

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Inspiring London through Culture Clio's Company (Ref: 14165)

Amount requested: £7,500

Amount recommended: £7,500

Purpose of grant request: £7,500 to support the writing, rehearsal and development of props and costumes for a new production looking at the City and London in the late Saxon era.

The Charity

Clio's Company (CC) specialise in site-specific theatre, theatre in education, live improvisation and training. A theatre company and registered charity their work draws its inspiration from theatre and historical research. A high proportion the charity's projects focus on some aspect of the history of London. All of their projects are delivered by experienced actor-teachers, creating an interactive learning experience. CC's have a longstanding partnership with All Hallows by the Tower where the majority of their projects are delivered.

Background and detail of proposal

CC deliver three performance programmes for primary school children each year. Each performance programme is delivered at the All Hallows by the Tower who the theatre company has a long standing relationship with. Each of the performances focus on a different period in London's History bringing to life some of the stories of the time. CC has been delivering immersive theatre experiences for many years and have covered topics from the Romans, Tudors and London during the Blitz. Our funding is sought to develop a performance that focuses on London in the late Saxon era.

The charity delivers a range of performances for groups of primary school children from Newham and Tower Hamlets. To fit with the changes in the History curriculum schools are requesting an immersive play that focuses on the Late Saxon era. Funding is sought to help develop a performance that will be delivered for schools in spring 2018. Our funding is being requested for the writing, consultation, costume and resource development that are essential for the delivery of the performances. This programme will bring primary school children who may have never visited the City and will inspire them about the History of London through improvised performance and storytelling.

Financial Information

CC's annual returns are overdue on the Charity Commission website. The Charity is chasing their accountant to rectify this. Turnover is expected to drop in 2017 due to a Heritage Lottery (HLF) Grant coming to an end. Another bid is currently being

assessed by HLF which will increase the charity's turnover in 2018. They have very low organisational overheads and tend to deliver work that has been fully funded.

Year 31 August	2015 Independently Examined Accounts	2016 Independently Examined Accounts	2017 Budget
Income	47,160	38,086	32,000
Expenditure	55,893	32,823	26,000
Surplus/deficit	(8,733)	5,263	6000
Free reserves (number of month's expenditure)	(12,532)	3,003 (1.2)	9,003 (4.2)

Recommendation

CC has been delivering historical improvised performances to primary school children for nearly two decades. This project is looking for funding to support the development of a new performance that will focus on the late Saxon era in London's History. Once developed CC will deliver a number of full day performances and workshops to primary school children from nearby boroughs. The budget for this project is to develop the performance and to develop the props, costumes and teaching materials. This project fits well with the criteria for this programme as it will enhance public benefit in the City through Culture and Heritage. Funding is recommended as:

£7,500 to support the writing, rehearsal and development of props and costumes for a new production looking at the City and London in the late Saxon era.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Inspiring London through Culture
Told by an Idiot theatre company (Ref: 14166)

Amount requested: £5,000

Revised Budget: £7,436

Amount recommended: £7,500

Purpose of grant request: £7,500 to support the travel and legacy workshops for the Let Me Play Lion project in partnership with the Barbican.

The Charity

Told by an Idiot (TBAI) was established in 1983 to create theatre for national and international touring and for specific spaces. The ethos of the company is to explore the human condition by celebrating and revelling in a style of theatre that is bigger than life. Their performances are often spontaneous and anarchic as they seek to acknowledge the artifice of theatre while making no attempt to put reality on stage. Alongside the touring and stage work they do they also deliver participation work with a range of audiences under the Taught by an Idiot umbrella. The charity has a commitment to accessibility and their participation work consistently informs their production work.

Background and detail of proposal

Let Me Play Lion will be a professional training and performance opportunity run by TBAI in partnership with the Barbican Centre. This project looks to confront the issue that the Performing Arts Industry is lacking diversity on stage. Acknowledging that the industry needs to be more inclusive, this project will work with 12 disabled and non-disabled artists who have a common desire to gain the essential skills they need to create their own work. The project will commence with a call out for participants and an initial audition that will recruit 6 disabled and non-disabled artists. The participants will then engage with TBAI over a two week period of workshops focusing on devising performance and improvisation. The project will culminate with two performances at the Barbican in February 2018. The audience for the performances will be open to the public but specific targeting will be done to get figures from the performing arts industry to attend to demonstrate and shift attitudes of disability and inclusivity on stage. The project will have a legacy for the six months post performance where TBAI will stay in contact with the artists involved offering mentoring and professional development.

The total project cost is £42,000, the charity has already raised £7,500 from Sky Arts 50 and have an in-kind contribution from the Barbican of £9,980. They currently have a number of other funders looking at this work including this bid. At assessment we discussed the budget in more detail and they have since submitted a revised amount. The amended request is for a contribution of £7,436 to fund mainly the travel and subsistence for the artists and their support workers and for the legacy sessions that will take place at the end of the programme. Supporting the travel and

subsistence will be key to the delivery of this project as travel can often be one of the largest barriers to access to projects for disabled people.

Financial Information

TBAI have recently been re-funded by the Arts Council for the next 4 years with a contract of £158,000 each year for their touring work. 2018 projections have demonstrated uplift in their turnover due to taking on new partnerships and contracts. They sit comfortably above their 3 months reserves policy allowing them to designate some of their reserves to a creative fund to support ambitious projects when they arise.

Year 31 March	2016 Independently Examined Accounts	2017 Management accounts	2018 Forecast Accounts
Income	311,279	272,916	335,277
Expenditure	323,953	283,780	344,627
Surplus/deficit	(12,674)	(10,864)	(9,350)
Free reserves (number of month's expenditure)	105,404 (3.9)	94,921 (4)	85,571 (3)

Recommendation

TBAI have a strong track record of delivering programmes that develop participation and break down barriers. This project is looking to confront accessibility to theatre and improve audiences understanding of inclusion on the stage. Working in partnership with the Barbican this project will promote access for all to participate in the City's cultural offer by educating the performing arts industry perceptions of disability and improving audiences understanding of issues around inclusion. During assessment a revised budget was submitted which has been included in the papers. My recommendation is based on supporting the revised budget and rounding it up to match fund the offer from Sky Arts 50. Funding is recommended as follows:

£7,500 to support the travel and legacy workshops for the Let Me Play Lion project in partnership with the Barbican.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Inspiring London through Culture
Urbanwise.London (Ref: 14163)**

Amount requested: £3,383

Amount recommended: £3,383

Purpose of grant request: £3,383 to support the costs of 10 guided walks in the City of London for 100 West London residents 3 school groups.

The Charity

Urbanwise.London (UL) is a registered Charity that was established in 1983 and was previously known as Hammersmith and Fulham Urban Studies Centre. The main work of the Charity is to work with local people of all ages in West London to learn about their local environment. The Charity aims to promote active outdoor learning in the local area and bring together young people, teachers and expert professionals to examine issues around environmental change. UL offers a range of guided walks for the local community or corporate groups with a focus on urban heritage, wildlife, well-being and mindfulness.

Background and detail of proposal

This application looks to promote access for all to participate in the City of London's Cultural Offer by organising a range of guided walks for West London residents to places of cultural significance in the City of London. This project will target residents from disadvantaged backgrounds in West London who may not have been to or accessed any of the City's cultural institutions before. Using the City of London's Self-Guided walks as a source of reference UL will organise 10 walks in the City between September 2017 and August 2018.

10 of the guided walks being organised will target residents that the charity engage with who may not have visited or know about the City's History and culture. Three additional guided tours will be with primary school children and their teachers looking at sites of interest of the great fire of London. The walks will be advertised amongst local voluntary organisations and across the charity's networks. At assessment they mentioned they would extend their offer to residents in North Kensington who may have been affected by events at the Grenfell Tower. School walks they will receive a small contribution from the schools as well as contributing £500 from their reserves.

Financial Information

Unrestricted free reserves sit at around four months in line with the Charity's reserves policy. They also hold a restricted reserve of £22,352 as contingency if the organisation is required to move premises.

Year 31 March	2016 Independently Examined Accounts	2017 Draft accounts	2018 Budget
Income	119,802	125,318	129,200
Expenditure	119,397	122,789	129,200
Surplus/deficit	405	2,529	0
Free reserves (number of month's expenditure)	39,286 (3.9)	41,815 (4)	41,815 (3.8)

Recommendation

UL have a long history of delivering guided walks in London to local residents in West London. This application will allow them to expand their walks to include the City of London and will draw new visitors to the City to learn about its History and Culture. It is clear that this application fits well with the Criteria of this programme as it will promote access for all to the City of London's Cultural offer and will be using City produced self-guided walks as its reference point. UL will put £500 of their reserves towards this project but the majority of funding for this programme is being requested within this application. As the amount being requested is quite low I would recommend full support for this application as follows:

£3,383 to support the costs of 10 guided walks in the City of London for 100 West London residents 3 school groups.

