

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Culture, Heritage and Libraries	14/05/2018
<b>Subject:</b> Spitalfields Music Grant Update - For Information	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Peter Lisley, Assistant Town Clerk and Culture Mile Director	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Nick Bodger, Head of Cultural and Visitor Development	

### Summary

In November 2014, your Finance Committee as the trustee of the City's Educational Trust Fund awarded a grant of £45,000 per annum for three years (2016/17 to 2018/19) to Spitalfields Music. This award was endorsed by your Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee.

Recommendations from the Grants Service Based Review saw the City Educational Trust Fund transfer to your Education Board in March 2016, and a new policy was adopted with grant levels and committed terms significantly reduced to enable a wider distribution of funds. This has resulted in it not being possible for Spitalfields Music – now in the final year of their funding with us – to apply for a grant for the same amount and for a three-year commitment period as per current arrangements.

Spitalfields Music have been informed of this and options for alternative funding from the City Educational Trust Fund and other themes within the City Corporation's Central Grants Programme have been highlighted to them.

In January 2018, your City Bridge Trust Committee awarded £90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) towards Spitalfields Music's *The Endless Imagination* programme, and your City Outdoor Arts Programme commissioned them to deliver Livery Hall concerts for £13,000 and retention of all box office receipts. The 2018/19 value of this grant and commission exceeds the value of their final grant instalment from the City Educational Trust Fund, demonstrating a clear and on-going commitment to the organisation from the City Corporation and suggesting that, despite the changes, Spitalfields Music will continue to thrive.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. Spitalfields Music (also known as Spitalfields Festival) was established in 1976. It has received grants from the City Corporation since 1996. These grants have supported its two annual music festivals (held in summer and winter), as well as its year-round learning and participation programme.
2. Grants have been awarded to Spitalfields Music from City's Cash, City Fund, Bridge House Estates through City Bridge Trust, and the City Educational Trust Fund (CETF), noting that the City Corporation is the corporate trustee of both Bridge House Estates and CETF.
3. From 2011/12 to date, grants to Spitalfields Music were made from the City Educational Trust Fund (CETF) in accordance with the grant-making policy in place at the time. The last (and current) award was made by your Finance Committee (as sole trustee of CETF) in November 2014; this was for £135,000 over 3 years (at £45,000 per annum) running from 2016/17 to 2018/19. The award was endorsed by your Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee.
4. Oversight of the CETF was transferred from your Finance Committee to your Education Board as an outcome of the Grants Service Based Review in March 2016, and a new policy was adopted to guide the application of funds.
5. Following recommendations from the Education Charity Sub (Education Board) Committee and the Community and Children's Services Committee, the Education Board resolved to approve revised eligibility criteria for the CETF and the City Corporation's Combined Education Charity on 20 July 2017. The review of the eligibility criteria looked at how the CETF could maximise the advancement of its charitable objects while aligning its activities with the City Corporation's Education Strategy.
6. Existing grant awards were considered during this review and it was determined that more impact could be achieved from the CETF's funds if more organisations could receive grants. As a result, the maximum threshold for grants was significantly reduced.

### **Current Position**

7. Spitalfields Music is due a final payment in this financial year (2018/19) under its current grant award (see item 3). The revised grant-making criteria will not allow for the organisation to apply for funding at the level and term they have enjoyed in the past. The maximum award under the CETF is now set at £25,000 over two years or £12,500 a year.
8. Spitalfields Music is eligible to apply to the CETF for such an award for a project that meets with the trust criteria; broadly, this is for research, study and/or teaching in the arts. Any future application will need to be made through the

Central Grants Programme within stated deadlines. Funding will only be considered on receipt of a satisfactory monitoring and evaluation report from Spitalfields Music on their current funding from the CETF.

9. Similarly, Spitalfields Music is eligible to apply under other themes of the Central Grants Programme. Most pertinently, the *Inspiring London through Culture* theme which awards one-off grants of £7,500 (or £10,000 in exceptional circumstances) for relevant cultural projects taking place in the City of London and/or the *Stronger Communities* theme for community focussed projects that take place here or on one of our housing estates.
10. A letter from your Chairman of Culture, Heritage and Libraries has been sent to Spitalfields Music confirming the new eligibility criteria of the CETF and alerting them to these opportunities.
11. Members should note that the City Corporation is still a demonstrably strong supporter of Spitalfields Music. In January 2018, your City Bridge Trust Committee awarded funding of £90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) towards their *The Endless Imagination* programme in care homes, and your City Outdoor Arts Programme commissioned them to deliver three Livery Hall concerts for £13,000 and retention of all box office receipts for this year's *Women: Work and Power* programme.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

12. In the City Corporation's Cultural Strategy 2018/22 under strategic objective 3 – *Support cultural excellence in a range of fields and champion an ethos of innovation, creative risk taking and artistic citizenship* – a priority action is *Supporting our existing cultural organisations with sustained investment and resources, working closely to help them realise their ambitions*.
13. The City Corporation as trustee of the CETF is fulfilling its responsibility by advancing the objects of the charity while aligning the criteria to the City's Education Strategy. This new policy will allow for the charity to benefit a larger number of organisations delivering educational outcomes in London. Spitalfields Music has received a generous contribution to its education programme from this charity and will be welcome to apply under the new criteria subject to satisfactory monitoring and evaluation of its current grant and its proposed project meeting the new criteria.
14. That said, Spitalfields Music has been able to secure the value of its current grant again in the 2018/19 financial year through its City Bridge Trust award and the commission cited in item 11. Furthermore, it may continue to apply for grants under the themes cited above and thus has a greater level of opportunity (and flexibility) for the financing of its programmes.

## **Conclusion**

15. Spitalfields Music is a hugely valued part of the City's cultural and educational offer. While grant support under current arrangements cannot continue for the

reasons outlined, the organisation has been swift to exploit other funding options offered by the City Corporation and – in the final year of its current grant award– has raised the same level of funding again from alternative City Corporation grants and funding streams.

16. Going forward, your Chairman and officers have highlighted other potential funding routes for Spitalfields Music under the new Central Grants Programme and will continue to support them with advice and – potentially – opportunities for commissions where these may be relevant to their programming abilities and capacity.

## **Appendices**

- None

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