

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	06/02/2017
Subject: Central Grants Programme – <i>Inspiring London through Culture</i> : recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley, Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director	For Decision
Report author: Nick Bodger. Head of Cultural and Visitor Development	

Summary

The *Inspiring London through Culture* funding theme, which forms part of the Central Grants Programme (CGP), opened to applications on 15 August 2016.

The first closing date for applications under this theme was on 3 January 2017. Applications were assessed by a panel of expert officers and external assessors on 13 January 2017 following due diligence checks by the City's Central Grants Unit (CGU) which also oversees the scheme and the Chamberlain. This report recommends grant decisions following that meeting.

Recommendations

Members are asked:

- To review and approve the recommendations for applications received under the *Inspiring London through Culture* funding stream, a part of the City Corporation's Central Grants Programme.

Main Report

Background

1. On 7 March 2016, your Committee delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with your Chairman and Deputy Chairman to agree the sub themes and eligibility criteria (see appendix 1) for the proposed grant giving theme of *Inspiring London through Culture*, subject to your Policy and Resources Committee approving that theme, which they agreed at their meeting on 19 May 2016.
2. Overseen by the City's Central Grants Unit (CGU), the grant assessment process for this and other themes in the programme draws on the Unit's expertise in the field of grant-making and demonstrates good practice.

3. Prior to grant applications being submitted to this Committee for approval, each has undergone a series of due diligence checks by the CGU to ensure compliance with the established eligibility criteria, this includes a financial assessment by the The Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance within the Chamberlain's Department. All eligible applications were then considered by a panel of expert officers and external assessors.
4. The Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries appointed your Head of Cultural and Visitor Development to chair this panel and appoint panellists with appropriate knowledge.
5. The panel met on 13 January 2017 comprising City Corporation officers: the Head of Cultural and Visitor Development (chairman); the Open Spaces Business Manager; the Acting Head of Guildhall Art Gallery; and the Director of Arts, Barbican, as well external assessors: the Chief Digital Officer at London & Partners; and the Senior Culture Officer at the Greater London Authority.
6. For this, the first *Inspiring London through Culture* funding application round, the City Corporation received 16 applications totalling £120,217. Of these, 13 applications were presented to the panel totalling £87,717, the others having withdrawn or having failed the grant criteria.
7. The budget for *Inspiring London through Culture* is £95,574 for 2016/17. If this whole budget was spent it would leave a total of £20,425 funding for the two grant rounds in £2017/18. The panel therefore proposed that they spend a maximum of £57,500 in this round to ensure they have the same funding available for the next financial year.
8. Apart from officer time handling enquiries, all resource implications are budgeted for within the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant fund.

Current Position

9. Summary assessment reports of the all recommended applications to the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant scheme are given in the appendices with details of all available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.

Current Position

10. It is proposed that grants totalling £54,832 be awarded as per the recommendations outlined in the appendices. This leaves £40,742 from this year's allocation to be carried forward to the 2017/18 budget year, enabling an approximately equal level of grants to be awarded in that year.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. The Central Grants Programme *Inspiring London through Culture* funding stream was created to promote a fair system of grant giving by the City Corporation in the cultural context.
12. The recommendations of the panel support the funding criteria and, in turn, the City Corporation's Corporate Plan by "maximising the opportunities and benefits afforded by our role in supporting London's communities" as well as the delivery of the City's Cultural and Visitor Strategies.

Conclusion

13. This report summarises the discussions of the *Inspiring London through Culture* grants assessment panel and presents recommendations in relation to the applications considered on 13 January 2017.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – *Inspiring London through Culture*: criteria for funding
- Appendix 2 – *Inspiring London through Culture*: project outlines and recommendations to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee
- Appendix 3 - *Inspiring London through Culture*: table of grants declined, deferred or withdrawn

Background Papers

Full details of the all applications to the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant scheme are available on request from the Director of Culture, Heritage & Libraries.

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