

## Appendix 2 – 2023/24 funding round

### Grants withdrawn/rejected 2023/24

Arab British Centre, City of London Choir, The Guildhall School Trust, Historic Towns Trust, Hounslow Arts Centre Ltd, Open Audio Ltd, Spitalfields Festival Limited.

### Grants approved 2023/24

Applying Organisation	Funding Programme	Awarded Date	Awarded Amount	Grant Description
Artperuk CIC	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£9,958	£9,958 over six months towards rehearsals, venue hire and associated delivery costs for a free Peruvian dance show featuring performances, interactive workshops, and vendors.
Britten Sinfonia	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£8,900	£8,900 over three months towards musicians' fees, conductor fees and commissions for 'Once Upon a Tune,' a family concert at Milton Court concert hall accompanied by live projected illustrations.
Caporales Centralistas San Miguel London	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£8,286	£8,286 over six months for 'Folklore superpower?' a programme of pop-ups, workshops and a final performance featuring Bolivian foot dance across the City of London.
City Music Foundation	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£8,000	£8,000 towards the costs of CMF artist fees, promotional and venue associated costs to deliver CMF's series of monthly, open access classical music recitals this year, at the Livery Halls by CMF Artists.
Coney Ltd	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£10,000	£10,000 to fund a series of community workshops for City residents, leading to the co-creation of site-specific, immersive and accessible outdoor adventures (Adventures in the City).
Dr Johnson's House Trust Ltd	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£8,750	£8,750 over six months towards the design, editing and printing of 300 copies of the 'House of Words' compendium and associated virtual tour of Dr Johnson's House.

Drum Works CIC	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£5,685	£5,685 over twelve months towards the costs of the Music Leader, venue hire and associated project costs to deliver the Barbican Drum Club: inspiring creativity and fostering social cohesion through drumming.
London Youth Choirs	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£10,000	£10,000 for London Youth Choir to bring singing to the City, enlivening the Square Mile with voices of young Londoners.
The VOCES8 Foundation	Inspiring London through Culture	06/02/2024	£5,990	£5,990 over ten months towards interactive workshops and concerts for children, bringing music and the environment together in the City.
			<b>£75,569</b>	



# Inspiring London through Culture

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**Assessment Pack 2024**

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## CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

### ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Inspiring London Through Culture

**ArtPerUK CIC (21646)**

**Amount requested: £9,958.05**

**Amount recommended: £9,958**

**Purpose of grant request:** A free Peruvian dance show featuring performances, interactive workshops and vendors.

#### **The Applicant**

ArtPerUK CIC (ArtPerUK, reg no. 14829519) is a small organisation dedicated to promoting and celebrating Peruvian culture, mainly through dance. The founder's daughter inspired the creation of this CIC, as the founder worried her daughter might lose connection to her Peruvian heritage living in the UK. The founder is a keen dancer and business-degree holder, operating as a sole-trader in this work from 2019 to 2023. The CIC seeks to work with Peruvians in the UK, and non-Peruvians, to re-engage with and educate them on Peruvian culture. Since 2019, the founder has worked with almost 100 Peruvians in the UK to re-engage them with Peruvian dance and to perform at events. ArtPerUK offers dance classes representing the three regions of Peru - the coast, the mountains, and the jungle. The CIC has an 18-person 'talent cast' who receive regular free dance training and perform across the country. ArtPerUK is closely connected to the Peruvian embassy and runs an entrepreneur club to support small businesses. The CIC also runs an annual internship programme via Queen Mary University.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

ArtPerUK is seeking funding towards a Peruvian cultural folk show in the City. ArtPerUK aim to produce a free one-day event outside St. Paul's Cathedral featuring dance performances and Peruvian vendors. ArtPerUK wants to recreate and expand on its previous pop-up performance outside St. Paul's for Peruvian Independence Day, funded by the Mayor of London and attended by over 100 people (including the Peruvian ambassador to the UK). The show will allow Peruvians to showcase their talent and nurture their practices and invite City residents and workers to learn about the culture.

ArtPerUK will hold a casting call in the spring to supplement its existing network of dancers and begin free training and dance rehearsals which will take place over the course of four months at its regular space in Vauxhall. The showcase, to be held in the summer, will feature around 50 Peruvian migrants who will be paid for performing traditional dance, leading interactive workshops, and promoting their businesses. The showcase will feature five dance styles - Afro, Marinera, Andean, Jungle and Arequipa, with five to ten different people performing in each. ArtPerUK works with three hand-craft vendors and a catering business who may be featured depending on event permissions. ArtPerUK will market the event via Instagram and paid advertisements in City publications to target locals.

Funding will go towards rehearsal studio hire, dance teacher time, marketing, St Paul's venue hire (which the venue roughly quoted), participant fees and expenses, music and sound, event videography and photography, and project management.

### **Financial Information**

ArtPerUK is a small CIC with an annual turnover of around £30,000. The organisation works on a project basis and has managed similar sized grants to the grant requested here from the Mayor of London in the last couple of years. There are no concerns about the financial viability of the organisation for the duration of the grant.

### **Recommendation**

ArtPerUK is a small, niche but important organisation that deserves a platform in the City. The proposed event will be a free celebration of Peruvian culture. City residents and workers can participate, learn, and appreciate a country's art which is currently underrepresented, not just in the Square Mile, but in the UK. The CIC is spearheaded by a motivated and passionate individual - recognised as a High Street Hero by British Libraries - who has a proven track-record of delivering successful public performances. I am confident that ArtPerUK would work well with the Destination City team to animate the space around St. Paul's and produce an enjoyable event. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£9,958 over six months towards rehearsals, venue hire and associated delivery costs for a free Peruvian dance show featuring performances, interactive workshops and vendors.**

## CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

### ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Inspiring London Through Culture

**Britten Sinfonia (ref. 22163)**

**Amount requested: £8,900**

**Amount recommended: £8,900**

**Purpose of grant request:** Once Upon a Tune, a family concert at Milton Court concert hall accompanied by live projected illustrations.

#### **The Applicant**

Britten Sinfonia (BS, reg no. 291245) is one of the UK's leading chamber orchestras and a registered charity that has been running for 31 years. It aims to change the way people experience and think about music, by drawing on influences from old and new, classical and popular, music and other performing arts. The orchestra is internationally acclaimed for its quality and inventiveness. Equally, it prides itself on using music for targeted public benefit: musicians work on creative and therapeutic projects with pre-school children, teenagers, young carers, dementia sufferers, prisoners, and older people at risk of isolation. Recognising the lack of diversity in the field, BS prioritises diversity in its programming, featuring composers and visiting musicians from a variety of underrepresented backgrounds. An Associate Ensemble at the Barbican from 2012 until 2024, BS is looking to expand its work in London.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

One of BS's main aims is to inspire young people into a career in music. Through its decades-long work with young people, BS has learned the value that seeing live performance can play in encouraging them to do so. That's why the charity has been running family concerts for over 15 years. BS wants to bring its 'Once Upon a Tune' concert to the City and invite local families and children - particularly those who have little/no access to live music at school and would not usually attend classical concerts.

BS has collaborated with an award-winning author, illustrator, and concert presenter to produce a twelve-piece chamber concert of his illustrated children's book 'Once Upon a Tune: Stories from the Orchestra.' The book includes six stories from far-off lands which have inspired great music. The author narrates the concert and also draws illustrations live on stage, which are projected on a screen behind the orchestra. The charity also regularly works with a BSL interpreter, who will perform at the concert and interprets both the words and the music.

BS aims to hold a performance in April at Milton Court in the City, with whom the charity has engaged in initial conversations, and has an audience-capacity of 600 people. BS will partner with the institutions it has existing relationships with, as well as local schools, such as The Aldgate School and Prior Weston, community organisations and the City of London Music Hub to promote the performance online and via physical leaflets. The learning and development team are working on planning pre-concert arts and crafts activities in the foyer of the hall to allow the young people to engage with the players and learn about what they do. This will be

supplemented by a Q+A with the instrumentalists following the performance. BS intend to use the project to sign-post young people to other music-focused resources.

BS would like to provide free tickets to identified schools in the City with children on a pupil premium, approximately 40% of the audience (240 people). 60% of the tickets would be charged at £11 for adults and £7 for children. Since submitting the original request, BS have confirmed funding from the Thistle Trust and the Foyle Foundation which will reduce BS's contribution from reserves to meet project shortfall. Funding from Inspiring London Through Culture is requested towards commissions (including the arrangement and BSL signer) as well as musicians' and conductor fees.

### **Financial Information**

BS is a large charity with an annual turnover of approximately £1.5 million. Around half of its income is from its activities and half from restricted grants from trusts and foundations. Based on the figures provided it appears the charity holds around eight to 13 months operating expenditure in reserves, exceeding its policy to hold six months operating expenditure in reserves. This is partly due to the fact that some projects had to be postponed since the pandemic and reflects usual charity practice. The charity's Arts Council England NPO was withdrawn in 2022, leaving it with a shortfall of £1 million from 2022-2025. As a result, an unusually high portion of expenditure was spent on fundraising in 2022, the 'Help Britten Sinfonia Play On' campaign having raised £320,000 by November 2023. There are no concerns about the financial viability of the organisation for the duration of the grant.

### **Recommendation**

BS's proposal strongly meets the Inspiring London Through Culture criteria, promoting access to the City's cultural offer and enhancing creativity through excellence and innovative practice. The charity will target its event promotion to those who would not usually attend concerts, offering a portion of tickets for free. To make the concert itself accessible, BS will break down traditional barriers between the audience and performers by utilising multiple media and providing opportunities for interaction. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£8,900 over three months towards musicians' fees, conductor fees and commissions for 'Once Upon a Tune', a family concert at Milton Court concert hall accompanied by live projected illustrations.**



## **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Inspiring London Through Culture**

**Caporales Centralistas San Miguel London (ref. 22106)**

**Amount requested: £8,286**

**Amount recommended: £8,286**

**Purpose of grant request: ‘Folklore superpower’ – a programme of pop-ups, workshops and a final performance featuring Bolivian foot dance across the City of London.**

#### **The Applicant**

Caporales Centralistas San Miguel London (CCSML) is an unincorporated constituted voluntary organisation based in Newham whose primary activity is bringing people together through the practice and performance of Bolivian caporales dance. CCSML has existed in the UK for five years. It is a chapter of an international fraternity, Caporales Centralistas San Miguel, headquartered in Bolivia that has been running for 48 years. CCSML has an annual open-call which has helped build membership – it has grown from nine people in 2018 to around 25 active members including both teenagers and adults. Three people make up the core team of coordinators. The group meets weekly to learn and rehearse caporales dance and performs across the country at events like Edinburgh Festival Carnival and Fest Latam in Guildhall Yard in 2021 and 2022.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

CCSML is applying for funds to deliver ‘Folklore superpower’ - five to ten choreographed pop-up performances, five interactive workshops and a final showcase featuring four different Bolivian dance styles; San Miguel, Tinku, Morenada and Diablada. CCSML use cultural expression as a way to bring people together. Performing at community and family events, CCSML knows people enjoy watching its members dance, and are seeking funding to combine this with an opportunity for audience members to participate, promoting access in cultural arts.

20 CCSML members will take part in the pop-ups, which will take place over a period of two weeks in the spring. As well as demonstrating traditional dance, members will pass out flyers to advertise the workshops. CCSML aims to hold interactive workshops over the summer in St Katherine Cree Guild Church and cover two dance styles at each. The workshops will be a chance for the public to learn the dances and take part in the final showcase. CCSML will work with other groups – Tinkus Puros, Morenada Elegantes and Fraternidad Diablada Bolivia UK – to deliver the artistic content and teach the different dance styles.

The final showcase, proposed to take place at St Pauls Churchyard northside, will be based on the story of the seven deadly sins and will be accompanied by an audio recording. CCSML is keen to engage with Destination City on potentially featuring the showcase as part of Bartholomew’s Fair in September. Based on the events it

has taken part in, CCSML estimates this project will benefit 500 people, including CCSML members.

Funding is requested towards project management, graphic design, flyer printing, audio recording, transport, instructor and performer hours, water, and venue hire. CCSML has reached out to the proposed venues but is yet to hear back from them, so hire costings are based on information found online. CCSML members already have costumes they will wear during the pop-ups, workshops, and final showcase.

### **Financial Information**

CCSML is a small CVO with an annual turnover of around £1,500. Should funding be awarded, it would be the first grant of this size CCSML has received to date (although it was part of a consortium of three organisations that was awarded £15,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund). CCSML has two finance officers, and the core team reviews its finances every month. CCSML is transparent with its members on its financial position. There are no concerns about the financial viability of the organisation for the duration of the project.

### **Recommendation**

CCSML's proposal to bring Bolivian traditional dance to the City will promote access for all to participate in the City's cultural offer, deliver positive social impact and support the development of the City's Destination City scheme. It will engage with people living or working in the Square Mile as well as bring new audiences, giving them an opportunity to experience – as an audience member or participant – an art form they may not have encountered previously. The programme of activities will animate various places and spaces within the Square Mile. On top of this, this proposal supports grassroots talent and gives a traditionally underrepresented group a platform in the City. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£8,286 over six months for 'Folklore superpower' – a programme of pop-ups, workshops and a final performance featuring Bolivian foot dance across the City of London.**

## **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Inspiring London through Culture**

**City Music Foundation (ref. 22138)**

**Amount requested: £8,000**

**Amount recommended: £8,000**

**Purpose of grant request: A series of monthly, open access classical music recitals in the City Livery Halls by CMF Artists.**

#### **The Applicant**

The City Music Foundation (CMF, reg no. 1148641) was formed in 2012 as an initiative of the previous Lord Mayor Sir Roger Gifford, with funding from the Lord Mayors Appeal. The Charity aims to help emerging artists get a foothold on their career, creating exceptional industry trained musicians and performers. It provides a 2-year mentoring programme for professional artists to learn about business development, make connections in the city and have access to artist management services.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

CMF is seeking funding to deliver the second half of their series of monthly recitals by CMF Artists in Livery Halls, covering seven concerts this year from March to December 2024. This is an ongoing series of performances in the Livery Halls following their previous location, Barts Heritage, being closed for renovations.

CMF has curated numerous recitals across the City to showcase it's talent and provides CMF artists the chance to practice what they've been coached on and perform in front of live audiences. The recitals help put CMF artists on the map, with previous participants achieving recording contracts and successful careers in the industry. Its recitals highlight the Square Mile as a destination city for culture as they combine music and heritage, opening 'secret' historic venues in the City to the public and animating them with music.

The seven proposed concerts will include a performance by one CMF artist or ensemble lasting for one hour, on a weekday at 1pm at a Livery Hall. Tickets can be purchased through the CMF website with general tickets costing £10 and concessions £5. Concessions are available for those receiving benefits, students in full time education, under 18's, or those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Although concession availability is clearly advertised on the CMF website, it does not seem to have an equitable approach to pricing as it's been allowing people in for free on the door if they are really struggling financially. Income from these recitals will go back into the CMF artist programme. There are no quotas on ticket options and CMF is prepared to cover shortfalls.

Livery Halls confirmed for the proposed concerts are Goldsmiths, Haberdashers, Leathersellers, Merchant Taylors, Bakers, Pewterers and Armourers. All are accessible buildings with recital capacity varying between 80-120 people. The Halls have waved their venue hire fee for CMF with exact dates being negotiated with both

venues and artists. The reaction from the first half of recitals in the Livery Halls in 2023 has been overwhelmingly positive, with the Halls happy to use this opportunity to promote themselves as accessible historic venues to new audiences.

CMF will undertake the marketing themselves, advertising the concerts locally to City workers as well as residents and inviting press to the recitals. It will advertise on websites such as Concert Diary, mailing lists, social media, and City based communication networks, as well as City AM and City Matters. CMF have decided to stop livestreaming their events to encourage people to get back to enjoying recitals in person and explore locations within the City.

The seven concerts are estimated to cost £8,000 in total, with this recommendation covering CMF artist fees, printing for programmes and advertisement listings, instrument tuning and both CMF and some Livery Hall admin/staff costs. CMF have not sought funding elsewhere for the seven recitals.

### **Financial Information**

The CMF is a small charity with an annual turnover of approximately £200,000. Over the last couple of years, it's been operating with a deficit as its income has been decreasing. Sourcing funding has proven harder for the arts sector post pandemic, and it lost one particular funding stream as a donor who made monthly donations of £5,000 passed away in 2021. To improve its position, it is reducing its staffing costs by one FT person, applying to funders such as Fidelio Trust and Garrick Trust and launching a Big Give campaign. It is also due to receive an unrestricted legacy payment of £75,000. This will improve its reserves position from holding approximately five months expenditure in free reserves to seven, meeting its target. There are no concerns about the financial viability for the duration of this grant.

### **Recommendation**

As stated above, CMF's approach to its pricing structure is questionable. Allowing members of the public in free on the door may seem accessible but by not being transparent on its website, it is hardly equitable to those struggling financially who still pay the £5 concession fee. CMF have not applied to any other funders for this set of concerts and the fact it has received funding from this strand on five occasions in the last seven years, highlights a dependency on the CGU.

Nevertheless, the project does meet the criteria of Inspiring London through Culture as it hits more than one of the eligibility criteria. It is experienced delivering projects of this scale with the highest calibre of artists. The partnership with the Livery Halls brings new audiences to the City's heritage venues and builds the City's role as a cultural destination. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£8,000 towards the costs of CMF artist fees, promotional and venue associated costs to deliver CMF's series of monthly, open access classical music recitals this year, at the Livery Halls by CMF Artists.**

## **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: INSPIRING LONDON THROUGH CULTURE**

**Coney (ID 22129)**

**Amount requested: £10,000**

**Amount recommended: £10,000**

**Purpose of grant request: To fund a series of community workshops for City residents, leading to the co-creation of site-specific, immersive and accessible outdoor adventures (Adventures in the City).**

#### **The Applicant**

Coney Ltd is a charitable company (reg no. 1156864), incorporated in 2008, who uses the power of creativity and cultural exchange to spark change through play for, by, and with artists, communities, young people and families. The company is well-known in the arts sector for using play as a vessel to tackle complex issues and hold space for difficult conversations, from gentrification to climate change. Through the co-creation and co-design of projects, Coney brings together people and communities who may never usually meet due to geographical, political or social barriers. Coney work both nationwide and internationally, but typically in places with little or no cultural infrastructure where they produce work that is locally rooted and designed, thereby expanding opportunities for creatives and increasing audience reach. With a reputation for pushing creative boundaries, Coney is well known for their digital participation design and cross-sector approach through which they experiment with new artistic practices and formats. Run by a small team of five core staff, Coney draws on the skills of an extensive network of Associate Artists, as and when required, to provide the additional capacity they require for project delivery. Five additional trustees were appointed in 2021 specifically to expand the range of expertise within the Board.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

Interactive theatre-maker Coney has been commissioned by London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT) to create a series of site specific immersive adventures in public spaces, called 'Adventures in the City', which explore the visible and invisible stories of the communities who make up the City of London. 'Adventures in the City' is in turn part of LIFT's programme 'LIFT the City' which forms a central spine of the City of London's Destination City strategy and programme for 2024/25.

Inspiring London through Culture funding will support a phase of community-focused creative development of the work in Spring/Summer 2024 and accessibility scoping. Eight community workshops and creative sessions with City of London residents will collect their stories and co-create a people's map of the City which will inform the route of three immersive adventures, the related digital experiences, set design and performances. Workshops for up to 50 participants will take place at Golden Lane Community Centre, Artizan Library and a third location to be confirmed. The workshops and final events will explore who holds power, whose stories are told, what democracy means for the people of the City, and what the future of the City could look like. The adventures themselves will begin with visitors arriving at a

mysterious shop front, where performers will unlock one of three interactive smartphone adventures across the City. Taking audiences of all ages across the City's public spaces and venues, these site-specific hour-long experiences will celebrate the diversity of voices that make the City unique and explore the complex dynamics that shape the Square Mile. The final locations for the outdoor adventures will be chosen as part of the workshops. It is estimated that the final adventures will attract 4,000 visitors across two weekends in Spring 2025 including at least 30% of audiences visiting a public event in the City for the first time. An ongoing collaboration with an access advisor will ensure that the project is open and accessible to a wide range of audiences, including wheelchair users, hard-of-hearing audiences, neurodiverse people, families and non-native English speakers. Thus all performances will be relaxed and smartphone adventures will be captioned and follow step-free routes in quiet spaces with opportunities to pause and rest.

Coney has a strong track record of working with communities within the Square Mile to deliver innovative cultural interventions. In 2019, they created 'We the People (of Culture Mile)', a series of workshops and a community-sourced game show developed with residents of the Barbican and Golden Lane Estates. In 2022, they received a £400,000 commission from the City of London to create Destination City's 2023 flagship event the 'Golden Key' (6,600 visitors), an immersive takeover of the City of London exploring the secrets and untold stories of the Square Mile, working with residents, 17 venues and secret locations (e.g. St Mary-le-Bow, Pewterers' Hall, St Dunstan-in-the-East, Dr Johnston's House) and 200 artists. In 2023, Coney was awarded a Stronger Communities grant to launch 'Middlesex Map', a community map exploring wellbeing and developed with communities from the Middlesex Street Estate. (This project was delayed due to the renovation of Artizan Street Library & Community Centre). Feedback collected during these projects has illustrated residents' appetite for more cultural activities that deliver meaningful engagement and improve community cohesion across the Square Mile.

A second complementary programme of eight workshops (not part of this funding request), 'Work Place Boost', will be delivered by Coney for those working in the City of London. Participants from both workshops will contribute to the co-design of the final adventures.

### **Financial Information**

Inspiring London Through Culture funding will contribute to the preliminary costs of the lead producers, writers, directors and game-makers (£6,200), workshop facilitators and costs (£2,300), access auditor fees (£500) and related project administration (£1,000). The overall project cost (excluding Work Place Boost) is £40,000, of which £30,000 is being provided by LIFT as a commission fee. Both the £30,000 commission fee and cost of 'Work Place Boost' are funded through a grant to LIFT from the City of London's Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund. Once the core project budget £40,000 is in place Coney are confident that they can use this to lever additional Arts Council England project funding to further extend the project in terms of complexity of the interactive adventures and breadth of community participation.

Coney lost their Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation core funding from 2023, but has been working with a fundraising consultant to substantially build

and diversify their funding base by growing income from contracts, grants and earned income from £301,881 turnover in 2021/22 to an estimated £577,351 by 2024/25. Whilst the Board will be drawing on their reserves to develop and deliver this fundraising strategy with unrestricted reserves reducing from £80,604 (2022/23) to £52,685 (2024/25) they remain in excess of the organisation's reserves policy of two months staff and overheads costs (£43,324).

### **Recommendation**

Coney has been working closely with the City of London's Destination City team over the last three years delivering flagship projects that illustrate the ambition of the programme and the power of culture to bring the Square Mile back to life, reflect the stories and heritage of the City and draw visitors from across London and beyond. With a creative practice that constantly draws on new developments in technology and the company's commitment to co-design with communities, Coney's immersive theatrical productions are both artistically innovative, promote access for all and deliver positive social impact through increasing community cohesion. The proposal to develop 'Adventures in the City' fully meets all of the core criteria of the Inspiring London through Culture Fund and many of its priorities including engaging with people living in the Square Mile, engaging with new audiences, animating spaces within the Square Mile and using technology to deliver cultural excellence. A grant is recommended as follows:

**£10,000 to fund a series of community workshops for City residents, leading to the co-creation of site-specific, immersive and accessible outdoor adventures (Adventures in the City).**

## **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Inspiring London Through Culture**

**Dr Johnson's House Trust Ltd (ref. 22196)**

**Amount requested: £8,750**

**Amount recommended: £8,750**

**Purpose of grant request:** New marketing, education and access resources for Dr Johnson's House to enhance its profile, inclusivity and relevance.

#### **The Applicant**

Dr Johnson's House Trust (DJH) is a Grade 1 listed small historic town house in the City of London. It is an independent, fully accredited museum and a registered charity (reg no. 1122396). DJH was built in 1690 and was lived in by disabled writer Samuel Johnson in the mid-to-late eighteenth century. Today the house is open to the public, with a collection relating to Johnson, a research library, and restored interiors. It has three members of staff and a dedicated team of volunteers who together run a vibrant programme of education workshops, exhibitions, and events.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

The applicant is requesting funds to produce a book and virtual tour covering the history of DJH. The 'House of Words' compendium will be used as a basis to develop a range of professional learning materials focused on oracy to be provided to local schools. DJH has received funding from the National Lottery to run audience consultation in 2024, which will run concurrently to producing these learning materials.

DJH is planning an ambitious programme of outreach to improve its education programmes and sustain its income. To do so, DJH needs better resources. These will be developed from DJH's 'House of Words.' 'House of Words' will be a compendium of stories featuring not just Johnson, but other notable house residents who also experienced adversity. DJH is a unique historic town house, as it is believed to be the only one of its kind – having survived both world wars and having a formerly enslaved resident, Francis Barber, as a main tenant. The compendium will also feature essays on female intellectualism (poet Anna Williams was also a resident) and the 18<sup>th</sup> century experience of living with disabilities.

DJH is committed to making the house accessible to those with disabilities. As the house is currently not step-free, staff have engaged with the Royal National Institute of Blind People to create an audio-visual tour. DJH is in conversation with Shoe Lane library about making the tour available there.

Funding is requested towards commissioning the RNIB audio and walk-through tour, design and photography, editing, and printing the book. All contributing authors – DJH trustees - are doing so free of charge. The contributors are academic experts on English language and 18<sup>th</sup> century British literature. DJH is requesting funds for printing the 300 free books (50 will be large for access) it will be mailing to local schools and providing when schools visit the house.



### **Financial Information**

Like all other indoor visitor attractions, the pandemic and associated restrictions had a significant impact on DJH's income in 2021-2, but unusually high investment income offset this. The Trust holds high levels of reserves including its physical assets and funds to cover maintenance and key salaries. Its endowment comprises the House, chattels, and some investments. In 2017, the Trust designated £750,000 of an almost million-pound donation made in the early 2000s to The Donald Hyde Curatorial Fund for the Curator and Deputy Curator salaries. The Trust received £100k in grants for extraordinary maintenance works in 2022, most of which was spent in 2023. Although the charity did not receive grants in 2023, it has around £100k in restricted grants confirmed for 2024. There are no concerns about the financial viability of the organisation for the duration of the grant.

### **Recommendation**

The Trust's proposal, should funding be awarded, would help improve access to one of the Square Mile's interesting cultural and historical assets. The book will provide a foundation for the Trust to develop and enhance its educational offer, and the virtual tour will ensure those who are not physically able to visit the House can access it in a different way. The proposal therefore meets the Inspiring London Through Culture criterion around promoting access in the City's cultural offer and delivering positive social impact through heritage. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£8,750 over six months towards the design, editing and printing of 300 copies of the 'House of Words' compendium and associated virtual tour of Dr. Johnson's House.**

## **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Inspiring London Through Culture**

**Drum Works CIC (ref. 22088)**

**Amount requested: £5,685**

**Amount recommended: £5,685**

**Purpose of grant request:** Drum Club: inspiring creativity and fostering social cohesion through drumming.

#### **The Applicant**

Originating in 2007, Drum Works CIC (Drum Works, reg no. 09649796) was a project within the Barbican and Guildhall School's Creative Learning programme until 2016 when it launched as an independent CIC. Today the organisation engages 570 young people in East London every week through five partner schools, two community programmes (Drum Clubs) and three progression ensembles. Experienced Drum Works tutors lead weekly sessions. They facilitate creative music-making that develops musical ability, confidence, social skills, and concentration. There is a focus on community and celebrating achievement. Drum Works' participants shape its creative direction via its Youth Board and their presence on the Board of Directors. Experienced participants who wish to get further involved are offered training and work opportunities through the Assistant programme to support their personal and professional development.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

Drum Works is seeking funding to contribute towards its Barbican Drum Club (BDC) – weekly drumming sessions for City residents and workers held in Prior Weston Primary School (near the Barbican Centre). Funding is requested towards 36 sessions, in three terms of 12 weeks, throughout the year from April 2024 to March 2025.

As a result of Drum Works' successful work with at-risk youth in East London, adults inquired whether there was an opportunity for them to have their own ensemble. Drum Works' BDC, with around 30 participants ranging in age from mid-20s to 70s, has been running in the City for nine years. Local residents, workers and visitors take part, and Drum Works staff know that many participants rely on the club for social interaction. Regular and advanced skills sessions both take place on Tuesday evenings and last for 60 to 90 minutes each.

BDC is a welcoming, supportive environment where people are empowered to create and perform together. BDC members join with other Drum Works ensembles, most regularly Stratford Drum Club, to perform in and beyond the City at least twice per term. In the past groups have performed at the Avatar 2 Premiere after party, London E-Prix, Aldgate Winter, and Ride London. The CIC has already been approached by the London Marathon to have one of its groups perform there in 2024. Drum Works, through initiatives like Drum Club, seek to show people the value of dedication and commitment and the role it can play in personal well-being - that applying yourself can lead to something you are proud of.

BDC is now facing rising costs. The Barbican Centre stopped providing free venue use last year, which has led to new venue hire costs. Without this grant, these costs would have to be covered by raising membership fees by over double the current rate. BDC hopes to keep membership fees close to current rates to ensure the group remains affordable to its participants, who started to express financial concerns post-pandemic and are grappling with the cost-of-living crisis. BDC already provides two participants with free membership and around three with subsidised membership (a 30% discount) to help reduce financial barriers.

Drum Works staff are exploring ways to generate future income to ensure BDC becomes self-sustaining. The CIC is currently producing a show-reel, which it will use to market groups to perform at higher rates. It is also developing an online learning tool which it will seek to monetise.

Funding would contribute towards the Music Leader, venue hire, equipment maintenance (e.g. replacing drumsticks and skins) and management of BDC.

### **Financial Information**

Drum Works is a small organisation with an annual turnover of approximately £200,000. While the CIC was able to cover its deficit with reserves, 2022-3 was a poor year, with unusually low grant application success – Drum Works had invested a significant amount of time into an Arts Council NPO application, which was unsuccessful (despite highly positive feedback). This drew resources away from other grant applications. These resources have now been redirected and Drum Works' income and expenditure for 2023-4 are forecast to rise to more usual levels (the CIC has received a multi-year grant from Youth Music which will contribute to core costs and work in schools). There are no concerns about the financial viability of the organisation for the duration of the grant.

### **Recommendation**

Drum Works is an impressive organisation with a longstanding history in the City. BDC delivers positive social impact for audience-goers and for participants. For local members, BDC allows them to develop new musical and personal development skills and to form inter-generational bonds with people they would not otherwise cross paths with. BDC provides people with the opportunity to actively participate in a creative activity - and as the applicant notes, these opportunities tend to diminish as people get older. BDC has unfortunately been put in a position where its costs are suddenly rising, which could deter participants. This could be alleviated by a contribution from the Inspiring London Through Culture fund. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£5,685 over twelve months towards the costs of the Music Leader, venue hire and associated project costs to deliver the Barbican Drum Club: inspiring creativity and fostering social cohesion through drumming.**

## **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Inspiring London Through Culture**

**London Youth Choirs (ref. 21800)**

**Amount requested: £10,000**

**Amount recommended: £10,000**

**Purpose of grant request: London Youth Choirs will bring singing to the City, enlivening the Square Mile with voices of young Londoners.**

#### **The Applicant**

London Youth Choirs (LYC) is a registered charitable incorporated organisation (reg no. 115174). Set up in 2021, LYC is comprised of 10 choirs for young people aged 7-23, providing weekly singing tuition and performance opportunities. LYC exist for all of London's young singers, regardless of social or financial circumstances. LYC currently have nearly 500 current choir members from 31 of London's 32 boroughs, and last year worked with an additional 1,461 young people in schools and communities around the capital. The organisation's city-wide vision is to deliver two things: musical excellence and social change. LYC work to remove barriers to access to ensure that everyone can take part in music-making, subsidising fees, offering free places to those who need them, and ensuring a high level of pastoral support for members. LYC members receive outstanding teaching and take part in exciting performance opportunities at iconic venues. In the last academic year, LYC members took part in 32 performances, including the Royal Variety Performance finale, with Andrew Lloyd-Weber, Gary Barlow and Gareth Malone, Damnation of Faust with London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir at the Royal Festival Hall, carols in the Sky Garden, and at the BBC News Awards at Broadcasting House.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

LYC is requesting £10,000 from Inspiring London Through Culture to bring it's Singing in the City pop-up performances back to the Square Mile for a third year in 2024.

Music education has been de-prioritised and underfunded in state school education, and this has widened the gap in access and attainment between those who are able to pay for a music education, and those who cannot. LYC's six central choirs rehearse at City of London School, bringing young people to the City from many different backgrounds and boroughs. LYC's work is not just important in the context of music access and education, but in wider social cohesion, developing community through choir. There is no other organisation providing a London-wide family of choirs like LYC to sing together and represent the diversity of the capital.

Singing in the City provides an opportunity to enliven the City with the voices of young Londoners from all over the capital. It offers an exciting opportunity for LYC members to experience the Square Mile and open the spaces of the capital to them whilst also bringing joyful entertainment to City workers. LYC will work with venues to set up impactful pop-up performances – venues are to be confirmed but likely to consist of Leadenhall Market, Paternoster Square, the Barbican or St Pauls.

LYC hope that hearing high-quality choral singing performed by talented young Londoners from all over the capital will be inspiring and boost wellbeing for audiences who live or work in the Square Mile, with music animating spaces that many usually interact with in a different way, both for specific audiences and passersby.

This project also provides an opportunity to raise the profile of LYC as a musical charity and help to build new partnerships. Performances will be marketed through social media and local media opportunities and businesses to spread the word not only about the pop-ups, but about the work the charity does in the capital, potentially finding new supporters. Previous pop-ups have allowed LYC to make new partnerships with venues and businesses in the City, and it is keen to do this for a third year, benefitting from both cultural and corporate relationships and shaping future funding opportunities.

### **Financial Information**

80% of LYC's income relies on fundraising, including from charitable trusts and livery companies, companies and individuals, including matched-funding campaigns and patrons' scheme. Additional income comes from membership fees and events and recordings. Reserves are currently sitting below target, but the organisation is developing ways to build up to its target. LYC will recruit a Corporate Partnerships role to further build income opportunities and strengthen itself long-term. LYC has sufficient funding in place for the duration of the grant.

### **Recommendation**

London Youth Choir is proposing a project which meets the criteria of Inspiring London Through Culture. If successful, this will be the third year of funding - a discussion was had during assessment about overreliance on the fund – the new Corporate Partnerships role will develop future funding opportunities strengthened through this project and previous relationship building, allowing for future sustainability. Funding is recommended as below:

**£10,000 for London Youth Choir to bring singing to the City, enlivening the Square Mile with voices of young Londoners.**

## **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Inspiring London Through Culture**

**The VOCES8 Foundation (ref. 21855)**

**Amount requested: £5,990**

**Amount recommended: £5,990**

**Purpose of grant request:** Bringing music and the environment together in the City through interactive workshops and concerts for children.

#### **The Applicant**

The VOCES8 Foundation (VOCES8, previously Voces Cantabiles Music, reg no. 1126785) was set up in 2006 as a performance and educational charity. As well as staging and performing professional classical vocal concerts, it works with young people to provide a range of singing workshops with its two internationally acclaimed vocal ensembles. The VOCES8 Centre is based in St. Anne and St. Agnes church in the heart of the City of London. VOCES8 works closely with borough-based Music Hubs to ensure it works with the schools most in need of music provision.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

VOCES8 is requesting funding to collaborate with Ensemble Augelletti to run music workshops with Key Stage 1 students at local schools and give them the opportunity to perform in a concert at the VOCES8 Centre.

VOCES8 will work with the Tower Hamlets and Hackney Music Hubs to identify six schools in underserved parts of the boroughs, where children are unlikely to visit the City and lack access to music education. The Ensemble Augelletti leader and another ensemble member will co-run the sessions, introducing children to different instruments, including the violin, cello and recorder, and different birds. Schools will receive a resource pack with teaching videos, backing tracks and an art activity to make a bird and information cards.

VOCES8 aims to work with around 60 students per school (depending on the school size). It plans to host three concerts during the summer and autumn terms with the professional Ensemble Augelletti musicians, with 120 children performing at each one. Friends and family will be invited to attend for free. St. Anne and St. Agnes church is accessible for disabled people.

VOCES8 has extensive experience working with this age group, filling a gap in provision as other groups work with older students. It has already made some of the resources (it has filmed some of the videos introducing instruments) and has successfully piloted one of the birdsongs with a group of children.

Funding is requested for planning and delivering the workshops, professional ensemble performance fees, venue hire, remaining school resources, videography/photography of events and project management. VOCES8 has received match funding from an individual donor for the remaining amount required to run the

project. In assessment, the applicant indicated that without this funding, the project could go ahead with a reduced number of schools.

### **Financial Information**

VOCES8 is a large charitable incorporated organisation with an annual turnover of approximately £2 million. The charity holds around six months total expenditure in reserves. There are no concerns about the organisation's financial viability for the duration of the grant.

### **Recommendation**

VOCES8 is an established organisation, requesting funding for a project which will reach many children from underserved communities in neighbouring boroughs. The funding request is relatively low compared to the number of beneficiaries it will reach. VOCES8 has experience working with this young age group, who tend to slip through the net of other similar services. VOCES8 also has a positive track record of delivery under the Inspiring London Through Culture strand, having been awarded funding in 2017, 2018 and 2020 for various projects. I am confident VOCES8 will deliver a successful project. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£5,990 over ten months towards interactive workshops and concerts for children, bringing music and the environment together in the City.**