

A N N U A L R E P O R T

2004 - 2005

The African and Caribbean Voices Association



ACVA

Charity Registration no.1098295

L E A R N I N G I S F O R L I F E



Chairperson's Report

ACVA has seen an eventful year both in terms of my role and in terms of the organisations growth. The challenge has been to move ACVA from its infant stage to becoming a fully grown and successful organisation. ACVA has been operating on a part-time basis but delivering a full-time service for the last five years. We have coped marvellously because we have managed to attract dedicated and committed volunteers.

We have also been surprised by the level of goodwill we have received from the 43 groups we worked with in London and the support from individuals.

We have raised our profile through the successful delivery of the Home Office Connecting Communities project and we are continuing this trend in the form of the Comic Relief project.

The Challenge for 2005-2006 is to build on these partnerships that we have started and to continue to liaise with and lobby the right people. It is in this way that we can make a difference.

Finally I would like to say thank you to all our supporters, Service Users, members, affiliated groups, staff and not forgetting our volunteers. You have done a tremendous job and we are very grateful.

Chairperson, Myrtle Laing.

Project Manager's Report



This year has been a successful year for developing networks and partnerships. We have concentrated on working on a strategic level across London by linking with the larger more established networks such as the various Pensioner's Forum and the London Older People's Strategy Group. We have found that we can influence change and also reach a wider user group by being part of these networks.

The Home Office Connecting Communities grant has propelled us into the decision-makers arena where we can voice the concerns of our users and at the same time raise awareness about the need for African and Caribbean people to stay in life long learning opportunities.

On a local level we are still providing ad hoc training services to the local African and Caribbean communities. We have worked in the South Kilburn area with the Elders Voice Group, in Hackney with a number of organisations and in Southwark, Newham and Lambeth with

borough based volunteers who run a home-to-home training service. During the course of the year we have worked with over 43 groups and 1043 individuals. This is a great achievement for our staff who are employed on a part-time basis but who are supported by committed volunteers.

The group in Birmingham has had a number of setbacks. They have not been able to attract new grants and two key members have been very ill. We will be working closely with them over the coming months to assist in their continued development.

The group in Manchester now have an active Steering group. They have used their membership fee to organise a trip and an 8 week Internet training workshop for 12 of their members. They now have a membership of 55 African and Caribbean pensioners.

We continue to provide intergenerational activities such as the Flora and Fauna Project. These workshops are mainly funded by the Local Network Fund and they have proved invaluable to our organisations holistic development.

To conclude, we could never have achieved this year's success without the help and support of sessional staff, consultants and volunteers. Special thanks to Genny Jones, Ian Quashie, Myrtle Felix, Lucita Comwillis-Paul, Jean Crooke, Amy Anderson, Elsa Redman, Gladys Munroe, Sandra Dawson and Donna Hibbert.

Project Manager, Angela Brivett

Project Worker's Report London



My work for the past 12 months has been hectic but enjoyable; the good thing is that one is never bored. We created a wonderful booklet charting the plant and animal life in England, Africa and the Caribbean with several After school clubs. I was very much inspired by the January Public Speaking Award ceremony, held at

the Stratford Town Hall. I had worked closely with all the participants and so saw how they had developed from being introverts, lacking in confidence, to being fully fledged public speakers. In February I continued to organise the Comic Relief project and in March the Hackney Sign posting training. This was an eye opener as I learnt how important it is for a community to know what services are available in their area.

It has been a pleasure working for ACVA I have gained a lot of experience dealing with people from a wide cultural background and I am very grateful for that.

Project Worker, Maria Kamara

Finance Worker's Report



My main job is bookkeeping; I also do the management accounts, reports for individual grant etc. Many activities happened during the year; we attracted more unreserved funds by selling our videotapes, DVDs and plants. For me, the most unforgettable evening was the

'Connecting Community Public Speaking Awards' that was held on 22nd January 2005. There were great speeches, entertainments and although most of the activities were covered by the Home Office and Neighbourhood.Renewal Community Chest grants we were able to make a small returns on the night.

I believe that our organisation will have a great busy year ahead as there are more exciting projects and increased members. It was a pleasure to work in this organisation with all the staff, members, and volunteers.

Finance Worker, Li Tang

A Volunteer's Experience

I joined ACVA mainly for the varied interesting opportunities offered to the over 50's especially the learning skills, black history and culture. I have a personal interests in adult literacy, I found the organisation to be just what I wanted and so I became a volunteer.

As a volunteer I am involved in many projects, attending forums, workshops, building alliances with other groups and cultures. The staff at ACVA are very

friendly and welcoming. I was involved in the presentation skills project which was opened to all over 50's regardless of or race or creed. This was a very successful project because participants were able to share life stories and experience.

I believe that as an ACVA member one has the opportunity of sharing and increasing knowledge of African and Caribbean life.

Volunteer, Cynthia Adejayan

Treasurer's Report

The published Annual Accounts show much improvement in growth for ACVA. We have had a fairly slow start but over the last 4 years we have seen gradual improvements in the quality of grants we are attracting. However, I believe ACVA's future is dependent on the development of good income generating schemes. We have sold videos, DVDs and organised events that have brought in funds but we now need to do this even better.

We cannot afford to stay in this vulnerable position for much longer and so we will be looking at other income generating schemes that will help us move from

being so dependent on grants. We have the expertise to make income generation work and the membership to help us maximise their yearly donations.

Emmanuel Nkwo, Treasurer



Winner of the Connecting Communities Award,
Josephine Brown & Civic Ambassador
Patricia Holland

Treasurer's Report Cont'd

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2005

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2005	Total 2004
Incoming Resources	£	£	£	£
Grants	0	62,601	62,601	67,523
Donation	60	0	60	1,279
Membership	215	0	215	298
Bank Interest	116	0	116	48
Sales/Other	64	0	64	4,374
Home Office Connecting Communities	0	29,665	29,665	17,695
	<u>455</u>	<u>92,266</u>	<u>92,721</u>	<u>91,217</u>
Outgoing Resources				
Charitable Costs	1,339	83,173	84,512	62,180
Management & Administration	0	10,408	10,408	9,240
Publicity	595	4,142	4,737	5,980
	<u>1,934</u>	<u>97,723</u>	<u>99,657</u>	<u>77,400</u>
Net Movement in funds	-1,479	-5,457	-6,936	13,817
Balance brought forward	<u>2,892</u>	<u>12,146</u>	<u>15,038</u>	<u>1,221</u>
Total Funds 31/3/05	<u>1,413</u>	<u>6,689</u>	<u>8,102</u>	<u>15,038</u>

None of the organisation's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

Staff Members

Angela Brivett -
Project Manager
 Maria Kamara -
Project Worker
 Li Tang -
Finance Worker
 Mrs L. Brivett -
Project Worker-Manchester
 Ms.P.St John -
Project Worker-Birmingham

Volunteers

Franklyn Georges
 Clement Adejayan
 Jean Crooke
 Gladys Munroe
 Elsa Redman
 Patsy Scott
 Amy Anderson
 Cynthia Adejayan
 Naomi Roper
 H. Francis
 Josephine Brown
 Basil Callendar

Funding Bodies

Association of London Government
 Awards for All
 Thames Gateway
 London Borough of Newham
 Hackney BME Health Fund
 Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest
 Heritage Lottery Fund
 London Borough of Newham
 Local Network Fund
 Home Office Connecting Communities Grant
 South Kilburn New Deal for Communities



Connecting Communities Award Winners 2005