

**MEETING: 21/03/2019**

**Ref: 15005**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**

**Streetwise Opera**

**Adv: Kate Moralee**

**Base: Westminster**

**Benefit: Westminster**

**Amount requested: £120,000**

**(Revised request: £132,108)**

**Amount recommended: £132,000**

**The Applicant**

Streetwise Opera (SO) is a charity which supports people experiencing homelessness to access the arts and more specifically the art of opera. It was established in 2002, has won awards and delivers arts activities in partnership with arts venues and homelessness organisations across London and in four other areas of England. Its aims are to improve wellbeing and physical health, increase involvement in creative activities, reduce isolation and increase confidence and self-esteem. It also runs an international movement, "With One Voice", which connects arts and homelessness organisations worldwide to share policy and best practice.

**The Application**

SO is seeking your support towards the delivery of its services and activities offered to people experiencing homelessness (performers) across London. The request includes contributions towards workshop leaders, associated costs to deliver the workshops, costs for performers to attend performances, theatre trips and progression costs, a proportionate contribution to the salaries of two core staff and other associated running costs.

**The Recommendation**

SO offers a unique opportunity for people experiencing homelessness to be involved in creative activities which do not revolve around addressing issues associated with homelessness. It submitted a revised budget after conversations with your Funding Manager queried salary costs for national staffing and contributions to the proposal from other funders. The contribution from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for the London Co-ordinator is yet to be secured, though SO has confirmed that if this is not secured it will contribute this from its own reserves as it is critical to the delivery of the London service. This project meets the outcomes of your Connecting the Capital priority area Arts, sports, health and/or well-being projects for Deaf and disabled people and funding is recommended as follows:

***£132,000 over three years (£43,000; £44,000; £45,000) towards the delivery of services and activities offered to people experiencing homelessness (performers) across London, including contributions towards workshop leaders, workshops, performers' costs and other associated running costs.***

**Funding History**

None

**Background and detail of proposal**

Homeless Link's rough sleeping data (on behalf of DHCLG) reports that the level of rough sleeping in England has increased 169% between 2010 to 2017. Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) data released in September 2018 reported that between 1 July and 30 September 2018, 3,103

people were recorded as sleeping rough on the streets of London, 17% more than the same period in 2017 and 20% more than the period before. The House of Commons Briefing Paper March 2018 noted an increase of 75% for households in temporary accommodation from 2010 to 2017. London rough sleeping has more than doubled since 2010 (over 1,000 people sleep rough on any given night), and an increasing number of homeless households are being placed in temporary accommodation (Homeless Link, Crisis).

People experiencing homelessness are almost 17 times more likely to be victims of violence and 15 times more likely to be verbally abused compared to the general public, according to Crisis research. Being homeless and rough sleeping is extremely traumatic, with people feeling stigmatised, dehumanised and socially isolated. Homelessness is a complex issue in itself, with people who are/have been homeless experiencing multiple forms of discrimination making moving out of homelessness a difficult journey to travel.

Streetwise Opera 's 2017/18 Impact Report revealed that most of its performers were experiencing or moving on from considerable challenges in their lives:

- o 77% mental health issues (n=103)
- o 65% disability or physical health issues (n=92)
- o 41% learning difficulty or disability (n=90)
- o 32% drug or alcohol use (n=88)
- o 12% speaking English as a second language (n=88)

Many of its performers have experience of multiple issues; 96% had faced at least one of the above issues, while 24% had faced four or more issues. Comparing our performers' profile with that of single homeless people accessing accommodation projects in England (2017 Homeless Link data), SO are reaching people with particularly high levels of mental and physical health issues (77% vs national figure 34%), as well as a high proportion of people with complex or multiple needs (54% vs national figure 32%).

### **Financial Information**

Streetwise Opera has recently restructured to be more efficient in response to "With One Voice" (with an income of £221,742 reported in 2018 accounts) being launched as an independent from April 2019. This has provided an opportunity to reflect on the resource requirements of the organisation and make changes as appropriate. Your officer has had a conversation with SO about its accounting reporting with regards to restricted income and has informed the organisation it will require SORP compliant reporting for any City Bridge Trust restricted grant award.

<b>Year end as at 31st March</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Audited Accounts</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	836,147	843,367	711,614
- % of income confirmed as at 17/1/19	n/a	92%	36%
Expenditure	(813,723)	(882,497)	(711,614)
Total surplus/(deficit)	22,424	(39,130)	0
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	0	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	22,424	(39,130)	0
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<b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>	87,765	87,106	114,769
- % of income	10.5%	10.3%	16.1%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	270,217	325,265	299,984
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	194,227	155,097	155,097
No of months of operating expenditure	8.6	5.7	6.2
Reserves policy target	194,344	194,344	194,344
No of months of operating expenditure	8.6	7.2	7.8
Free reserves over/(under) target	(117)	(39,247)	(39,247)

