

Report of the Head of Arts and Venues

Report to Chief Officer Culture & Sport

Date: 25 March 2015

Subject: Release of awards to applicants to arts@leeds programme

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): All	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The cultural offer in Leeds is vital to the city's economy and the Council is keen to ensure a broad programme which contributes our cultural objectives of: building the city's cultural talent, removing barriers, defining what makes Leeds distinctive from other cities and inspiring and being inspired by the community.
2. The 2015 to 2018 arts@leeds grants will provide funding to support the core activities of Leeds based cultural organisations that demonstrate a strong commitment to the city and deliver against the councils four core cultural objectives.
3. In the light of the authorities financial position the total funds available in the scheme will reduce by 18.7% in 2015/16 and (pending budgetary decisions in subsequent years) by a further 5% in 2016/17 with that level maintained in 2017/16. Taken overall, a total cut of 23.7% over the six years between 2012/13 and 2017/18 represents a better position that many authorities in the country have been able to achieve.
4. With a total budget of £1.9m in 2015/16 the Council received applications from 68 organisations requesting total funding of £3m. In general the applications were of a particularly high quality, emphasising the strength of this sector within the city. It is clear from these figures that difficult decisions have had to be made.
5. A robust assessment process has been completed in line with that described in the Executive Board report of July 2014, leading to the recommendation to fund 51 organisations in the scheme for the period 2015-18.

6. In the climate of austerity the majority of organisations will have their funding reduced from the figures in previous year and there are only a small number where funding levels have increased. Nevertheless we are pleased to have been able to introduce a number of new organisations into the scheme and have increased the minimum award to £2,000.
7. Despite this there will of course be organisations that are disappointed and officers will continue to support them wherever possible. This will be met by networking, advocacy and training. The Leeds Inspired grant scheme remains open to organisations to apply for time-limited projects.
8. As per the recommendation in the Executive Board report of July 2014, the scheme has also simplified other arts funding by incorporating a number of funded organisations which previously sat outside of the scheme.

Recommendations

9. That the Chief Officer Culture and Sport approves the grant allocations as stated in this report.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To recommend for approval the allocation of the 3-year cultural grants 2015-18.

2. Background information

- 2.1 In July 2012, Executive Board agreed to revise the grant scheme process and introduce a three-year scheme to provide greater stability to cultural organisations that demonstrate commitment to the city through their programming, participation activity and support to the local economy. All grants applications are assessed against the same criteria including reach; target audiences, performance against the four cultural objectives, financial stability, realism of costing, potential alternative funding sources and opportunities, equality and diversity, programme and commitment to the city.
- 2.2 The first three year scheme has now ended and in July 2014 Executive Board agreed to extend the scheme for a further three years from 2015-2018.
- 2.3 It is essential that in line with the council's key objectives, the arts@leeds grant scheme is able to demonstrate the support for a balanced portfolio of organisations. This balance takes into account, artform, geographical locations, age of participants, gender and ethnicity. Of the companies we aim to fund final recommendations represent a diverse mix of organisations.
- 2.4 In terms of art form, the recommendations include organisations in the following categories: 11 combined arts, 6 music, 9 visual arts, 7 dance, 9 theatre, 2 literature, 1 film, 1 digital arts and 5 festival/carnival.
- 2.5 Within the portfolio we aim to support diverse cultural activities/organisations and recommended organisations include South Asian Arts, Leeds Chinese Community Association, Makor – Jewish Festival, Irish Arts Foundation, RJC Dance, Leeds West Indian Carnival & Leeds Reggae Concert. Of the organisations recommended for funding, 9 work specifically with young people including; Tutti Frutti, Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah, Leeds Children's Circus and Youth Theatres Leeds.
- 2.6 Organisations recommended for funding specifically deliver work with & for people with disabilities; Leeds Mencap/Meshdance, Musical Arc and Interplay.
- 2.7 In 2014 Leeds welcomed the opening of two new venues. The Tetley is a contemporary art gallery housed in the former Tetley Headquarters, a nationally recognised heritage building. The Chapel is a music, performance and radio venue in East Leeds managed by Heads Together. Both these organisations have been delivering work in Leeds for several years and now that they have their new venues they are able to capitalise on their work within their respective communities.
- 2.8 As part of the arts@leeds programme we have recognised the particular need to continue to develop and support the visual arts in the city. A range of visual arts organisations are supported including the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle linking the City's Art Gallery and Henry Moore Institute with the Hepworth Wakefield and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield. In addition, we are delighted to be hosting the British Art Show this coming October.

2.9 In terms of talent development, East Street Arts are developing and nurturing the new wave of visual artists as Leeds looks forward to the British Art Show they are leading the way in visual arts through their studio programme, mentoring and support for emerging artists with their work in the communities. Through Union 105 (Chapelton) and their artists' house in Beeston they are taking their work into these communities.

2.10 Leeds City of Dance

In 2014 six Leeds-based dance organisations (Northern Ballet, Phoenix Dance, RJC Dance, Yorkshire Dance, Northern School of Contemporary Dance & Balbir Singh) formed a partnership with the aim of showcasing Leeds' excellence in the field of dance and how dance connects Leeds to the rest of the UK and the world.

Leeds is the UK's no. 1 city for dance outside London. It has the UK's richest dance ecology with three dedicated dance buildings, two international touring companies, one of the first national dance agencies, the only government-funded dance conservatoire north of London, and many more dance artists and companies.

The organisations based in Leeds offer a breadth of opportunities from grass-roots participation in a wide range of dance styles to quality pre-vocational training as well as enabling career progression and talent development in dance management, marketing, administration, education and dance production.

More than 600 people are employed (full-time, part-time or on a freelance/casual basis) by the 6 organisations. Turnover (including their arts@leeds funding) and investment generated by these six companies in the year 2012/13 exceeded £11.5 million.

2.11 Emerging talent in theatre is notably supported by Slung Low, based in the disused railway arches on Bath Street they are a key part of the regeneration of Holbeck and the South Bank. Slung Low has recently received capital investment from Arts Council England and is programming work with and for the local community as well as challenging established boundaries with performances from national and international artists and organisations in its 'pay what you want' performance nights whilst offering support to emerging artists and organisations via free rehearsal space, van and equipment hire.

2.12 As we develop our events strategy, two organisations which host annual large scale outdoor city centre events (Leeds Pride and St Patrick's Day parade) were transferred into the annual events programme with the potential to grow in impact over the coming years.

2.13 The council received 68 applications. Of the grants awarded, 9 organisations are new to the scheme including; Tutti Frutti an internationally renowned children's theatre company, Thought Bubble, an international Sequential Art Festival hosted in Leeds and Assembly House a new studio and gallery space in Armley.

By applying this balancing exercise we have ensured that the city is funding cultural organisations across the city both large and small and have been able to support innovative grass root community activity alongside the larger, internationally acclaimed flagship organisations. It is important for the city to celebrate local

achievement and we are delighted to be supporting the the 50th anniversary of The Leeds International Piano Competition and Leeds West Indian Carnival, the 25th anniversary of the West Yorkshire Playhouse and the 10th anniversary of the Morley Arts Festival (formerly Morley Literature Festival).

- 2.14 Leeds continues to benefit from the exceptional work of our flagship organisations. It should therefore be noted that three (Opera North, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Northern Ballet) in the past received 68% of the grant fund. In this round they will have borne 73% of the £500,000 saving, and the continued financial pressure from public funding continues to be a real pressure for these organisations.
- 2.15 In a period of austerity, the vast majority of councils have to look at reducing their arts and cultural investment. Leeds nevertheless aspires to preserve, protect and promote the arts organisations across the city, supporting the wider community. Many of the city's arts organisations are pioneering groups that play a vital role in presenting award winning artistic activity. Their work not only enhances our cultural landscape and projects Leeds to a world-wide audience but also, through the many learning and participatory opportunities, enriches our wider communities. The City enjoys a formidable partnership with these organisations and recognises that they play an influential role in the formation of our cultural identity. .
- 2.16 Arts@leeds funding boosts investment into the city as many organisations use the council's grant to access other forms of public funding. Figures extracted for the monitoring returns for each organisation show that in 2013-14 arts@leeds awarded £2,322,750 grant aid to 51 cultural organisations and the overall income to the city from additional public funding was £45,367,462

In 2013-14, arts@leeds funded organisations delivered over 8,581 workshops and activities.

- 2.17 Fundamental to the scheme is monitoring of the social and economic value for the city. All successful applicants commit to collect and submit annual core data. The delivery against commitments and clear evidence of value were used when assessing organisations as part of the grant process. All organisations receiving three-year grants will be subject to annual review against their commitments.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Due to the success of the previous scheme, the new application round was heavily oversubscribed.

In summary:

- The value of all the bids against the 3 - year scheme was £3,017,863
- Available funds in year 1 of the fund are £1.9million
- 68 applications were received
- 51 organisations are recommended for funding
- Of the proposed successful applications 9 are new to the scheme
- 91 (1 hour) individual funding surgeries were made available and of those 67 organisations attended the sessions. We offered daytime as well as evening sessions and also completed telephone surgeries.

3.2 The bids covered a wide range of cultural types i.e. dance, performance, visual arts, and the proposed recommendations for funding have taken this into consideration. This will ensure that the city will host opera; theatre; creative writing; dance; music in many forms; craft; design; creative digital; street entertainment; photography; visual arts; and more.

3.3 Local people were asked, through the Citizens Panel, what type of activities they would like to take part in in Leeds in 2014/15. The response has been used where possible to shape the grant allocations.

The proposed allocations the 3-year grants are as follows:

Name of Organisation	Arts@leeds Award 2014/15	Arts@leeds Award proposed for 2015/16
Alchemy Anew	0	£2,000
Artlink West Yorkshire	£12,000	£9,600
arts@Trinity	0	£2,000
Assembly House	0	£2,000
Compass Live Art	0	£2,000
DAZL	£6,500	£6,750
East Street Arts	£20,000	£30,000
Headingley LitFest	£1,000	£2,000
Heads Together	£2,000	£9,000
Hyde Park Unity Day	£2,250	£2,000
Interplay	£16,000	£12,750
Invisible Flock	£2,000	£2,000
Irish Arts Foundation	£3,000	£3,000
Kirkstall Festival	£1,000	£2,000
Leeds Children's Circus	0	£2,000
Leeds Chinese Community Association	£2,000	£2,000
Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House	£200,000	£160,000
Leeds International Pianoforte Competition	£10,000	£13,000
Leeds Mencap	0	£2,000
Leeds Reggae Concert**	new to scheme	£105,000
Leeds West Indian Carnival**	new to scheme	£144,000
Left Bank Leeds	£2,000	£2,000
Lifeforce Productions	£5,000	£4,000
Little London Arts	£4,000	£3,200
Lumen	£4,500	£3,400
Makor	£1,000	£2,000
Morley Arts Festival (formerly Literature)	£2,000	£2,000
Musical Arc	£3,000	£2,400
Northern Ballet	£250,000	£223,000
Northern School of Contemporary Dance	£9,000	£7,200
Opera North	£710,000	£510,000
Otley Courthouse	£5,500	£4,400
Pavilion	£12,000	£9,000
Phoenix Dance Theatre	£75,000	£65,000
PSL The Tetley	£44,000	£46,000
Red Ladder	£5,000	£6,000

RJC Dance	£13,840	£12,500
Saa-Uk	£16,250	£16,500
Schools Partnership Trust (Garforth Arts Festival)	£2,250	£2,250
Skipkko	£6,000	£4,800
Slung Low	£4,000	£5,500
Space2	£2,000	£3,200
Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah	£13,000	£8,000
Thought Bubble	0	£2,000
Tutti Frutti	0	£2,000
Unlimited	0	£2,000
Urban Sprawl	£1,500	£2,000
West Yorkshire Playhouse	£710,000	£630,000
Yorkshire Dance	£60,000	£52,000
Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle	New to scheme	£0***
Youth Theatres Leeds	£2,500	£2,000

*All these awards will be subject to a 5% reduction in 2016/17

**Financial allocation not previously included in the arts@leeds budget as per Executive Board report July 2014.

***Award for Yorkshire Sculpture Park incorporated from 14/15 allocation, funding level in 16/17 will be £20k.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Throughout 2012-15 Arts Officers consulted with arts organisations to gain their views regarding the grants programme including the frequency and detail of monitoring. The 2015-18 scheme and subsequent monitoring has been designed with this feedback in mind.

4.1.2 The agreement to enter into a 3-year grants scheme, including details of the scheme and timescales was agreed at Executive Board in July 2014.

4.1.3 Following a rigorous period of assessment (three stages) by officers, the final recommendations were made following extensive consultation with the Executive Member.

Stage 1 the application was assessed to see if it was eligible to fit the criteria and if the application form was fully completed.

Stage 2 applications were read and assessed using the arts@leeds assessment template; each organisation has a completed assessment sheet.

Stage 3 the applications were then reviewed to ensure a portfolio balance. (The Executive Member took no part in discussion regarding Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd where she has an identified conflict of interest.)

4.1.4 As a city we are keen to support and develop the creative industries in Leeds. Due to budget restraints we are unable to fund all organisations that applied for funding; however the Arts Development team and the wider Arts, Venues and Events will

look at alternative ways to support and promote artists and arts organisations in Leeds. This will be delivered throughout the three year period through advocacy, training, networking, promotion and signposting to other grant sources.

4.1.5 European Capital of Culture

Notwithstanding this budget reduction, Leeds aims to support cultural organisations through the arts@leeds grant funding to lay the foundations for Leeds 2023 European Capital of Culture bid. Leeds aims to create the opportunity to profile culture in the rich and varied communities of Leeds and to offer new ways to engage with and inspire those communities. The bidding process and activities in 2023 would value and invest in work in communities in the city as well as in the city centre, and support and develop arts and cultural organisations everywhere.

Over the course of the last fourteen months, views, opinions, concerns and ambitions have been sought from a broad spectrum of audiences across the city and beyond, as to whether or not the city should bid for this title. The conversation has reached high numbers of people from a wide range of ages and backgrounds with the vast majority of those who took part in the conversations in favour of a bid to become European Capital of Culture 2023.

4.1.6 The Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board

The Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board agreed at its January meeting to carry out pre-decision scrutiny on the allocation for the next 3 year Arts@Leeds grants 2015-18.

On 4 February, a scrutiny working group met to carry out pre-decision scrutiny on the proposals.¹

The working group noted the process that had been followed in establishing and publicising the scheme; supporting organisations to apply; and assessing applications in order to come to the indicative allocations that were presented at the meeting.

It was also noted that through the Council budget setting process the reduction in total funding available for 2015/16 was now proposed to be 18.7% with a further 5% reduction was proposed for 2016/17. This was against the 10% originally set out in the July 2014 Executive Board report. This saves around £0.5m per year.

The working group also noted the three separate stages of the assessment process, aimed at ensuring an overall balance of funding, and how this aligned with best practice elsewhere.

Members also noted the monitoring carried out by officers to ensure organisations are sustainable, including through observer status on the Board of organisations receiving larger grants.

¹ The papers considered by the working group included indicative allocations. These were designated as exempt in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the information contained within the documents relates to the business affairs of the organisations concerned and is not yet finalised. It was therefore determined that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The following recommendations were made:

- That the benefits that organisations bring to the city need to be more clearly articulated in the key performance indicators for organisations receiving over £100k.
- That the number of opportunities provided, in relation to the criteria of spotting and nurturing talent is added to the key performance indicators for monitoring of grants.
- That the Tetley is challenged to increase the level of affordable local community engagement activity.
- That the proposed allocations to the Leeds Reggae Concert and Leeds West Indian Carnival are reviewed.

All of these recommendations have been actioned.

- 4.1.7 The proposed allocations to the Leeds Reggae Concert and Leeds West Indian Carnival were reviewed and the recommendations were maintained as stated above. In completing the review it was recognised that the scale of the two grants combined make it one of the five largest arts@leeds recipients. However, unlike the other organisations in this category both organisations are voluntary, have limited capacity to raise funds, receive no ticket income, do not benefit from tax relief, and very limited secondary spend options.
- 4.1.8 It was also noted that the activities of the two organisations are conflated in the view of residents and visitors as 'Carnival weekend', bring very significant levels of economic benefit direct to a local community and are part of the unique cultural profile of the city.
- 4.1.9 It was further noted that two thirds of the organisations' allocation is spent directly by Environment and Housing Directorate in order to provide the infrastructure and health and safety for the event/s. Officers within Culture and Sport will now establish a review group with staff from Environment and Housing to identify ways in which this element of this spend can be reduced. Within this context, the recommendation of the review was to maintain the original funding recommendation.
- 4.1.10 Additionally, the Head of Service will now act as the Key Account Manager for both organisations and will continue to support the organisations to develop a sustainable future with a view to reducing Council support overall.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Cultural grants can support activity which can do much to tackle issues of equality and cohesion. All organisations bidding for a grant must include their equality and diversity policy and their safeguarding policies. Those who did not have such policies when preparing their bids were supported to create them.
- 4.2.2 All applicants needed to demonstrate how funding will support them remove barriers and how they will inspire communities. They also must supply data on their target audiences. This has been used to identify how well the proposed allocations support everyone in the city offering a balanced portfolio of activity across the city.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The cultural sector in Leeds is important to the economic strength of the city through graduate retention, employment, commissioning and inward investment through audience secondary spend.
- 4.3.2 By supporting the arts@leeds grants Leeds increases output in culture, education, business, community, tourism and health.
- 4.3.3 The GVA of the creative and cultural industries was £71.4bn in 2012 and accounted for 5.2% of the UK economy, and 1 in 18 of all jobs. It is the fastest growing sector in the economy (10%pa).

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 All successful applicants are committed to provide data on actual take-up during the year. This will be requested annually and will be reported to the council in an annual arts@leeds statement including information on engagement and value for money

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 All organisations are required to submit their governance arrangements, their banking details and a register of interests to ensure probity.
- 4.5.2 This report is-subject to Call In.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 When allocating the grants the risks and opportunities for organisations and the Council have been considered. All organisations will be allocated a Key Account Manager, who will work with the company throughout the three year period, ensuring value for money.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Despite the overall reduction, the grants proposed will help Leeds build its cultural reputation and benefit citizens.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Chief Officer Culture and Sport approves the grant allocations as stated in this report.

7. Background documents²

- 7.1 None
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