

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 12 March 2024	<b>Decision Maker:</b> Cabinet Member for Communities, Democracy and Finance
<b>Report title:</b>		Culture Together Grants and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants 2024/25 Funding Award Recommendations	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Culture	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Communities, Democracy and Finance review and approve the recommendations for Culture Together Grants and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants for 2024/25 to 27 organisations as set out in paragraphs 40 and 53, to a total of £245,799.

## 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, and was delivered again in 2023/24, with funding awarded to 10 borough-based organisations in both the first and second year.
5. Criteria for the fund explicitly sought to address inequality within the cultural sector, with a particular focus on supporting activity that celebrated, or initiated change, in 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. £95,000 funding was awarded to 12 events in 2023-24.
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"

### Culture Together Grants 2024/25

#### Application process

9. The third year of the Culture Together Grants fund opened for applications on 11 December 2023 and closed on 24 January 2024. The 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, sex, sexual orientation 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 70 bookings translating into 49 attendees across four sessions (an 11% and 29% increase from 62 and 35, respectively in 2023/24). Direct support via phone and email was available from the Culture Team during office hours throughout the application window.
13. Following the closing date, 59 applications were received via the online portal. 55 of these were deemed eligible on initial review. 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 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025

- 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
  - Applicants provided supporting documentation including a copy of organisation's governance documents, 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, four more applications were confirmed to be ineligible as they did not meet one or more of the core criteria.
16. The resulting 52 applications taken forward were from a broad range of organisations, spanning multiple art-forms within the cultural sector, engaging a diverse range of beneficiaries and representing a good geographic spread across the borough. This is a 33% increase in the eligible number of applications received in 2023/24 (35), which is likely to be due to the increased support for applicants and promotion through specific networks such as Community Southwark.
17. Equalities monitoring data submitted by applicants show that approximately 44% of the eligible applications submitted were from Black, Asian and minority ethnic led organisations. 31% 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 37% of the available funding.

#### Evaluation and scoring of applications

18. A panel including one council culture officer, two community representatives and two members of Southwark's Youth Parliament reviewed and individually scored the 52 eligible applications against the published criteria. Four of the five panel members have lived experience of racial inequality.
19. Each panel member scored using a 0 - 4 scoring matrix 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. Applications successfully meeting the above criteria were discussed at a panel moderation meeting. The 13 organisations recommended for funding by the panel are detailed in paragraphs 39-40 below. The panel ensured a programme of activities that is diverse in art-form, geography and area of focus were recommended. In order to ensure all 13 recommended organisations receive funding, it has been necessary to reduced awards to all, with particular attention given to the proposed budgets and scalability informing the recommended funding amounts. This has ensured the broadest range of the highest scoring applications is funded. This approach means that with the same available overall funding as in previous years, this year there will be 13 projects funded, three more than in both 22/23 and 23/24 when 10 projects were funded each year.

## Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants 2024/25

### Application & Selection Process

21. Further to the publication of the call-out for applications on 11 December 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. 1-2-1 sessions were held with applicants between the 9-18 January. The application deadline was 24 January 2024.
23. 48 applications were received through the council's online funding portal (this compares to 36 the previous year), all of which met the eligibility criteria of the event organiser having proof of a current bank statement / account, the proposed event taking place between 1 May 2024 – 31 March 2025, or the proposed event taking place in a public open space managed by Southwark Council.
24. The 48 eligible applications were reviewed and scored by a selection panel that comprised:
  - Southwark Council Culture & Events Manager
  - Southwark Council Consultation and Involvement Officer
  - Southwark Black Culture Conversation steering group member
  - National Management Trainee
25. 14 applicants were shortlisted and invited to interview on 12 February 2024.
26. The external panel member was paid from the council's events budget for their time and expertise in reviewing, scoring, shortlisting and interviewing the applications and event organisers.
27. 14 events recommended for funding are detailed in paragraphs 52-53 below, which is two more than in 2023-24.
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 May 2024 – 31 March 2025
  - 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 were assessed and scored by the panel 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. Applications successfully meeting the above criteria were then reviewed by the panel, including interviews, to ensure a diverse programme of events across the borough. Particular attention was given to the proposed events viability, track

record and proposed budgets in order to inform the recommended funding amounts with some applications receiving more or less depending on the panel's assessments.

34. 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](#).
35. 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.
36. 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

37. 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. Event organisers will also be encouraged to calculate the carbon footprint of their event.
38. 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 2024/25

39. The panel's funding award recommendations include 13 funding awards totaling £151,549.00.
40. A summary of the funding award recommendations to the 13 organisations is set out below.

Organisation	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Big / Small Grant	Change-making / Amplifying	Ward	Artform	Anticipated beneficiaries*
Art In The Park	10,000	7,500	Small	Amplifying	Faraday	Visual Art / Interdisciplinary	450
Bermondsey Artists Group (Southwark Park Galleries)	21,265	11,695	Big	Change-making	Rotherhithe	Visual Art	15,000
Blue Elephant Theatre	24,002	10,000	Small	Change-making	Camberwell Green	Theatre	450
British Youth Music Theatre	24,995	15,000	Big	Amplifying	Rye Lane	Theatre / Dance	70
Peckham Platform	25,000	15,000	Big	Amplifying	Peckham	Literature / Storytelling	8,000
Philharmonia Orchestra	19,300	11,500	Big	Change-making	Borough & Bankside	Music	2,135
Queer Diary CIC	20,119	10,000	Small	Change-making	Dulwich Wood	Literature / Interdisciplinary	680
Siobhan Davies Dance	9,965	7,450	Small	Change-making	St. George's	Dance	1,079
South London Gallery	25,000	15,100	Big	Change-making	St. Giles	Visual Art	3,000
Southwark Black Parents' Forum	25,000	14,900	Big	Amplifying	Old Kent Rd.	Interdisciplinary	25,000
Staffordshire Street	18,000	10,804	Small	Change-making	Peckham	Interdisciplinary	1,504
Theatre Peckham	24,991	15,100	Big	Amplifying	Peckham	Theatre	365
Time and Talent	9,980	7,500	Small	Amplifying	Rotherhithe	Visual Art	80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£257,617</b>	<b>£151,549</b>					<b>57,813*</b>

\*noting p.42 with regards to revised anticipated beneficiaries

41. Each project is summarised below:

#### Art in the Park

A series of all-age summer workshops exploring the theme Around the World in Burgess Park, 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.

#### Bermondsey Artists Group (Southwark Park Galleries)

A series of activities marking the organisation's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, building on two years of developing Global Majority and hyperlocal audiences. Activities include two artist commissions, artist led tours, free-to-access intergenerational workshops, training for the organisation's workforce.

#### Blue Elephant Theatre

A 'small festival' of artistic activities curated by the organisation's expanded Youth Board, including a multisensory family show developed and co-created with young people who have complex access and communication needs, in partnership with John Ruskin Primary School's Language Unit, and Highshore School.

#### British Youth Music Theatre

Building on a collaboration between British Youth Music Theatre and integrated dance company Candoco, leading to the devising of a new piece of music theatre with a group of disabled and non-disabled young people. Outreach and engagement days at Mountview and taster days in Southwark schools will culminate in a four-day devising project and sharing at Candoco's Day of Dance.

#### Philharmonia Orchestra

Supporting targeted delivery of the organisation's Orchestra Unwrapped education programme in Southwark schools. Project includes INSET training, music making workshops, resource packs and access to concert performances for school children and teachers. The programme will complement the Model Music curriculum and National Plan for Music Education.

#### Peckham Platform

Ten intergenerational artist-led gatherings and workshops focused on Peckham "Aunties", gathering stories from women who relocated to Peckham in the first period of post-colonial migration. Ten at-risk histories collected and recorded by three commissioned artists working with 50 participants, shared at live events and through a digital community archive supported by partners UAL and Black Cultural Archives.

#### Queer Diary CIC

Regular creative workshops for LGBTQIA+ people in Southwark to socialise and express themselves through crafting. The organisation will undertake training and increase resource to improve accessibility for LGBTQIA+ people who are D/deaf, disabled, or experience poor mental health, meeting the need for more inclusive LGBTQIA+ events and activities. Workshop participants will create and publish a zine sharing coming-of-age stories from local people.

#### Siobhan Davies Dance

Training and skills development for staff to support audience engagement and improve access and pastoral support across two of the company's participation strands. Includes creative exchange sessions with participants in partnership with Southwark Disablement Association and Southwark Black Parents Forum, three family arts events and the company aims to attain Sanctuary of Arts accreditation.

#### South London Gallery

Increased support for the gallery's Schools Programme 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.

#### Southwark Black Parents' Forum

Project celebrating Black heritage and culture, challenging Eurocentric narratives and tying-in with Black History Month. Three strands of activity including a schools' dance and drama project celebrating Ghanaian heritage, a photographic exhibition presented in four cultural spaces / galleries celebrating the contribution of the West African Regiments, and a forum exploring the experiences of the Windrush generation.

#### Staffordshire Street

Expansion of the public programme, reaching new and deepening engagement with existing audiences. Programme includes four art exhibitions, two design shows, two community heritage projects, two participatory art festivals and one sustainability week. Project includes a learning programme and additional regular events (music, performance, poetry) alongside exhibitions, platforming underrepresented emerging artists for local audiences.

#### Theatre Peckham

A programme supporting training, showcasing, production and performance opportunities for a range of young people including the Academy (ages 3-16) – which provides young people with their first taste of the arts; and Young Peckham (ages 17-25), a more in-depth skills development training programme for creatives and performers considering careers within the arts.

#### Time and Talent

Local residents will co-create a feature mosaic for the Old Mortuary, celebrating the impact and experiences Time & Talents has provided over its 137-year history. The mosaic will be representative of local core values identified by participants and unveiled during a summer celebration event. The project includes workshops in cooperative storytelling, painting and map-making.

42. The panel recommendations include eight 'Big Grant' funding awards at 55-60% of the amount that the applicants 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 scale and 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 75% of the amount applicants requested. Two 'Small Grants' have been recommended to applicants who applied for 'Big Grants' on the basis that these projects can be scaled accordingly, ensuring tiered support for continuing programmes and multi-stranded activities.
43. 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	LGB+ sexual orientation	Trans and non-binary	Female
Total Southwark population	49%	14%	8%	1.2%	50%
Southwark working age (16-64 years) population	46%	13%	8%	1.3%	36%

44. 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), one will address LGBTQI+ representation and access, and two will address accessibility for disabled audiences.

Org name	Focus area	Target group Black, Asian and minority ethnic (all ages)	LGBTQI+	Disabled (working age)	Change-making	Amplifying
Art In The Park	Artistic Content					
Bermondsey Artists Group (Southwark Park Galleries)	Audiences					
Blue Elephant Theatre	Artistic Content					
British Youth Music Theatre	Audiences					
Peckham Platform	Audiences					
Philharmonia Orchestra	Audiences					
Queer Diary CIC	Audiences					
Siobhan Davies Dance	Workforce					
South London Gallery	Audiences					
Southwark Black Parents' Forum	Audiences					
Staffordshire Street	Artistic Content					
Theatre Peckham	Artistic Content					
Time and Talent	Audiences					

45. In summary, the above portfolio comprises:

- 7 change-making grants; 6 amplifying grants
- 8 big grants (receiving 40-60% of the amount requested); 3 small grants (receiving 75% of the amount requested); 2 small grants reclassified from big grant applications

- 9 grants addressing racial inequality; 1 grant addressing sexual orientation; 3 grants addressing inequality on the grounds of disability
  - 4 grants for the Artistic Content focus area; 8 grants for Audiences; 1 grant for Workforce
  - 1 grant to Dance, 1 grant to Music, 3 grants to Theatre, 4 grants to Visual Arts, 4 grants to Interdisciplinary Artforms
  - 3 grants to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic-led projects / organisations (representing 48% of the total grants amount)
  - Wards benefiting from funded projects (10): Faraday, Camberwell Green, Dulwich Wood, London Bridge & West Bermondsey, Old Kent Rd., Peckham, Rotherhithe, Rye Lane, St. George's, St. Giles.
46. There will be an estimated 57,813 beneficiaries who will be positively impacted by the funded activities. 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.
47. 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.
48. 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.
49. 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.
50. 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.
51. 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.
52. 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 2024/25**

53. The following 14 event applications have been recommended for funding awards by the selection panel totaling a £94,250 allocation:

	Event Organiser	Event title	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Event Date	Event Location	Ward
1	The Blue BID	The Bermondsey Carnival	10,000	10,000	26 August	Southwark Park	Rotherhithe
2	Bankside Open Spaces Trust	BOST community festival	9,607	10,000	8 June	Red Cross Way & Union Street	Borough & Bankside
3	Mint Street Music Festival CIC	Mint Street Music Festival – 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	3,680	6,500	13 July	Mint Street Park	Borough & Bankside
4	Candoco Dance Company	Day of Dance	10,000	10,000	3 August	Peckham Square	Peckham
5	Kingdom Thirst CIC	United Cultural Festival	10,000	5,250	31 August	Burgess Park	Faraday
6	Black Stock Media	The Windrush Culture Market – Let's Get Together and Feel All Right	10,000	5,250	17 August	Camberwell Green	Camberwell Green
7	London Dreamtime	Our World – storytelling festival	5,671	7,000	6 July	Southwark Park	Rotherhithe
8	Somerville Youth and Play Provision	Generations in Bloom	10,000	4,750	1-2 June	Bermondsey Spa Gardens	South Bermondsey
9	Peckham Platform	Memories for the future: social gathering on Peckham Square	10,000	10,000	24 August	Peckham Square	Peckham
10	Peckham Park Road Baptist Church	We Love Peckham	2,000	2,000	30 June	Peckham Rye Park	Peckham Rye
11	Greenland Dock Festival CIC	Greenland Dock Festival	10,000	5,000	1 December – 6 January	South Dock Marina and Greenland Dock surroundings	Surrey Docks
12	Carnaval Del Pueblo Association	Carnaval del Pueblo	10,000	10,000	4August	Burgess Park	Faraday
13	Kingswood Arts CIC	Kingswood Estate Family Fun Day!	6,000	4,650	18 August	Kingswood Estate (publicly accessible common area)	Dulwich Wood
14	Friends of Nunhead Cemetery	Nunhead Cemetery open day	3,850	3,850 12	18 May	Nunhead Cemetery	Nunhead and Queen's Road
		<b>Total</b>	<b>110,808</b>	<b>94,250</b>			

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

- The Blue BID: **Bermondsey Carnival** is a valued annual community event, where those from less fortunate social status can come together in a shared community experience and enjoy a memorable day out in their local park. Featuring info stalls, arts and craft stalls, food and drink, craft area, children's activities, a wellbeing hub, roving entertainers, funfair, Inflatables, trampolines and more.
- 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.
- Mint Street Music Festival CIC: **Mint Street Music Festival** seeks to ensure that the range of performers that feature at the event, reflects and celebrates the diversity of the borough. Live music performances, information and activity stalls, food and drink, children's activities and more.
- Candoco Dance Company: **Day of Dance** - providing local residents with free opportunities to watch professional and community dance performances by disabled and non-disabled performers, and participate in inclusive workshops for all. Day of Dance will showcase 'Burst!' and will provide opportunities for local professional companies in Southwark to lead workshops and perform their own work.
- Kingdom Thirst CIC: **United Cultural Festival** - the mission is to tackle the issue of division, crime, racism, and discrimination through uniting people. This event is an opportunity to bring the local community together and different cultures to educate them about the various cultures in Southwark and the customs they have, increasing community cohesion. Food, games, dancing, information on histories, traditions and customs and more.
- Black Stock Media: **The Windrush Culture Market – Let's Get Together and Feel All Right** is a celebration of the legacies of Sam King, Southwark's first Black Mayor and Windrush pioneer, and Dr Harold Moody, leading community pioneer: two extraordinary Southwark heroes whose legacies we will showcase through the contributions of craftsmanship, youth enterprise, performance arts, entrepreneurship of excellence.
- London Dreamtime: **Our World – storytelling festival** 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.
- Somerville Youth and Play Provision: **Generations in Bloom** is an inclusive cross-generational event that seeks to bring together the diverse communities of Southwark in a shared outdoor experience. Craft stations, gardening, music and dance, fitness and wellbeing, food and drink.

- Peckham Platform: **Memories for the future: social gathering on Peckham Square** is a one-day activation of Peckham Square, featuring artistic performances, food, music and intergenerational activities. Building on previous successful events delivered by Peckham Platform on the site, the event brings the square to life reconnecting local communities to shared spaces and the public realm.
  - Peckham Park Road Baptist Church: **We Love Peckham** - will be a day of celebration and community engagement. It will build on what the church have done previously with this event at Peckham Square. This has involved community engagement with music, the spoken word, drama and opportunity for participation.
  - Greenland Dock Festival CIC: **Greenland Dock Festival** - A night of Carols at the Docks and new activity: "Fun Ceilidh Night", as part of the "Dancing Together Nights" programme being implemented for 2024.
  - Carnaval del Pueblo Association: **Carnaval del Pueblo** - a community carnival event celebrating Latin American cultures through music, dance and food.
  - Kingswood Arts CIC: **Kingswood Estate Family Fun Day!** - a family fun day that is open to all, fully inclusive and free to attend. This outdoor event will take place in the Kingswood housing estate and is aimed at community cohesion and to engage as many local people as possible. The food and activities on the day will reflect the diverse culture of people on Kingswood estate. There will be performances from local acts; craft activities for children; various food stalls including Nigerian food cooked by a local resident and provided free to all; public exhibition of artworks created by local young people at Kingswood Arts; stalls, games, music and dance.
  - Friends of Nunhead Cemetery: **Nunhead Cemetery open day** - various FONC and other community group/charity organisations stalls providing information/activities and sales related to the heritage and environmental objectives of FONC. Free conducted tours and crypt visits; plant and refreshment sales stalls; choirs/poetry/morris dancing. Horse drawn and historic motor hearses are on display and promenade down the Main Avenue as scheduled. Children's events include bug-hunting, badge making, clay modelling and, subject to confirmation, face painting. Craft demonstrations of woodland bodging, natural dyes etc. take place.
55. Ten of the events described in paragraphs 52 - 53 above have been recommended to receive the full amount of funding requested in their application. Three of these have been allocated more funding than they requested based on their circumstances and the quality of their applications and interviews. Five events have been recommended for a lower amount of funding than requested. The way in which the funding was allocated was intended to broaden the range and number of events that the fund can support.

### **Policy framework implications**

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

57. 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”.*

58. 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”.

59. 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**

60. 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.
61. 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.
62. There will be an estimated total 100,618 beneficiaries (including audience members and participants) across 15 wards who will be positively impacted by the funded activity. CCF estimated attendance figures based on application data is 43,199 across 10 wards. CTG estimated attendance figures based on application data is 57,419 across 10 wards.

### **Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement**

63. 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**

64. 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**

65. 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.
66. '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.
67. 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**

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

### **Legal implications**

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

### **Financial implications**

70. The cost of the Culture Together Grants and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants programme in 2024/25 is £245,799. This is contained within existing budgets of £245,893 (cost code LH237-66701 & CM717-66701&66402) which is enough to cover the funding award recommendations in this report.
71. Staff and any other grant monitoring costs connected with this proposal will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

### **Consultation**

72. 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)**

73. This report seeks approval of funding allocations to the organisations listed in the tables at paragraphs 40 and 53 to enable them to deliver their projects under the Culture Together and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants programmes for 2024/25.



74. Paragraphs 9 to 38 set out the details of the grant funded programmes, which align with Southwark Stands Together objectives. The report notes that a transparent, robust and accessible process has been followed in order to attract and evaluate applications for funding, and paragraphs 37 and 47-48 confirm the proposed arrangements for performance monitoring and payment of grant allocations.
75. Paragraphs 61 - 62 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 report notes that Equalities Impact and Needs Analyses have been produced and which 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.
76. The decision to approve the Recommendation is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the council Constitution.
77. The funding allocations made to the successful organisations will be regulated by appropriate legal terms and conditions.

**Strategic Director of Finance (ENG23/167)**

78. The report seeks the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Communities, Democracy and Finance to review and approve the recommendations for Culture Together Grants and Cultural Celebrations Fund Grants for 2024/25 to 27 organisations to a total of £245,799, as set out in paragraphs 40 and 53, as detailed in the body of the report above.
79. The Strategic Director of Finance 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.
80. 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 <a href="https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7454">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7454</a>	Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Name: Eva Gomez, Head of Culture Phone number: 0207 525 7246
Culture Together and Cultural Celebrations Grants funding EINA	Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Name: Eva Gomez, Head of Culture Phone number: 0207 525 7246

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Toni Ainge, Acting Strategic Director Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth	
<b>Report Author</b>	Alex James, Senior Culture Officer and Charlie Simm, Senior Events Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	7 March 2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance & Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
List other officers here	n/a	
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	12 March 2024	