

## **CITY BRIDGE TRUST – Strategic Initiative progress report**

**Greater London Authority (GLA)**

**Ref: 13946**

**Grant Amount: £300,000**

**Purpose of grant:** £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.

**Project Start Date:** April 2017

**Projected End Date:** December 2020

### **Summary of progress to date, specifically focusing on the key outcomes and impact of the project:**

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

Over the last year your officer has been working closely with the GLA and the Partners Board on the design, delivery and communication of the London Borough of Culture. The Partners Board was established by the GLA before your funding was awarded and is made up of representatives from Heritage Lottery, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Historic England, London Councils, The Audience Agency, Arts Council and Senior Culture Officers at the GLA and City of London. In the first year after the award of your grant the Board met every two months to discuss the practical set up of the LBOC. Initial tasks involved coordinating communication plans, developing the application forms and providing support to the GLA at engagement events. Your officer also attended regular meetings of the City Partners Board which was set up to coordinate the City's involvement with the LBOC programme. The City of London, alongside the contribution to the programme from your Committee, had agreed to offer in-kind cultural resources to the boroughs applying for the programme.

The LBOC was launched at City Hall by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Speeches about the programme were given by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries Justine Simons and Catherine McGuinness Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. The launch was followed by a range of workshops for boroughs interested in applying for the programme.

In December 2017 all the final bids for the programme were submitted with 22 boroughs applying in total. Your officer coordinated the assessment of the applications with other members of the CBT team. Comments and observations were shared with the GLA with

a decision-making meeting taking place with the Deputy Mayor, Justine Simons, in January 2018. The Partners Board did not have the final say in the decision making but made strong recommendations to the GLA. The Partnership working between funders, partners and the GLA was very positive with all parties in agreement on the likely winners of the overall LBOC awards with recommendations made on the individual stand out projects.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced that Waltham Forest and Brent were the winners of the LBOC Awards for 2019 & 2020. Landmark projects were also awarded to Lambeth, Lewisham, Kingston, Barking & Dagenham, Camden and Merton. The launch took place at City Hall and was attended by your Chairman, Deputy chairman and Officers from the Trust.

### **Are there any particular learning points to share?**

A key learning point from the programme was how boroughs worked collaboratively with communities and the voluntary sector to develop their programmes. The momentum of the programme galvanised examples of great collaborative practice that was most visible in the winning proposals. The LBOC programme put Culture on the Agenda for many of the boroughs involved in the programme and will have a positive outcome for the boroughs that were successful and for those that were not.

Working strategically with the GLA and other cultural funders has been a very positive experience. The flexibility of your funding towards this programme has meant that the Trust has had a valued voice at the Strategic Board meetings while also providing influence in the City's wider response to the programme. Your officer has worked with colleagues across the Corporation on this programme forging relationships with different teams at the Barbican, Museum of London, London Metropolitan Archive, Open Spaces and the Culture team.

### **What are the plans for the remainder of the period funded:**

Your officer will continue to attend the Strategic Board and City Partners Board to work with the winning boroughs on their programmes and ensure that your funding is being used to work with communities and charities in the winning boroughs to develop their cultural offer. City Bridge Trust is convening a funders round-table at the Guildhall on 12<sup>th</sup> June to engage other funders with the winning boroughs.

The Waltham Forest Programme will launch in January 2019 with the Brent Programme launching a year later in 2020. Your Officer will work with the winning boroughs and the GLA to ensure that they are monitoring the programmes and ensuring that we are receiving updates on how your funding has supported the engagement of communities in the winning boroughs.