

Committee(s)	Dated:
Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Decision	04/09/2017
Subject: Central Grants Programme – <i>Inspiring London through Culture</i> : recommendations to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee	Public
Report of: Peter Lisley, Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director	For Decision
Report author: Alex Hugo, City Culture Executive	

Summary

The *Inspiring London through Culture* funding theme, which forms part of the Central Grants Programme (CGP), opened to applications on 15 August 2016.

The second round for applications under this theme closed on 29 June 2017. Applications were assessed by a panel of expert officers and external assessors on 28 July 2017 following due diligence checks by the City's Central Grants Unit (CGU) which also oversees the scheme in consultation with the Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance in the Chamberlain's Department. This report recommends grant decisions following that meeting.

The report also seeks your Committee's approval for a change-of-use application received after the panel sat. The application is from London Symphony Orchestra who received approval of £7,500 from your Committee in January of this year for their *Orchestrating Moments* project. Due to escalating costs, the original scope for this work has changed and a new project plan with the same outcomes is now proposed. Your officers have checked that the application is aligned with the grant criteria for *Inspiring London through Culture* and recommend this request is approved.

Recommendations

Members are asked:

- To review and approve the recommendations for applications received under the *Inspiring London through Culture* funding stream, a part of the City Corporation's Central Grants Programme.
- To approve the change-of-use application from the London Symphony Orchestra

Main Report

Background

1. On 7 March 2016, your Committee delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with your Chairman and Deputy Chairman to agree the sub themes and eligibility criteria (see appendix 1) for the proposed grant giving theme of *Inspiring London through Culture*, subject to your Policy and Resources Committee approving that theme, which they agreed at their meeting on 19 May 2016.
2. Overseen by the City's Central Grants Unit (CGU), the grant assessment process for this and other themes in the programme draws on the Unit's expertise in the field of grant-making and demonstrates good practice.
3. Prior to grant applications being submitted to this Committee for approval, each has undergone a series of due diligence checks by the CGU to ensure compliance with the established eligibility criteria, this includes a financial assessment by the Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance within the Chamberlain's Department. All eligible applications were then considered by a panel of expert officers and external assessors.
4. The former Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries appointed your Head of Cultural and Visitor Development to chair this panel and appoint panellists with appropriate knowledge; this arrangement continues under the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.
5. The panel met on 28 July 2017. It comprised City Corporation officers, these being: the Head of Cultural and Visitor Development (chairman); the Open Spaces Business Manager; the Head of Guildhall Art Gallery; the Director of Arts, Barbican; and the Strategic Partnerships Manager - Cultural Hub, Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning; as well external assessors: the Chief Digital Officer at London & Partners; and the Senior Manager, Creative & Cultural Industries at the Greater London Authority.
6. For this, the second *Inspiring London through Culture* funding application round, the City Corporation received 8 applications totalling £47,383. Of these, 7 applications were presented to the panel totalling £41,383, the others having withdrawn or having failed the grant criteria.
7. The budget for the *Inspiring London through Culture* funding stream is £69,137 for 2017/18. Consideration was made at the Assessment Panel that enough budget is left for the final grant round that will take place in December 2017.
8. Apart from officer time handling enquiries, all resource implications are budgeted for within the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant fund.
9. A late application for change-of-use of a grant awarded to the London Symphony Orchestra in January of this year was received by your officers after the assessment panel sat. It has not been possible to canvas the panel's

views but the new application aligns with the grant-making criteria and delivers the same outcomes as per the previous application; thus your officers recommend that this change-of-use is approved. This has no impact on the funding figures described above as the grant has already been subtracted from the remaining grant pot figures.

Current Position

10. Summary assessment reports of the all recommended applications to the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant scheme are given in the appendices with details of all applications available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.
11. It is proposed that grants totalling £18,383 be awarded as per the recommendations outlined in the appendices. This leaves £50,754 from this year's allocation to be made available for the December 2017 grant round.
12. It is proposed that the new application from the London Symphony Orchestra for a change of use for the grant of £7,500 awarded to them in January is also approved. The application summary sheet is shown in appendix 4.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. The Central Grants Programme *Inspiring London through Culture* funding stream was created to promote a fair system of grant giving by the City Corporation in the cultural context.
14. The recommendations of the panel support the funding criteria and, in turn, the City Corporation's Corporate Plan by "maximising the opportunities and benefits afforded by our role in supporting London's communities" as well as the delivery of the City's Cultural and Visitor Strategies.

Conclusion

15. This report summarises the discussions of the *Inspiring London through Culture* grants assessment panel and presents recommendations in relation to the applications considered on 28 July 2017.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – *Inspiring London through Culture*: criteria for funding
- Appendix 2 – *Inspiring London through Culture*: project outlines and recommendations to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee
- Appendix 3 - *Inspiring London through Culture*: table of grants declined, deferred or withdrawn

- Appendix 4 – *London Symphony Orchestra*: change-of-use project outline and recommendation to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee

Background Papers

Full details of the all applications to the *Inspiring London through Culture* grant scheme are available on request from the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.

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