

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners****Spitalfields Music****Adv: Tim Wilson****Base: Tower Hamlets****Amount requested: £90,000****Benefit: Tower Hamlets****Amount recommended: £90,000****The Applicant**

Spitalfields Music started life in 1976 as a festival at Hawksmoor's Christ Church, which was then under threat of demolition. In 1989 it was registered as a charity, offering learning and participation projects alongside an annual music festival. Today, the charity delivers a range of public and small-group music activities in a variety of settings including schools, care homes and community centres.

**The Application**

The charity seeks funding towards "The Endless Imagination", a programme of music and arts in three care homes with people who have dementia. Work will build on a 2016 Arts Council-funded pilot titled "Living Arts" which explored ways to use arts and music to increase activity and reduce isolation for older people in residential care. "Endless Imagination" will involve a group of specially trained artists who will deliver personalised music and arts activities with care home residents. Work will be led by and responsive to the residents' interests and responses, and will seek to engage care home staff as well as family members in order to improve the quality of care relationships.

**The Recommendation**

This project is based on a pilot which was subject to independent academic evaluation. Studies have highlighted the positive impact of arts in care home settings, noting their ability to deliver improved wellbeing, social engagement, learning and creativity. However, it is not easy to deliver engaging arts activities with people effected by dementia, with the potential for such work to trigger unexpected or even negative reactions. Through its "Living Arts" pilot, Spitalfields Music developed an approach shaped collaboratively by the artists, care home residents and care home staff. The charity will expand this programme through "The Endless Imagination", extending operations to three care homes. City Bridge Trust is asked to contribute towards the costs of the initiative, and funding is advised as follows:

***£90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) towards "The Endless Imagination" arts' programme in care homes on the condition that the charity raises the balance of funds from other sources.***

**Funding History**

| Meeting Date | Decision   |
|--------------|--|
| 10/04/2014   | Application declined due to reasons of ineligibility.  |
| 15/04/2010   | £53,780 over two years for an Arts Project for young people with learning difficulties.  |
| 19/02/2009   | £22,180 for a one-year Arts Project for young people with learning difficulties, to support their transition from full time education to work. |

## Background and detail of proposal

Spitalfields Music will start planning "The Endless Imagination" in early 2018, developing the programme, training artists and engaging care home staff. The charity notes that the commitment of care home staff and management is essential in order to maximise the benefits of the programme and to ensure that residents are fully involved. Care homes will be selected based on their Care Quality Commission rating, and their approach towards resident participation. The charity will look to deliver additionality by working with care homes that do not currently have extensive arts activities. Spitalfields Music will work towards ensuring programme legacy by training staff to maintain activities after the charity withdraws.

## Financial Information

The charity is currently implementing a new business model with a greater focus on widening its pool of potential funders and tighter cost controls. Whilst it expects to return deficits on unrestricted funds in 2016-17 and 2017-18, this will reduce free reserves to levels equivalent to 5.5 – 6 months' worth of operating expenditure, a reasonable amount in comparison with sector norms. The total deficit for 2015-16 is after a net gain on investments of £89,000. 2016-17 accounts have not yet been signed, but the charity expects a further gain on investments of £23,000 which should reduce the size of the deficit shown below.

| Year end as at 31 August                    | 2016<br>Audited<br>Accounts<br>£ | 2017<br>Draft<br>Accounts<br>£ | 2018<br>Forecast<br>£ |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>            |                                  |                                |                       |
| Income                                      | 1,089,760                        | 605,899                        | 727,949               |
| - % of Income confirmed                     | n/a                              | 100%                           | 40%                   |
| Expenditure                                 | 1,104,636                        | 791,934                        | 755,816               |
| Total surplus/(deficit)                     | (14,876)                         | (186,035)                      | (27,867)              |
| Split between:                              |                                  |                                |                       |
| - Restricted surplus/(deficit)              | 54,061                           | (8,808)                        | 9,121                 |
| - Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)            | (68,937)                         | (177,227)                      | (36,988)              |
|   | (14,876)                         | (186,035)                      | (27,867)              |
| <b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>                | 152,244                          | 114,129                        | 135,000               |
| - % of income                               | 14.0%                            | 18.8%                          | 18.5%                 |
| Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)  | 428,061                          | 530,627                        | 479,937               |
| <b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>          |                                  |                                |                       |
| Free unrestricted reserves held at year end | 438,701                          | 261,474                        | 224,486               |
| No of months of operating expenditure       | 12.3                             | 5.9                            | 5.6                   |
| Reserves policy target                      | 400,000                          | 300,000                        | 300,000               |
| No of months of operating expenditure       | 11.2                             | 6.8                            | 7.5                   |
| Free reserves over/(under) target           | 38,701                           | (38,526)                       | (75,514)              |