

MEETING: 14/07/2016

Ref: 13270

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Action Space London Events

Adv: Jack Joslin

Amount requested: £118,284

Base: Camden

Benefit: Newham, Brent

Amount recommended: £118,300

The Charity

Founded in 1984, Action Space London Events Ltd (ASLE) supports the development of artists with learning disabilities and creates innovative projects for people with learning disabilities to engage with the visual arts. ASLE currently operates three Studio Projects in the London boroughs of Camden, Wandsworth and more recently Newham. These projects offer people with a range of learning disabilities an on-going opportunity to develop their creative practices. Alongside these projects it runs a variety of other outreach projects tailored to specific groups.

The Application

ASLE is looking for your support to expand its work into the London Boroughs of Newham and Brent. Over a three year grant period ASLE aims to expand its provision for people with learning disabilities, both geographically and by increasing the number of young people with learning disabilities it works with. By the end of the three year grant period it intends to have developed five new projects. This will include an additional studio project in Newham and two new studio projects in Brent. Alongside this, ASLE will imbed two programmes engaging with young people with learning disabilities in both Brent and Newham. The funding is to contribute towards the Co-Director's post over three years and the set up and associated running costs of each of the new projects.

The Recommendation

ASLE is an established and well respected organisation which has had a long history of support from the Trust. It has over 30 years' experience delivering programmes that support Londoners with learning disabilities to engage with the visual arts. This programme fits with your priority of Making London More Inclusive as it will increase disabled people's participation in the arts.

£118,300 over three years (£40,830; £39,340; £38,130) to contribute to the full time salary of the Co-Director (16hpw Year 1; 10hpw Year 2; 8hpw Year 3), project set up, sessional staff and associated running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
30/06/2011	£67,000 over three years (£23,000; £22,000; £22,000) for the salary and related costs of a p/t (24hpw) Pastoral Care Worker.
07/09/2006	£81,000 over three years (£26,000; £27,000; £28,000) for the salary costs of a Project Manager.

Background and detail of proposal

ASLE specialises in developing opportunities for people with learning disabilities to access and develop their skills in the visual arts. It aims to make a professional career in the arts a realistic option for artists with learning disabilities as well as providing opportunities across London to increase the access people with learning disabilities have to the arts.

This project will expand the work ASLE has started delivering in Newham this year and will allow for it to develop two new studio projects in the London Borough of Brent. It seeks your funding to allow it to implement these programmes over three years with sufficient management oversight. It has taken a tapered approach to the overall project and will look to reduce our funding and management oversight over the three years as each project becomes imbedded and starts generating its own income. From the assessment it was clear that this approach would allow each studio project to be self-sufficient at the end of the three year grant period.

Financial Information

Budgeted income for the current financial year is £325,416, of which £125,416 (39%) has been confirmed. £104,036 of the organisation's projected income is made up from personal budget payments for their services which they receive throughout the year.

Much of the organisations unrestricted reserves are designated for their future development as they look to expand their provision to other London boroughs.

Cost of generating funds is low due to the majority of their income being generated through fees and contracts.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Independently Examined Accounts	2015/16 Forecast Outurn	2016/17 Budgeted
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	268,946	288,166	325,057
Expenditure	244,225	287,166	325,057
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	13,088	1000	0
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	11,633	0	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	24,271	1000	0
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	9%	0.3%	0%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	5,353 – 2%	5,000 – 1.7%	£5,500 – 1.7%
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	158,174	159,174	159,174
How many months' worth of expenditure	7.8	6.7	5.9
Reserves Policy target	81,408	95,722	108,352
How many months' worth of expenditure	4	4	4
Free reserves over/(under) target	76,766	63,452	50,822