

CITY BRIDGE TRUST – Delegated Authority (Requests up to £50k)

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Arts For All

Ref: 15911

Amount requested: £50,000.00

Adv: Julia Mirkin

Base: Tower Hamlets

Benefit: Hackney

Amount recommended: £50,000

Purpose of grant request: The Rainbow Club is an inclusive and creative club for adults with learning disabilities, where they are cared for, supported and encouraged.

The Applicant

Arts for All (AfA) was set-up by its founding CEO in 2002 to offer arts opportunities to disadvantaged communities in Tower Hamlets and Hackney. From its base in Shoreditch, AfA delivers three core strands of work: Kaleidoscope Club, an after school club for children and young people; the Junior Club, which is for disadvantaged primary-aged children, and The Rainbow Club, the subject of this application, which caters for adults with learning disabilities and older people. AfA aims to build confidence through facilitated engagement with creative activities. It specialises in engaging vulnerable people who face disadvantage through poverty; broken families; low levels of spoken English or educational attainment; disabilities or low aspirations. AfA is run by a small team, comprising one full-time and one part-time member of staff, and its work is delivered by a host of free-lance art tutors.

Assessment Summary

The Rainbow Club caters for 12-15 adults, who are either elderly or learning disabled. The club meets weekly from 10am – 3pm on Wednesdays and introduces creative activities, which may include painting, drawing, 3D modelling, ceramics or mosaic work. Many participants are socially isolated due to having limited communication skills or because of the bullying they frequently experience in the community. Use of Makaton sign language to communicate within the group and with Workers and family is encouraged, to relieve loneliness, frustration and learned habits of compliance. The proposal is to continue delivery of the weekly Rainbow Club; to deliver two annual exhibitions; to engage Rainbow Club members as Committee members, contributing to the programming of group activities; and for four club members to be supported to take on greater responsibility for club operations. Group activities will be split into two smaller groups that will meet outside during Covid. During bad weather, groups will be provided with pre-prepared activity packs that participants will engage with online as a group.

Recommendation

AfA was awarded an emergency grant by LCRF in May 2020 of £7.2K. At the time of writing, AfA had raised 78% of budgeted income for 2020 (year end 31.12.20) and 37% of budgeted income for 2021. AfA has focussed its fundraising on Corporate supporters, during Covid, securing funding from ACOM, Salesforce, the Bank of England, St James' Place and Burberry. It has contacted past funders and has recruited a new Trustee with experience of private philanthropy. The last set of Independently Examined accounts for 2019, showed unrestricted reserves of 17K and a turnover of £111.4K.

Approved.....
Chief Grants Officer

Date.....