



2024-2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

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Connecting Communities

[www.afroconnect.org.nz](http://www.afroconnect.org.nz)

# Contents

Vision & Mission	3
Strategic Priorities	4
Chair's Report	5
Treasurer's Report	6
Financial Statements – Approval of Financial Reports	7
Entity Information	8
Meet the AfroConnect Board	9
Statement of Service Performance	10
Statement of Receipts and Payments	11
Statements of Resources and Commitments	12
Statements of Accounting Policies	13
Notes to the Performance Report	14
Sponsors & Partners	15
Event Highlights – African Community Unity Forum	16
Event Highlights – Wellness Workshop	17
Event Highlights – Afrika Bazaar Waikato 2024	18
Snapshots of the Year	19
Contact Information	20

# Our Vision

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

# Our Mission

**1**  
To build strong and vibrant African communities by creating a central hub that connects individuals and groups with the resources they need to thrive.

**2**  
To provide information, tools and services that promote empowerment and inclusion for all African communities

**3**  
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



# Chair's Report

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## Community Impact & Responsible Stewardship



It brings me great joy to share Afroconnect NZ's 2024–2025 Annual Report, one that celebrates a year of vibrant cultural activity, responsible financial stewardship, and meaningful community engagement.

We began the year with bold goals to deepen our presence in the community, run impactful events, and strengthen our internal capacity. I'm proud to say we made considerable progress on all fronts. From hosting The Bazaar, which was a colourful showcase of African culture and entrepreneurship, to proudly contributing to Africa Day in Auckland, Afroconnect has been present, purposeful, and community driven.

Behind the scenes, our board has also worked diligently to ensure financial transparency and resource efficiency. Though we operate as a charitable trust, with limited resources, we remain committed to ensuring every dollar is spent purposefully to benefit our people.

This year we had an employee join us in the form of our administrative support Shireesh, if you've received a prompt response to an enquiry or seen our beautiful graphics then you've seen her work.

This progress wouldn't have been possible without the passion and sacrifice of our trustees and volunteers. Your time, your ideas, and your energy are the lifeblood of this organisation. To our funders, collaborators, and wider support network, thank you for standing with us as we pursue a more connected and empowered African diaspora in New Zealand.

As we continue to grow, we remain rooted in our values and committed to excellence. **A very special thank you to all Trustees for their valued contributions, and to our funders and supporters.**

# Treasurer's Report

## Resilience, Community Empowerment & Financial Growth



I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for AfroConnect NZ for the financial year ending March 31, 2025.

Over the past year, AfroConnect NZ has seen steady growth and increased engagement. Our involvement in events such as hosting Afrika Bazaar in Hamilton and our contribution to the Africa Day Forum in Auckland have supported event delivery and community participation efforts. This expansion reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering and investing in the communities we serve, emphasising our role in fostering resilience and sustainable development.

We gratefully secured funding from a diverse group of generous supporters and sponsors who recognised the significance of our cultural and community initiatives. These funds were meticulously managed and strategically allocated to ensure the successful execution of events, efficient operational logistics, volunteer support, and the enhancement of our community outreach efforts.

Our financial records show a marked increase in both income and expenditure compared to previous years, reflecting our expanding footprint and influence. In response to this growth, we have invested in robust systems and tools to strengthen our accounting and reporting processes, ensuring they remain effective as our organisation continues to expand.

As a non-profit organisation, we take great pride in our diligent management of resources, ensuring that every dollar is purposefully allocated to advance our mission and objectives.

On behalf of the finance team and trustees, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our funders, partners, and community members for their unwavering trust and support. We remain steadfast in our commitment to financial transparency, sustainability, and impact-driven planning, continually striving to achieve meaningful results for those we serve.

# 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 2025

Signed by:

*Oluwafolakemi Fayomi*

50FFDAAA0B984AE

**Kemi Fayomi (Chairperson)**

Date: 7/29/2025

## Entity Information

**AfroConnect, Aotearoa New Zealand**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025 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](mailto:hello@afroconnect.org.nz)

Website: [www.afroconnect.org.nz](http://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.

**Khalil Marsh (Treasurer)**



Originally from Chicago, Khalil has called Hamilton home for over a decade, blending his web development skills and love for arcade games to enrich the local tech and gaming scenes. Outside of work, he enjoys exploring diverse cuisines, gaming with his son and making a meaningful impact on both his career and community.

**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.

**Paul Kintu (Trustee)**



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.

# 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.

	2025	2024
Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outputs		
Grants Received	35,000	13,000
Number of partnerships established	10	8
Number of monthly meetings to drive outcomes	12	12



## Statement of Receipts and Payments

	NOTES	2025	2024
<b>Operating Receipts</b>			
Receipts from providing goods or services	1	450	-
Other operating receipts	1	6,810	330
Grants Received		35,500	13,000
<b>Total Operating Receipts</b>		<b>42,760</b>	<b>13,330</b>
<b>Operating Payments</b>			
Payments relating to providing goods or services	2	30,050	2,200
Grants and donations paid	2	3,000	330
Other operating payments	2	680	500
<b>Total Operating Payments</b>		<b>33,730</b>	<b>3,030</b>
<b>Operating Surplus or (Deficit)</b>		<b>9,030</b>	<b>10,300</b>
<b>Capital Receipts</b>			
Receipts from borrowings	3	500	500
<b>Total Capital Receipts</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Capital Payments</b>			
<b>Repayment of borrowings</b>			
Repayment of loans		500	-
<b>Total Repayment of borrowings</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Capital Payments</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Bank Accounts and Cash</b>		<b>9,030</b>	<b>10,800</b>
<b>Cash Balances</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		11,847	1,047
Net change in cash for period		9,030	10,800
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period		20,877	11,847



## Statement of Resources and Commitments

	2025	2024
<b>Bank Accounts and Cash</b>		
Bank and cash/(bank overdraft)	20,877	11,847
<b>Total Bank Accounts and Cash</b>	<b>20,877</b>	<b>11,847</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Commitments</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
<b>Creditors and Accrued Expenses</b>		
Sundry Creditors	500	500
<b>Total Creditors and Accrued Expenses</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Total Current</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current year earnings	9,030	10,300
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds	11,347	1,047
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>20,377</b>	<b>11,347</b>

# 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

	2025	2024
<b>1. Analysis of Receipts</b>		
<b><u>Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts</u></b>		
Grants Received	35,500	13,000
<b>Total Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>13,000</b>
<b><u>Receipts from providing goods or services</u></b>		
Sales	450	-
<b>Total Receipts from providing goods or services</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>-</b>
<b><u>Other receipts</u></b>		
Donations from Individuals	6,810	330
<b>Total Other receipts</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>330</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>2. Analysis of Payments</b>		
<b><u>Payments relating to providing goods or services</u></b>		
Advertising	1,158	-
Event expenses	27,464	-
Insurance	707	-
Office Expense	293	-
Printing & Stationery	50	-
Website Expenses	378	2,200
<b>Total Payments relating to providing goods or services</b>	<b>30,050</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b><u>Grants and donations paid</u></b>		
Donations	3,000	330
<b>Total Grants and donations paid</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>330</b>
<b><u>Other operating payments</u></b>		
Accountancy Fees	680	500
<b>Total Other operating payments</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>500</b>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>3. Capital Receipts &amp; Payments</b>		
<b><u>Loans Received</u></b>		
Opening Balance	500	-
Sundry Creditors	-	500
<b>Total Loans Received</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b><u>Equity</u></b>		
Opening Balance	11,347	1,047
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Current year earnings	9,030	10,300
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>20,377</b>	<b>11,347</b>

# Sponsors & Partners

A heartfelt thank you to all our partners, funders, and supporters for walking alongside AfroConnect NZ.

Your generosity enabled us to run workshops, community programs, and culturally grounded events. Thank you for believing in our vision.



Thank you to the partners we've worked with throughout the year :

- Tangata Whenua – Te Haa o te Whenua o Kirikiriroa
- ACOFI
- ACCW
- CAC
- Sharma Ethnic Women's Trust
- Waikato Refugee Forum
- OriKol Productions
- Naija in Waikato

# Event Highlights

## African Community Unity Forum – 24 May 2024

**Location:** Te Manawa, Auckland

**Attendance:** Representatives from African community groups across New Zealand

**Hosted by:** ACOFI | Supported by AfroConnect NZ and others

### Overview

On 24 May 2024, African communities from across Aotearoa came together in a powerful show of unity and shared purpose at the African Community Unity Forum. Held at the vibrant Te Manawa, this landmark event brought together diverse cultures, organisations, and leaders to reflect, connect, and shape a stronger collective future.

### Event Purpose

- Strengthen collaboration across African-led organisations and regions
- Discuss key challenges and share success stories within the community
- Empower attendees with insights on health, leadership, and legal literacy
- Formally elect a National Council to advocate for African communities in New Zealand

### Highlights

The forum created space for meaningful dialogue, inspiration, and strategic action. Highlights included powerful keynote speeches from African leaders on unity and resilience, engaging panel discussions on health, education, legal awareness, and leadership, and the landmark election of six leaders from four regions to form New Zealand's first National African Council—marking a significant step forward in community advocacy.

### Impact & Engagement

- Strengthened inter-regional networks across the African community
- Sparked meaningful new connections and collaborations
- Empowered participants with knowledge and a renewed sense of unity
- Celebrated African identity, culture, and leadership in Aotearoa

### Collaborations & Support

- **Host:** ACOFI (African Communities Forum Inc.)
- **Supporters & Attendees:** AfroConnect NZ, ACCW, CAC, and other regional organisations
- **Community Involvement:** Representatives and changemakers from across New Zealand participated, sharing their voices and visions

## Captured Moments



## Looking Ahead

AfroConnect NZ is proud to have supported this landmark event. We are committed to building on its momentum by actively engaging with the newly formed National Council and continuing to support events that celebrate, connect, and empower African communities across Aotearoa.



# Event Highlights

## Nurturing Mental Wellness Workshop - 14 June 2024

**Location:** Te Kete Tuatea Meeting Room, Rototuna Library, Hamilton

**Attendance:** Approximately 25 participants

**Hosted by:** AfroConnect NZ

### Overview

AfroConnect NZ's Nurturing Mental Wellness workshop, held on 14 June 2024 in Hamilton, offered a safe and inclusive space to explore emotional wellbeing, stress management, and culturally relevant approaches to mental health. The evening brought together expert speakers and community members for meaningful conversations and shared learning.

### Event Purpose

- Promote understanding of mental health within African and wider communities
- Share evidence-based strategies for emotional regulation and stress management
- Provide a culturally safe space for honest, stigma-free conversations
- Facilitate meaningful connections between attendees and mental health professionals

### Highlights

The workshop featured a dynamic lineup of speakers who brought both professional expertise and personal insight to the conversation. Each session offered practical tools and reflections tailored to the lived experiences of the African community in Aotearoa.

- **Dr Ala Farah** – Explored the link between physical and mental wellbeing
- **Olakunle Ajayi** – Shared therapeutic tools and coping strategies
- **Rumbidzai Chidzonga** – Offered insights on culturally responsive care
- **Britain Swarbrick** – Delivered creative reflections on identity and emotional expression
- A mix of educational talks, interactive Q&A, and open discussion encouraged attendees to engage and reflect in a supportive setting
- Light refreshments, tea, and coffee helped create a warm and welcoming environment for conversation

### Impact & Engagement

- Greater awareness of everyday mental wellness practices
- Strong appreciation for relatable, culturally aligned speakers
- Empowered participants through vulnerability, storytelling, and shared experiences
- Sparked new connections and community-led support opportunities

## Captured Moments



## Looking Ahead

The success of the Nurturing Mental Wellness workshop affirmed the need for more culturally relevant mental health initiatives. AfroConnect NZ will continue hosting wellness-focused gatherings in 2025, with dedicated sessions for youth, men's mental health, and creative healing spaces.

# Event Highlights

## Afrika Bazaar Waikato – 3 August 2024

**Location:** Claudelands Event Centre, Hamilton

**Attendance:** Estimated 2700 + attendees throughout the day, Free and open to the public

**Hosted by:** AfroConnect NZ

### Overview

AfroConnect NZ brought the vibrant spirit of Africa to Hamilton with Afrika Bazaar Waikato, a free, family-friendly celebration of African culture, creativity, and community connection.

### Event Purpose

- Showcase African heritage through music, fashion, food, and arts
- Promote cross-cultural understanding and social cohesion
- Support African creatives, entrepreneurs, and performers
- Provide a joyful, inclusive space for all ages and backgrounds

### Highlights

The event opened with an electrifying performance by the Burundi Drummers, followed by ORIKoL LIVE's dynamic fusion of culture and contemporary sound. Dance circles, spoken word, youth acts, and crowd interactions kept the energy alive, while over 30 stalls showcased African food, crafts, textiles, and resources in a vibrant, family-friendly atmosphere.

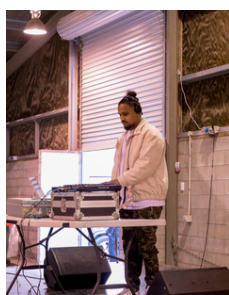
### Impact & Engagement

- Amplified visibility for African creatives and entrepreneurs
- Fostered meaningful cultural exchange and audience participation
- Strengthened community pride and public appreciation of African identity
- Delivered a feel-good day of music, movement, and celebration

### Collaborations & Support

- **Venue Partner:** Claudelands Event Centre (Hamilton City Council)
- **Delivery Partner:** ORIKoL Productions Ltd
- **Volunteers:** Over 20 community volunteers supported event logistics and crowd flow

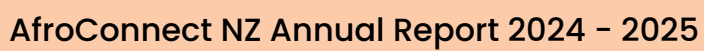
## Captured Moments



## Looking Ahead

The success of Afrika Bazaar Waikato reinforces the community's appetite for culture-driven experiences. AfroConnect NZ plans to expand future Bazaars and cultural events across Aotearoa, centering African stories, talent, and unity.







For more information

# CONTACT US



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