



**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT
SERVICES**

ARTS GRANT AID - 2013-14

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise members of the background and process for the allocation of grant aid to arts projects through the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund (NAF).

Background

2. The Corporate Grant Aid Strategy 2011- 2015 agreed the continuation of the NAF to fund arts projects, and is open to applications from individuals and groups for awards of between £500 and £2,500.
3. Funds are made available through the NAF to support arts projects that help to deliver against NCC's current priorities, including fostering aspiration and promoting the economic prosperity of Nottinghamshire.
4. Grants made under NAF are for projects with specific outcomes, such as engaging more people in the arts, with defined beginning and end dates. In this way, NCC grant aid invests in groups to act as a catalyst for new and appealing activities, but it does not make groups reliant on this funding. The result is a sustainable arts sector more able to adapt and respond to opportunities.
5. NAF has also been used by applicants to lever additional significant external funding notably from Arts Council England's Grants for the Arts (National Lottery). During 2012-13 NAF awards secured for the benefit of Nottinghamshire's citizens an additional £95k of investment from other sources.
6. NAF grants are awarded for specific projects with beginning and end dates, therefore they do not follow 3 year agreements and run to a different funding timetable to other corporate grant aid streams.

7. Having an open access scheme has the benefit of identifying for NCC's Arts Service new partners and initiatives that we can work with to support and develop, even where applicants have been unsuccessful in their initial applications. For instance, we were not able to support a local film maker (Artsdocs) to make a documentary film about renowned Ghanaian artist Paa Joe, that included outreach work in local schools and a community event supported by the National Trust at Clumber Park, through NAF because of timing issues. However we were able to develop the partnership, help secure additional funding from Arts Council England and support the community programme from other funds. The overall programme associated with this project attracted an audience of over 30,000.

Current Processes

8. NAF is a grant aid scheme aimed at helping local communities engage with the arts. It is open to applications from artists, community organisations, or professional arts organisations. As such it is a vital tool in supporting grass roots activity.
9. NAF has two rounds of funding, with an allocation of £42,000 in 2013-14. For Round 1 of 2013-14 NCC received 10 applications and made 8 awards to projects, as listed below:

Applicant	Project Name	£ request	£ awarded	Project details
Arnold Art Society	Arnold Art Society Autumn 2013	526.5	527	To support a programme of activities including art demonstrations and exhibitions
Extended Services - Redhill Family of Schools	Carnival Arts Summer Programme	2,347	2347	A summer holiday programme of workshops for young people leading to them forming a troupe as part of Nottingham Caribbean Carnival Parade
Friends Of Bridgford Park	Bridgford Park Storytelling Area	2,500	2500	A project using local sculptor Richard Janes, to design and install an outdoor storytelling area in Bridgford Park
Horton, Paul	The Feet of the Midlands exhibition.	700	700	A touring photographic exhibition and short series of digital photography workshops taking place in Nottinghamshire venues including some libraries
Kemp, Nikki	Wandering Dragon	2500	2500	To fully establish a gamelan (Javanese percussion) community band through additional practice and performance sessions
Lesurf,	The Ballad of	2500	2500	Developing with community

Applicant	Project Name	£ request	£ awarded	Project details
Cathy	Ephraim Flint			members in W Bridgford, a special performance to commemorate the contribution of black service men. Performance during Black History month
Tales from the Riverbank	Tales from the Riverbank	2500	2500	A children's book festival aimed at young people and families and run by parents and residents of Lady Bay
Wynndale PTA	Drawing Tomorrow, Today!	750	750	Community drawing workshops in Mansfield linked to the National Campaign for Drawing's 'Big Draw' month
Total			14324	

10. NAF is open to applicants through an online application process hosted on NCC's website. Assessments are made by a panel of officers using a scored decision matrix. The current system has worked well in providing assessing officers with the right information on which to base funding recommendations.

Other Options Considered

11. The NAF scheme has been very successful to date. The benefits have included:

- § Attracting substantial external investment
- § Providing a massive range of opportunities for local people to engage with the arts
- § Engaging local people in leading and supporting projects that benefit their communities e.g. through volunteering.
- § Inspiring & entertaining our citizens and helping give Nottinghamshire a wow factor!

12. The first round of funding of 2013-14 did not receive a large number of high quality applications. Although the portfolio is sound there is little 'wow' factor, this is not a fundamental problem, but it does require additional promotion and marketing in future rounds.

13. it is not proposed to make any major changes to the way NAF is run and administered, as it provides a light touch, efficient and effective way of supporting arts projects that benefit Nottinghamshire citizens.

Financial Implications

14. There are no new financial implications as a result of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- i) Members to note the report and are invited to raise questions.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 07/08/2013)

Grant Aid Sub-Committee has authority for grant aid as set out in the Council's Grant Aid Strategy and is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments

There are no new financial commitments contained in this report

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All