

ANNUAL REPORT

2006 - 2007

The African and Caribbean Voices Association



ACVA

Charity Registration No. 1098295
Company Registration No. 5697861

LEARNING IS FOR LIFE

Chairperson's Report

ACVA has been making steady progress in all areas, however we are not complacent. We can report we have a good working team of Trustees, staff and volunteers who have made sure we continue to flourish.

I believe over this year we have changed the attitude of older people and our members because they are now much more willing to take part in life long learning activities. We have emphasised that learning is for life and not just confined to young people and university students. We have encouraged all our participants to live their dreams and if that means taking up adult learning classes, so be it. Or if it means attending a one off Taster session just to see what learning is all about then great.

We are finding that more and more older people are not just prepared to go to bingo, to the bookies, spend the day wandering around the shops or looking after their grandchildren but they are prepared to spend a few hours learning photography, quadrille or how to build their family

archive and we are proud of them and hope they will continue.

The year has flown by and we at ACVA have held events that took us all over London, such as the market trip to Brixton, Shepard's Bush, Borough, Camden and Covent Garden markets and the visits to the Stratford Theatre Royal.

In closing I would like to say a big thank you to all involved in making ACVA a wonderful and energetic organisation, particularly to our volunteers who have shown loyalty and perseverance.

Chairperson, Myrtle Laing.

Chairperson, Mrs Myrtle Laing



Project Work Conducted in 2006-2007

Organisational Review: Funded by the Charity Aid Foundation

Charity Aid Foundation has worked alongside us helping the Management Committee to focus their effort on building ACVA's infrastructure. Committee Members attended a number of focus group sessions where they were able to review ACVA's current position and plan for future development.

The outcome of the review included a number of recommendations including the development of a comprehensive Business Plan that CAF would fund. Other recommendations included a review of ACVA's Mission, Vision and organisation Objectives, increasing staff time to full time, create a workable funding strategy and Improving ACVA's marketing and promotion activities.

In light of these recommendations all staff were sent on Media Trust Training courses so they would become better able to market their projects and reach a wider number of users.

User Profile Breakdown

Fifteen percent of London's population are over 50 (Office for National Statistics) and there are a quarter of a million older people aged 80. Statistics show that there will be an increase of 50% of Black Asian and Ethnic Minority people age 65+ between 2001-2021. This represents good news for ACVA because we are seeking wider representation from central and East African countries.

We provide services for a wide range of groups including Faith-led, sheltered housing Associations and independent Living Schemes.

In the past we only provided training for clients who attend luncheon clubs, reside in sheltered homes or who are part of a Faith-led group. Now, we have built in a section of the Big Lottery Funding for Capacity building the organisations we visit, signposting them to funders that will help them diversify the training they offer their users. We want to ensure that they get the life long learning bug.

Breakdown of User's age

ACVA currently reaches 1049 individual per year from 8 inner London boroughs. The majority of users are aged 63-68 years. We have analysed attendance to our training activities and have found that the majority of trainees are able bodies although living with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure, they live between 1-3 miles of the venues we use and do not have dependent grandchildren.

We have noted in the past that we have attracted a younger membership when we organised tours and excursions. We are aiming to reach a balanced programme of activities in the new financial year that will engage all aspects of our membership and user group.

Committee Member, Claude Griffiths



ACVA's Training Programme

The aim of ACVA's training programme is to provide support and regular culturally specific, life long learning training for older African and Caribbean people. The outcome of all our training is that trainees will gain the skills, confidence and support to take part in other locally based training opportunities or become freelance workers.

We worked in Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Westminster during 2006-2007 reaching approximately 135 Trainees with our Taster Sessions and reaching a further 60 with our longer, more in-depth training. Courses on offer varied from borough to borough.

Southwark Training Programme

Kennington, Walworth, Camberwell, Elephant and Castle, Peckham and any other Southwark ward. Classes were held in Basic Contemporary Quadrille Dance.

Lewisham Training Programme

Taster sessions in Personal Safety were held. These are one hour sessions encouraged individuals to learn skills that will help protect them from theft, accidents and mishaps both in the home and on the streets.

Lambeth Training Programme

Basic Quadrille Dancing for beginners was on offer for those who wanted to get a taste of Caribbean traditional dance.

Westminster Training Programme

We ran Taster sessions in Personal Safety and distributed the Suzy

Lamplugh's Personal Safety Handbook to all recipients.

East London Training Programme

We offered a series of poetry writing classes called "Its A Love Thing". We offered a series of 4 workshops exploring the topic of First Love. We looked at poetry, Lyrics and dances that have been created about this topic and translated them into sign language. The aim of this project was to bring the hearing and deaf communities together so that they could share common experiences and older people can be introduced to Sign Language.

Brick and Islington Training Programme

We broadened the options for North London to include Salsa for beginners, Writing My Biography, Basic Filmmaking for Beginners and Creating My Family Archive but we found that the majority of participants were interested in Quadrille for beginners.



Volunteer, Cynthia Adejayan

ACVA's Befriending Service



2006-2007 saw the piloting of ACVA's Befriending Service in January 2007. We organised a series of shopping trips but concentrated on the telephone support. We were able to research into the health and social needs of our user group with the help of a student from the University of East London.

Treasurer's Report

As you can see from the enclosed report the majority of the grant received is allocated to project funding and project related costs. We have, over the years, brought in a small amount of unrestricted fund through the sale of DVD's, sponsored events and sale of other goods; we have not been as successful in this area as we have been in the past.

ACVA is in the process of reviewing how it generates unrestricted funds and a vital outcome is to develop a comprehensive Business Plan and fundraising policy that will help us to put into motion full cost recovery systems and raise unrestricted funds that can be used to cover core costs.

We do not want to burden our members by increasing their yearly contribution of £5 but we do want to encourage a culture whereby members ask their children and grandchildren to donate small sums and to Gift Aid these

donations also to buy into payroll giving. We also want to run a series of high profile sponsored events that should generate some income but we need the help and support of members for this to happen.

Treasurer, Emmanuel Nkwo

Committee, Staff & Volunteers



Treasurer's Report Cont'd

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2007

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2007	Total 2006
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Grants	2	0	64,042	64,042	60,223
Donation		415	0	415	463
Membership		235	0	235	210
Bank Interest		128	0	128	50
AOL		0	0	0	2,036
Sales/Other		170	0	170	1,070
		<u>948</u>	<u>64,042</u>	<u>64,990</u>	<u>64,052</u>
Resources Expended					
Charitable Costs		0	67,714	67,714	58,035
Management & Administration		203	0	203	2,451
Publicity		0	0	0	0
		<u>203</u>	<u>67,714</u>	<u>67,917</u>	<u>60,486</u>
Net Movement in funds		745	-3,672	-2,927	3,566
Balance brought forward		2,791	8,877	11,668	8,102
Total Funds 31/3/07		<u>3,536</u>	<u>5,205</u>	<u>8,741</u>	<u>11,668</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
 May Paule Carpin
Finance Worker

Daniella Sticht
 Patsy Scott
 Karene Duncan
 Orville Rennalls
 Bettina Oyeleye

Funding Bodies

The Big Lottery Fund
 Hackney One Love
 Natural History Museum
 CIDA - Fusion Grant
 Association of British Port
 Local Network Fund Newham
 London North East Community Foundation
 Charity Aid Foundation
 LEAD
 Help a London Child
 London Councils

Management Committee

Myrtle Laing - Chairperson
 Hugh Dwyer - Vice Chairperson
 Kojoe Blackman - Secretary
 Emmanuel Nkwo - Treasurer
 Clement Adejayan - Member
 Claude Griffith - Member
 Claris Johnson - Member
 Roslyn Robinson - Member
 Franklyn Georges - Member

Contact Details

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Volunteers

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 Pansy Carryl
 Saima Ashraf