

Committee	Dated:
City Bridge Trust	20 th March 2017
Subject: Strategic Initiative - London Borough of Culture Initiative	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Decision

Summary

This report seeks your approval to commit funds in support of the GLA's London Borough of Culture initiative.

Recommendation

Members are asked to

- Approve a grant of £300,000 to support the three-year London Borough of Culture programme to engage disadvantaged and/or hard to reach communities/people. The grant will be paid to and managed by the Greater London Authority (GLA) as part of a wider fund being made available to support this initiative. The grant is conditional on none of the funds being used to cover costs incurred by any statutory body.

Main Report

Background

1. The London Borough of Culture initiative is a new competition where the principal aim is to broaden and deepen Londoners' participation in arts and culture in their communities, with a particular focus on those people not currently engaged. The competition will be launched in April 2017 under the auspices of the Mayor of London and managed by the. Each borough will be invited to apply GLA (the City is ineligible but will be a strategic partner to the GLA). After boroughs have made their applications, a shortlist of 6 will be determined after the closing date in the autumn. Two winning boroughs of the six will be chosen (one for 2019 and one for 2020) with each given the status of "London Borough of Culture" and a prize of £1m each to run a year-long arts, culture and heritage programme (in 2019 and 2020 respectively) with a specific remit. The remaining 4 "runner-up" boroughs will receive a smaller sum to deliver similarly targeted arts/culture programmes in 2018. Although the prize funds will be allocated to the local authority, the funds will be used principally to support the charitable arts/culture sector.

Current Position

2. The GLA is seeking a cohort of funders to contribute to the overall funds that will be made available. Those currently committed (as well as the GLA itself of course) include the Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Financial support from CBT is sought, for which the Trust will be deemed a "Partner" (as will the other funders), with a role in advising on good practice, etc. Separate negotiations are well advanced with other CoL departments (such as Culture, Heritage and Libraries) regarding their, non-financial, support for this programme. Col too will be deemed a Partner.
3. The award will deliver ambitious cultural programmes underpinned by the active engagement of local residents as co-commissioners, producers, participants and audiences and using culture as a tool for improving community cohesion, addressing social isolation, improving health and wellbeing, developing skills and increasing employment opportunities.
4. Within each borough's bid it is expected that there will be a framework to engage local cultural and heritage organisations, local businesses, health and education sectors and community groups so that they can work together as consortia to realise the overall ambition. Weighting will be applied to the selection process to ensure that those boroughs with an established cultural offer (eg Southwark with its many theatres) do not have an unfair advantage over others less well served.

Outcomes and relevance to the Trust

5. The London Borough of Culture initiative targets disadvantaged and disengaged Londoners and aims to improve their quality of life through art and culture. It supports the Trust's mission to tackle disadvantage and your vision for a fairer London by delivering the following outcomes:
 - Increasing community cohesion, reducing social isolation and improving wellbeing
 - Broadening and deepening Londoner's participation in arts and culture, especially those currently disengaged
 - Investing in new talent pipelines, improving skills, creating jobs and providing employability training

Delivery

6. The initiative is being implemented and managed by the GLA on behalf of the Mayor of London. Officers from the GLA and CBT have been liaising closely since late 2016 to ensure that, should you agree to support this scheme, your funds would be used solely for work in delivering the Trust's aims and that none would be used to support any costs incurred by a statutory body. Your policies say that you can make grants to a statutory body where they are acting as an accountable body for onward distribution of funding to voluntary and charitable organisations.
7. The GLA has established a "Partners Panel" so that all those supporting the initiative can have a say in and be aware of the progress of the scheme over

time. It is intended that a common monitoring framework can be agreed by all the Partners so that the information and learning can be readily captured and shared. (A common framework such as this is extremely valuable as it reduces the time and resource that participants would otherwise have to find if they were to report separately to several different funders.)

Conclusion

8. There are few places on earth that can rival London for its arts and culture but too many Londoners don't get to make the most of the city's cultural assets. The London Borough of Culture initiative will embed the social and economic value of the arts at a local level whilst placing culture at the heart of Londoners' lives, particularly those who are not currently engaged.

Appendices

Strategic Initiative summary sheet

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Summary Assessment of Strategic Initiative for Committee Decision
 (Use: Y/N/Potentially or N/A where relevant)

FILTERS	
Will the pro-active grant:	
Further the Trust's Vision and Mission (a fairer London & tackling disadvantage)?	Y
Support work within one of existing Investing in Londoners programmes (iIL)?	Y
Or, meet a clear need that has arisen since(iIL) were agreed?	
Have the potential for impact beyond that of an individual reactive grant or number of individual grants?	Y
Be affordable within the agreed annual budget (from the Trust alone or in combination with other funders) and, looking forward, leave sufficient budget to meet anticipated pro-active grants for the remainder of the financial year?	Y
Be made to an organisation(s) that conforms to the Trust's eligibility criteria and has the capacity and expertise to deliver the work?	Y

PRIORITISATION GUIDANCE	
Evidence	
Is there external and/or internal research and information that supports the need for the proposed grant?	Y
Is there external and/or internal research and information that indicates the approach proposed in the grant will be successful?	Y
Is there evidence that indicates the work will be hard to fund from other sources?	Potentially
Impact	
Will the grant tackle a root cause(s), or positively influence policy or practice?	Y
Will the work/approach funded be replicable?	Potentially
Does the grant provide an opportunity to strengthen Civil Society in London?	Y
Is the work sustainable beyond the period of the grant?	Potentially
Can the impact of the work be measured through evaluation?	Y