

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital****National Youth Theatre of Great Britain (NYT)****Adv: Kate Moralee****Base: Islington****Amount requested: £100,000****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £100,000****The Applicant**

National Youth Theatre is a world leading youth arts organisation established in 1956. It is a registered charity which empowers young people to take centre stage in their lives. Its guiding principles are developing young people socially and creatively, promoting team work through an ensemble approach to theatre and creating positive social change. Whilst many of the young people may go on to become well-known faces of stage and screen others go on to be great lawyers, journalists, doctors, entrepreneurs and CEO's.

**The Application**

NYT's main building is located in Holloway with the potential of an open high street presence. Currently the building is old and unattractive with the current entrance at the side of the building, through two locked gates. The internal layout of the building is not open or welcoming, rather higgledy piggledy and off-putting, with the journey to find the reception area very difficult. One young person with anxiety, left the building due to the level of anxiety experienced trying to find the reception area. The application is for a contribution to the Access and Inclusion aspect of the overall renovation of the building (cost £4,450,000 of which £4,025,000 has been secured).

**The Recommendation**

The proposed works have been informed by an independent access audit with estimated costs of £279,000 for the Access and Inclusion works. The improvements include provision of a platform lift within the newly created front entrance, a powered sliding door entrance, internal ramps, accessible WC and changing facilities and additional induction loops. The full Phase one renovation will create an open, welcoming space with improved access and increased number of studio spaces for the use of young people. It will also create a visible high street presence to increase its engagement with local young people. Your support is sought and it is believed that a grant from you could help to trigger the final pieces in the jigsaw of funding (eg, Reuben Foundation, London Marathon Trust). A grant is recommended:

**£100,000 towards the cost of access works at National Youth Theatre of GB.****Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
09/05/2019	Organisation has withdrawn the application as it can fund the audit from its own reserves.
03/06/2010	This is essentially an arts project rather than one that is clearly environmental education. The associated education elements will be delivered by an organisation currently in receipt of a grant.

### **Background and detail of proposal**

NYT had its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016 and has an alumni of famous faces of screen and live theatre who would otherwise not have been able to afford drama school "The NYT at this moment in time is incredibly important because the way my business is going, it's the prerogative only of kids who have got money. It was my way in because we didn't have the money to send me to drama school." Helen Mirren.

The charity's remit is to give free and affordable opportunities on and off stage to young people aged 14 to 25. It has engaged over 150,000 young people since 1956 and has reached audiences of over 2 billion people, nationally and internationally. It pioneered "youth theatre" staging professional standard productions made up solely of young people on leading stages in the West End and on tour. It delivers a social inclusion course Playing Updrawing young people from all over the UK. It is committed to encouraging equality and celebrating diversity amongst young people, its workforce, volunteers and programmes.

NYT currently recognises it currently does not have a strong presence locally, as it does not have a high street presence and is open on demand rather than scheduled opening times. It also appreciates it could do more to reach out to people with a disability and although it has committed to a pilot project working with people with a learning disability, which is delivered as outreach work as the current layout at NYT does not facilitate a positive environment for disabled young people.

### **Financial Information**

Most of the organisation's income is unrestricted income through charitable trading, donations and fundraising events, with a relatively small percentage being restricted income. 2018 was an unusual year for National Youth Theatre in terms of producing an unrestricted surplus, it transferred £250,000 at year end 31 March 2018 from the unrestricted reserves to the new designated Property Fund. During the period of redevelopment NYT is confident of continuing a breakeven position, with growth predicted beyond the redevelopment.

<b>Year end as at 31st March</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Signed Accounts</b>	<b>Draft Accounts</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	2,921,584	2,939,983	3,265,066
- % of Income confirmed as at 20/08/2019	N/A	N/A	50%
Expenditure	(2,748,977)	(2,891,716)	(3,273,542)
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>172,607</b>	<b>48,267</b>	<b>(8,476)</b>
<b>Split between:</b>			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(21,243)	46,963	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	193,850	1,304	(8,476)
	<b>172,607</b>	<b>48,267</b>	<b>(8,476)</b>
<b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>	<b>344,993</b>	<b>492,110</b>	<b>366,003</b>
- % of Income	11.8%	16.7%	11.2%
<b>Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)</b>	<b>2,355,073</b>	<b>2,504,496</b>	<b>2,924,096</b>
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	689,028	690,332	681,856
No of months of operating expenditure	3.5	3.3	2.8
Reserves policy target	687,851	687,851	687,851
No of months of operating expenditure	3.5	3.3	2.8
Free reserves over/(under) target	1,178	2,482	(5,995)