

Afristyle Dance Club

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Afristyle's journey with Accelerate has been an incredible learning experience. The guidance received through Accelerate has been invaluable. Thanks for all you do.



Background

Afristyle Dance Club (ADC) is a community group, based in Aberdeen. Formed in 2019 to promote African culture, inclusion and diversity – ADC works with young adults from differing backgrounds and ethnicity.

Core activities include offering dance performances to care homes and schools in Aberdeen, in addition to a variety of other dance programmes. It also organises monthly health walks for community members in partnership with the Scotland-wide charity, Paths For All – geared towards promoting an active lifestyle, reducing loneliness and increasing social inclusion.

Need for support

As an unincorporated group, ADC sought support from Accelerate in 2022 to help map out a development plan that would review its existing governance – and, in doing so, allow it to meet both its organisational ambitions as well as the demand for its services.

What we did

Accelerate worked with ADC to create a development plan that identified key milestones in ensuring the organisation was 'fit for purpose' as it sought to meet these ambitions. The plan included:

[You can watch a testimonial video here](#)

- Strengthening ADC's understanding of good governance – including Identifying an appropriate legal structure.
- As an unincorporated organisation, this would include revising its constitution – whilst ensuring it continued to reflect the values of the organisation.
- Adopting relevant policies in keeping with the nature of its activities and the people with whom it is working – such as Health & Safety, a Risk Register, registering with Disclosure Scotland etc.
- Assessing current and future activities, in terms of meeting ADC's values as well as opportunities for securing funding and, in time, generating independent income streams.
- Applying an appropriate financial management system.

During 2023, ADC has been actively addressing each of the above recommendations. Just as importantly, ADC has also continued to build connections across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire – working with Aberdeen City Council, [ACVO](#) and other local partners. It is looking to expand its services with initiatives such as establishing a support service for African children across the wider area and producing and selling ADC merchandise via an online shop. Alongside these activities, ADC is currently in the process of identifying and securing a permanent base for itself in the city.

Afristyle is now on a far stronger footing from which to achieve its ambitions and better placed organisationally to further promote African culture, inclusion and diversity across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.