

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES**ARTS GRANT AID 2014-15****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the applications received to the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund (NAF) and seek approval from Members of funding for a portfolio of grant awards.

Information and Advice

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 supports arts projects that help to deliver against the Council's current priority of 'Supporting Safe and Thriving Communities'.
4. Unlike other NCC grant streams, arts grant aid does not represent revenue funding. 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-in-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. As grants awarded are for specific projects with beginning and end dates, NAF grants do not follow three year agreements and run to a different funding timetable to other corporate grant aid streams.
6. Having an open access scheme also 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.
7. Applications are received via on online application portal and are assessed by the NCC Arts Development Team against published criteria and guidance. The current round of applications was open from Monday 22 September 2014 and closed on Monday 27 October 2014. The available funds totalled £15,986.

8. A total of 14 applications were received and assessed. Details of all applications and assessment scores are attached as **Appendix 1**.
9. The recommended portfolio of grant awards is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Applicant	Project Name	Area	Amount recommended £
Handmade Theatre Company	Older people's project	Various including Rufford Country Park (N&S)	2,400
Architects of Air	Little Dome project	Various including Rufford Country Park (N&S)	2,500
Lady Bay Children's' Book Festival	Telling Tales: Nottingham Kids' Festival of Imagination	Lady Bay	1,371
Lace City Chorus	Lace City Community Chorus	Various (Gedling, N&S, Mansfield)	2,450
Creative Paths CIC	The Creative Cuppa	Various (Broxtowe, Rushcliffe)	2,480
McBrien, Hannah	Engine Dance: Moving Maps	Gedling	2,250
Movement for All	Interdance	Brinsley (Broxtowe)	1,500
Southwell Music Festival	Come and Sing Mozart	Southwell (N&S)	1,035
		Total	15,986

Other Options Considered

10. Allocation of funding to projects is based on an assessment process that generates a score. Projects with high assessment scores are recommended for funding, up to a point where all available funding is allocated. This process recognises the strongest, most viable projects that contribute most to the published aims of this grant aid programme.
11. Allocation of funds on different criteria or to lower scoring applications was not considered because this would undermine the transparency and fairness of the published process.

12. Other options, for instance a change in priorities for this grant aid programme, would require discussion and agreement by elected Members, as part of the overall grant aid strategy.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The recommended portfolio of grant awards consists of applications that have scored the highest in the assessment process. These applications meet best the published aims and objectives of the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund, the Grant Aid Strategy and NCC Strategic Plan 2014-18. Some applications were unsuccessful because they did not provide enough information in their applications, so despite some having a good idea for a targeted project there was no convincing evidence of how these projects would be planned and delivered.
14. A recommendation for funding is made for all projects scoring above a lower threshold score of under 27. Applications that score below the threshold score will receive feedback and additional advice as appropriate.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. The recommended portfolio, along with grants recommended in the previous round of funding, represents 100% of the funds (£42,000) allocated to the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund for 2014-15 in line with the current grant aid strategy.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the portfolio of grant awards listed in Table 1, based on the information provided, be approved.

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 23/12/14)

17. Grant Aid Sub-Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for grant aid as defined in the Council's Grant Aid Strategy.

Financial Comments (CS 23/12/14)

18. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report as the grant awards are within allocated budgets.

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.

Grant Aid Strategy 2011-15

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0555

