

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	05/03/2018
<b>Subject:</b> Central Grants Programme – <i>Inspiring London through Culture</i> : recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Peter Lisley, Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Alex Hugo, City Culture Executive	

### 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 third-round closing date for applications under this theme was on 9 December 2017. Applications were assessed by a panel of expert officers and external assessors on 25 January 2018 following due diligence checks by the City's Central Grants Unit (CGU) which also oversees the scheme in consultation with the Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance in the Chamberlain's Department. This report recommends grant decisions following that meeting.

### Recommendations

Members are asked:

- To note the Central Grants Programme assessment process and budget; and
- 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 19 May 2016, your Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee be appointed to approve grants falling under the 'Inspiring London through Culture' theme of the Central Grants Programme.

## **Central Grants Assessment Process**

1. The Central Grants Unit (CGU) grant assessment process draws on City Bridge Trust's expertise in the field of grant-making and demonstrates good practice.
2. Prior to grant applications being submitted to this Committee for approval, each individual application 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 Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance within the Chamberlain's Department. All eligible applications are then considered by a panel of expert officers and external assessors.
3. The panel met on 25 January 2018 comprising City Corporation officers: the Head of Cultural and Visitor Development (Chairman); Director of Open Spaces; Head of Guildhall Art Gallery; Director of Arts, Barbican; and Strategic Partnerships Manager – Culture Mile, Barbican and Guildhall Creative Learning as well as external assessors: the Chief Digital Officer at London & Partners; and Head of Learning, Museum of London.
4. For this, the third *Inspiring London through Culture* funding application round, the City Corporation received 14 applications to a total value of £94,492. Of these, 11 applications were presented to the panel totalling £74,842, the others having withdrawn or having failed the grant criteria.
5. The budget for this round of *Inspiring London through Culture* is £73,483.
6. Apart from officer time handling enquiries, all resource implications are budgeted for within the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant fund.

## **Current Position**

7. 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 Culture Mile Director.

## **Current Position**

8. It is proposed that grants totalling £66,342 be awarded as per the recommendations outlined in the appendices. This leaves £7,141 from this year's allocation to be made available for the following grant round.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. 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.

10. 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**

11. This report summarises the discussions of the *Inspiring London through Culture* grants assessment panel and presents recommendations in relation to the applications considered on 25 January 2018.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – *Inspiring London through Culture*: Eligibility Criteria
- Appendix 2 – *Inspiring London through Culture*: Grant Recommendations
- Appendix 3 - *Inspiring London through Culture*: Grants Recommended for Rejection

## **Background Papers**

Full details of the all applications to the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant scheme are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director.

## **Alex Hugo**

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