

Appendix 2 – Approved for Funding



Stronger Communities

Assessment Reports

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CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Age UK East London

Amount requested: £9,270

Amount recommended: £9,270

Purpose of grant request: Enabling housebound people in the City of London to get out and enjoy activities in their community.

The Applicant

Age UK East London (AUKEL) was formed in 2011 from the merger of three organisations: Age UK Hackney, Age UK Tower Hamlets and Age UK Newham. The three organisations have over 90 years of combined experience in their boroughs. The driver for the merger was to increase operational efficiency together with adding value to older people by having a wider range of services on offer. A brand partner of Age UK, AUKEL operates as an independent charity with its own independent fundraising, and service development responding to local need.

Background and detail of proposal

Older people face real issues in their daily lives, often having diminished contacts and networks. Socially isolated older people in the City of London can be housebound or have failing mobility. This can lead to mental health problems and a feeling un-connected to the area that you live in. This project is looking to improve the mental health of older City residents who are housebound or have failing mobility. This project addresses these barriers by recruiting and training volunteers to take housebound and frail (predominantly) older people out into the City each month. Together they will enjoy companionship and the many amenities on offer. AUKEL already have an established relationship with many City residents through their Friend at Home scheme and this project has arisen out of informal consultation with older residents.

Funding is being sought to cover the volunteer recruitment and maintenance costs, the befriending managers time and overheads over a 12 month period. AUKEL will recruit volunteers among the City Workforce and residents and train them in two cohorts using the Charities established training programme. 12 volunteers will be recruited and will need to commit to a whole year. Each volunteer will then be matched with an older person and will carry out 10 monthly outings, allowing the older person to connect with the community that they live in. At assessment it was clear that this programme has been well planned and all of the safeguarding requirements are in place.

Financial Information

AUKEL deliver a range of commissioned services across East London and have a variety of income streams. Reserves are in a healthy position and are generally on target. Cost of Raising funds was not listed in the audited and draft accounts. This was raised with the Charity at assessment and a figure provided for the budget figures for year ending March 2019.

Recommendation

AUKEL have a good track record for delivering work with older people in East London. This project is looking to develop on some of the work that they already deliver in the City with older residents. At assessment it was clear that this was additional to any commissioned work that the Charity carries out and will add real value to the lives of the older people, improving their mental health and wellbeing. Funding is approved as follows:

£9,270 to cover the cost of volunteer recruitment, staff time, and project overheads for a project that enables housebound people in the City of London to get out and enjoy activities in their community.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Aldgate Community Events

Amount requested: £8,000

Amount recommended: £8,000

Purpose of grant request: To support the costs of the Aldgate Lantern Parade and Winter Fair in 2018. A multi-cultural community event bringing residents together.

The Applicant

Aldgate Community Events (ACE) formed in October 2014 as a Constituted Voluntary Organisation and recently registered as a Community Interest Company. The purpose of ACE is to bring people in Aldgate and the surrounding area together, combat social isolation and promote unity, friendship and a strong sense of community through organising arts, culture and learning activities, as well as information exchange between all groups connected to, and by, the Aldgate area. Run primarily by volunteers that are passionate about their community ACE produces events to celebrate the past, present and future of the Aldgate area and the people who live work and play there.

Background and detail of proposal

The Aldgate Lantern Parade and Winter Fair were run for the first time in 2017, with significant demand for the project to be run again in 2018. The project will provide residents in Aldgate, school children and businesses the opportunity to come together to connect the community. The newly improved Aldgate Square will be focal point for the Lantern Festival and the Winter Fair. The Parade will last for around 45 minutes and culminate with the Winter Fair, which will have dance and music performances from local schools and groups. There will be a range of stalls selling seasonal food.

The Lantern Parade and Winter Fair will take place on December 7th but a range of workshops in schools and the local community will take place in the lead up to the event. Throughout the Autumn term workshops will take place with the Sir John Cass, Cannon Barnett, English Martyrs and Christchurch Spitalfields primary schools. The workshops will work with the schools art departments to come up with designs and concepts for lanterns for the parade. Professional facilitators with lantern making experience will work alongside teachers to make creative lantern designs. Additional workshops will be held with a range of community groups which include the City Carer's Network, Mansell Street Estate Bengali Women's Group, Toynbee Hall Wellbeing Group and groups from the East London Mosque.

Financial Information

The organisation has been dormant for several years as they save for the major project in 2018. In December 2016, they received a grant from the City of London (Community Development) of £30,000 to seed fund the community play and work of

the artistic director. Much of the organisations activity will begin in the financial year ending March 2019, including the previous grant awarded by this committee. Now the organisation is registered as a Community Interest Company they are exploring training for the Directors and Treasurer and recruiting an Independent Examiner.

Recommendation

Funding is being sought to contribute to the overall project cost of delivering the Lantern Parade, Winter Fair and the workshop sessions in the build up to the event. At assessment it was clear that this project will develop a stronger community in the Aldgate area and all of the budget costs are justified. ACE will contribute to the event from its own reserves with the rest of the balance made up from contributions from local businesses and commercial stalls. ACE currently hold a grant and release of funding will be subject to receipt of a satisfactory report. Funding is awarded as follows:

£8,000 towards the total cost of delivering the Aldgate Lantern Parade and Winter Fair in 2018.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Little Angel Theatre

Amount requested: £8,615

Amount recommended: £8,615

Purpose of grant request: To develop relationships and genuinely relevant projects for the Isleden House community, breaking down barriers to arts engagement.

The Applicant

Little Angel Theatre (LAT) is a registered charity and a home for puppetry in Islington. The Theatre opened in 1961 and has been dedicated to creating and sharing inspiring stories. Alongside delivering both in house shows and international tours the Charity also delivers community, education and participation programmes throughout the year with the local community.

Background and detail of proposal

LAT promote the work they do locally as they believe that no one should miss out on creative and inspiring live art. LAT is located directly opposite Isleden House, a City of London Housing Estate. LAT and Isleden House are situated in Islington, London's most polarised borough which has the third highest level of child poverty in England. Funding is being sought to deliver a targeted project to the residents of Isleden House and promote opportunities for families to engage in the work of LAT. The project will promote the uptake of existing LAT projects as well as developing new bespoke programmes with the Isleden House residents. The project will work in consultation with residents to promote social cohesion, creativity and well-being. At assessment the applicant has outlined how they have already done some initial scoping with residents and been discussing this project with the estate teams.

LAT are proposing a broad programme of work across the year which include: monthly crafternoon sessions in Isleden's communal lounge, weekly crafternoon sessions at the LAT studios which is located 5 minutes walk from the estate, free Puppet for All tickets for Isleden residents and weekly crib sessions for young parents and their families. LAT have experience delivering community engagement projects in the local area and this project will allow them to focus on the Isleden House estate and its residents. All of the projects are carried out by facilitators and all of the appropriate safeguards are in place.

Financial Information

LAT receives income from a variety of sources, the majority of which is generated through ticket sales for the theatre. The Charity also have Investment Property, which is the theatre itself. Reserves are below the policy target, which has been acknowledged and plans are being put in place to increase the unrestricted free reserves.

Recommendation

This is a well thought out project that will be focused on improving community cohesion and increasing access to the creative arts for residents of the Iselden House estate in Islington. This project meets the criteria of the Stronger Communities programme and will clearly make a difference to the community living in the estate. Additional funding for the programme has been secured from the Chapman Charitable Trust. Funding is awarded as follows:

£8,615 towards the costs of weekly and monthly workshops, tickets and a performance for residents of the Iselden House estate.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Portsoken Ward Club

Amount requested: £1,000

Amount recommended: £1,000

Purpose of grant request: £1,000 towards the annual Coach trip for residents of Portsoken Ward to Boulogne.

The Applicant

The Portsoken Ward Club is a non-profit-making club made up of residents, workers and friends of the Ward of Portsoken in the City of London. The Ward Club has been in existence for 90 years organising social events for its members. The club is a membership organisation made up of Members, Life Members, Honorary Life Members and Corporate Representatives. Membership is paid on a subscription basis.

Background and detail of proposal

Funding is being sought by the Portsoken Ward Club to pay for the coach costs for residents of the Portsoken ward to go on a day coach trip to Boulogne in France. The trip will be offered to all residents in the ward and places on the coach provided on first come first serve basis. Previous coach trips have attracted a wide spectrum of the community. Each member of the community who would like to attend the trip will pay a £15 towards the total cost. The Coach has its own insurance for passengers. The application has made a partial case that this will be good for the local community.

Financial Information

No Financial Information provided. At assessment the applicant informed us that this information was not kept by the organisation. It is a requirement of this funding programme that organisations regardless of size can provide basic financial information, when requested. Any funding awarded will be subject to receipt of this information.

Recommendation

This application is for a £1,000 contribution to the coach costs for a group of members of the Portsoken community to go on a trip to Boulogne. The trip itself will have a benefit for those residents involved and will bring together a variety of different members of the community. At the officer panel it was decided that the trip met the criteria of the Stronger Communities programme but in order to draw down funds the Ward Club would need to supply appropriate financial information. Funding is agreed as follows:

£1,000 towards the annual Coach trip for residents of Portsoken Ward to Boulogne. Funding is conditional on the Central Grants Unit receiving appropriate financial information to be approved by the Chamberlain's Department.