

Item No. N/a	Classification: Open	Date: 17 January 2020	Meeting Name: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities
Report title:		Culture Grants 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities approve the extension of grant funding of £152,000 to currently commissioned funded arts and cultural organisations for a period of twelve months from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In March 2017 the Cabinet formally approved Creative Southwark: Cultural Strategy 2017 to 2022.
3. The strategy placed Southwark as one of London's most vibrant and innovative locations for cultural activity, attracting many new and emerging artists and cultural organisations that offer high quality opportunities for local people to benefit from culture across a range of disciplines. Many of these organisations operate on limited resources.
4. Creative Southwark: Cultural Strategy 2017 to 2022 aims to:
 - Ensure that Southwark continues to be a borough for cultural excellence.
 - Embed a cross-council and partner approach to culture
 - Ensure that cultural priorities are reflected in emerging plans and strategies, including the Southwark Plan
 - Align the strategy to the Fairer Future Promises.
 - Protect, preserve and grow our cultural venues, spaces and provision
 - Ensure our cultural sector is resilient in the changing financial and political climate
 - Support the economic prosperity of the borough, including the night time economy
 - Enable all of our diverse community have access to cultural opportunities
 - Collect, conserve and celebrate our local history for future generations.
5. The Council grants programme aims to further diversify the support provided to the sector ensuring its continued vibrancy, as well as playing a role in enabling the leverage of this investment of over £3 million from other funders.
6. In 2019/20 the total culture grants budget was £152,000 with individual organisations receiving between £19,500 and £51,500.

7. Five organisations were awarded grants:
 - South London Gallery
 - Southwark Park Galleries (formerly known as Café Gallery Projects/ Bermondsey Artists Group)
 - Blue Elephant Theatre
 - Theatre Peckham
 - London Bubble Theatre

8. A summary of their outcomes representing a wide range of arts and culture activities to residents including performances, exhibitions, workspace, training, schools engagement, and professional development can be seen in Appendix 1.

9. All funded organisations are subject to conditions of grant aid detailing the frequency of payments and monitoring arrangements.

10. In addition to direct grant funding, the Council gives support to a wide range of cultural events and activity via other departments to provide a diverse and thriving cultural events calendar co-created with local residents across the borough. For example:
 - Events programmes and commissions such as *Spring Rising* via the Dulwich Commission
 - Bespoke place based commissions via Regeneration such as the *Inventors Imaginarium* via Blackfriars Stories, and the *Wellbeing Weekender* via Peckham is Open
 - Street Parties and festivals via Neighbourhoods Fund such as *Bermondsey Street Festival*

11. The Council also exercises considerable influence on developers to secure direct investment in cultural infrastructure, providing fit for purpose buildings and spaces that support the borough's cultural sector to thrive and grow. For example, new or improved cultural spaces being provided for:
 - The Annex at The Old Vic
 - A new gallery for Peckham Platform in Peckham Square
 - Mountview Academy coming to Peckham
 - Theatre Peckham's refurbished theatre
 - London College of Contemporary Music's new venue Music Box
 - New spaces for Southwark Playhouse
 - Peckham Levels
 - A new venue from Central School of Ballet
 - The use of Wilson Road for creative workspace

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

12. *Common Purpose, Common Cause* - the council, CCG and Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy aims to achieve better partnership working across sectors to improve outcomes for residents, improve commissioning and grant-giving that focuses on outcomes for local people and better use of community assets to build resilient communities through community-led approaches. The VCS strategy is about a new relationship with the VCS and unlocking the social

value and assets that exist in communities to create a Southwark that is fairer for all.

13. The role of the cultural sector in future provision is an essential part of delivering and implementing *Creative Southwark*.
14. This year the Council launches four new ambitious programmes working in partnership with the cultural sector to deliver against *Creative Southwark*. This includes a Culture, Health and Wellbeing Partnership; a borough-wide Creative Enterprise Zone, *Southwark Creates*; a programme giving every primary school child a free visit to the theatre every year; and establishing Southwark as London's first Cultural Compact.
15. Southwark Council is a significant advocate and supporter of the arts and cultural industries, both through direct delivery of programmes and funding such as the culture grants and through our regeneration schemes and employment and skills support, and we want this to continue. Unlike many local authorities we still provide culture grant funding to key organisations, recognising their unique role for our communities.
16. To help us meet these targets the council has:
 - Reviewed its culture grants programme
 - Reorganised the staff team
 - Introduced a small number of large commercial events to generate income
 - Worked in partnership to launch a number of new initiatives such as the primary schools into theatre programme and Creative Enterprise Zone
17. The 2020/21 grant allocation would be:

Organisation	Grant 2019/20	Proposed grant 2020/21	Reduction (£)	Reduction (%)
Bermondsey Artists Group	21,500.00	21,500.00	0	0%
Blue Elephant Theatre	19,500.00	19,500.00	0	0%
London Bubble Theatre	28,000.00	28,000.00	0	0%
South London Gallery	51,500.00	51,500.00	0	0%
Theatre Peckham	31,500.00	31,500.00	0	0%
Total	152,000	152,000	0	

18. In 2020/21 the culture programmes and funded organisations will continue to deliver against the Cultural Strategy *Creative Southwark*, and the grants programme will be developed to coincide with priorities emerging from the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Cultural Compact and refreshed Cultural Strategy.
19. The Southwark Cultural Compact will establish a partnership that extends beyond the borough's cultural sector to provide leadership and strategic

capacity. Emerging priorities will be developed into a framework and five year action plan, and refresh of the Cultural Strategy so that it reflects this new direction.

20. Rolling over the culture grants will provide stability for our cultural organisations and enable further development of the grants programme to align with the refreshed Cultural Strategy and priorities of the Cultural Compact.
21. Each organisation in receipt of culture grants will be written to updating them of the proposed rollover and grant allocation for 2020/21.
22. The grants will provide a level of security for Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations (Theatre Peckham, Blue Elephant Theatre, Southwark Park Galleries, and South London Gallery) who secured five year funding from April 2018.
23. The Council will continue the mutually beneficial working relationships seeking to make best use of existing resources whilst working closely with the sector to support any bids for additional funding to further enhance the programme.
24. A broad range of universal and targeted activities are currently provided within the existing programme with a significant number of young people and residents engaged on a regular basis. It is important that these participants are able to access continuous provision to support constructive leisure time, social and creative development.
25. In addition, these services provide accredited training and skills to young people, engage socially excluded groups including those with mental health issues and isolated elderly residents, provide volunteer opportunities, engage with thousands of school children and families, and provide work for hundreds of artists and performers.
26. To date the regularly funded organisations are achieving well on agreed outcomes and the details of quarters 1 and 2 performance figures can be seen in Appendix 2. Specific programmes are being delivered throughout the second half of the year to increase engagement from key target audiences, which will ensure that targets are met by the end of the year. Every pound invested via culture grants will leverage in over £20 of additional revenue funding for the organisations.
27. All currently funded organisations have been visited recently by monitoring officers. The providers are committed to continuing to build relationships with the Council and to taking an active role in the development and delivery of an outcome focussed model of delivery to meet the Council's priorities.

Contract management and monitoring

28. All commissioned provision will be monitored closely over the coming year to ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved.

Community impact statement

29. The council's cultural strategy was approved in March 2017 and clearly set out the need for sustainable investment and development of cultural provision within Southwark.

30. The process by which organisations have been recommended to receive funding is transparent and focused on delivering the most beneficial impact to the wider cultural sector.
31. The award process specifically seeks clarification around target users, participants, audience and the community areas in which they will be delivered in order to identify where there may be an overlap of provision or where alternative activities are being targeted at similar audiences. This provides opportunity to minimise the impact on audiences and protected equalities groups wherever possible. All of the groups receiving funding have clearly developed and target audiences for their activities.
32. The process is such that the awards being made are likely to deliver the most beneficial impact whilst wherever possible maintaining provision to protected groups.

Financial implications

33. The total budget available for Culture grants programme in 2020/21 is £169,893 (cost code LH237-66701) in line with the Council's budget setting process which is enough to cover the cost of recommendations in this report.
34. All grant funded organisations will be made aware in December 2019 of the grant allocation process and that future funding is not assured and is dependent on the Council's budget setting process.
35. Staff and any other grant monitoring costs connected with this proposal will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

36. This report seeks approval of the extension of grant funding totalling £152,000 to the arts and cultural organisations listed under paragraph 17 and in the report appendices for the 12 month period commencing on 1 April 2020.
37. Under the provisions of Part 3D of the council's Constitution the decision to approve the recommendations set out in this report is reserved to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities.
38. The Cabinet Member will be aware of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. At each stage, in exercising its function (and in its decision making processes) the council must have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it;
 - Foster good relations between person who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership are protected in relation to (a) only.

39. The community impact statement set out within paragraphs 29 to 32 advises that the process by which organisations have been recommended for funding allocation had been established and managed with a view to ensuring transparency and safeguarding the interests of individuals and groups having protected characteristics under the Act. The report notes that the council has consulted the recipient organisations in relation to its review of the grants programme and its funding proposals for the coming year.
40. The conditions of grant funding which regulate the existing commissioned arts and cultural activities will continue to apply during the 12 month extension of the agreements between the council and the recipient organisations.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL19/064)

41. The report seeks the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities approve the extension of grant funding of £152,000 to currently commissioned funded arts and cultural organisations for a period of twelve months from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
42. 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.
43. 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	www.southwark.gov.uk/culturestrategy	Aileen Cahill

APPENDICES

No	Title
Appendix 1	2019-20 Culture Grants Awardees
Appendix 2	2019-20 Culture Grants Q1&2 performance figures

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture, Environment & Leisure	
Report Author	Jennifer Moore, Senior Culture Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	17 January 2020	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		17 January 2020