

Committee:	Date(s):
Education Board	24/06/2014
Subject: Outreach Forum proposals	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
<p>Summary</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update the Education Board on the work of the Outreach Forum and to request support for its proposals to develop four initiatives that draw on the collective strengths of the City's cultural venues to reach out to schools across London with the aim of making a positive impact on the educational lives of pupils. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. a three-year school visits fund which would provide schools with grants of up to £300 to help them visit City venues (to be launched in January 2015) ii. a three-year programme of outreach performances, online resources and teacher training to help secondary school teachers tackle difficult subjects such as homophobia, racism, gang culture and substance abuse (to be launched in September 2015) iii. a new website to mark the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London (to be launched in September 2016) iv. a head teachers' event to promote all the above (in January 2015). <p>The report highlights the need for funds to carry out teacher consultations and scoping between September and December 2014 in order to progress these initiatives. In addition, in principle support for funding is requested for the two initiatives to be delivered in January 2015 (i and iv).</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the report ii. endorse the proposals for the development of coordinated programmes as outlined in the proposal section of this report. iii. endorse the Forum's request for funding to be found from appropriate sources. <p>The funds required are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £50,000 in September 2014 to fund consultation and scoping exercise for the projects • £100,000 for the school visits fund, over three years (from January 2015); and • funding for a head teachers' event at the Guildhall in January 2015 (cost to be confirmed). 	

Main Report

Background

1. The Education Strategy recommended the establishment of an officer forum consisting of representatives from the Barbican Centre, Open Spaces and the Culture, Heritage and Libraries department to discuss opportunities for schools programme collaboration, to increase communication with City schools, and avoid duplication of grant applications.
2. This forum is now meeting at least quarterly (it was previously known as the 'Engage every school child' steering group which was informally established in October 2013) and is chaired by the Director of the Museum of London. It consists of representatives of the following City cultural venues:
 - Museum of London
 - Barbican Centre
 - Guildhall School of Music & Drama
 - London Metropolitan Archives
 - Libraries
 - Open Spaces
 - Keats House
 - The Monument
 - Guildhall Art Gallery
 - Tower Bridge.
3. Collectively, with their unique collections, buildings, spaces and expertise, these venues represent a powerful educational offer to the 3,200 schools and 1.3 million pupils in London. Every year they engage over 200,000 pupils in primary, secondary and special schools through visits and outreach; receive around 2 million page views of their online educational resources, deliver training to teachers and student teachers; and support teaching and learning across the National Curriculum, for example in history, art, English, geography, drama, dance, citizenship and science.

Proposals

4. The forum has identified a number of ways in which these venues can work together to provide innovative, impactful, world-class initiatives for schools across London and beyond. These are outlined below.

(a) School visits fund

5. Making a visit to one of the City's cultural venues can be difficult for many schools from a financial point of view, especially those in disadvantaged areas or those in the outer boroughs, where the cost of transport into central London is higher. The cost of providing cover for teachers accompanying pupils on visits can also be a barrier for secondary schools.

The creation of a school visits fund would enable all state schools throughout London to apply for grants of up to £300 to help cover the costs of visiting one or more of the City venues above (eg coach hire or teacher cover). Schools that have not previously visited the venues and those from disadvantaged areas would be given priority. We envisage a fund of £100,000 over three years, with the fund being launched in January 2015. If we assume an average grant of £200, then the fund has the potential to benefit 500 schools over three years, so making a significant impact on the capital's schools sector.

(b) Hard Education

6. Issues such as homophobia, racism, gang culture and substance abuse are real problems for many secondary schools in London. For example, research by Stonewall revealed that 55% of gay young people experience homophobic bullying at secondary school. Teachers often find these issues very difficult to address in the classroom. 'Hard Education' would build on the programmes already offered by the Museum of London and London Metropolitan Archives that use historical perspectives to depersonalise these issues and so open up discussion and debate with young people.
7. Working in partnership with specialist organisations such as Schools Out, Show Racism the Red Card and DrugScope, we aim to offer, for example, drama-based performances in schools for whole year groups, teacher training and online resources that will provide teachers with the strategies and confidence to tackle these issues. Offering this programme to all secondary schools in London would make a real difference to individual pupils and their communities across the city.
8. We aim to launch the initiative in September 2015, with programmes addressing three specific issues, to give focus and impetus. We estimate that the cost of developing and delivering this project over a three year period would be in the region of £300,000.

(c) Great Fire of London website and programme

9. September 2016 marks the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. We wish to capitalise on this key City of London event by creating a high quality, interactive website that brings together and showcases the Great Fire-related collections within the City. This would include a dedicated section for schools which builds on the Museum of London's hugely popular, but now dated, Fire of London website for key stage 1 (5-7 year olds) – see www.fireoflondon.org.uk. The site was developed in partnership with the London Metropolitan Archives and other organisations, including the National Portrait Gallery and The National Archives, and receives around 1.5 million page views per year from schools throughout the country.
10. Launching in September 2016, we anticipate the site would cost in the region of £200,000 and would be supported by a programme of events for schools that would run throughout 2016. This would form part of the wider Great Fire programme being planned by the City to mark the anniversary.

(d) Head teachers' event

11. We wish to hold an event at the Guildhall in January 2015 that would be promoted to all head teachers in London. We would use the event to launch the school visits fund, raise awareness of the Education Strategy, and inform teachers about Hard Education and the Great Fire website. Head teachers would be encouraged to visit our venues to see for themselves what is on offer, ensuring they become advocates within their schools. We would also invite the GLA to the event to promote the London Curriculum, which is currently being developed in partnership with the Museum of London, to highlight the role City cultural venues can play in delivering the new curriculum.

Financial Implications

12. We would like the Board's support for the proposals outlined above.

13. In order to progress these initiatives, it is vital that we carry out thorough consultation with teachers to gauge demand and to ensure that our proposals meet their needs, and to commission consultants to scope and cost the projects. This work needs to begin in September and be completed by the end of December 2014 in order to meet the timescales proposed above – this is especially critical for the Great Fire website as the launch date is fixed by the anniversary.

14. We will need £50,000 to carry out this work. This breaks down as follows:

- i. £15,000 to commission a research company to consult teachers London-wide, through focus groups and surveys, to test the demand for and appeal of the forum's proposals
- ii. £20,000 to commission a consultant to liaise with participating City venues to scope the Hard Education project, carry out more detailed testing of the concept with teachers, and develop a project plan with costings
- iii. £15,000 to commission a consultant to liaise with participating City venues and other potential partners to scope the Great Fire of London website and schools programme project, carry out more detailed testing of the concept with teachers, and develop a project plan with costings.

15. Funding in principle, pending the consultation and scoping work, for the two initiatives that we hope to deliver in January 2015, ie the school visits fund (£40,000 in year 1 and £30,000 in years 2 and 3), and the head teachers' event (cost to be confirmed).

Conclusion

16. The Education Forum's proposals represent a hitherto unexploited opportunity to use the collective strengths of the City's cultural venues to engage schools throughout London, and nationwide in the case of the Great Fire website, and make a real impact on the lives of pupils. Within the City of London family there is an extraordinary set of resources embodied by the cultural

organisations and the collections, archives and talent under their care, gaining more value from these assets for the benefit of young people will make a significant contribution. Just as importantly, they would demonstrate very visibly the City's commitment to supporting education across London and raise the profile of its outstanding cultural offer.

Contact

Sharon Ament
Director, Museum of London
020 7814 5700
sament@museumoflondon.org.uk