

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15299

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

CREATE London

Adv: Gilly Green

Amount requested: £63,000

Base: Barking & Dagenham

Benefit: Barking & Dagenham

Amount recommended: £58,000

The Applicant

CREATE London exists to explore how artists can contribute to the lives of people in cities. Through creative projects it contributes to East London's on-going regeneration by delivering projects in and with those communities. It works closely with partners and are currently delivering programmes in collaboration with the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Newham, Hackney, Haringey, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

The Application

The charity is looking for a further 3 years' support for the community garden project at The White House (TWH) - a community arts project run by CREATE. Housed in a 16th Century farmhouse building, TWH sits in the middle of the Becontree Estate - a community of over 100,000 people. Your funding over the last two years has enabled the development of the back garden, provided training and gardening groups for residents; and established a network of experts to teach new growing methods. Having completed the set up and build phases, CREATE now seeks to expand its activities, develop the front garden, reach a wider participant demographic and generate a robust and sustainable method of community governance. Funding is requested towards a Garden Consultant, a contribution towards TWH Engagement Co-ordinator and Curator posts, project management costs and marketing and garden materials and dissemination.

The Recommendation

In an area with high levels of deprivation, new populations and continuing challenges around cohesion TWH, with your funding, has laid strong foundations for the development of the community garden project. Your continued support will enable further development enabling TWH to reach a broader group of residents, especially those from BAME communities and to support residents to develop community led governance. A grant is advised as below and at a reduced level after removing ineligible contingency costs and reducing the dissemination costs by £1,700 in year 3:

£58,000 over 3 further and final years (£19,900, £19,900, £18,200) towards the salaries, management and running costs of the community garden at TWH.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
24/11/2016	£42,400 over two years (£25,900, £16,500) for the salary of the part-time (14hpw) White House Garden Coordinator, planting initiatives, volunteer expenses and associated project costs.
25/09/2014	Application withdrawn

Ref: 21673340

18/04/2013	£75,000 towards the volunteering costs of supporting CREATE's involvement in arts activities in Queen Elizabeth Park and other commissions in East London.
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Background and detail of proposal

CREATE has made significant progress in the first two years but the organisation is aware that it has not yet managed to reach a diverse range of community groups and so links have already been made with local Asian women's groups, support for people with mental health issues and young disabled people to undertake more targeted outreach in this second phase of the project. It will also build on the work already undertaken on community governance for The White House and use this learning to consider models which would be suitable for the garden project. The full budget for the garden development is around £46,000 p.a. – and the balance will be provided by Paul Hamlyn Foundation and a contribution of funds from the charity's core grant from the Arts Council. Your officer believes that plans for disseminating the learning from the project in year 3 whilst welcome, are insufficiently thought through and the budget has been reduced accordingly.

Financial Information

CREATE has a diverse mix of funding sources including from local authorities, the Arts Council and charitable and corporate donations, and in 2017/18 raised almost £800,000 in new funding. The organisation continues to see growth year on year. The deficit on the year 2018 is largely explained by the nature of the cashflow accounting system used for restricted projects which recognises income and expenditure at the time received or expended rather than on an accruals basis. For 18/19 trustees agreed to allow use of the surplus generated on the year to allow another project within its portfolio to continue uninterrupted. Nearly 70% of income is secured for 2019/20 and the significant uplift in budget for this year relates to a new development with Crossrail. Reserves are currently below target but on current projections this will be rectified by 2020.

Year end as at 31 MARCH	Examined accounts 2018	Forecast 2019	Budget 2020
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	929,462	1,157,187	2,016,117
- % of income confirmed as at 10 April 2019	n/a	100%	77%
Expenditure	(1,058,312)	(779,643)	(1,737,987)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(128,850)	377,544	278,130
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(142,087)	380,104	244,949
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	13,237	17,440	33,181
	(128,850)	377,544	278,130
Cost of Raising Funds	43,902	32,708	39,117
- % of income	4.7%	2.8%	1.9%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	413,946	293,595	283,819
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	140,529	157,969	191,150
No of months of operating expenditure	4.1	6.5	8.1
Reserves policy target	206,973	146,797	141,909
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(66,444)	11,172	49,241