

18th March 2019



Dear Lewisham Members and Officers

We would like to make representation to the Council regarding the outcome of the 2019-22 Grants funding round.

GLYPT has always believed in the strength of its relationship with the Council and are grateful for the support we have received, both historically and through this current funding round. We have worked hard to develop partnerships and collaborations that deliver Lewisham's aims and ambitions. As detailed in our original application (Q.28) we have already been successful in securing an additional £241,000 for the next three year funding cycle. We used our current level of Lewisham funding to leverage additional resources to directly invest in the borough. The effect of the proposed decrease on our future fundraising capabilities should not be underestimated.

We are fully aware that the Council was under huge pressure to make cuts and had considered it likely we would be subject to this, along with most in the sector. However, we felt we had made a compelling case for your support; no longer offering work solely for young people but an extensive, comprehensive and (as the Assessment Sheet feedback acknowledges) ambitious programme including 1) participation opportunities for 5-18's; 2) training, tangible career pathways and increased employability for 16-25's in the South of the Borough through Progression; 3) touring and programming theatre in the Fellowship; 4) a wider programme of Engaging the Community and Elders using the Fellowship resource, this includes Comedy, Music and Participatory projects. However, the Assessment states that "This level of funding is in line with main grants awards to other performing arts based organisations working with young people in the borough". We are being compared directly to fellow youth arts organisations (at a level of £35,000) whereas we are offering a much broader vision and a significant offer to communities in Lewisham.

GLYPT have spent the last two years investing in its relationship with Phoenix Housing and Electric Star (the new Publicans of the Fellowship Inn). We have been a key organisation in the set-up of BRAG (Bellingham Regeneration Arts Group) and have become a strategic lynchpin for engaging the whole community (not just young people). We have developed a partnership that for the first time will allow us to be 'in residence' in the Fellowship Inn, giving GLYPT a building base to operate from in the South of the Borough. We have positioned ourselves as a key agency ensuring that the building will provide impactful opportunities for Lewisham's local hard to engage communities within the commercial framework that the publicans operate: A high quality arts organisation operating on their behalf and offering arts engagement and cultural activity that has never before been in place. This was backed up by the significant level of partnership funding we had already secured, and are looking to invest.

In the feedback on Question 9 on the Assessment, it comments that "No specific commitment is made, however, as to how the Council's Funding would be used to bring in Funding from other sources" – GLYPT had much to outline in this question, so we additionally used Question 28 ("points you want to bring to the attention of the Council") to give a full and detailed account of funds already obtained (not theoretical but actual) amounting to £145,000 - 2019/2020, £74,000 - 2020/2021 and £22,000 2021/2022. We would ask that this is fully taken into consideration. In the same question (part A) the Assessment comments that we answered in 243 words out of 500; this is incorrect - it was 496 words. Does this mean that half of this answer was not considered? This was also the question consequently where we scored the lowest mark - 3.

As detailed in question 10, receiving only 50 % of our funding would have a seismic impact on what we can offer to the public and the Council in terms of additional leverage and the breadth of work we can offer. We would appreciate your review of this decision, not in terms of expecting no cut but, in terms of the scale of the cut that has been applied to our programme. We believe that Lewisham communities will lose proportionately more than the real cost to the council – the reduction of some of our participatory programmes including the mental health programme for 8-14's, the withdrawal of our training and employment programme and a heavily reduced community engagement offer, all of which will damage opportunities for some of the most needy communities in the borough.