

MEETING: 26/11/2015

Ref: 12809

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Face Front Inclusive Theatre Ltd

Adv: Sandra Davidson

Amount requested: £99,000

Base: Enfield

Amount recommended: £99,000

Benefit: Enfield & neighbouring boroughs

The Charity

Face Front Inclusive Theatre was founded to provide quality drama activities for disabled people. Working with disabled and non-disabled artists it creates original, ground-breaking and inclusive theatre, through its schools, community and mainstream programmes.

The Application

Funds are requested to expand and develop a programme of work to support young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) in transition from school to adult life and to develop the skills of disabled artists.

The Recommendation

The company has, over the years, developed a number of important projects including the research and development of a performance style that can be enjoyed by both mainstream theatre goers and audiences with a broad range of disabilities. Sign language, audio description and strong visual elements are combined with more traditional techniques to ensure performances are fully accessible. Each project is fully evaluated, with feedback from tutors, professional teachers, and participants. Face Front Inclusive Theatre is considered an invaluable community resource in delivering and supporting the social, emotional and artistic skills of disabled artists. This project will help disabled young people participate more fully in the arts.

£99,000 over three years (£35,000; £32,000; £32,000) towards the salary of a full-time Artistic Director and associated running costs in order to provide multi accessible theatre and workshops for young disabled people in transition and to develop the skills of disabled artists.

Funding History

| Meeting Date | Decision |
|--------------|--|
| 08/10/2009 | £90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) towards the costs of a new Executive Director post. |

Background and detail of proposal

Over the last eight years, Face Front has been working on issues facing young people with LDD transitioning from school to adult life. The charity has also been commissioned by the local authority to work with special schools and 'transition clubs' to create plays with LDD young people.

Work with the Cultural Institute at Kings College has resulted in the creation of a piece of theatre about young people with LDD moving on from education to adult life and a research project. The research highlights that young people in transition feel disempowered – faced with overwhelming, often rushed information sessions and overprotective parents, teachers, and carers.

With the Trust's support, Face Front will develop skills of professional disabled artists who will be at the heart of a new interactive theatre programme for LDD young people in transition and their parents/carers. Over three years, the project will work with 1,800 LDD young people in special schools and colleges to improve well-being and reduce transition-related anxiety through sharing information; encouraging dialogue and communication; and self-management of emotions. The skills of professional LDD artists will be further developed, by providing master-classes, mentoring and work experience. In addition, Face Front will provide an entry point to participatory arts groups for disabled people beginning their creative journey.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year ending 31 March 2016 is £217,160, of which £132,360 (60%) had been confirmed by October 2015.

The charity has not previously disclosed its cost of generating funds in its year-end accounts but has advised that it will review this position in future. In the meantime it has provided an estimate for the current year 2015/16 as shown in the table. The charity has set a reserves policy target to hold between 3-6 months' worth of total expenditure which it will state in future accounts.

| Year-end 31 March | 2014/15 Independently Examined Accounts £ | 2015/16 Current Year Budget £ |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Income and Expenditure | | |
| Income | 202,372 | 217,160 |
| Expenditure | 203,201 | 216,050 |
| Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit) | (5,079) | 1,110 |
| Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit) | 4,250 | 0 |
| Total Surplus / (Deficit) | (829) | 1,110 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover | (0.4%) | 0.5% |
| Cost of Generating funds (% of income) | Not disclosed | 25,000 (11.5%) |
| Free unrestricted reserves | | |
| Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End | 100,303 | 101,413 |
| How many months' worth of expenditure | 5.9 | 5.6 |
| Reserves Policy target | 50,800 to 101,601 | 54,013 to 108,025 |
| How many months' worth of expenditure | 3 to 6 | 3 to 6 |
| Free reserves over/(under) target | 49,503 to (1,298) | 47,400 to (6,612) |