

2023–2024



ANNUAL REPORT

Connecting Communities

www.afroconnect.org.nz



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Chair's Report

Resilience, Reflection & Future Growth



This past year has been one of deep learning, reflection, and growth for AfroConnect NZ. As we mark another year since our incorporation, I'm reminded of how far we've come, and how much more we can achieve.

The 2023–2024 year came with its fair share of challenges. Like many grassroots organisations, we faced limitations in funding, volunteer availability, and capacity to deliver on all our ambitions. Despite these challenges, the unwavering commitment of our trustees and volunteers ensured our vision continued to thrive within the community.

Despite the obstacles, we continued working behind the scenes, shaping our strategic direction, engaging with key stakeholders, and strengthening our internal structures. These foundational efforts are essential for long-term impact and sustainability, and I'm proud of the groundwork that has been laid.

I want to acknowledge the dedication of our board members, new and returning, who have given their time and passion selflessly. This year, we leaned into meaningful and sometimes challenging conversations, creating space for shared learning, honest dialogue, and bold ideas. This approach grounded our decisions in lived experience and reflected the strength, richness, and diversity of our community. Thank you also to our supporters, partners, and funders who continue to believe in the work we do. Your belief in AfroConnect keeps us going, even on the toughest days.

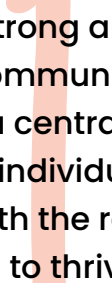
A special mention of the two emerging young leaders who participate in our board meetings as Youth Observers – Mariam and Mueebat Oladejo. While they do not hold voting rights, their presence offers them valuable exposure to governance, strategic thinking and community leadership. This is a part of our commitment as an organisation to youth leadership and capacity-building, through this we aim to foster the next generation of culturally grounded, socially conscious leaders who will continue to shape the future of our communities.

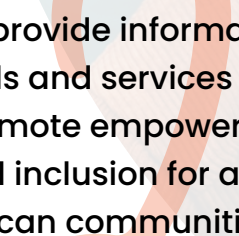


Our Vision

Is to foster a brighter future for African communities living in New Zealand.

Our Mission

 To build strong and vibrant African communities by creating a central hub that connects individuals and groups with the resources they need to thrive.

 To provide information, tools and services that promote empowerment and inclusion for all African communities

 To create a supportive and welcoming environment that helps African communities overcome the unique challenges they face in New Zealand.

Strategic Priorities



Foundation

Create the foundation for the future by

- Creating short and long term plans
- Identifying funding sources



Support

Innovate to meet the needs of the communities by providing

- High quality, diverse learning and development opportunities.
- Relevant information, guidance, advice, and resources through one-stop-hub.



Invest

Continuously improve to provide the best services to the community by

- Putting in place excellent governance arrangements
- Building resources & seeking opportunities to diversify funding streams



Influence

Influence policy that affects the community by

- Strongly advocating for contribution of the communities to the governing bodies.
- Creating pathways for meaningful engagement with policy makers and contributing to policy development.



Community

Understand community needs and align community expectations and AfroConnect realities by

- Developing collaborative relations to establish opportunities for the community
- Analysing the needs of the community

Treasurer's Report

Resilience, Operational Challenges & Strategic Focus



I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for AfroConnect NZ for the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

This year, our financial journey reflected the operational challenges many emerging charitable organisations face. While our activities remained limited due to resource constraints, we focused on strengthening internal systems, refining our funding strategies, and preparing for more active engagement in the next financial year.

We successfully secured three major grants towards the end of the year, while the timing did limit our ability to deliver programs at scale it did allow us to start laying the groundwork, building a more strategic funding pipeline, documenting our internal processes and maintaining compliance with financial regulations.

Expenditure remained minimal and was mostly administrative in nature, including communication, registrations, and platform maintenance. As a result, our financial position remained stable, though modest.

AfroConnect NZ is currently at a pivotal stage of growth, and I am confident that with intentional planning and increased external support, we are positioning ourselves for stronger financial performance in 2024–2025. We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and using every resource to advance our mission.

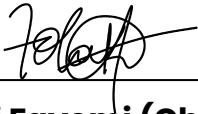
Thank you to our board, supporters, and community for your ongoing belief in the vision of AfroConnect NZ.



Financial Statements

Approval of Financial Reports

The Board of Trustees is pleased to present the approved financial report including the historical financial statements of AfroConnect Aotearoa New Zealand Charitable Trust for year ended 31 March 2024



Kemi Fayomi (Chairperson)

Date: 28/06/2024



Entity Information

AfroConnect, Aotearoa New Zealand

For the year ended 31 March 2024 Cash Basis

Legal Name of Entity

AfroConnect, Aotearoa New Zealand

Entity Type and Legal Basis

Registered charity and incorporated society

Registration Number

50095709

Entity's Purpose or Mission

The mission of AfroConnect NZ is to empower and connect African communities in New Zealand by providing resources and support in education, health, housing, and employment, fostering a brighter future for all.

Entity Structure

AfroConnect is run by a group of volunteers who use their time and skills to develop a thriving community of Afro-kiwis in Aotearoa

Main Sources of Entity's Cash and Resources

The main sources of AfroConnect NZ's cash and resources are grants from government agencies and donations from the public.

Main Methods Used by Entity to Raise Funds

AfroConnect NZ primarily raises funds through grant applications, seeking support from government agencies, foundations, and other charitable organizations aligned with its mission.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

AfroConnect NZ relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill its mission. Volunteers contribute their time, skills, and expertise to various initiatives and programs, helping with event organization, administrative tasks, outreach efforts, and more.

Additional Information

Email: hello@afroconnect.org.nz Website: www.afroconnect.org.nz

Meet the AfroConnect

Board

AfroConnect NZ is led by a diverse and passionate board of trustees who bring a wealth of experience from across the professional, health, legal, and community sectors. Each trustee is deeply committed to advancing the mission of AfroConnect NZ, celebrating African culture, strengthening diaspora connections, and driving impactful community engagement in Aotearoa. Their collective expertise and lived experiences form the foundation of our trust's strategic direction and community-led values.

Kemi Fayomi (Chairperson)



Born and raised in Nigeria, Kemi is an engineer working in New Zealand's food industry. As Chair of AfroConnect, Kemi brings her leadership, strategic thinking, and deep commitment to empowering the African community. Outside her professional life, she enjoys hosting, connecting with people, and creating spaces where community thrives.

Akeem Iyanda (Secretary)



Akeem is a Hamilton-based lawyer originally from Nigeria, with a specialisation in family disputes. Akeem is interested in social issues. He enjoys participating in discourse and events towards improving the African communities in New Zealand. Akeem actively volunteers in the community and enjoys time outdoors with friends when not working.

Paul Kintu (Treasurer)



Paul, originally from Uganda, is an ICT Infrastructure Engineer with over two decades of experience in tech and systems management. He brings problem-solving skills, and cross-cultural understanding to his role at AfroConnect. Outside of work, Paul enjoys travelling, civic discussions, and fostering meaningful human connections.

Glodie Biladi (Trustee)



Of Congolese heritage and born in Malaysia, Glodie works as an Oral Health Therapist and is passionate about equitable access to healthcare. At AfroConnect, she contributes a strong health and youth engagement lens. She finds joy in listening to thought-provoking podcasts and expressing herself through hip-hop dance.

Ala Farah (Trustee)



Ala is a Sudanese-born medical doctor who grew up in the UAE and has called New Zealand home for over 15 years. With expertise in general practice and lifestyle medicine, she brings a holistic, wellbeing-driven perspective to the AfroConnect board. Ala is also a proud mother of three boys and is deeply involved in community health initiatives.

Olakunle Ajayi (Trustee)



Olakunle is a psychotherapist with Nigerian roots and has lived in the Waikato region since the late 2000s. With a deep understanding of mental health, identity, and resilience, he offers a compassionate, reflective voice at the board table. His interests include football, music, and community development through political dialogue and advocacy.

Statement of Service Performance

Description of Entity's Outcomes

The purpose or mission of AfroConnect NZ is to build strong and vibrant African communities in New Zealand. They aim to achieve this by creating a central hub that connects individuals and groups with the resources they need to thrive. Their mission encompasses providing information, tools, and services that promote empowerment and inclusion for all African communities, with a particular focus on education, health, housing, and employment. Their ultimate vision is to foster a brighter future for African communities in New Zealand by empowering them and facilitating their connection to necessary resources, thereby contributing to the development and growth of New Zealand as a whole.

AfroConnect NZ has identified 4 priority areas:

- 1. Improved Health and Well-being:** AfroConnect NZ seeks to improve the physical and mental health of African communities in New Zealand by providing access to healthcare information, mental health support, and resources. The outcome is to enhance the overall well-being and resilience of community members.
- 2. Enhanced Housing Stability:** Through its housing initiatives, AfroConnect NZ aims to empower community members with knowledge about the housing market, tenant rights, and resources for first-time home-buyers. The outcome is increased housing stability, reduced housing-related stress, and improved living conditions.
- 3. Educational Attainment and Empowerment:** AfroConnect NZ strives to promote academic success and empower individuals with access to educational resources and tools. The outcome is increased educational attainment, improved academic performance, and greater opportunities for personal and professional growth among community members.
- 4. Economic Empowerment and Stability:** By supporting meaningful employment opportunities and providing tools and resources for economic empowerment, AfroConnect NZ aims to enhance the financial stability and resilience of African communities. The outcome is increased employment rates and greater economic contribution to New Zealand's economy by community members.

These outcomes align closely with AfroConnect NZ's mission of building strong and vibrant African communities in New Zealand, fostering a supportive environment where individuals can thrive and contribute positively to society.

	2024	2023
Description and Quantification of the Entity & Outputs		
Percentage of African organisations collaborating with AfroConnect NZ out of the total number of African organisations approached or available to collaborate.	100.00	100.00
Number of partnerships established	8.00	6.00
Number of monthly meetings to drive outcomes	12.00	12.00

Statement of Receipts and Payments

	NOTES	2024	2023
Operating Receipts			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	13,000.00	
Other operating receipts	1	330.00	1,046.73
Total Operating Receipts		13,330.00	1,046.73
Operating Payments			
Payments relating to providing goods or services			
Website Expenses		2,199.91	
Total Payments relating to providing goods or services		2,199.91	
Grants and donations paid	2	330.00	
Other operating payments			
Accountancy Fees		500.00	
Total Other operating payments		500.00	
Total Operating Payments		3,029.91	
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)		10,300.09	1,046.73
Capital Receipts			
Receipts from borrowings	3	500.00	
Total Capital Receipts		500.00	
Increase/(Decrease) in Bank Accounts and Cash		10,800.09	1,046.73
Cash Balances			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		1,046.73	
Net change in cash for period		10,800.09	1,046.73
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period		11,846.82	1,046.73

Statement of Resources and Commitments

	2024	2023
Bank Accounts and Cash		
Bank and cash/(bank overdraft)	11,846.82	1,046.73
Total Bank Accounts and Cash	11,846.82	1,046.73
	2024	2023
Commitments		
Current		
Creditors and Accrued Expenses		
Sundry Creditors	500.00	
Total Creditors and Accrued Expenses	500.00	
Total Current	500.00	
Total Commitments	500.00	
	2024	2023
Equity		
Current year earnings	10,300.09	1,046.73
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds	1,046.73	
Total Equity	11,346.82	1,046.73



Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The entity is permitted by law to apply PBE SFR-C {NFP} Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting-Cash {Not for Profit} and has elected to do so. All transactions are reported in the Statement of Receipts and Payments and related Notes to the Performance Report on a cash basis.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is not registered for GST. Therefore all amounts are stated inclusive of GST (if any).

Income Tax

AfroConnect, Aotearoa New Zealand is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Receipts and Payments comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Tier 4 PBE Accounting Standards Applied

Tier 4 accounting policies applied.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Notes to the Performance Report

	2024	2023
1. Analysis of Receipts		
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts		
Grants Received	13,000.00	
Total Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	13,000.00	
Other receipts		
Donations from Individuals	330.00	1,046.73
Total Other receipts	330.00	1,046.73
	2024	2023
2. Analysis of Payments		
Payments relating to providing goods or services		
Website Expenses	2,199.91	
Total Payments relating to providing goods or services	2,199.91	
Grants and donations paid		
Donations	330.00	
Total Grants and donations paid	330.00	
Other operating payments		
Accountancy Fees	500.00	
Total Other operating payments	500.00	
	2024	2023
3. Capital Receipts & Payments		
Loans Received		
Sundry Creditors	500.00	
Total Loans Received	500.00	
Equity		
Opening Balance	1,046.73	
Current year earnings	10,300.09	1,046.73
Total Equity	11,346.82	1,046.73

4. Related Parties

There were no transactions involving related parties during the financial year.

5. Events After the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report (Last year- nil).

Sponsors & Supporters

We are incredibly grateful for the support of the following organisations:



**Community
Waikato**
He piko he kaainga



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa



**The
Tindall
Foundation**

For more information

CONTACT US



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www.afroconnect.org.nz