

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 11 April 2023	Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Streets & Clean Air
Report title:		Culture Together Grants 2023/24 Funding Award Recommendations	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Head of Culture	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Streets and Clean Air approve the recommendations for Culture Together Grants and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants for 2023/24 as set out in paragraphs 39-40 and 52-53.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In October 2021, following a review of the existing Culture Grants Programme and in light of Southwark Stands Together, a new direction was approved for the distribution of funding to support the cultural sector in Southwark.
3. The Culture Together Grants Fund was designed in response to engagement with the sector in June 2019 and May 2021, at the Southwark Stands Together Culture Listening Exercise in July 2020, and in alignment with the following Southwark Stands Together recommendation:

“Review the Council’s grants to make sure they develop the best value for communities and remove barriers to equal access to funding, particularly for Black, Asian or minority ethnic groups”.
4. The Culture Together Grants Fund launched in 2022/23, with funding awarded to 10 borough-based organisations in the first year.
5. Criteria for the fund explicitly sought to address inequality within the cultural sector, with the particular priority in the first year being to support activity that achieved or celebrated better representation in terms of racial equality. An open and accessible application process proportionate to the level of funding was designed to encourage applications from a diverse range of organisations. Longer lead-in times, engagement with applicants at application stage and diversity of thought in the decision making were all built in to the process to further encourage a diverse range of proposals.
6. The Cultural Celebrations Fund (CCF) was created in 2020 to encourage and promote community engagement and cohesion around the borough. The fund

replaced the regular support of a small number of events with open access grants available to all community event organisers, up to a maximum of £10,000 per event.

7. No grants were awarded in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions on event delivery. The first Cultural Celebrations Fund grants were awarded in 2021/22, with 11 events sharing a combined total of £60,500 in funding; a further £74,920 of funding was awarded to 10 events via the 2022/23 CCF grants.
8. The council's current Delivery Plan includes the commitment to "fund local community groups to deliver events and festivals that showcase the diverse histories, music, food and art of our communities", with an annual target of reaching 15,000 people through the supported events.

Culture Together Grants 2023/24

Application process

9. The second year of the Culture Together Grants fund opened for applications on 11th January 2023 and closed on 7th February 2023. The £144,000 funding available was advertised via an open call for applications to 'Big Grants' (applications for up to £25,000) and 'Small Grants' (applications from £5,000 to £10,000).
10. Applicants were invited to propose activity that would achieve better representation or celebrate equality of representation in one of four areas - audiences, workforce, governance, or artistic content. Applications could seek to achieve better representation in line with the demographics of the borough with reference to at least one of the following protected characteristics: race, gender, sexuality or disability.
11. The application process was designed to be as transparent and accessible as possible, with all applications being made via the Council's user-friendly online grant applications platform. The application form was designed to be concise, only asking for information that was really needed to assess an application's viability, and with flexibility around how applicants could provide information e.g. via video or supporting documentation.
12. A series of open access workshops and one-to-one advice sessions were delivered both in person at Southwark Council's Tooley Street office and online, with 62 bookings translating into 34 attendees across two sessions. Direct support via phone and email was available from the Culture Team during office hours throughout the application window.
13. Following the closing date, 35 eligible applications were received via the online portal. Applicants were given the opportunity to respond to clarification questions within a set timeframe if officers identified discrepancies or missing information in their application.
14. Eligibility was scored on a yes/ no basis against the following core criteria:

- Applicant is an arts or culture organisation based in Southwark
- Activity is ongoing rather than a one-off event and will take place between 1st June 2023 and 31st March 2024
- At least 50% of the activity beneficiaries will be Southwark residents
- One of the following applies:
 - Application for 'change-making' – applicant has demonstrated that the organisation is not yet representative of the Southwark population benchmarks in the area for which they are applying for support and has applied for 'change-making' activity
 - Application for 'amplifying' - applicant has demonstrated that they are already representative of the Southwark population benchmarks for protected characteristics in the focus area for which they are applying for support and has applied for 'amplifying' activity
- Applicant provided supporting documentation including a copy of organisation's governance document, copy of recent annual accounts (or bank statement if organisation is new), redacted copy of bank statement showing matching account details, safeguarding policy (if activity is working with vulnerable adults or children).

15. Following the clarification window, eight applications were confirmed to be ineligible as they did not meet one or more of the core criteria.
16. The 27 applications taken forward were from a broad range of organisations spanning multiple artforms within the cultural sector, engaging a diverse range of beneficiaries and representing a good geographic spread across the borough.
17. Equalities monitoring data submitted by applicants show that approximately 22% of the eligible applications submitted were from Black, Asian and minority ethnic led organisations. 40% of the organisations recommended for grant funding are led by chief officers from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic backgrounds, sharing grants whose combined total equates to 44% of the available funding.

Evaluation and scoring of applications

18. A panel including two council culture officers, two community representatives and one member of Southwark's Youth Parliament reviewed and individually scored the 27 eligible applications against the published criteria. Four of the five panel members have lived experience of racial inequality.
19. A 0 - 4 scoring matrix was used to assess each application against the following criteria:
 - Has a need for the activity been identified and explained in relation to the population demographics benchmarking?
 - Has the organisation described an activity that shows a commitment to delivering high quality arts and culture activity?
 - How many people will benefit and how?

- Will the activity have a significant impact on either making change or promoting equality?
- Does the proposed activity deliver value for money?

Additional consideration was given to activities that support the Council's objectives around engaging young people and tackling climate change.

20. The panel came together for two moderation meetings, during which individual applications were discussed and recommendations agreed. Ten organisations recommended for funding are detailed in paragraphs 39-40 below.

Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants 2023/24

Application & Selection Process

21. Further to the publication of the call-out for applications on 16 January 2023, details of the available funding were publicised via a Southwark Creates newsflash e-bulletin (circulation list approx. 4,000pp), emailed directly to all previous CCF applicants, promoted via the council's online and social channels, and shared through community networks, including via council departments, TRAs and Community Southwark.
22. Applicant workshops were held on the council's Tooley Street office on 30 January and online on 2 February, attended by 15 prospective applicants. One-to-one applicant advice sessions were also conducted by Events team officers. The application deadline was 13 February 2023.
23. 36 applications were received through the council's online funding portal, 2 of which did not meet the eligibility criteria of the event organiser having proof of a current bank statement / account, the proposed event taking place between 1st June 2023 – 31st March 2024, or the proposed event taking place in a public open space managed by Southwark Council.
24. The 34 eligible applications were reviewed and scored by a diverse selection panel that comprised:

Southwark Council Culture & Events Manager
 Artistic Director & CEO, Theatre Peckham
 A former member of Young Peckham
 A member of the Creative Southwark Network
25. 16 applicants were shortlisted and invited to submit remote answers to additional interview questions on 14th March 2023.
26. The three external panel members were paid from the council's events budget for their time and expertise in reviewing, scoring, shortlisting and interviewing the applications and event organisers.
27. Twelve events recommended for funding are detailed in paragraphs 52-53 below.

28. Feedback will be provided to all shortlisted applicants on request.

Eligibility Criteria

29. The eligibility criteria for this grant fund were as follows:

- Event organiser must have a connection to Southwark
- Proposed event must take place between 1 June 2023 – 31 March 2024
- Proposed event must take place in a park or public open space managed by Southwark Council
- Proposed event is non-profit-making and free to attend
- Event organiser must provide proof of ID / status and a current redacted bank statement

Selection criteria

30. 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

31. 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.

32. In addition to the strategic objectives outlined in paragraph 30 above, applications have been assessed against the following criteria:

- How well does this event help to build thriving neighbourhoods in Southwark?
- How well does this event unite and connect communities?
- How well does this event offer Southwark residents a chance to engage and participate in creative activity?
- How well does this event support local businesses and contribute to the growth of the local economy?
- How well does this event embody the Southwark Stands Together pledges?
- How well does this event implement an environmentally sustainable approach that contributes to the Council's target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030?
- How well does this event provide employment and volunteering opportunities for Southwark residents?
- How feasible is it that this event can be successfully delivered? (including within the proposed budget and time frame)
- How relevant and successful is the event organiser's experience of delivering similar events?
- How well does this event succeed in reaching as many people as possible? How accessible is this event?

33. 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](#).
34. 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.
35. 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 e.g. generators, marquees, radios, toilets, fencing, power
Event services e.g. security, stewarding, first aid provision
Event administration (coordination and management)
Accessibility and equality measures
Marketing and communications
Contingency

36. 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 a summary of how the event went, how the money was spent, who benefitted, what outcomes were achieved and what was learnt. To support our Southwark Stands Together commitments, grant recipients will also be asked to submit equal opportunities monitoring data on their event team and event attendees / beneficiaries as part of the evaluation report. For the first time, event organisers will also be encouraged to calculate the carbon footprint of their event.
37. 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 where possible in connecting to local groups and organisations
 - support where possible in connecting to local traders, artists and performers.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Funding award recommendations: Culture Together Grants 2023/24

38. The panel's funding award recommendations include ten funding awards totaling £144,267.50.
39. A summary of the funding award recommendations to the ten organisations is set out below.

Organisation	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Big / Small Grant	Change-making / Amplifying	Ward	Artform	Beneficiaries
Art In The Park	10,000	10,000	Small	Amplifying	Faraday	Visual Art / Interdisciplinary	400
Blue Elephant Theatre	23,300	19,805	Big	Amplifying	Camberwell Green	Theatre	1800
British Youth Music Theatre	20,250	17,212.50	Big	Change-making	Peckham	Theatre / Dance	150
Drawing Room / Tannery Arts	15,000	12,750	Big	Change-making	London Bridge & West Bermondsey	Visual Art	800
Maya Productions	10,000	10,000	Small	Amplifying	Dulwich Hill	Theatre	1231
Peckham Platform	20,000	12,000	Big	Amplifying	Peckham	Visual Art / Public Art	1048
South London Gallery	25,000	21,250	Big	Change-making	St. Giles	Visual Art	2500
Staffordshire Street	10,000	10,000	Small	Change-making	Peckham	Visual Art	1679
Theatre Peckham	25,000	21,250	Big	Amplifying	St. Giles	Theatre	298
Unicorn Theatre	11,000	10,000	Small	Amplifying	London Bridge & West Bermondsey	Theatre	85
Total		144,268					

40. Each project is summarised below:

Art In The Park

A series of all-age summer workshops exploring the concept of The Tree of Life, culminating in an exhibition in the Art in the Park studios and Chumleigh Gardens, co-curated with the participants. Activities will include movement life drawing with dancers and musicians, large scale collaborative drop-in drawing activities in playgrounds, weaving and drawing with natural materials and using the adjacent park as both resource and inspiration.

Blue Elephant Theatre

The creation of two family shows (for ages 5-11 yrs), the content for which will be informed by Blue Elephant's youth board. 40 performances of the shows will be delivered for audiences of children and their families, as well as school, nursery and club groups with teachers and support workers. The performance schedules will include school matinees and relaxed performances for

vulnerable groups to reach large numbers of children who are traditionally less likely to access the arts. The project will also re-start the theatre's young reviewers programme, allowing children to have a VIP experience and critique the work.

British Youth Music Theatre

A collaboration between British Youth Music Theatre and integrated dance company Candoco, leading to the creation of a new piece of music theatre with a group of disabled and non-disabled young people. Community engagement days at Mountview and taster days in Southwark schools will culminate in a 6 day devising project and open dress rehearsal at Theatre Peckham.

Drawing Room / Tannery Arts

The recruitment of two Neighbourhood Coordinator posts for local young people that have lived experience of being from a minority group, aged between 18 and 30, who would build and develop neighbourly relations with diverse communities as Drawing Room (DR) prepares to reopen in its new, permanent home in West Bermondsey ward.

Maya Productions

The development of 'Inclusion Boost', a pilot online careers toolkit to support 6 Southwark theatre professionals, from Black, Asian, Latin American and global majority backgrounds, to be role models for inclusion. It will address the need to inspire young people from underrepresented communities to see performing arts careers as an option by partnering with Charter Schools around the borough.

Peckham Platform

Rye Reconnected will transform Rye Lane through a series of bold community co-created commissions that re-imagine the shutters of closed shops as new sites for artistic expression, imagination, and future thinking. Working with largely Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic young people, reached through partnership with Southwark's Youth Justice Service, South London Refugee Association, and Southwark Day Centre for Refugee and Asylum Seekers, the project will celebrate Peckham's vibrant locality, revitalise public/commercial spaces and amplify the creative voices of young people.

South London Gallery

Support for the gallery's Schools Programme to use the 'Making Sense' framework to explore themes of inclusion and anti-racism through arts education via in-schools collectives, teacher training workshops and a digital resources platform. The project will build upon long-term partnerships with local schools to engage young people from nursery to secondary-age from majority Black, Asian and ethnically diverse backgrounds through gallery visits, artist-led workshops and creative careers workshops.

Staffordshire Street

The expansion of an existing community outreach programme to target hyper-local audiences to Staffordshire Street's new project space in Peckham. The learning programme will encourage debate and new thinking on building sustainable communities and alternative futures in correspondence with

exhibitions from June 2023 - March 2024. Activities will include creative skills workshops for 16-24 yr. olds, celebratory community days, intergenerational meetings, performance events featuring global majority creatives and working-class artists, a 10 day festival, and a solo show from a local artist.

Theatre Peckham

A workforce support programme, ‘Leading The Change’, will build a positive working culture and empower individuals within the theatre’s collaborative organisational structure. The programme will include participation in the Old Vic’s Guardians’ programme, career training for 17-25 year-olds through Young Peckham, and the use of Upshot, a data collection monitoring and evaluation tool.

Unicorn Theatre

The delivery of two ‘Creative Associates’ projects with a Southwark primary school, giving children the opportunity to influence the theatre’s artistic programme, and a community project focused on Early Years (ages 0 – 5 years old) exploring the intersection between creativity and child development in collaboration with health and wellbeing partners.

41. The panel recommendations include 5 ‘Big Grant’ funding awards at 85% of the amount that the applicants requested. A 6th ‘Big Grant’ funding award has been recommended at 60% of the amount the applicant requested. This is in order to fund the maximum number of projects possible and achieve greatest value for money, whilst also protecting applicants’ ability to deliver quality projects. Applicants will be invited to revise their planned outputs to adjust them according to what is achievable for the lower funding amount offered. Three ‘Small Grants’ are recommended at the full 100% of the amount applicants requested. A fourth ‘Small Grant’ has been awarded to an applicant who applied for £11,000, just over the ‘Small Grants’ threshold maximum of £10,000; this applicant is being treated as a ‘Small Grant’ and offered the maximum £10,000 available in this grant category.
42. At least 50% of all those who engage in the funded activities will be Southwark residents, and funded activities will help the organisations either celebrate or make change towards closer representation in line with the Southwark population demographic benchmarks.

The population benchmarks that applicants responded to and will be monitored against are set out below:

	Black, Asian or minority ethnic	Disability	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender	Female
Total Southwark population	46%	13%	6%	50%
Southwark working age (16-	32%	Not known – total	Not known - total	36%

64 years) population		population benchmark to be used	population benchmark to be used	
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43. The summary below shows the focus areas that each of the activities will address. Nine of the activities will address racial inequality in one of three focus areas (audiences, workforce or artistic content) and one will address accessibility for disabled audiences.

Org name	Focus area	Target group Black, Asian and minority ethnic (all ages)	Black, Asian and minority ethnic (working age 16-64)	Disabled (working age)	Change-making	Amplifying
Art in the Park	Artistic Content					
Blue Elephant Theatre	Audiences					
British Youth Music Theatre	Audiences					
Drawing Room / Tannery Arts	Audiences					
Maya Productions	Workforce					
Peckham Platform	Artistic Content					
South London Gallery	Audiences					
Staffordshire Street	Audiences					
Theatre Peckham	Workforce					
Unicorn Theatre	Artistic Content					

44. In summary, the above portfolio comprises:

- 4 change-making grants; 6 amplifying grants
- 6 big grants (receiving 60-85% of the amount requested); 3 small grants (receiving 100% of the amount requested) and 1 small grant reclassified from a big grant application
- 9 grants addressing racial inequality; 1 grant addressing inequality on the grounds of disability
- 3 grants for the Artistic Content focus area; 5 grants for Audiences; 2 grants for Workforce
- 4 grants to Theatre, 4 grants to Visual Arts, 2 grants to Interdisciplinary Artforms

- 4 grants to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic-led projects / organisations (representing 44% of the total grants amount)
 - Wards benefiting from funded projects: Faraday, Camberwell Green, Peckham, London Bridge & West Bermondsey, Dulwich Hill, St. Giles.
45. There will be an estimated 9,991 beneficiaries who will be positively impacted by the funded activities (plus potentially a large number of passers-by who may engage with Peckham Platform's Rye Reconnected installations). The projected beneficiaries will be finalised with each organisation once funding offers and terms of funding are issued. It's important to note the targeted and focused nature of the work that will be carried out through each funded activity, which will result in genuine and meaningful engagement with each of the identified beneficiaries.
 46. Performance monitoring targets focused on demographic data of beneficiaries will be agreed with each funded organisation as part of the terms and conditions of funding.
 47. Payments of grant funding will be staggered appropriately to align with the scale of the grant, activity being funded and frequency of performance monitoring data being collected.
 48. All applicants will receive formal notification of the outcome of their application following the funding awards decision sign off. Unsuccessful applicants will be offered feedback on their application on request.
 49. Formal offer letters will be issued to successful applicants who will then be invited to introductory meetings with Officers from the Culture team to agree terms and conditions of funding.
 50. Organisations in receipt of a Culture Together Grant will be connected to one another as appropriate to provide peer support and learning opportunities, particularly for activities working with older people and schools, and those that are using positive action through employment practices to improve diversity in the workforce.
 51. Grant recipients will be invited to list any funded public-facing activities and events on the Southwark Presents What's On Diary and where relevant the Youth Digital Hub.

Funding award recommendations: Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants 2023/24

52. The following event organisers have been recommended for funding awards by the selection panel:

Event Organiser	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Event Date	Event Location	Ward	Audience
Camberwell Fair	10,000	10,000	2 nd Sept	Camberwell Green	Camberwell Green	2000
Bankside Open Spaces Trust	7,143	7,143	10 th June	Red Cross Way & Union Street	Borough & Bankside	16000
Friends of Pasley Park	5,000	5,000	1 st May – 9 th Sept	Pasley Park	Newington	1500
Candoco Dance Company	10,000	10,000	24 th – 29 th July	Peckham Square	Peckham	1500
Shake Ya Creative	10,000	10,000	3 rd , 10 th & 17 th June or 3 rd June, 17 th June & 1 st July	Burgess Park	Faraday	600
Culture Tree Centre	5,500	5,500	10 th Feb – 2 nd March 2024	Burgess Park; Dulwich Park; Peckham Rye Common; Southwark Park	Faraday; Dulwich Village; Peckham Rye; Rotherhithe	500
Vanessa Woolf	5,621	5,621	1 st July	Southwark Park	Rotherhithe	500
Southwark Black Parents Forum	10,000	10,000	16 th July	Camberwell Green	Camberwell Green	3000
Peckham Platform	10,000	8,736	2 nd June – 5 th Feb 2024	Peckham Square	Peckham	500
Frog Morris	9,000	9,000	17 th Sept – 18 th Nov	The Blue Marketplace & Southwark Park	South Bermondsey; Rotherhithe	4000
Camberwell Arts	6,000	4,000	10 th June	Camberwell Green	Camberwell Green	2000
Carnaval Del	10,000	10,000	20 th	Burgess	Faraday	12000

Pueblo			August	Park		
Total		95,000				

53. A summary description of each event is as follows:

Camberwell Fair: a free music event and market on Camberwell Green to support community cohesion, unite Camberwell's diverse communities and provide performance and trading opportunities for local artists and entrepreneurs.

Bankside Open Spaces Trust: the BOST community festival builds community pride in an area with significant pockets of deprivation by providing opportunities for people to come together, be creative and foster a sense of belonging through getting to know their neighbours and feeling connected to them. There will be live music, theatre, comedy, spoken word, dance, visual arts, street performances, competitions, sports and environmental activities, talks and tours, market stalls, workshops, food and drink.

Friends of Pasley Park: 'One Newington' fete and performances will animate the rich history of Pasley Park (the former Royal Zoological Gardens) through educational and creative activity.

Candoco Dance Company: Day of Dance will offer free opportunities to watch professional performances by disabled and non-disabled performers from Candoco, British Youth Music Theatre (BYMT), and other professional companies, as well as opportunities to participate in inclusive dance workshops. A new dance piece created with disabled and non disabled Peckham residents will also be developed and showcased.

Shake Ya Creative: Shake Ya Brass The Remix! will be a series of free outdoor dance classes accompanied by a live seven-piece brass band suitable for participants of all ages and abilities.

Culture Tree Centre: a programme of free guided Yoruba Heritage Walking trails for 4 weeks (Saturdays and Sundays) across Southwark. The walks will launch a series of 6 interactive murals that tell the story of the Yoruba community in Southwark along with an online oral history archive and a pop-up Yoruba community hub.

Vanessa Woolf: Our World – family storytelling celebration featuring performances by storytellers who represent the many cultures of Bermondsey, including those from West African, Irish and Eastern European backgrounds. They will tell traditional stories that respond to a theme of nature and Our World.

Southwark Black Parents Forum: An Akwasidae Festival in Southwark to coincide with the culturally vibrant celebration of the Golden Stool that takes place in Ghana, bringing together the Asantehene, sub-chiefs, subjects, and dignitaries at Manhyia in Kumasi.

Peckham Platform: Peckham Sounds will produce a community generated performance as part of London Gallery Weekend.

Frog Morris: Illuminate Bermondsey will be an extension of the free annual Illuminate Rotherhithe festival that is inspired by the histories of the Thames, the docks and migration. Activity will include community workshops, a lantern procession and a festival event.

Camberwell Arts Festival: 'Showtime' launch event for a festival that is designed to celebrate the arts in all their diversity - from fine art to flower arranging, crafts to cooking, graphic design to graffiti. It will be an opportunity to bring communities together to celebrate the cultural diversity of Camberwell and shine a spotlight on Camberwell's fascinating music hall heritage.

Carnaval del Pueblo: a community carnival event celebrating Latin American cultures through music, dance and food.

54. Ten of the events described in paragraphs 52 - 53 above have been recommended to receive the full amount of funding requested in their application. Two events have been recommended for a slightly reduced amount of funding in order to broaden the range of events that can be supported (Camberwell Arts Festival: £4,000 instead of £6,000 requested and Peckham Platform: £8,736 instead of £10,000 requested).

Policy framework implications

55. The proposals in this report will deliver on the Southwark Stands Together commitments, The Borough Plan and The Fairer Future Promises.

56. The proposals support the Southwark Stands Together recommendation in the September 2020 cabinet report to:

"Review the Council's grants to make sure they develop the best value for communities and remove barriers to equal access to funding, particularly for Black, Asian or minority ethnic groups".

57. The proposals also support the Council Delivery Plan commitment to:

"fund local community groups to deliver events and festivals that showcase the diverse histories, music, food and art of our communities".

58. The grants will also enable continued delivery against the Council's Culture Strategy, Creative Southwark. In particular delivering against commitments to ensure that Southwark continues to be a borough for cultural excellence, that cultural venues, spaces and provision are protected, preserved and grown, that the cultural sector is supported to be resilient in the changing financial and political climate, that Southwark's diverse communities have access to cultural opportunities and that creative programmes help support residents to lead to healthier lives.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

59. Recent studies have concluded that the two most influential factors for attendance and participation in cultural activities are educational attainment and socio-economic background. At a local level, our research shows that affordability and knowing what's on are the main factors hindering participation and attendance.
60. The activities delivered with support from the Culture Together Grants and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants recommended for funding in this report will have a positive impact on a range of communities across the borough who will benefit from increased opportunities to engage in cultural activity that is free at the point of delivery.
61. There will be an estimated 54,091 beneficiaries (including audience members and participants) across 10 wards who will be positively impacted by the funded activity.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

62. The Culture Together Grants and Cultural Celebrations Fund Equalities Impact and Needs Analyses (Background Documents) detail the positive impacts of the funded activities resulting from the grants recommended in this report, and ways to mitigate any potential negative impact on local communities.

Health impact statement

63. These grants will facilitate our residents' and communities' access to arts and culture, which is highly beneficial for mental health and plays a key role in wellbeing. It can lead to higher levels of happiness, boost self-confidence and self-esteem and help connect with others. This is particularly important in Southwark, which has a higher than average population percentage suffering with mental health issues and social isolation, particularly following the effects of the pandemic and cost of living crisis..

Climate change implications

64. All grant recipients will be required to observe the Council's Climate Strategy and, where relevant, the Events Environmental Sustainability Guide in order to reduce carbon emissions linked to the funded activities.
65. 'Big Grants' recipients will be expected to use the creative green tools developed by Julie's Bicycle (carbon foot-printing tool whose use is required by Arts Council England for their National Portfolio Organisations) to understand and monitor the environmental impact of their funded activities.
66. Officers will use the learning from this work with providers to develop specifications and scoring criteria on climate change for future grant rounds.

Resource implications

67. The grants funding awards will be delivered within existing resources.

Legal implications

68. Please see the concurrent report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance) below.

Financial implications

69. The cost of the Culture Together Grants and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants programme in 2023/24 is £239,267.50. This is contained within existing budgets of £245,893 (cost code LH237-66701 & CM717-66701) which is enough to cover the funding award recommendations in this report.

70. Staff and any other grant monitoring costs connected with this proposal will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

Consultation

71. Organisations from the cultural sector were consulted on the design of the grants programmes before their respective development and launch; further feedback has been continually invited through the application processes each year and from previous funding recipients of both programmes.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance

72. This report seeks approval of funding allocations to the organisations listed in the tables at paragraphs 39-40 and 52-53 to enable them to deliver their projects under the Culture Together and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants programmes.

73. Paragraphs 9 to 37 set out the details of the grant funded programmes, which align with Southwark Stands Together objectives. The report notes from paragraphs 9 – 20 and 21 - 37 that a transparent, robust and accessible process has been followed in order to attract and evaluate applications for funding, and paragraphs 36 and 46-51 confirm the proposed arrangements for performance monitoring and payment of grant allocations.

74. Paragraphs 60 - 63 note that the grant programmes are intended to target and benefit a range of communities across the borough who will benefit from increased opportunities to engage in cultural activity that is free at the point of delivery. The Equalities Impact and Needs Analyses detail the positive effects of the proposed grant allocations and their production is consistent with the requirements of the council's statutory duty (the Public Sector Equality Duty) as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010, which requires the council to have due

regard to the needs of individuals and groups having a protected characteristic under the Act.

75. The decision to approve the Recommendation is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the council Constitution.
76. The funding allocations made to the successful organisations will be regulated by appropriate legal terms and conditions.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (ENG23/003)

77. The report seeks the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Streets & Clean Air to approve the Culture Together and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants award recommendations for 2023/24 for £239,267.50 funding, as detailed in the body of the report above.
78. 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 grants are met.
79. Staffing, subsequent grant monitoring and any other costs connected with this proposal to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Culture Grants Review and 2022/23 Commissioning Plan https://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7454	Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Name: Eva Gomez, Head of Culture Phone number: 0207 525 7246
Culture Together Grants funding award recommendations EINA	Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Name: Eva Gomez, Head of Culture Phone number: 0207 525 7246
Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants funding award recommendations EINA	Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Name: Eva Gomez, Head of Culture Phone number: 0207 525 7246

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Equality Impact and Needs Analysis: Culture Together Grants 2023/24 Funding Award Recommendations
Appendix 2	Equality Impact and Needs Analysis: Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants 2023/24 - Funding Award Recommendations

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure	
Report Author	Michelle Walker, Culture & Events Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	10 April 2023	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	11 April 2023	