Financial Procedures

Introduction
Financial records will be maintained so that Face Front Inclusive Theatre (FFIT/ Face Front) can:

a) Meet its legal and other obligations e.g. Charities Acts, Inland Revenue, Common Law
b) Enable the Board of Trustees to have control of FFIT’s finances
c) Enable FFIT to meet contractual obligations and requirements of funders.
d) FFIT will keep proper books of accounts, which will include electronic versions:
   o An Income and Expenditure account analysing all the transactions in FFIT accounts and recording all sales invoices raised, including date paid.
   o A Petty Cash file recording all cash purchases made.
   o Inland Revenue records detailing deductions from salaries.

The financial year will end on 31st March

Accounts will be drawn up after each financial year within four months of the year and presented to the next Annual General Meeting.

Before the start of each financial year, the Board of Trustees will approve a budgeted income and expenditure account for the following year.
Regular management accounts comparing actual income and expenditure with the budget will be presented to Trustees at every board meeting. The AGM will appoint an appropriately qualified auditor to audit FFIT’s accounts for presentation to the next AGM.

Bank
FFIT will hold accounts with appropriate banks be in the name of Face Front Inclusive Theatre Ltd.

The list of people who are signatories of FFIT’s accounts (The Bank Mandate) will always be approved and minuted by the Board of Trustees as well as any changes to it.
FFIT will require the bank to provide monthly statements of all accounts.

These will be reconciled with the cash book every month and the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees will spot check that this has been done at least twice a year.

FFIT will not use overdraft facilities or invest speculatively unless authorised, approved and minuted by the Board of Trustees.

Receipts (Income)
The aim is to demonstrate that FFIT has received all income to which it is entitled and that it is reasonably evidenced.

All monies received will be recorded promptly and banked without delay. Sundry receipts such as payment for photocopying will be recorded in the Petty Cash file and added to the Petty Cash float. FFIT will maintain a central file documenting all contributions from charitable donations, letters from funders etc.

Payments (Expenditure)
The aim is to ensure that all expenditure is on FFIT’s business and is properly authorised and that this can be demonstrated. The latest approved budget provides the cheque signatories with authority to spend up to the budgeted expenditure, not beyond it.

- The finance officer will be responsible for holding the cheque books (unused and partly used cheque books) which should be kept in the safe, under lock and key.
- Blank cheques will NEVER be pre-signed.
- The administrator is responsible for ordering, processing and checking invoices. The Finance Officer and CEO is responsible for raising cheque requisitions, signing cheques and authorising payment.
- It is permitted in exceptional cases to sign cheques where the payee is written in but the amount is left blank, provided that the cheque is crossed "NOT TO EXCEED £500".
- The relevant payee’s name will always be inserted on the cheque before signature; the cheque will always be filled in.
- No cheques will be signed without the accompanying invoice relevant to payment.
- Money will only be spent to meet conditions and requirements of the funders within the objectives of the constitution.
- LIMITS:
  - The Executive Director may authorise payments up to £5,000 providing these sums are within the approved budget
  - Expenditure more than £5,000 and less than £10,000 or an
overspend on particular project budgets of not more than 5% must be approved by the Finance and Fundraising Committee.

- Expenditure more than £10,000 must be approved by the Trustees.

**Payment & Documentation**

Every payment out of FFIT’s bank accounts will be supported by an original invoice (never against a supplier’s statement or final demand). The invoice will be attached to the cheque for approval and confirmation by the signatories.

Once the cheque and accompanying invoice has been dealt with, the original invoice will be filed with all accounting papers and kept for seven years. The person who signs the cheque should ensure that the following is written down on the invoice: Cheque number, relevant chequing account, details of source of income i.e. how this is funded, date cheque drawn and names of signatories who signed. The relevant information will be also recorded for all BACS payments and same procedures followed.

The only exceptions to cheques not supported by an original invoice would be for such items as advance booking fees for a future course, venue hire etc. Here a pro forma invoice must be obtained and attached to a photocopy of the cheque and then filed.

**Wages and Salaries** - All Employees will be paid within the PAYE National Insurance rules. Pay roll will be managed by the Finance Officer. All freelance or temporary workers will be properly contracted and paid by cheque or BACS once an invoice has been received for services rendered.

**Expenses/allowances** - FFIT will, if asked, reimburse necessary expenditure paid personally by staff, providing:

- Fares are evidenced by tickets.
- Other expenditure is evidenced by original receipts.
- Car mileage is based on local authority scales.

**Cheques Signatures, BACs Payments and Cash Cards**

Each cheque will be signed by at least two people.

A cheque must not be signed by the person to whom it is payable. All BACS payments will be agreed by at least two people and online payments witnessed by a person other than the worker who is making the payment.
Other Undertakings
FFIT does not accept liability for any financial commitment unless properly authorised. Any orders placed or undertakings given, the financial consequences of which are prima facia, likely to exceed the total of £5,000, must be authorised and minuted by the Board of Trustees. (This covers such items as the new service contracts, office equipment, purchase and hire.)

All fund raising and grant applications undertaken on behalf of the organisation will be done in the name of Face Front Inclusive Theatre Company.

Confidentiality
The confidentiality of the employees' financial circumstances will be respected at all times.

Committee members, volunteers and employees will at all times act in the best interest of the organisation and if they experience a conflict of interest, they will not divulge sensitive information.

Other Rules
The Board of Trustees will consider the level of reserves that is prudent for the charity to have at its AGM meeting each year which will be between 3-6 months of running costs. Consideration will be given to redundancy liabilities, lease agreements and any other factors that should be taken into account were the organisation to close.

FFIT will adhere to good practice in relation to its finances at all times, e.g. when relevant it will maintain an inventory of fixed assets, stating the date of purchase, cost, serial numbers and usual location of the assets. Proper records will be kept of any goods or merchandise of significant value.

Related Policies and procedures
This policy should be read alongside our related organisational policies:
- Expenses Policy
- Grievance, Disciplinary, Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

LAST REVIEWED
October 2022

REVIEW
March 2023