

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**Face Front Inclusive Theatre Ltd****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Base: Enfield****Amount requested: £70,000****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £70,000****The Applicant**

Face Front Inclusive theatre (FFTI) was founded to provide drama activities for disabled people. It creates original, ground-breaking inclusive theatre, through its schools, community and mainstream programmes. FFTI aims to transform the lives of disadvantaged people, improving emotional well-being and addressing social injustice. The charity is based in Edmonton (north London), working across London and touring nationally with its innovative shows. Performances include 'It's My Move' for 16-25 years old about transition into adult life and 'Whisper me Ever After' for 9-11-year olds - a strong piece about domestic abuse and the effect on mental health of children who live with it. This piece is supported by a counsellor and in partnership with the schools' health and well-being strategy. Annie Smol, founder of the charity, was honoured with an MBE for services to the Theatre and Inclusion in Drama in the Queen's New Years Honours 2017.

The Application

In 2015, you awarded a grant to FFTI to provide multi accessible theatre and workshops for young disabled people in transition and to develop the skills of disabled artists. This grant has been successful, meeting its targets and the project has evidenced the benefits to young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) accessing the service.

The Recommendation

This application is for continuation funding, and to expand its networks of schools and theatres. This is project a good fit with your Positive Transitions element of Bridging Divides.

£70,000 over two further years (2x £35,000) towards the salary of the Artistic Director (3dpw) and associated project costs to provide multi accessible theatre and workshops for young people in transition and to develop the skills of disabled artists.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
26/11/2015	£99,000 over three years (£35,000; £32,000; £32,000) towards the salary of a full-time Artistic Director and associated running costs in order to provide multi accessible theatre and workshops for young disabled people in transition and to develop the skills of disabled artists.
08/10/2009	£90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) towards the costs of a new Executive Director post.

Background and detail of proposal

Research from the Council of Disabled and Transition Information Network as well as a literature review undertaken by the Cultural Institute at Kings College highlighted that young people with LDD moving on from education to adult life felt disempowered – faced with overwhelming, often rushed information sessions and over protective parents, teachers and carers. Face Front liberates the voice of young people and enables them to make the best choices for themselves. It creates an environment for disabled, vulnerable and other disadvantaged young people and adults, through their inclusive touring theatre and participation programmes. The inclusive work FFTI delivers through high-quality projects enables participants to take control of their lives, become engaged, inspired and build confidence to experience a better quality of life. With the Trust's support, FFTI will develop skills of professional artists who will be at the heart of the interactive theatre programme for LDD people in transition and their parents/carers. Over two years, the project will work with 1,400 LDD people in special schools, colleges, and theatres to improve well-being and reduce transition related anxiety through sharing information; encouraging dialogue and communication; and self-management of emotions.

Financial Information

The organisation's income is relatively steady supported by a range of Trust and Foundations. It most recently secured continued funding from BBC Children in Need and the Leathersellers' Company towards core costs. As part of its fundraising strategy, FFIT is working with Pilotlight looking at ways of diversifying its income.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Examined Account £	2018 Examined Accounts £	2019 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	269,881	257,778	261,567
- % of income confirmed as at 12 Dec	n/a	n/a	86%
Expenditure	(260,849)	(244,720)	(260,038)
Total surplus/(deficit)	9,032	13,058	1,529
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	0	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	9,032	13,058	1,529
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Cost of Raising Funds	28,301	24,354	25,000
- % of income	10.5%	9.4%	9.6%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	154,657	93,264	55,693
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	108,917	116,312	117,841
No of months of operating expenditure	8.5	15.0	25.4
Reserves policy target	77,329	46,632	27,847
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	31,589	69,680	89,995