

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 9 July 2021	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods & Leisure
Report title:		Cultural Celebrations Fund Grant Awards 2021-22	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Culture and Events Manager	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Neighbourhoods approve the Cultural Celebrations Funding grant awards detailed in this report for 2021-22

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In the last decade Southwark has developed into one of London's most vibrant and innovative locations for cultural and event activity.
3. Southwark council's culture team usually commission and deliver an exciting series of free events, which take place throughout the year. The events programme supports the Borough Plan, Fairer Future theme 'a vibrant Southwark' and specifically:
 - Promotes Southwark's diversity and cultural richness
 - Supports a range of cultural celebrations across the borough
 - Continues to make culture in Southwark accessible to all.
4. The free events programme also supports the aims of Creative Southwark, the council's cultural strategy 2017-2022, by:
 - Ensuring that Southwark continues to be a borough for cultural excellence
 - Embedding a cross-council and partner approach to culture
 - Aligning with the strategy of the Borough Plan Fairer Future Commitments
 - Protecting, preserving and growing cultural venues, spaces and provision
 - Supporting the economic prosperity of the borough, including the night time economy
 - Enabling our diverse community to have access to cultural opportunities
 - Collecting, conserving and celebrating our local heritage for future generations.

5. The council has in the past supported an annual free events programme that has included funding for:
 - Bermondsey Carnival
 - Rotherhithe Festival
 - Central Southwark Festival Fund
 - Dulwich Events programme
 - Southwark Fireworks Night
6. Support has also been given to cultural events and activity by other departments, including via Regeneration and development partners, the Local Economy Team's High Street Challenge programme, the Neighbourhood Fund, and cleaner, greener, safer funding.
7. For 2021/22, and in accordance with the Cultural Celebrations Fund decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Neighbourhoods published on 02/06/21, an open call-out was issued on 04/06/21 inviting event organisers to apply for grants that will support and enhance the delivery of free outdoor events.
8. A total fund amount of £60,000 was made available and grants of up to a maximum of £10,000 were invited for eligible events that encourage and promote community engagement and cohesion around the borough, to take place between July 2021 and March 2022.

SELECTION PROCESS

9. Further to the publication of the call-out for applications on 4 June 2021, details of the available funding were publicised via a Southwark Creates newsflash e-bulletin (circulation list 3,113pp), emailed directly to all applicants for the 2020 Cultural Celebrations Fund grant fund, promoted via the council's online and social channels, and shared by other departments through their community networks, including via TRAs and Community Southwark.
10. The programme closed to applications on 21/06/21. 52 applications were received, all of which were reviewed and scored by a selection panel that included:

Southwark Council Cabinet Member for Jobs, Business and Town Centres

Southwark Council planning projects officer, Old Kent Road Regeneration

Southwark Council Culture & Events Manager

Artistic Director & CEO, Theatre Peckham

A member of Young Peckham Academy

Chair of Southwark Culture Health & Wellbeing Partnership and Chair of the Creative Southwark Network

11. 12 proposals are recommended for funding, as detailed in paragraphs 23 – 24 below.
12. Feedback will be provided to all applicants.

SELECTION CRITERIA

13. The Cultural Celebrations Fund is intended to directly support the council's [Southwark Stands Together](#) and [climate emergency](#) commitments, as well as the three themes from Creative Southwark, the council's [Cultural strategy](#):
 - creative economy
 - creative growth
 - creative people
14. It is hoped that events funded through Cultural Celebrations Fund grants will benefit as many of the borough's residents and diverse communities as possible, so the events recommended for funding in this paper take place across a geographical spread of locations within Southwark.
15. Any events taking place in the borough during 2021/22 need to take place safely and in line with government and local authority guidance around covid mitigation measures and restrictions at the time of each event. Funding has only been recommended for events that it is felt will be able to proceed in line with relevant covid guidance.
16. In addition to the strategic objectives outlined in paragraphs 13 -15 above, applications have been assessed against the following criteria:
 - Event takes place between 17 July 2021 and 31 March 2022
 - Event includes a programme of inclusive and accessible participatory opportunities for Southwark residents and/or businesses
 - Event takes place in a park or a public space
 - Event is appropriate for the site proposed
 - Event promotes community engagement and cohesion
 - Event promotes and implements Southwark Stands Together commitments
 - Event is free of charge for the public to attend/participate in
 - Event provides opportunities for local traders, artists, performers and volunteers where possible
17. All events proposed for funding are subject to the council's [outdoor event hire process](#) and must adhere to the council's [outdoor events policy](#).
18. Adherence to the outdoor events policy includes giving consideration to how events can implement measures that mitigate their negative environmental impact. Measures the Council expects to see in place at all events include the promotion and facilitation of recycling, the use of

recyclable and sustainable products and materials, and the minimisation of single-use plastic.

19. All but one of the event organisers of the events proposed for funding are based in Southwark. Fiya House, organisers of the Hip Hop Weekender event, are based elsewhere in London and in Wolverhampton, and they have been able to demonstrate strong benefits for the borough in their application.
20. All applications submitted an event budget with their application, presenting details of their anticipated income and expenditure under the following headings:

Income

Other Grant funding (confirmed, including other grants from Southwark Council)

Other Grant funding (unconfirmed, including other grants applied for from Southwark Council)

Sponsorship

Additional income (traders, merchandise, advertising etc.)

Amount requested from Southwark Council's Cultural Celebrations Fund

Expenditure

Creative content

Participatory activity

Event Infrastructure eg generators, marquees, radios, toilets, fencing, power etc

Event services e.g security, stewarding, first aid provision

Event administration (coordination and management)

Accessibility and equality measures

Marketing and communications

Contingency

21. All events awarded funding will be required to produce a post-event evaluation report within one month of the event taking place; the report must include as a minimum:
 - The number of people who attended the event
 - The audience demographics
 - Details of where the event's audience live or travelled from to get to the event. A financial report of how the grant money was spent.
22. Southwark Council will be responsible for providing:
 - event operations support; reviewing event management plans and advising on the use of event sites
 - marketing and promotion of the events across all appropriate council communication channels, such as social media and press releases
 - support in connecting to local groups and organisations
 - support in connecting to local traders, artists and performers.

GRANT FUNDING PROPOSALS

23. The following events have been recommended for funding awards by the selection panel:

Event Name	Proposed Event Date	Grant Amount	Event Organiser	Event Location	Anticipated Audience
Mercado Latino UK	24/07 – 25/07/21	£7,335	Paula Mendez	Peabody Estate, Camberwell Green	500pp
South London Stories Live	25/07/21 & 31/07/21	£1,947	London Bubble Theatre Company	Deal Porter Square and King Stairs Garden, South Bermondsey	180pp
Blue Elephant Theatre Street Party	01/08/21 or 15/09/21 tbc	£4,052	Blue Elephant Theatre	Wyndham & Comber Estate, Camberwell	80 – 120pp
Rotherhithe Festival	07/08/21	£3,000	Canada Estate TRA	King George's Fields	1,000 – 1,500pp
Camberwell Fair Summer Series	14/08 – 18/09/21	£5,000	André Marmot	Camberwell Green, Camberwell	2,400pp
Fiya House Hip Hop Weekender	28/08 - 29/08/21	£4,000	Fiya House, Emily Labhart	The Scoop, London Bridge	400pp
Kingswood Community Carnival	Summer 2021 tbc	£4,000	Kingswood Estate TRA	Dulwich Wood	500pp
Peckham Festival	17/09 – 19/09/21	£7,000	Peckham Festival CIC	Peckham	15,000 – 20,000pp
Candoco's Day of Dance	30/10/21	£9,500	Candoco Dance Company	Peckham Square, Peckham	2,365pp
WBSE15 Peckham-Preneur Youth Takeover	01/10/21 or 23/10/21 tbc	£9,666	W.E.L.L. Being SE15 Shelene Byer	Harold Moody Park, Peckham / Nunhead / Old Kent Road	250 – 300pp
Walworth Winterland Festival	10/12 – 11/12/21	£4,000	John Whelan	Pasley Park-Newington-Walworth	650pp

Camberwell Winter Festival	Tbc – as part of Winter Open Studios	£4,000	Camberwell Arts	Camberwell Green, Camberwell	2,500pp
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24. A summary description of each event is as follows:

Mercado Latino UK

A two-day Latin event of food, music, art and culture that brings together local traders, artists and community groups representing 12 Latin countries in a rich cultural celebration.

South London Stories Live

Promenade-style theatre performances inspired by the Rotherhithe, Bermondsey and Surrey Docks areas exploring themes that matter to young people and performed by Bubble Young Theatre Makers (18-30-year-olds).

Blue Elephant Theatre Street Party

A street party celebrating the local area and featuring theatre performances from Blue Elephant Theatre’s participation department and local performers designed to bring local residents together.

Rotherhithe Festival

A free day-long festival including music and children’s rides that aims to bring the Rotherhithe community together.

Camberwell Fair Summer Series

A series of 6 weekly small-scale concerts on Camberwell Green during August and September with a broad programme music representative of Camberwell’s diverse communities, in particular featuring music of the African diaspora. Camberwell Fair’s Carnival Costume programme, Artists in Residence programme and Digital Youth programme will all enhance the event with additional performances from programme participants.

Fiya House Hip Hop Weekender

A free two-day hip hop dance event featuring pop-up performances from world-renowned artists, live DJs and local youth talent as well as interactive workshops for all the family.

Kingswood Community Carnival

A summer community event for Southwark residents of all ages, involving local organisations and carnival entertainers and featuring music, dancing and food.

Peckham Festival

A weekend event in SE15 that champions local artists and features Open Studios and free workshops and performances by musicians, poets and theatre improvisers in a Community Hub.

Candoco's Day of Dance

A day-long celebration of inclusive dance by the disabled and non-disabled professional performers of Candoco Dance Company, a resident company at Mountview in Peckham. The day will include chances to participate in inclusive dance workshops, watch performances and award-winning dance films and celebrate the creativity within the local community.

WBSE15 Peckham-Preneur/ Youth Takeover

An event highlighting Peckham's next generation of creative artists, entrepreneurs and youth-led businesses, aged 16 – 22 years, with a focus on health and wellbeing. The event will include presentations, workshops and interactive activities that aim to provide positive benefit and inspiration to the wider community.

Walworth Winterland Festival

A community Christmas-themed inclusive fete and animation of Pasley Park, featuring a pantomime parade and lantern procession celebrating characters from Walworth's past and the park's historical links to the former Royal Surrey Zoological Gardens.

Camberwell Winter Festival

A community celebration to enhance Camberwell's Winter Open Studios with fun, festive arts activities from Diwali-inspired lanterns to decorated trees and to showcase work produced by local artists and craftspeople.

25. Between them these events represent a geographic spread around the borough, taking place in 7 wards: London Bridge & West Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Peckham, Camberwell Green, Newington, Rye Lane and Dulwich Wood. They also serve a range of diverse communities, for example, the Latin communities involved in and celebrated by Mercado Latino UK, the African diaspora musicians featured in the Camberwell Fair Summer Series, or the young generations of creative entrepreneurs showcased in the WBSE15 Peckham-Preneur/ Youth Takeover.
26. 60% of the events have been recommended to receive the full amount of funding requested in their application; 40% have been recommended for a reduced amount of funding in order to broaden the range of events that can be supported.
27. The total amount of grants to be awarded is £63,500. This is £3,500 more than the £60,000 made available for this fund as detailed above in paragraph 8. This additional £3,500 can be met from the existing Culture budget (cost code CM717) and will ensure that a better diversity of events can be supported, serving a wider range of communities.

Policy implications

28. Grants awarded through the 2021/22 Cultural Celebrations Fund will enable the implementation of the new grants system that had been intended for implementation in 2020, and will also serve to support the borough's post-pandemic recovery and renewal, especially around community cohesion and wellbeing.
29. The timeline for application processing, grant awards and event planning and management for 2021-22 has been modified from the 2020 timetable on account of the operational uncertainties around events delivery due to ongoing covid restrictions but this timetable ensures that summer events can still be supported with other funded events continuing until December 2021.
30. As well as reflecting both the ongoing impact of Covid and activity restrictions during the national roadmap out of lockdown, the ethos and commitments of the proposed events align with the council's Southwark Stands Together programme.

Community impact statement

31. We have been able to propose supporting multiple events serving a diverse range of residents across the borough, thereby contributing to this year's renewal and recovery programme for neighbourhoods, the cultural sector and Southwark's local economy. As a result of these grants we anticipate that a combined audience of approximately 30,000 people in 7 wards will benefit across the programme.
32. The fund supports the council's Southwark Stand Together and Climate Emergency programmes as well as supporting community engagement and cohesion. The event evaluation process will produce important information regarding the social and economic impact the events and funding have had.

Resource implications

33. Given the need to conduct the grant application process as quickly as possible, it was not possible to use the council's new online funding portal. However, this means the grant fund does not have to bear any administration costs associated with the portal, and therefore the maximum amount has been able to be made available for direct grants.
34. The maximum individual grant amount was set at £10,000, but the average grant proposed is £5,208. This means that 12 events have been able to benefit from support.

Legal implications

35. Please see the concurrent report of the Director of Law and Governance.

Financial implications

36. The total net budget available in cost code CM717 for the Cultural Celebrations Fund is £60,000. A further £3,500 can be made available from the existing Culture budget in order to offer grants to the widest possible selection of applicants.
37. Costs for staff to administer this funding programme, process event applications and monitor events will be contained within existing departmental budgets.
38. All fund awardees are subject to contract and will be monitored closely to ensure that funding criteria is met. 20 per cent of each funding award is issued to event organisers after the event and upon receipt of an event evaluation report.
39. Staff and any other grant monitoring costs connected with this proposal will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

Consultation

40. Consultation is not required, but the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Neighbourhoods will be kept informed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

41. This report seeks approval of the individual grant awards under the Cultural Celebrations Fund for 2021-22. The decision to approve the recommendation is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under the council constitution.
42. The proposed future distribution of the Fund is consistent with corporate policy in this area and the report confirms the steps that have been taken to consult interested individuals and groups before launching the Fund and inviting grant applications and proposals. The report also describes that a planned and robust process has been carried out that attracted proposals from interested groups and organisations and evaluated those proposals.
43. The intention of the Fund is to engage all individuals and groups within the local community by offering the opportunity to apply for funding and to benefit from the projects which arise from the funding allocations. This is consistent with the requirements of the council's statutory duty (the Public Sector Equality Duty) as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010.
44. Following the allocation of the Fund to successful applicants appropriate legal terms and conditions will regulate the various grant awards.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL21/034)

45. The report seeks the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Neighbourhoods to approve the individual grant awards under the Cultural Celebrations fund for 2021-22 for the amount of £63,500 for 2021-22.
46. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance notes that the costs can be contained within existing resources as mentioned under the financial implications. It is expected that continued monitoring will take place with all grant recipients to ensure conditions of grant are met.
47. Staffing, subsequent grant monitoring and any other costs connected with this proposal to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Creative Southwark: Cultural Strategy 2017 to 2022	Cultural strategy - Southwark Council	Michelle Walker

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure	
Report Author	Michelle Walker, Culture and Events Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 July 2021	
Key Decision	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		8 July 2021