

epicarts

2018 Review and Annual Report



21,434 People Reached!

The total number of people we recorded as actively engaged with Epic Arts in 2018 through our Education, Community and Social Enterprise Programmes.



Spread the Message

1 day of community arts fun for 200 kids in Kampot

Working in collaboration with Kampot Traditional School (KCDI) our team produced Kampot Arts Festival in January 2018 - It was fun for all the family with workshops and performances with 200 children, young people and parents attending the festival.

8 new students and careers

we started a new pre-school class for children with any disabilities aged 3 - 6 and their caregivers. Growing Class aims for children and their families to see that they can be in a learning environment despite their disabilities. Each child has an individual plan and those children turning 7 will either graduate into the next level of SEP or our team will support the family enrol their child into public schools, ensuring the school director and teachers know how to support the child and their access needs.

"I am very happy that my son can join the class at Epic Arts. Coming to the Growing Class at Epic Arts will help him to build social skills with other students when they play together. I feel good about meeting other parents who also have children with disability. I can ask them about what's happening with their children, and we can discuss real life stories. I feel that I can be supportive to the other mothers in the class"

- Say Thyna, Mother of Growing Class Student

20 parents supporting each other

On the Special Education Project we're not just working with children and young people, we're also working with their families too. We host a parent meeting every quarter for all SEP parents to come together and parents or caregivers join the pre-school classes with their children.



**Sam Kagna,
SEP Team Leader**

"I think that the parents joining the class is important because the parents are learning about how to teach their young children at home about everyday skills, like reading, speaking and behavior.

It's important to have a place where parents of children with disability can meet because they understand each other's feelings. I'm happy to see that the parents have good relationships and communication.

I often observe the parents, at snack time they will all talk and share stories together about their child's experiences, as soon as one parent stops another parent will pick up the conversation and follow on with a similar story.

Myself and the other teachers always share our own experiences with the parents. I'm happy to be facilitating this group because I know how having a child with a disability can isolate you."



Inclusive performances mainstreamed in the Cambodian arts sector.

Our performers were included in several collaborative projects, here are a couple of highlights:

Five of Epic Arts performers were worked on a 5 week collaborative project alongside Amrita Performing Arts and Phare Ponleu Selpak. The retelling of The Trojan Woman was a community project led by La Mama Theatre.

Our new performance "Buffalo Boy" was booked for Cambodian Living Arts Festival. Thouen and Noth performed for university students and the general public both times to a packed out crowd who gave standing ovations.

One giant bar of soap!

A great example of how we're using innovative creative ideas to work with partner organisations to spread their messages in creative ways.

Our partnership with WaterAid Cambodia in 2018 was themed around hand-washing with soap - Ms. Sabo, the giant soap was conceived. A song about a man falling in love with a bar of soap was written and a hilarious video featuring Ms.Sabo was filmed and 244,000 people laughed along with us!





High Quality

48 staff know how to protect children!

We held a refresher training for all staff on our Child Protection Policy and reporting process to make sure our staff know what to do if they suspect child abuse. Keeping our students safe at Epic Arts and in their communities is our key priority to Child Protection training will happen once a year for all staff!

We're still washing it!

Wash it continued to win awards from film festivals and on the ground we developed and piloted creative workshops around Wash It for primary schools which included topics such as handwashing, soap, germs and disease prevention.





One Social Work Course

We're committed to our staff and our students, SEP Teacher, Channy took part in a 3 day training course on the basics of Social Work with our partners M'Lop Tapang in Sihanoukville.



Channy,
Special Education Teacher

"It's was my first time learning about social work. I think it will help a lot in my job. I learnt about observations and responding.

I think this new knowledge will help me to communicate with the students to encourage better behavior and be able to spot problems with the students"



Raise the Profile

One First Time Flyer

Thouen, Buntheng and Noth travelled to Leicester, UK to spend 2 weeks developing the “Buffalo Boy” piece. The trip didn’t just focus on dance but also lighting and projection, it was a chance for Thouen and Noth to work with James Cousins and for Buntheng to work with tech experts.

5 weeks of professional development

Our sister organisation, We Are Epic, organised an international collaboration that saw Internationally renowned choreographer, James Cousins travel to Cambodia and work with Epic Encounters.

The intensive project pushed our dancers and challenged our team about what being a professional in the performing arts sector means.





13 Students Toured Kampot to show that Every Person Counts!

Inclusive Arts students embarked on a tour of Kampot province, performing dance, music and drama outside of Epic Arts for the first time. Over four days the IAC students visited 7 local primary schools and NGOs to perform for over 700 children. Touring is an important part of the learning process, students are responsible for setting up and dealing with problems they face as a team. It's a great opportunity for students to see what life as a professional dancer in the Epic Encounters Company is actually like.



“ I got the experience of being on tour I learnt that it's not just performing, it's hard work! Loading and unloading materials, setting up the stage and finding a place”

- Inclusive Arts Course Student



Be sustainable

We Said No to Plastic Straws!

In 2017 we switched to eco-bags and boxes for takeaway orders, but with over 15,000 customers per year we're continuing to say no to plastic at Epic Arts Cafe. Our commitment is to the wider community and the plastic problem is rampant in Cambodia & Asia. We're now proud to say that we're straw-free, customers can buy a bamboo or metal straw to take home.

67% of Epic Arts total income came from our Social enterprise

Our social enterprise Epic Arts Cafe, Epic Encounters, Epic Creations & Come Back Brighter all help us to be sustainable. The rest of our income comes from individual donations and project partners.

Every Cookie Counts!

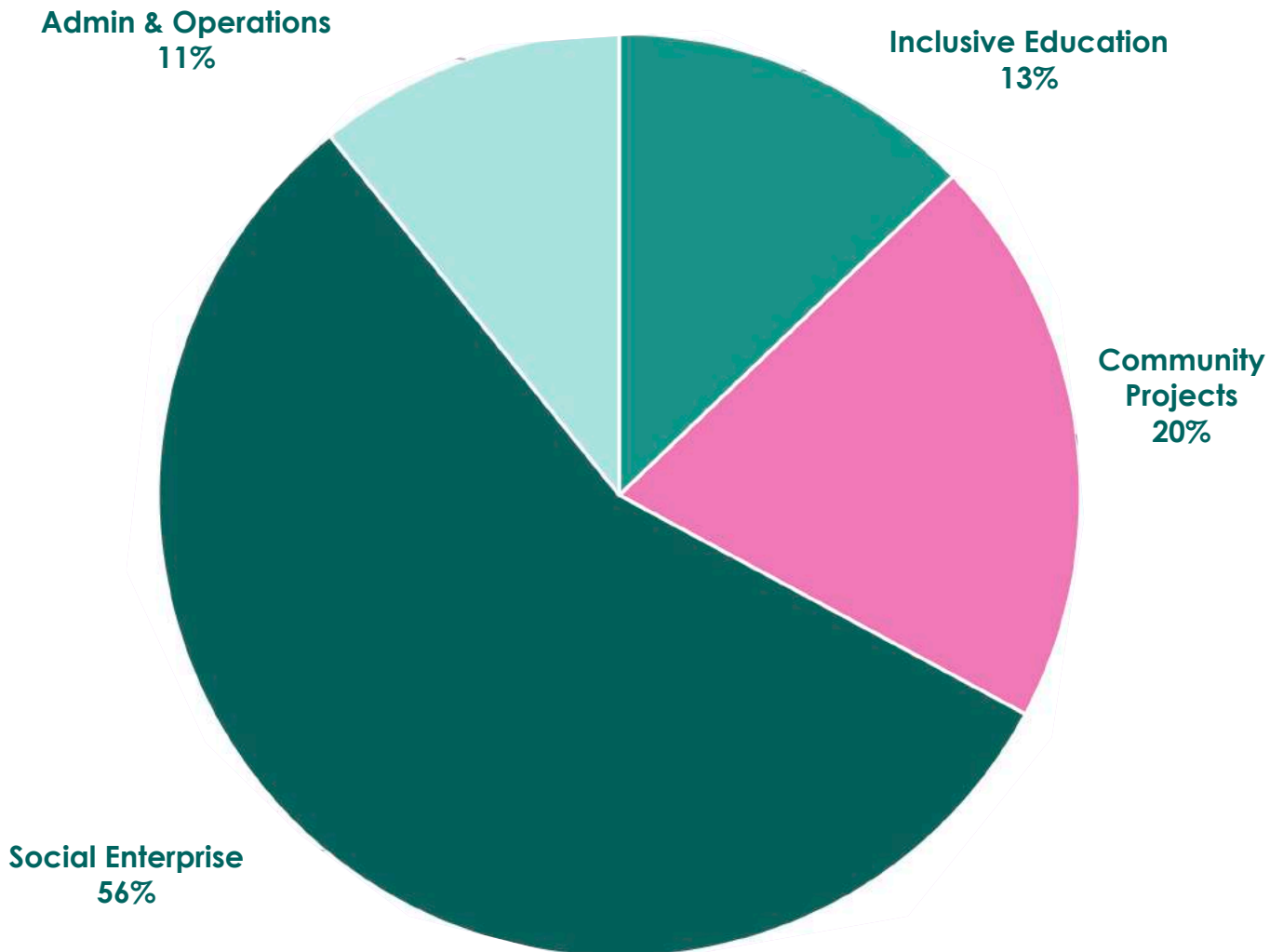
Our first social enterprise, Epic Arts Cafe opened in 2006 to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Kampot. As well as providing on-the-job training for people with and without disabilities, the cafe is now at the heart of our funding strategy.

One New Corporate Social Responsibility Partner

We joined forces with Philip Bank to show Cambodia that every person counts!

Our Operating Expenses in 2018 were \$333,827

These funds were spent in the following areas



Admin & Operations

Our incredible operations and management team keeping our Centre in Kampot in tip-top shape.

Inclusive Education

Gas for tuk tuks, snacks for children and classroom materials for students in our Special Education classes and Inclusive Arts Course.

Community Projects

Dance workshops and shows to raise awareness of the rights of people with disabilities.

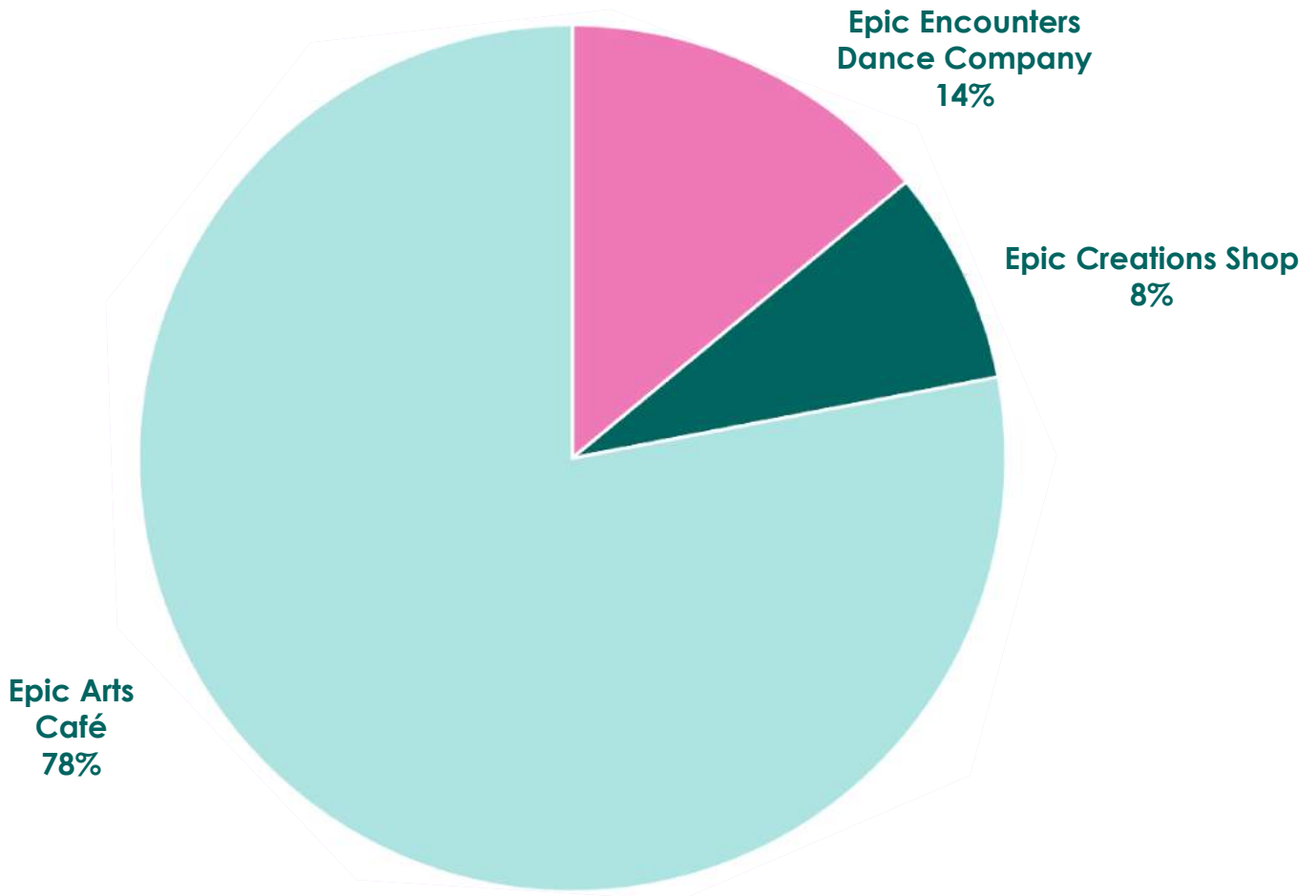
Social Enterprise

Our social enterprises have significant expenses such as rent and salaries. But, profits from the social enterprises generated 61% of our 2018 income.

External audits of Epic Arts finances are conducted annually.

61% of our 2018 income was generated through Epic Arts Social Enterprises

Of that 61% here's how the income was made through our three enterprises in Cambodia.



The remaining 39% of the income came from charitable giving, partnerships with schools, foundations & international development partners.

Epic Arts team is made up of 47 people

60% of all staff are people with disabilities or primary caregiver of a child with disability.

60% of all staff are women

64% of management & team leaders are women.

64% of management & team leaders are Cambodian.