

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries	25/03/2019
Subject: Central Grants Programme – <i>Inspiring London through Culture</i> : recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley, Assistant Town Clerk and Director of Major Projects	For Information
Report author: Nick Bodger. Cultural and Visitor Development Director	

Summary

The *Inspiring London through Culture* funding theme, which forms part of the Central Grants Programme (CGP) closed to applications for its current funding round on 11 January 2019. Applications were assessed by a panel of expert officers, your Chairman of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries and external assessors on 27 February following due diligence checks by the City's Central Grants Unit (CGU) which oversees the scheme. This report notes grant decisions following that meeting.

Recommendations

Members are asked:

- To note the grants approved by the panel under the *Inspiring London through Culture* funding stream, a part of the City Corporation's Central Grants Programme.

Main Report

Background

1. On 7 March 2016, your Committee delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with your Chairman and Deputy Chairman to agree the sub themes and eligibility criteria (see appendix 1) for the proposed grant giving theme of *Inspiring London through Culture*, subject to your Policy and Resources Committee approving that theme, which they agreed at their meeting on 19 May 2016.
2. Overseen by the CGU, the grant assessment process for this and other themes in the programme draws on the Unit's expertise in the field of grant-making and demonstrates good practice.
3. On 14 May 2018 your Committee approved to delegate grant decisions for awards of £10,000 or less to the Assistant Town Clerk and Director of Major

Projects in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee.

4. The panel met on 27 February 2019 comprising City Corporation officers, the Cultural and Visitor Development Director (chairman), your Chairman and external assessors.
5. For this *Inspiring London through Culture* funding application round, the City Corporation received 23 applications totalling £208,000.
6. The budget for *Inspiring London through Culture* was £139,000 for 2018/19. In September 2018 £42,200 applications were approved leaving £96,800 remaining in the budget.
7. In order to meet the demand of this round, officers consulted with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee to seek approval of an early transfer of an underspend from another City's Cash grants budget. Approval was given for a further £56,655 to be added to the budget for this grant round, to meet the demand. The total budget for this round was therefore £153,455, with a total grant spend for 2018/19 being £195,655.
8. Apart from officer time handling enquiries, all resource implications are budgeted for and covered by the CGUs central funding.

Current Position

9. 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 Director of Major Projects.

Current Position

10. Eighteen grants totalling £147,194 have been approved as per the reports outlined in the appendices. This leaves £6,261 from this year's allocation which will be put through the standard carry forward process to be dispensed in 2019/20 subject to the approval of the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman of Finance.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. 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.
12. The approved grants 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

13. This report summarises the discussions of the *Inspiring London through Culture* grants assessment panel and presents recommendations in relation to the applications considered on 27 February 2019.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – *Inspiring London through Culture*, eligibility criteria
- Appendix 2 - *Inspiring London through Culture*: project outlines and recommendations to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee
- Appendix 3 - *Inspiring London through Culture*: table of grants declined, deferred or withdrawn

Background Papers

Full details of the all applications to the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant scheme are available on request from the Head of Cultural and Visitor Development.

Nick Bodger

Cultural and Visitor Development Director

T: 020 7332 3263

E: nick.bodger@cityoflondon.gov.uk