

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive**Access All Areas****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Base: Hackney****Amount requested: £87,600****Benefit: Hackney****Amount recommended: £87,600****The Applicant**

Access All Areas (AAA) (originally known as Rainbow Drama Group) is a theatre company for adults with learning disabilities. It most recently changed its legal structure to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). AAA delivers a broad range of creative and exciting activities and innovative projects for people with all levels of learning disabilities. Its work is multifaceted, designed to be accessible and to provide creative opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. Its programmes help support participants' personal and social development by raising confidence and self-esteem. By increasing independence and developing communication skills, users are better equipped to participate within their community and enjoy positive relationships with support services. The charity engages up to 900 participants each year, supporting them to reach their potential whilst ensuring their access needs are met. Programme activity is delivered throughout the academic year with workshops held during term time across different locations. Participants are aged between 18 and 80. As well as making large-scale immersive performance and touring shows, AAA offers bespoke consultancy and training to organisations across the arts and the voluntary sector on best practice guidelines for working with people with learning disabilities and autism.

The Application

Funding is requested for the Take Part programme. The 'Take Part' programme is a comprehensive outreach programme that provides a creative, participatory outlet for adults with learning disabilities. Take Part supports all levels of needs and is delivered by a small dedicated team with extensive experience of delivering cross-arts projects.

The Recommendation

AAA's Take Part programme offers participants the opportunity to engage in workshops and projects. Participation helps to develop social skills improve well-being and create a sense of achievement. The five distinct projects include:

- Black Cab- a fun community drama group for adults with learning disabilities leading to professionally-led public performances;
- Departure lounge – a weekly drama and communication programme sensitive to the needs of people on the autism spectrum;
- Spinning Wheel – a multi-sensory project for adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities using music and movement in a person-centred approach to develop communication and stimulate the senses;
- Spring back – creative training workshops to provide participants with coping mechanisms and resilience techniques to maintain well-being;
- Out and About – a new accredited outreach and transition programme for young people entering into adult life.

Funding is advised as requested:

£87,600 over three years (3x £29,200) towards the salary and running costs of the Take Part programme providing creative workshops for adults with learning disabilities.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
08/07/2010	£30,850 over three years (£10,000; £10,280; £10,570) towards a weekly performing arts project for people with learning disabilities.

Background and detail of proposal

A central drive of AAA's work is to develop and raise aspirations. A long-term outcome is to increase employment opportunities for future generations of learning disabled people within the performing arts and challenge misconceptions surrounding learning disability. Upcoming work by AA includes: "MADHOUSE re exit"- an immersive satirical theatre experience exploring the institutionalisation of people with learning disabilities, supported by DreamThinkSpeak and the Barbican.

AAA's bespoke drama based methodology provides some of the only life-skills training for adults with learning disabilities in its locality. All of AAA's beneficiaries have a learning disability and a significant number often have additional physical disabilities. 68% of beneficiaries are from a BAME background. Many participants face numerous barriers to communication and have little engagement with wider society. Workshops are designed to use drama to develop basic key life skills that enable greater social integration and positive relationships. The work is constantly evaluated through internal review and critique.

Financial Information

Access All Areas is one of London's key delivery organisations with a proven track record of delivering programmes for adults with learning disabilities. AAA joins the Arts Council National Portfolio (NPO's) in April 2018 with a four year grant of £125,000 per annum. This will provide stability for the charity. Their income has increased significantly following support from Elevate and Catalyst grants. The charity has a strong plan to generate income through the sale of successful workshops. The costs of raising funds relates to hiring an external fundraiser to apply to trusts and foundations.

Year end as at 31st March	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18
	Examined Accounts	Draft Accounts	Forecast
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	288,783	347,904	632,201
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	n/a	92%
Expenditure	(286,810)	(341,467)	(623,119)
Total surplus/(deficit)	1,973	6,437	9,082
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(27,026)	(16,158)	(12,805)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	28,999	22,595	21,887
	1,973	6,437	9,082
Cost of Raising Funds	0	250	2,125
- % of income	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	41,545	244,273	288,848
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	29,352	51,947	73,834
No of months of operating expenditure	8.5	2.6	3.1
Reserves policy target	20,773	122,137	144,424
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	8,580	(70,190)	(70,590)