

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE**ARTS GRANT AID 2016-18****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the applications received to the Grant Aid Arts Fund and to seek funding approval from Members.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council is committed to supporting Nottinghamshire Citizens to benefit from arts projects across the county. The Grant Aid Arts Fund was previously known as the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund. The Fund aims to help local communities to participate in and 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' arts activity. NCC Grant Aid investment acts 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.
3. Previously the Arts Fund had two funding rounds each year for awards of between £500 and £2,500. In October 2015, the Grant Aid Committee agreed to a refreshed Grant Aid programme, to bring the Arts Fund in line with the overall three-year funding round.
4. A revised process with a new single round in early January 2016 was launched. Applications were invited for funding from £2,000 to £5,000 per year, for two years (2016–18). The total Arts Fund budget for this period is £72,000.
5. The published priorities for funding stated that the arts project should:
 - a. Increase the number of Nottinghamshire residents benefitting from community arts activities
 - b. Improve the quality of arts for Nottinghamshire residents.
 - c. Contribute to the Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Plan:
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/plans/councilplansandpolicies/strategicplan/>
 - d. Have in place a minimum of 10% funding from other sources as money - or as 'in-kind' support that can be quantified.

- e. Involve one or more professional artists (by professional artist we mean a person who earns more than 50% of their income from their arts practice and / or a person with extensive recent experience of arts projects delivery evidenced in their CV and / or a graduate of an Arts based Degree with at least 2 years' experience in the arts).
 - f. Include the specific group(s) / target community in the various stages of the project (e.g. planning, design/development, delivery, monitoring / evaluation)
 - g. Have in place effective governance, management processes and practice
 - h. Have in place a strategy for how the project will continue beyond the funded period and/or leave a legacy.
 - i. Applications that improve access to arts for Nottinghamshire people were particularly welcome. For example:
 - Projects that are not already provided within Nottinghamshire
 - Projects that meet the needs of Nottinghamshire residents / communities that are not already addressed
 - Projects that are delivered within Nottinghamshire at locations where there is currently no or limited arts provision / activity (e.g. the Ashfield and Mansfield districts)
 - Projects that are delivered within Nottinghamshire at times not already covered.
6. A total of 53 applications were received, totalling over £441,400 (over six times the available funding). All applications were shortlisted against strict criteria, Details of the shortlisting criteria can be found in **Appendix 1**.
 7. At least 18,000 Nottinghamshire residents are expected to benefit from this funding programme, which will also be supported by at least 100 volunteers.
 8. Applications that satisfied the requirements were assessed and moderated against the published criteria by the Arts Development and Community & Voluntary Services Teams. Consequently, a total of 10 applications were recommended for approval.
 9. Details of all applications and the outcome of the assessment process (including recommendations), are attached as **Appendix 2**.

Financial Implications

9. Budgetary provision is available in the Grant Aid budget.

Reasons for Recommendation/s

10. The applications that have scored the highest in the assessment process are the ones recommended. These applications best meet the published aims and objectives of the Arts Fund Priorities, The Grant Aid Strategy and the NCC Strategic Plan 2014-18.

11. Applications that are not recommended for approval will receive feedback and will be signposted to Inspire and the Art Council for further information and advice.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- a. That the portfolio of grant recommendations in Appendix 2, be approved.

Tim Gregory

CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 28/04/2016)

The recommendations fall within the Terms of Reference of the Grant Aid Sub Committee

Financial Comments (SES 29/04/16)

The financial implications are set out in the 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

