



## CASE STUDY

### Accounting for the Arts & Creative Sector



**QUAD is a charity and cultural hub in the heart of Derby. They are one of the city's primary visitor locations offering cinema, exhibitions, workshops and a fantastic café-bar.**

#### From fancy dress to accountancy support

Kevin, our MD, attended a themed fundraising event at QUAD where he got talking to the interim CEO Vivek Malhotra. This conversation highlighted the need for a coffee in the café which is exactly what they organised a few weeks later.

QUAD had undergone a restructuring program under Vivek's stewardship which had resulted in the finance team being under resourced. More than that it was clear the ERP systems needed to be reviewed alongside some of the other systems in place for ticket bookings and card payments.

Our initial step forward was offering our experienced accountant, Daniel, to QUAD on a secondment where he could provide the support needed in getting the sales ledger and purchase ledger more orderly.

#### Day to Day Support

Daniel worked with the finance team members to understand where best to use his time and talents within the department. He's exceptionally versatile and understands a range of finance systems so was quickly able to pick up what he needed to do. Plus he loves paper which QUAD had in abundance for historical records.

Daniel says "It was an absolute pleasure working at the Quad.

The finance team made me feel very welcome and I am thrilled to have helped them out in a time of need. Assisting QUAD was a prime example of how Ascentant are able to provide emergency support at times of need to its Clients."



Managing Director of Ascentant, Kevin says “I am a big supporter of the Quad, having attended Mainframe, Creative Mornings and general networking events and have a passion for the Arts and Creative Sector.

It was a no brainer to reach out and offer some of our resources to the Quad, to help them keep their finance function afloat until they were able to be back at full capacity”.

## Systems support

As a XERO certified business Kevin was able to support Vivek on understanding what the process of moving to a new ERP would look like bringing in experts like Sue Green who has oodles of experience in systems migration.

All these conversations were ongoing whilst QUAD recruited for a finance manager; Sue performed an in-depth review enabling her to paint the picture of what needed to happen for a successful switch.

Sue says “analysing everything that was happening in Sage was made much easier because of how open and friendly the team at QUAD were, that enabled me to pick out the critical action points for a systems migration to happen and more importantly work quickly within this busy company.”

## Heading up finance

This journey with QUAD during 2022 led us to the appointment of Victoria Brown who has grabbed the finance department and run with the critical things that needed to happen.

Daniel has worked closely with Victoria to ensure he focusses on the priority tasks which can be anything from invoice processing to working on wages. This has made a huge difference to understanding the direction of QUAD and what they needed from us as an outsourced accountancy partner by having Victoria in place. We know QUAD is in very safe hands with Victoria there so it was a relief to see her join.

## What QUAD says

Vivek said ‘Ascentant provided Quad with finance office support at a time when we needed it most. This came via Daniel who was diligent in his work over several weeks and is a credit to his employers Ascentant. We really appreciated this support and are grateful for the quick response to our predicament. Thanks very much for your support Kevin, it helped us out at a difficult time.’