

Committee(s): Education Board	Dated: 16/04/2024
Subject: Cultural & Creative Learning Funding Applications 2024-25	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 7, 8 & 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
What is the source of Funding?	Education Board
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Y
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services Department	For Decision
Report author: James Tibbles, Cultural & Creative Learning Coordinator, Community and Children's Services Department	

Summary

This report presents Members with key information relating to the second year of the City's Cultural and Creative Learning (CCL) funding model. These applications relate to funding for July 2024/25. Applications for 14 projects have been received and reviewed. The combined associated cost of these projects is £255,984. The total pot available is £190,000.

This report asks Members to delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Education and Skills Director (in consultation with the Town Clerk, where appropriate) to distribute awards from the CCL budget.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Education and Skills Director (in consultation with the Town Clerk, where appropriate) to distribute the CCL funds to the relevant cultural partners.
- The panel recommends that 11 out of 14 of the applications should be awarded funding from the CCL budget.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation (CoLC) is committed to delivering the existing tripartite of education strategies until the new strategy is approved. These strategies share a common vision: “To prepare people to flourish in a rapidly changing world through exceptional **education, cultural and creative learning**, and **skills** which link to the world of work”. While these strategies are ongoing, they apply to this 24/25 round of funding bids.
2. The City’s cultural partners are invited to bid for up to £20,000 each towards projects targeted at enrichment and additionality in the cultural and creative learning sectors. The total pot available is £190,000.
3. Partners are encouraged to bid in collaboration with one another and to address specific areas of strategic focus. This year, those areas are: mental health and wellbeing, environmental and outdoor learning, employability, and personal development.
4. This year the application window was brought forward to February/March following feedback from partners that June is too late in the academic year to receive a decision due to the short timeframe to recruit schools for projects starting in the Autumn term.
5. A panel of four officers, including a representative external to the Education Strategy Unit (ESU) from the Grants Unit, independently reviewed the applications and reached an agreement on which projects should be awarded funding.
6. The panel recommends that 11 out of 14 of the applications should be awarded funding from the CCL budget.

Current Position

7. The 2024/25 application window opened in February 2024 and partners have now submitted their applications for CCL funding. These applications have now been processed and reviewed with the input of an independent third-party observer to ensure neutrality. The ESU reports that:
8. 14 applications were submitted from 12 lead organisations in partnership with 12 supporting external and/or internal cultural partners to the ESU at the CoLC.
9. Of the applications received, 10 feature more than one cultural partner of the ESU.

10. Across all projects, all four of the strategic areas have been addressed.
11. The applications have now been reviewed and the vast majority meet the criteria in place for funding. One project was deemed ineligible as the lead organisation was not on the list of eligible partners.
12. In the case of two projects, the ESU will request a revised budget to redress high expenditure in areas that do not have a direct impact on learners. Grants will be awarded conditionally following the revision of these costs.
13. One project will be offered part-funding to cover the sub-total for the cost of project delivery and evaluation only.
14. One project will be offered part-funding for a smaller-scale version, with the condition that the content has a clear focus on culture & creativity.

Proposals

15. For successful applications without conditions, and where budget revisions have *not* been requested, the Strategic Skills and Education Director suggests that funds be transferred to the relevant organisation as soon as possible to maximise the project preparation time available.
16. For applications where budget revisions have been requested, the Strategic Education and Skills Director suggests that on receipt of satisfactory responses, funds are transferred to those cultural partners as soon as possible to maximise preparation time.
17. For applications that have been successful *with* conditions, the Strategic Education and Skills Director suggests that on receipt of agreement from applicants, funds are transferred to those cultural partners as soon as possible to maximise the project preparation time.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

18. If approved, these projects will ensure that Members continue achieving the strategic goal that every cultural institution should be a learning institution by widening access to cultural experiences in the City of London. Awarding funding to our partners for Cultural & Creative Learning will enable more learners to access opportunities that improve their creativity, skills, and knowledge in line with the CoLC's Education, CCL and Skills strategies.

Conclusion

This report updates Members with key information relating to the Cultural and Creative Learning funding applications for 2024/25. It asks Members to delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Education and Skills Director to distribute awards from the fund.

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**Appendix One: Cultural and Creative Learning Project Proposals Overview
2024/25**

Project Title	Lead Organisation	Partner Organisations	Total Cost	Project Overview
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Wild City	The Salter's Institute	Edible Landscapes London, Shoe Lane Library	£20,000	A free environmental and outdoor-learning based project that brings biodiversity to life for Year 5 students in London. The project aims to build a green space within a London primary school located in an area facing socio-economic deprivation.
St John's Gate Garden Club	Museum of the Order of St John	The Charterhouse, St Peter & St Paul's Catholic Primary School	£18,235	This project aims to improve the health and wellbeing of school children from disadvantaged backgrounds through creative and outdoor learning activities.
Dr Johnson's House Trust Enhancing and Expanding Learning Impact	Dr Johnson's House Trust	Keats House	£14,900	A learning review and pilot scheme to leverage the history and cultural assets of the Dr Johnson Museum in providing educational opportunities for young learners.
Green Changemakers	Keats House	Natural Environment Learning Team (Hampstead Heath); Heath Hands volunteers (Hampstead Heath and Keats House); CoL family of schools partner (e.g. Highbury Gove Academy); Local Community group(s) in Camden (to be identified).	£19,329	An environmental learning project to create two climate change resilient gardens, engaging young people in schools and community settings. Participants will gain a greater awareness of environmental challenges and gain hands-on experience of building resilient gardens.
Nature Learning	Natural Environment Learning Team, West Ham Park	Participating schools and the Tower Bridge Learning Team	£20,000	A project to enable children with special educational needs and disabilities to spend time in nature, improve their wellbeing, and apply and consolidate their learning.
Tots at the Dock	Museum of London Docklands	N/A	£19,000	A programme of free structured sessions, including music workshops, messy play, gallery exploration and craft. The project focuses on the development of fusion skills, such as communication, collaboration and creativity, and will link to the EYFS curriculum.
Reimagining Londinium: a young person's view	Guildhall Art Gallery	Billingsgate Roman House and Baths	£19,000	A unique opportunity for primary school students to explore the Roman Archaeology of the City of London and to create six

of the Roman City				large-scale artworks to be prominently displayed around the City.
Change the Record	Keats House	London Metropolitan Archives; Poetry vs Colonialism; a school from the City of London family of schools/local community group (tbd)	£10,600	This youth-led project will work with young people to equip them with skills to understand, evaluate and creatively reinterpret objects from Keats House collections, particularly where the cultural significance or meaning of those has changed over the last 200 years.
Culturally Speaking	Keats House	Guildhall Art Gallery; Museum of the Order of St John; Dr Johnson's House; Speaker's Trust	£18,920	'Culturally Speaking' supports young Londoners to visit a cultural venue and benefit from a one-day oracy skills workshop led by Speakers Trust, improving their confidence and giving them skills to thrive in the next stage of their education and employment.
Young City Poets	Tower Bridge	National Literacy Trust, London Metropolitan Archives, St Paul's Cathedral, Keat's House, Guildhall Art Gallery, Museum of the Order of St John	£16,400*	This project seeks to develop lasting writing-for-enjoyment practices, supporting pupils to engage with poetry through memorable experiences, guided discussions, writing activities led by professional poets, and publishing and performance opportunities.
Pilot School Series – inspiring young minds with leading academics	Gresham College	Mulberry School for Girls (Tower Hamlets)	£10,000*	This project provides students with direct access to world-class speakers and enables Gresham professors to tailor their lectures to a younger audience. It is a large-scale pilot of a focused school programme partnering with the Mulberry Academy.

*This figure represents the revised or partial grant funding recommended by the panel.

