



## Changing legal structures

### Odd Arts



Odd Arts uses theatre to challenge and change the way people think, behave and see the world. I (Rebecca, CEO) founded the organisation with two friends in 2004. We were clueless in anything linked to starting a company, but full of enthusiasm! Our initial company status (company limited by guarantee) was a messy set up that we eventually converted to something more suitable, when Community Interest Companies (CIC) were an option.

Being a CIC served us well as a small community organisation, but over time we also saw its limitations. As many of you will know, a number of funding streams won't look beyond Charity status, meaning we were limiting our possibility and income streams, as well as having greater financial liabilities than charities (even though all our work was charitable).

Odd Arts has seen a steady growth over the last 3 years, at the same time of greater competition for funds. I was daunted by the task of setting up a charity, in some ways feeling as clueless as I did back in 2004! Both myself and the Board had questions: Was it safe? Would it really help? Would I lose all control? Was it feasible? Were we capable?

At this point we contacted Macc and shared our vast questions and concerns with Stuart! Stuart has been an incredible help, where he initially: Listened to our fears; shared broad status / constitutional options; focused our mind on the real opportunities and threats of staying where we were verses moving to charity status. On greater investigation it became clear that Odd Arts would benefit from becoming a CIO, and if not now, we would only need to do it in the near future.

Macc guided us with links and support on formal documents (breaking these down into bitesize information that we could understand). With face-to-face support, including attendance at key Board meetings, Macc saw Odd Arts through the initial 'idea' stage to where we are now – a Charity Incorporated Organisation.



We are incredibly grateful for the guidance offered and without Macc's help I feel quite sure we would still be trying to negotiate the complex language and paperwork that goes hand in hand with a new legal set-up. Macc guidance has meant we have spent more time delivering work with beneficiaries, and also created greater opportunities for the future.

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