

**MEETING: 26/09/2019**

**Ref: 15342**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**

**Action Space London Events**

**Adv: Ciaran Rafferty**

**Base: Camden**

**Amount requested: £82,680**

**Benefit: Newham**

**Amount recommended: £83,000**

**The Applicant**

Founded in 1984, Action Space London Events Ltd, a charitable company, supports the development of artists with learning disabilities and creates innovative projects for learning disabled people to engage with the visual arts. ASLE currently operates three Studio Projects, in Camden, Wandsworth and Newham; with some early work being delivered to provide a service in Brent. Alongside these projects it runs a variety of other outreach projects tailored to specific groups.

**The Application**

This application is to continue your current funding for another two years and which has supported the extension of Action Space's programmes and projects into Newham and Brent, reaching new audiences and participants. Further funding will enable the charity to build on and consolidate its expansion to east and west London.

**The Recommendation**

Action Space works with some very disabled people of all ages including young people and through participation in all forms of art (painting, sculpture, modelling, etc) helps them to find more ways to express their thoughts and emotions, reduce their feeling of isolation, make new friends, improve their self-confidence and raise their self-esteem. The charity's model is to work with local community groups so that the work is connected locally and to enable disabled participants to become more able to integrate within the mainstream community. A grant is advised:

***£83,000 over two further and final years (£41,000; £42,000) to contribute to the full-time salary of the Co-Director and other operational costs of providing access to participation in the arts for disabled Londoners.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
14/07/2016	£118,300 over three years (£40,830; £39,340; £38,130) to contribute to the full time salary of the Co-Director (16hpw Year 1; 10hpw Year 2; 8hpw Year 3), project set up, sessional staff and associated running costs.
30/06/2011	£67,000 over three years (£23,000; £22,000; £22,000) for the salary and related costs of a p/t (24hpw) Pastoral Care Worker.

**Background and detail of proposal**

The current, three-year, grant from your Committee (which ended last month) has been very successful in enabling the charity to set up programmes and projects in Newham and Brent and thereby reaching new audiences of disabled people. The

work that they do is highly regarded, both within the community art world and within the disability sector as it recognises and supports the latent talent and desire for expression within the beneficiaries – where the focus is on their potential and achievements as an antidote to a lifetime of being assessed on/defined by their disabilities. This funding, should you agree it, will enable the charity to maintain the current provision and to run additional studios in Newham, Ealing and Brent. Some of the participants worked with previously (and the charity will work with individuals for many years if needs be) have gone on to stage their own exhibitions whilst others have managed to build a case for their personal budgets to be allocated to support their participation. Their work can be seen on their website: <https://actionspace.org/> .

### Financial Information

The charity currently has free reserves above their policy level although this is not excessive as the nature of their work and the people provided for means that services require a long-term commitment and cannot easily be ceased in the event of gaps in the funding stream. The charity will be using some of these reserves in the current year to cover some of those gaps.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Examined Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Budget £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	332,948	348,203	340,913
- % of Income confirmed as at 20/8/2019	N/A	100%	76%
Expenditure	(333,930)	(367,951)	(375,737)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(982)	(19,748)	(34,824)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(9,795)	(15,510)	(8,000)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	8,813	(4,238)	(26,824)
	(982)	(19,748)	(34,824)
<b>Operating expenditure (total funds)</b>	<b>333,930</b>	<b>367,951</b>	<b>375,737</b>
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	181,246	177,008	150,184
No of months of operating expenditure	6.5	5.8	4.8
Reserves policy target	111,310	122,650	125,246
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	69,936	54,358	24,938