

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee	27 May 2014
<b>Subject:</b> Spitalfields Music: mid-grant report relating to the City of London funding agreement 2013/14 to 2015/16	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries	<b>For Information</b>
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The City Corporation has funded Spitalfields Music since 1996. The current grant agreement covers a three-year period (2013/14 to 2015/16) and this report marks the midway point in that arrangement.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to present your Committee with an update on the considerable successes achieved under the agreement and the charity's plans for the coming two years – these are detailed in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Spitalfields Music is a significant and valued culture provider, delivering a vital component of the City's cultural offer which, with the learning and participatory opportunities they provide for Londoners (with a focus on east London), help the City Corporation realise corporate objectives and deliver reputational gains for us as a sponsor of a high-quality and wide-reaching output.</p> <p>The report precedes an application to renew the current funding agreement which will be presented to your Committee in Autumn of this year.</p> <p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive this report for information</li> </ul>	

## Main Report

### Background

1. The City Corporation has supported Spitalfields Music since 1996. Its current funding arrangement covers a three-year term, from 2013/14 to 2015/16 with an award of £45,000 granted per annum.
2. The geographic focus of Spitalfields Music is east London and the summer and winter festivals it produces, as well as its learning and participation programme, provide a vital cultural and educational resource for communities within Tower Hamlets, Barking & Dagenham and Newham, as well as the City.

3. This year, Spitalfields Music celebrates 25 years of its learning and participation programme and, in 2016, the charity will mark its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Current Position**

4. Spitalfields Music delivers an integral part of the City's cultural offer, with a geographic focus that aligns with the City Corporation's strategic aims and a programme of activity that builds year-on-year, achieving ever-greater recognition with plans to extend its reach to a national level through partnership working in 2014 (these are detailed in Appendix 1).
5. This report marks the midway point in the current funding agreement and precedes an application for a renewal of that agreement to be presented to your Committee in autumn this year. Appendix 1 details the considerable successes the charity has achieved under the agreement and outlines its artistic, touring and learning plans for this year and next.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

6. Spitalfields Music and the programmes it provides are an important element of the City's cultural offer, helping to deliver on all three of the City Corporation's strategic aims as stated in its Corporate Plan 2013-17. It does this by enhancing the City's attractiveness as a place to be for business, residents and visitors and by providing a vital resource for the enjoyment of Londoners, especially those in our neighbouring boroughs.
7. Specifically, Spitalfields Music supports Key Policy Priorities (KPP) 4 and 5 within the Corporate Plan in that it contributes to the regeneration of Tower Hamlets and the east of London – including the City's eastern border areas – as well as through its provision of educational opportunities for the communities that reside there. More widely, it significantly enhances the impact of the City's cultural offer on the life of London and the nation by delivering an award-winning programme of activity across the year for the enjoyment of all.
8. Spitalfields Music also plays a key role in supporting the aims and objectives of our Cultural Strategy 2012/17 and helps us to deliver *The City Together's* theme of promoting a City that is "vibrant and culturally rich".

### **Implications**

9. The City Corporation has committed £45,000 per annum funding for Spitalfields Music over a three-year term. This report marks 18 months since the grant was awarded (the halfway point).
10. It is proposed that Spitalfields Music will submit a grant application to your Committee and (following your approval), to Finance, in autumn 2014. The application will be for funds to cover the period 2016/17 to 2018/19.

## **Conclusion**

11. Spitalfields Music has developed its programme and profile significantly under the current funding agreement, reaching an ever-wider and more diverse audience. In so doing, it continues to enhance the reputation of the City Corporation as a sponsor of high-quality cultural activity that delivers invaluable benefit to local London communities as well as wider afield.
12. The City Corporation's investment in Spitalfields Music is integral to the charity's continued success and to that of the City Corporation itself in that it helps deliver our corporate objectives while significantly increasing our profile in the cultural field.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Spitalfields Music: mid-grant report relating to the City of London funding agreement 2013/14 to 2015/16

### **Nick Bodger**

Head of Visitor Development

T: 020 7332 3263

E: [Nick.Bodger@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Nick.Bodger@cityoflondon.gov.uk)