

# The City Bridge Trust

## Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



### About your organisation

Name of your organisation:		CC =
<b>Stratford Circus Arts Centre</b>		STRATFORD ARTS TRUST
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?		
n/a		
In which London Borough is your organisation based?		
<b>Newham</b>		
Contact person:	Position:	
<b>Ms Becky Lees</b>	<b>Education Manager</b>	
Website: <a href="http://www.stratford-circus.com">http://www.stratford-circus.com</a>		
Legal status of organisation:	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number:	
<b>Registered Charity</b>	<b>1145183</b>	
When was your organisation established? <b>02/01/2012</b>		

### Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying?
<b>Making London More Inclusive</b>
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve?
<b>Disabled people actively taking part in the arts or sport</b>
<b>Disabled people reporting increased well-being as a result of taking part in the arts or sport</b>
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence.
<b>To fund a three-year program for an ensemble of adults with disabilities called Blue Sky Actors, culminating in the group becoming a Community Interest Company.</b>
When will the funding be required? <b>10/04/2016</b>
How much funding are you requesting?
Year 1: <b>£24,579</b> Year 2: <b>£34,814</b> Year 3: <b>£24,579</b>
<b>Total: £83,972</b>

**Aims of your organisation:**

Stratford Circus Arts Centre (SCAC) is a multi-arts venue, driven by artistic excellence and the diverse communities of east London. Our aim is to inspire and develop talent from many art forms. At the heart of London's international community, we aim to collaborate and curate an artistic programme of dance, theatre, music, comedy, literature and circus.

With this aim, we are particularly proud that the majority of our audiences are local residents, 'hard-pressed families' and those from diverse cultural backgrounds.

For over 10 years SCAC has supported a troupe of adult actors with learning difficulties and/or disabilities called the Blue Sky Actors. As a disability-led ensemble, our aims are founded on the principles of inclusive theatre and theatre as a tool for social change, including:

- Challenging prejudice and perceptions
- Raising the profile of disability-led arts.
- Sharing good practice on and off stage.
- Creating projects with high artistic quality.
- Building progression routes for adults with disabilities

**Main activities of your organisation:**

As a community and arts led organisation we are committed to:

- Welcoming over 125,000 people through the doors each year.
- Bringing world-class work to new audiences.
- Presenting a professional multi-art form artistic programme of 150 productions and 300 shows per year.
- Being a destination venue for local communities, specifically local families and 'hard to reach audiences'.
- Offering over 10,000 participatory arts sessions through classes, workshops and events.
- Being a dynamic exhibition space where, annually, 15 visual artists preview their work and draw audiences of over 15,000.
- Being an open, friendly and accessible building at the heart of east London's international community, with daily public access and a café/bar.
- Delivering key strategic education projects including a Massed Singing Programme with local schools and a resident youth choir at the core.
- Supporting emerging artists to develop new work
- Prioritising access and inclusion in all areas of our work

**Number of staff**

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

**Property occupied by your organisation**

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
<b>Leased</b>	<b>Until 2027</b>

## Summary of grant request

This grant would be for us to build on our legacy of the group and respond to the needs of the participants. We want to provide the following activities & services:

- Establishing Blue Sky Actors as a Community Interest Company (CIC). As a CIC the Blue Sky Actors would be a registered company and run as a social enterprise. As a CIC the Blue Sky Actors would be able to open a bank account, set up a website, co-opt a board of governors, write company policies (inc. equal opportunities, vulnerable adults, environmental) and, importantly, write a constitution. In turn, we would have much more scope to fundraise and grow.

If the Blue Sky Actors became a self-sustaining, independent CIC by 2019, SCAC would make them a resident company. This means the group would be based in the building and would benefit from a business address, reduced rates of hire, free meeting rooms and office space. The company's leadership and board would be a mix of adults with & without learning difficulties and drawn from members & supporters of the group.

- Elevating Blue Sky Actors as a high-level disability-led performance group. Headlining a number of public performance opportunities providing local, national and international profile. The Blue Sky Actors currently function as a class within SCAC's programme of community classes. We have fundraised on a project-by-project basis making it challenging to develop the group or plan considerably in advance. This funding would enable the group to develop their practice further through a number of ways:

1. The ability to plan 3 years in advance.
2. The resource to bring in external practitioners to elevate the group's skill level.
3. The opportunity to be headliners at other public events.
4. The chance to share practice with other disabled artists and companies.

- A Professional Development and Lead Artists Scheme

This would result in the creation of an individual professional development plan for each member of the group, many of whom would become Lead Artists, championing specific projects.

Each learning disabled actor has different needs, experiences, expectations and aspirations; this scheme will formalise a process of supporting participants into further work, training or development opportunities.

Also, we are all too aware of how challenging it is for performers with learning difficulties and disabilities to get regular and paid work. However, we will help signpost pathways for members of the group to go on to work and/or study in the creative arts industry. This would include signposting external organisations or opportunities and also practical training sessions such as CV writing. Examples of opportunities would be to obtain employment at Stratford Circus or study at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama on their performance-making diploma for learning disabled actors.

- A programme of professionally staged and produced events

We already showcase our work, but our plan is to extend and enhance this provision. We plan to produce 2 professional productions, one research and development project and one-site specific project per year. We will deliver a performance programme that builds on previous achievements in the following ways:

1. Utilise industry professionals to increase production values.
2. Produce a programme of projects that are planned strategically rather than on a project-by-project basis, including three professional productions.
3. Have the opportunity to tour to other venues. This would offer a new and welcomed challenge to the participants as well as presenting the work to a wider audience.
4. Be able to support individual Lead Artists with their own performance projects.

If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **Yes**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

**Family Arts Standard**

### **Outputs and outcomes**

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

**Community Interest Company - Over the next three-years, our main activity will be to become an independent disability-led arts company based at SCAC as an Associate Company. We will retain our integrity whilst increasing our capacity to find more funding and deliver more innovative work.**

**Research and Development - We plan to conduct one R&D activity per year (three within the period of this application). These projects will be a chance to safely explore & experiment with an idea & concept with a view to turning it (or not) into a full production.**

**Professional Productions - We want to increase the amount of professional productions (to six over the next three years), increase the numbers of participants taking part & increase the production values of these projects. These increases will lead to more audiences, more connections and more opportunities for all taking part.**

**Site-specific Productions - In the past we produced a production in non-traditional theatre venue. We had great fun & learnt lots doing it. Taking these learnings and those from our planned R&D projects, we want to produce at least three site-specific (or site-responsive) productions in new venues to new audiences.**

**Artist Scheme - Responding to the needs & wants of our members, we will co-create individually tailored carer plans. Also, we will support 6 participants to develop & lead their own projects. Lead Artists will be supported to produce & facilitate work beyond the Blue Sky Actors.**

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

**Increased Opportunities - By taking part in a year-round, regular program of professional arts-based activities and stagecraft events, each participant will share more skills and exchange good practice with a wider pool of experts. Combined with a committed person-centred approach, these experiences will lead to increased employability.**

**Overcoming Isolation - Weekly rehearsals and annual performances (to peers, families & friends) give members a sense of community and the benefits of knowing that they are needed. In turn, participants feel engaged in their local community and have a sense of pride in the contribution they make to it.**

**Celebrating diversity - creating regular activity that brings together a diverse group of people through creativity. By targeting mainstream audiences for the new shows we will also promote disability arts to our core audiences and break down the stigma around it using theatre as a tool for change.**

**Challenge Prejudice & Perceptions - We will a change overt and covert prejudices towards those with physical/learning disabilities. We will challenge these prejudices with theatre that promotes social change, whilst having high artistic standards in front of diverse audiences. This will make a difference to the participants and society alike.**

**Employability - by supporting each member to fulfill their individual goals we will create opportunities for members to find their own paid work in the sector or enable them to seek funding for their own creative projects in the future using the SCAC networks.**

Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to sustain it? If not, what is your exit strategy?

**Yes, from 2019 the Blue Sky Actors will be a Community Interest Company with regular activities, projects and productions.**

**As a resident company at SCAC and we will fund our future from:**

- **Trusts and charities, including Henry Smith Charity, Steel Trust, Tudor Trust, Aspers, Tesco, Arts Council and Newham council grants.**
- **Money raised box offices and other donations.**

## Who will benefit?

### About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

**270**

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

**Newham (70%)**

**Waltham Forest (10%)**

**Enfield (10%)**

**Hackney (10%)**

What age group(s) will benefit?

**16-24**

**25-44**

**45-64**

What gender will beneficiaries be?

**All**

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

**A range of ethnic groups**

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

**81-90%**

## Funding required for the project

*Revised Request now  
Submitted - see  
Appendix A*

### What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Establishing Blue Sky Actors as a Community Interest Company	0	10,235	0	10,235
Core Team & Support Workers/ Artistic Enablers throughout sessions	15,600	15,600	15,600	46,800
Lead Artist Scheme	2,460	2,460	2,460	7,380
Professional Development Scheme	3,600	3,600	3,600	10,800
Professional Performance Program (x 6 productions over 3 years)	9,917	9,918	9,918	29,752
Research & Development Program (x 3 projects over 3 years)	2,832	2,833	2,833	8,498
Site-responsive Program (x3 projects over three years)	2,276	2,277	2,277	6,830
Project Management & Coordination	6,364	6,364	6,364	19,092
Core Costs & Evaluation	6,259	6,259	6,260	18,778

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>49,308</b>	<b>59,545</b>	<b>49,312</b>	<b>158,166</b>
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### What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Support In Kind From SCAC & SAT	3,543	3,543	3,543	10,631
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,543</b>	<b>3,543</b>	<b>3,543</b>	<b>10,631</b>
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### What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Awards For All	0	0	9,980	9,980
Steel Foundation	9,225	0	0	9,225
The Bulldog & Golden Bottle Foundation	0	30,000	0	30,000
Tudor Trust	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>19,225</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>19,980</b>	<b>79,205</b>
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### How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Establishing Blue Sky Actors as a Community Interest Company	0	8,235	0	8,235
Core Team & Support Workers/Artistic Enablers throughout sessions	8,390	8,391	8,391	25,172
Lead Artist Scheme	1,230	1,230	1,230	3,690

Professional Development Scheme	1,800	1,800	1,800	5,400
Professional Performance Program (x 6 productions over 3 years)	4,958	4,959	4,959	14,876
Research & Development Program (x 3 projects over 3 years)	1,416	1,416	1,417	4,249
Site-responsive Program (x3 projects over three years)	1,138	1,138	1,139	3,415
Project Management & Coordination	3,182	3,182	3,182	9,546
Core Costs & Evaluation	3,129	3,130	3,130	9,389
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>25,243</b>	<b>33,481</b>	<b>25,248</b>	<b>83,972</b>



## Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: <b>March</b>	Year: <b>2015</b>
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	123,588
Activities for generating funds	19,314
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	1,152,680
Other sources	46,728
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>1,342,310</b>

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	1,034,231
Governance costs	10,083
Cost of generating funds	0
Other	0
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>1,044,314</b>
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus:</b>	<b>297,996</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds:</b>	<b>297,996</b>

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	188,029
Investments	0
Net current assets	166,501
Long-term liabilities	0
<b>*Total Assets (A):</b>	<b>354,530</b>

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	130,845
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	223,685
<b>*Total Reserves (B):</b>	<b>354,530</b>

\* Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.

### Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?  
1-10%

### Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

We have had a capital grant from Arts Council England that was restricted spend for the capital improvement project and not part of our core income. This is now coming to completion.

### Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	36,116	31,990	90,338
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	44,266	347,120	300,519

### Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
John Paul Getty Foundation	0	0	60,000
Garfield Weston	0	30,000	30,000
29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	0	0	10,000
Youth Music	0	43,681	4,853
A New Direction	0	12,000	3,000

### Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes      Full Name: **Tania Wilmer**

Role within                      **Director**  
Organisation:

# APPENDIX A (REVISED REQUEST)

Stratford Circus Arts Centre  
Three Year Project Budget from 2016 - 2019  
Blus Sky Budget

	£	Cash	In kind	Request from City Bridge Trust
<b>The Blue Sky Actors</b>				
Planning: Artistic Director (2 days x 3 years x £200 per day)	£1,200	£1,200		£792
Weekly Rehearsals: Artistic Director (10 weeks x 3 terms x 3 years x £120)	£10,800	£10,800		£7,128
Weekly Rehearsals: Assistant Director (10 weeks x 3 terms x 3 years x £45)	£1,800	£1,800		£1,188
Weekly Rehearsals: Artistic Support Workers (10 weeks x 3 terms x 3 years x £30 x 4 support workers)	£2,700	£2,700		£1,782
Weekly Rehearsals: Venue Hire (3 hours x 10 weeks x 3 terms x 3 years x £35 per hour)	£9,450	£7,088	£2,363	£4,678
Weekly Rehearsals: Expenses for Lead Actors (10 weeks x 3 terms x 3 years x £15 x 6 lead actors)	£8,100	£8,100		£5,346
Masterclasses: Visiting specialists (3 sessions x 3 terms x 3 years x £150)	£4,050	£4,050		£2,673
Refreshments (10 weeks x 3 terms x 3 years x £5 x 25 participants)	£11,250	£11,250		£7,425
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£49,350</b>	<b>£46,988</b>	<b>£2,363</b>	<b>£31,012</b>
<b>Lead Actors Scheme</b>				
Training for Lead Actors (2 training sessions x 3 terms x 3 years x £150)	£2,700	£2,700		£1,782
Training for Lead Actors: Expenses (2 training sessions x 3 terms x 3 years x £15 x 6 Lead Actors)	£1,620	£1,620		£1,069
Training for Lead Actors: Venue Hire (2 training sessions x 3 terms x 3 years x 2 hours x £35 per hour)	£1,260	£945	£315	£624
Mentoring and personal development (£300 per lead actor)	£1,800	£1,800		£1,188
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£7,380</b>	<b>£7,065</b>	<b>£315</b>	<b>£4,663</b>
<b>Professional Development Scheme</b>				
Training workshops: (3 sessions x 3 years x £200)	£1,800	£1,800		£1,188
Mentoring: (20 participants x 3 mentoring sessions x £150 per session)	£9,000	£9,000		£5,940
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£10,800</b>	<b>£10,800</b>		<b>£7,128</b>
<b>Performance Programme</b>				
<b>Professional Production 1 (Sept-Dec)</b>				
Artistic Director (2 days x 3 performances x £200)	£1,200	£1,200		£792
Assistant Director (2 days x 3 performances x £150)	£900	£900		£594
Creative Producer (2 days x 3 performances x £150)	£900	£900		£594
Production Manager (2 days x 3 performances x £150)	£900	£900		£594
Artistic Support Workers (4 support workers x 2 days x 3 performances x £100)	£2,400	£2,400		£1,584
Venue hire: Stratford Circus studio theatre (2 days x 3 performances x £700)	£4,200	£3,150	£1,050	£2,079
Technical support (2 days x 3 performances x £176)	£1,056	£1,056		£697
Production Costs (costumes, props and sundries)	£1,000	£1,000		£660
Ushers (2 days x 3 performances x £80)	£480	£480		£317
Event lead (2 days x 3 performances x £120)	£720	£720		£475
Marketing and promotion (flyers, promotion, social media)	£600	£600		£396
Script production (large font and braille)	£520	£520		£343
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£14,876</b>	<b>£13,826</b>	<b>£1,050</b>	<b>£9,125</b>
<b>Professional Production 2 (Jan - Mar)</b>				
Artistic Director (2 days x 3 performances x £200)	£1,200	£1,200		£792
Assistant Director (2 days x 3 performances x £150)	£900	£900		£594
Creative Producer (2 days x 3 performances x £150)	£900	£900		£594
Production Manager (2 days x 3 performances x £150)	£900	£900		£594
Artistic Support Workers (4 support workers x 2 days x 3 performances x £100)	£2,400	£2,400		£1,584
Venue hire: Stratford Circus studio theatre (2 days x 3 performances x £700)	£4,200	£3,150	£1,050	£2,079
Technical support (2 days x 3 performances x £176)	£1,056	£1,056		£697
Production Costs (costumes, props and sundries)	£1,000	£1,000		£660
Ushers (2 days x 3 performances x £80)	£480	£480		£317
Event lead (2 days x 3 performances x £120)	£720	£720		£475
Marketing and promotion (flyers, promotion, social media)	£600	£600		£396
Script production (large font and braille)	£520	£520		£343
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£14,876</b>	<b>£13,826</b>	<b>£1,050</b>	<b>£9,125</b>
<b>Research &amp; Development Projects (August)</b>				
Artistic Director (1 day x 3 sharing performances x £200)	£600	£600		£396
Assistant Director (1 day x 3 sharing performances x £150)	£450	£450		£297
Creative Producer (1 day x 3 sharing performances x £150)	£450	£450		£297
Production Manager (1 day x 3 sharing performances x £150)	£450	£450		£297
Artistic Support Workers (4 support workers x 1 day x 3 performances x £100)	£1,200	£1,200		£792
Venue hire: Stratford Circus studio theatre (1 day x 3 performances x £700)	£2,100	£1,575	£525	£1,040
Technical support (1 day x 3 performances x £176)	£528	£528		£348
Production Costs (costumes, props and sundries)	£1,000	£1,000		£660
Ushers (1 day x 3 performances x £80)	£240	£240		£158
Event lead (1 day x 3 performances x £120)	£360	£360		£238
Marketing and promotion (flyers, promotion, social media)	£600	£600		£396
Script production (large font and braille)	£520	£520		£343
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£8,498</b>	<b>£7,973</b>	<b>£525</b>	<b>£5,262</b>
<b>Site-responsive Productions (April-June)</b>				
Artistic Director (3 days x £200)	£600	£600		£396
Assistant Director (3 days x £150)	£450	£450		£297
Creative Producer (3 days x £150)	£450	£450		£297
Production Manager (3 days x £150)	£450	£450		£297
Artistic Support Workers (4 support workers x 3 days x £100)	£1,200	£1,200		£792
Travel: minibus hire (3 days x £150)	£450	£450		£297
Stage Manager (3 days x £250)	£750	£750		£495
Production Costs (costumes, props and sundries)	£1,000	£1,000		£660
Event lead (3 days x £120)	£360	£360		£238

Marketing and promotion (flyers, promotion, social media)	£600	£600		£396
Script production (large font and braille)	£520	£520		£343
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£6,830</b>	<b>£6,830</b>		<b>£4,508</b>

#### Project Management and Coordination

Education Manager 2 days per week dedicated time (£24,000 pro rata plus 11% on costs x 0.4)	£10,656	£5,328	£5,328	£3,516
Project coordinator 2 days per week (£19,000 pro rata plus 11% on costs x 0.4)	£8,436	£8,436		£5,568
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£19,092</b>	<b>£13,764</b>	<b>£5,328</b>	<b>£9,084</b>

#### Evaluation

Monitoring and report writing (4 days x 3 years x £300)	£3,600	£3,600		£2,376
Film documentary	£2,000	£2,000		£1,320
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£5,600</b>	<b>£5,600</b>		<b>£3,696</b>

**Total Direct Costs** **£137,302** **£126,672** **£10,631** **£83,603**

#### Core Costs

Financial and Admin @ 7% of direct costs £9,611 **£9,611**  
Contingency @ 3% of direct costs £4,119 **£0**

**Total Costs (Direct costs & Core Costs)** **£151,032** **£93,214**

#### Income

Professional Productions - 2 per year for 3 years (400 audiences x £4 average) £1,600  
Research & Development Productions - 1 per year x 3 years (105 x 2.50p average) £262  
Site-Specific Productions - 1 per year x 3 years (680 x £4 average) £2,720  
**Ticket Income total** **£4,582**

**Stratford Circus Art Centre in kind contributions** **£10,631**

**Additional funding required** **£42,606**

#### Other Funding from Trusts & Charities

Awards For All (in 2018) one-off project funding	£9,980
Aspers Good Causes (submitted)	£7,918
Bulldog & Golden Bottle Foundation (in 2016) (submitted)	£29,968
<b>Total Income from other Funding from Trusts &amp; charities (estimated)</b>	<b>£47,866</b>

**Total Request To City Bridge Trust** **£93,214**

#### Three separate payments of:

Year 1 (2016) Project costs (£31,072)	£31,072
Year 2 (2017) Project costs (£31,071)	£31,071
Year 3 (2018) Project costs (£31,071)	£31,071