

County Library and Information Service – Creative Space Design programme

Amount requested: £10,000

Period requested: July 2008-March 2009

Type of funding: Lancashire Strategic Arts Fund (LSAF)

Activities for which the grant is being used:

For the purposes of this project the Lancashire Arts Development Service (LADS) and the County Library & Information Service (CLIS) are responding to recent government incentives, to develop the culture offer for young people by collaborating to develop a pilot programme which will engage young people in a creative design process to develop and implement designs for new spaces within 3 Lancashire Libraries.

The model which LADS and the CLIS will pursue places 'process' at the heart of the project, and will aim to deliver a model that can be transferred to any library wishing to engage in a re-development programme.

Due to the complex demands faced by libraries in providing for an ever-changing intergenerational, multicultural, and mixed ability user group, they are often pressed to provide spaces conducive to all the various needs placed upon them. In taking on this programme which aims to bring together young people, existing users, library staff, artists', architects, and interior designers, the participating libraries will have the opportunity to work through these issues creatively to develop design solutions to some of these issues.

Project Outcomes

- Young people working with creative professionals to inform planning processes through design
- A model of best practice for the CLIS which can be transferred to other libraries in the County
- High quality creative activities in areas where little previous activity has been available
- Developed confidence of young people in creative design
- Skills development of young people working with creative professionals

Project Outputs

- 3 fully worked up and costed design concepts for new youth spaces within Lancashire libraries
- A minimum of 1 fully realised space for young people
- New tools created with young people that communicate their opinions, needs and feelings about engaging with cultural facilities in the 21st century, and recommendations as to how they would like to work with libraries in the future

The cost of running the pilot programme would be £25,000 which includes £5,000 to cover the fees for a project co-ordinator and £6,500 for each of the three libraries to cover materials, workshops and fees for the architects, artists, and interior designers making up the design teams. A contingency of £500 has also been allocated towards the project.

The CLIS are minded to invest £15,000 into the project leaving a shortfall of £10,000.

Officer comments:

This project will offer young people the opportunity to creatively engage with the future of their areas. Many of the libraries are within districts of low income, high levels of deprivation, high levels of transience with limited opportunities to improve their neighbourhood and quality of life. The young people of these areas have had limited previous opportunities to be involved in arts activity. The creative design programme offers a real opportunity to engage in creative activity as a catalyst for change. Creative professionals and young people will work together on participatory arts activity (in whichever art form and type seems most appropriate). Artists will work alongside architects, interior designers, library staff and other professionals in the high quality design and implementation of new schemes.

With reference to the core principles of 'Ambition Lancashire', this project contributes to the achievement of participation and sustainability for future generations through engaging communities in the regeneration of their neighbourhoods.

Officer Recommendation:

That £10,000 from the Lancashire Strategic Arts Fund comprising (£5,000 from LCC and £5,000 from ACE, NW), be earmarked towards the project pending further development and confirmation of CLIS investment.

ii) Lancashire Youth Offending Team (LYOT) Induction Training Course for Artists.

Amount requested: £6,575

Period requested: July - October 2008

Type of funding: LSAF

Activities for which the grant is being used:

LYOT's Making Space initiative is recruiting, training and nurturing a team of specialist artist-educators with knowledge, understanding and experience of working in a YOT context. A training course is being delivered in October 08 which will competitively recruit and develop high calibre artists from across Lancashire and the North West to work with challenging young people. This programme is being developed in partnership with Prescap, Ornette Clennon, (an experienced artist-educator and evaluator), LYOT staff and other creative trainers.

Working in partnership, Lancashire Youth Offending Team (LYOT) delivers a quality service to reduce and prevent offending by children and young people. LYOT comprises 6 community based YOTs, 1 custody based YOT at Lancaster Farms, and 8 community based early intervention programmes, GRIP and YIP. They work with a range of young people at risk of offending and re-offending, between 10-17 years within YOTs, and 6-17 years through early intervention programmes.

Making Space is LYOT's emerging arts-based learning programme, now entering into its second year. It aims to embed arts-based learning into the intervention and prevention practices across the County through collaborative practice between staff, artists and clients, and through partnerships with arts and cultural organisations.

This training programme aims to:

- To recruit and train a core team of artists to work with young people and staff across the youth justice sector in Lancashire.
- To promote an ethos of collaborative practise between YOT staff and artists.
- To offer artists opportunities for further training and development within this sector.
- To evaluate the course with participants and trainers to assess its

- effectiveness in preparing artists for working in LYOT contexts.
- Leave a legacy that provides a core team of trained artists with knowledge and understanding of the LYOT context.

LYOT is investing a significant part of the Making Space budget into skilling-up artists for working in the sector. The organisation is also preparing an application to Grants for the Arts to support an ambitious delivery programme from Autumn 08 – 09.

Officer Comments:

This training programme has been thoroughly researched and planned in partnership with LCC Arts Development Service, Prescap, experienced artist-educators and evaluators and other creative organisations. It will be widely advertised to competitively recruit high calibre artists from across the region, providing CPD and employment opportunities. The programme has been designed to have maximum impact and value, and will leave a legacy of trained creative practitioners who can work with LYOT in the future.

LCC Arts Development Service worked closely with LYOT and Arts Council England to establish the Making Space initiative and appoint the Art Development Worker post.

The total budget for delivery of the training is £13,150. Matched income from LYOT and Prescap totals £6,575.

The project proposal supports the following Corporate Objectives (1,2,4,5,7) to make Lancashire a place where people can feel Safe; live healthy lives; learn and develop; have jobs and a good standard of living; enjoy a high quality environment. Its work promotes community engagement and cohesion by providing opportunities for audiences and participants from diverse backgrounds to share experiences and develop skills and mutual understanding.

Officer Recommendation:

To award a grant of £6,575 for delivery of the training programme in 2008/9.