programme of exciting, relevant, creative projects and events to support young and emerging musicians, working with music makers from their early years to their early careers.

In autumn 2020, we were awarded a National Lottery grant to work with community organisations in Tameside to build resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the lead organisation, we will be working with:

Dipak Dristri

an Indian women's social group in Ashton-under-Lyne

Khush Amdid

a Muslim women's social group in Ashton-under-Lyne

Emmaus Mossley

the Mossley chapter of the international homelessness charity

Phantasmagoria

a visual arts space in Ashton-under-Lyne

Incredible Plastic Street Band

a music project for young people operating in Mossley, Carrbrook and Oldham

Born and Bred Dance

a Mossley-based dance theatre company.

This project will involve funding equipment and advocacy for digital inclusion initiatives alongside pilot face-to-face ideas, as well as sharing learning and mentoring between staff.

"A consultancy session with the Global Grooves team fuelled our passion to hold Scotland's first ever Street Band Encontro in 2017. They provided us with inspiration and key contacts in the sector who have all been incredibly helpful in supporting us to develop our funding proposal."

SambaYaBamba & SambaYaBamba Youth Band

International work



Puppet making in The Gambia



'Bessemer' the fire-breathing dragon, performing in Italy, 2019



Global Grooves performing in Imo State Carnival, Nigeria, 2018

THE GAMBIA (2018)

In January 2018, Global Grooves took a team of 40 artists of all levels of experience to the Gambia on an international study experience. One of the main focus points for the trip was to help provide a sustainable funding model and support the bi-annual Kartong Festival, as well as take an illuminated Carnival to a poorly lit community area to inspire local artists and residents. Read more about our incredible experience here www.globalgrooves.org/portfolio/kartong

NIGERIA (2018)

IMO State Unity Carnival

In December 2018, Global Grooves performers took to the streets to celebrate the Imo State Unity Carnival alongside artists from Brazil, France, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, South Africa, Jamaica, Ghana, UK, Barbados, Nigeria, and Zambia. Alongside artists from Gemz Mas (London), we enjoyed an intensive weekend of outdoor Carnival parades to audiences who smiled and danced along with us.

ITALY (2019)

In the summer of 2019, two of our team members, Leon and Eraldo, along with two of our associated artists, Stefan Pope and Jon Mambo, were invited to perform with our fire-breathing puppets, 'Bessemer' the dragon and 'Toni' the bat, in Sorrento.

QATAR (2019)

Over the festive season, seven Global Grooves performers (including two Future Leaders alumni) hit the streets of Qatar to share some 'robo-grooves' with visitors to Souq Waqif and Souq Al Wakra. Between the 21st Dec 2019 and 4th Jan 2020, Doha's third edition of the Spring Festival offered an array of cultural programmes and international performers, drawing in audiences in their thousands each day. Fifteen days, 46 performances, and the development of a new musical street show.

Costumes: Christopher Anderson

Tech: Jon Mambo Shaw (Mambo Amps)

Thank you

Our work wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the time, energy, talent and ideas of our incredible artists, volunteers, participants, friends and partners. We look forward to working with you again!

PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS

Christian Dyson, John Grey, Jenny Martin, Simon Webb, Sam Orchard, Scott Salt Photography, Andy Stratford, Sky Sun Socials, George Harrison, CWPhotographics.com, Gary Carter, Lewis Wileman, Leon Patel, Amanda Gandy, Alan Hamer, Gregg Wolstenholme.



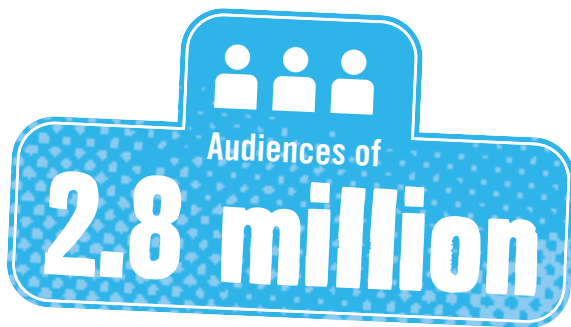
'Funk It Up' — good vibes on the street at Festival of the Sky, Cleethorpes, 2019

"I would like to thank you for all your time and effort you've put into the programme. You are really amazing people and have inspired me to move forward as an artist and do what I want to do."

Josh, 17, Musician

Facts and figures

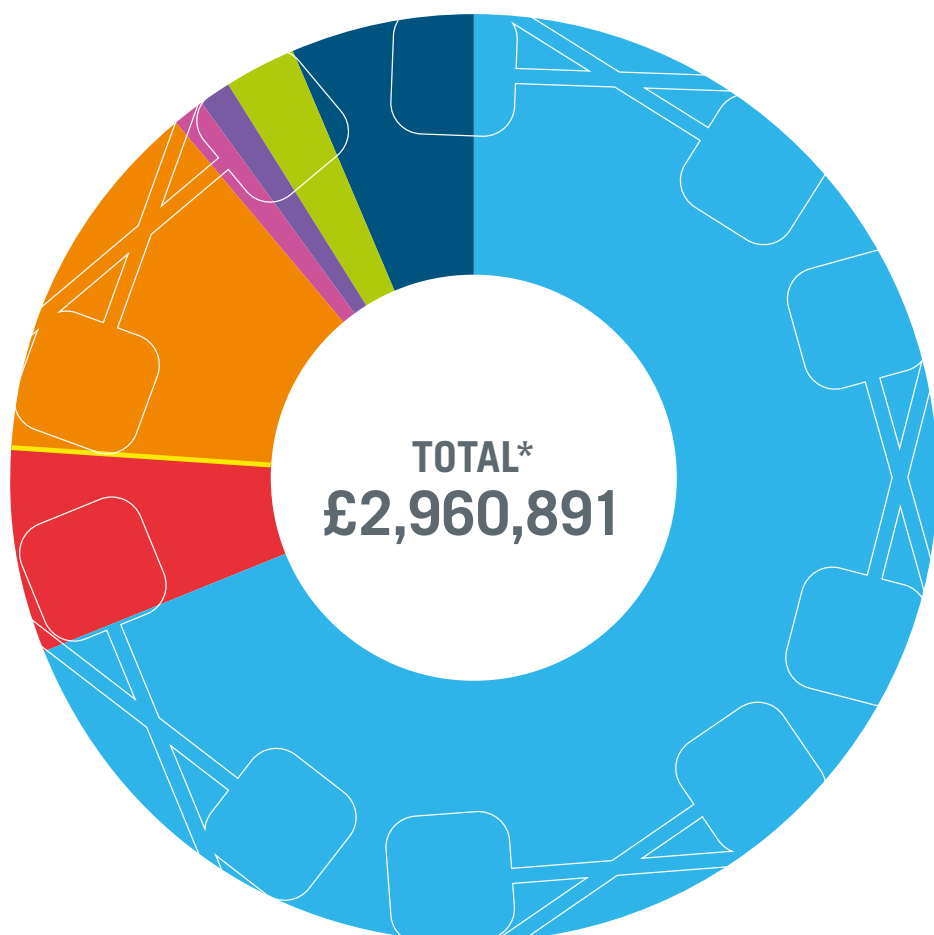
BETWEEN JANUARY 2017 AND 2020





Finance

THIS FINANCIAL REPORT COVERS THE
PERIOD JANUARY 2017 TO DECEMBER 2020



- PUBLIC GRANTS AWARDED**
£2,042,569
- OTHER RESTRICTED INCOME**
£213,301
- ADMISSIONS**
£5,053
- COMMISSIONS**
£374,457
- DONATIONS**
£29,467
- INTERNATIONAL**
£38,000
- EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**
£75,196
- PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT AND OTHER**
£182,848

***OF WHICH
£999,617 ALLOCATED TO CAPITAL***

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Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

'Constance' at Mossley Light Festival.
A tribute to our artists' lost work in the Ray Mill fire of 2018.

