

Main Grants 2017-18 report

Name of organisation	Montage Theatre Arts
Date of meeting	1 Sept 2016
Names and positions of attendees	Julie Clare – General Manager, Montage Theatre Arts Andy Thomas – Cultural Development Manager, London Borough of Lewisham Nancy Stridgen – Cultural Development Officer, London Borough of Lewisham

Group Name: Montage Theatre Arts	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total funding received 2015-16	7,500	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
Total funding to be received 2016-17	10,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young people actively involved in performing arts to provide enjoyment, increase knowledge and experience of practical performance 2. Young people provided with structured arts learning with defined progression routes 3. Barriers reduced to allow young people to take part in arts activity 4. Engagement with performance opportunities at a local and national level 5. Young people actively engaged in artistic programming and arts administration 6. Lewisham children participate in performing arts activity outside of MTA core programme 7. Adults actively involved in performing arts to provide enjoyment, gain experience of practical performance and improve health and well-being 8. Audience opportunities made available to wider community to allow exposure to arts activity 9. Experience of working in the arts sector increased through various vocational training routes 10. Use reputation of MTA for the creation of new artistic work in and for the residents of the borough 11. Participation and engagement in arts networks and partnerships with other organisations 12. Actively seek alternative funding streams and sources to implement engaging and relevant activity 				

Outputs:	2015-16 Target	2015-16 Q2	2015-16 Q3	2015-16 Q4	2015-16 Total	% Achieved	2016-17 Target	2016-17 Q1	2016-17 Q2	% Achieved TD
1. 30 out-of-school classes each week involving over 300 individual students aged 3-18 (reduced target and output due to Summer Holidays) - Classes	861	141	504	867	867	101%	300	385		128%
1b. Students	300	330	330	330	322	107%	300	405		135%
2. Annual week long holiday programme at Easter for 65 students aged 3-14	65	0	0	61	61	94%	n/a	n/a		specific Q
3. Annual three week summer holiday programme for 230 students aged 3-14	230	230	0	0	230	100%	n/a	n/a		specific Q
4. Week long holiday course in half terms for 40 students	80	0	40	80	80	100%	n/a	n/a		specific Q
4b. 2 day holiday programme at Christmas for up to 80 students	2	0	2	0	2	100%	n/a	n/a		specific Q
5. Initial series of 4 classes following exam syllabuses from leading national arts institutions, creating structured learning environment without pressure of compulsory assessment.	88	2	57	110	110	125%	44	44		100%
6. Provide an option to gain nationally recognised qualification if desired through examination. (Numbers taking exam.)	No target	17	17	17	17	Exams taken in 16/17	No target	36		No target
7. Concessionary rates for lower income families in all core programme classes. Number of concessions	No target	143	277	400	400	No target	20%	(103) 22%		110%
7b. Concessionary rates for lower income families in all holiday programmes (half term and Christmas Holiday).	No target	5	11	15	15	No target	n/a	n/a		specific Q

8. Free scholarship places in main programme for 12 identified students from disadvantaged backgrounds, value of £2.5k per term	12	11	11	12	12	100%	10	10		100%
9. number of new young volunteers to assist with management	4	5	5	7	7	100%	4	9		225%
10. Young people to have creative input into classes to allow sense of ownership YOUTH PANEL MEETINGS (scholarships)	1	1	1	1	1	100%	1	1		100%
11. Youth Panel Members (scholarships)	12	11	11	10	10	83% see note below	4	10		250%
12. Apprenticeship offered each year	1	1	1	1	1	100%	1	0		specific Q
13. Provide services to Lewisham schools in performing arts classes – Classes per week.	1	1	1	2	2	200%	2	2		100%
14. Two weekly classes in dance and drama for the over 55s, involving 50 participants CLASSES (cumulative)	53	9	31	53	53	100%	24	24		100%
14b. Number of Participants	20	20	29	29	29	145%	20	20		100%
15. Work with a number of older volunteers who work behind the scenes to help MTA's work	10	12	20	20	20	200%	3	6		200%
16. Termly demonstrations for parents/families of those taking part in classes - 30 classes a week (cumulative)	90	35	68	101	101	122%	0	0		specific Q
17. Large scale community performance at major venue	1	0	1	7	7	700%	n/a	n/a		specific Q

18. Work with partners to secure free/reduced price tickets to performances/shows	No target	3	5	7	7	No target	1	2		200%
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1. Remove funding from under-performing groups/those performing least well

Have you achieved at least 90% of the agreed reporting outputs and outcomes in all quarters since the start of the programme?

Montage Theatre Arts (MTA) has over achieved on all outputs except one. Mitigating circumstances are provided below.

322 young people regularly participate in high quality dance, drama and singing classes and are given the opportunity to train with high quality tutors, take examinations and progress to higher education and via other appropriate routes. Case studies show meaningful and high quality outcomes for participants both in increased self-confidence and increased opportunities and progression outcomes.

53 older people regularly participate in dance and drama classes and are given the opportunity to volunteer and perform in the borough. Further funds have been gained via crowd funding to extend this reach. Case studies show that this participation has meaningful outcomes on wellbeing and health.

MTA has also engaged with Lewisham's Looked After Children and Young Carers Lewisham to offer a new Summer Holiday Scholarship programme in 2015/16 (12 places).

Have you achieved all of the wider outcomes outlined in the initial grant application?

MTA has achieved all wider outcomes.

Just under 50% of all participants are from low income households and receive a subsidised rate of £4 per session which allows this high quality provision to be available to a wider reach of Lewisham young people. There are 12 spaces given free during the year to young people who can't afford the subsidised rate and are of significant talent.

If no to either of the above:

- what are the mitigating factors?
- what plans are in place for improving performance?
- what progress has been made against actions agreed with your Development Officer?

Output 11. Youth Panel Members (scholarships) Target 12 achieved 10. This output was 83% as 2 students dropped out. One left to attend the BRIT school which was a positive outcome supported by MTA and one left for personal issues.

Note that the £10K per annum currently received by MTA does not fund all of the outputs as they have an expenditure of £159K, therefore outputs are funded from other sources.

What local support/evidence of need can you identify for the work you are undertaking?

Young People

It was discussed that arts provision in schools has been cut and more affordable afterschool provision is needed.

The summer 2016 holiday scholarship programme (12 places), was filled immediately. This was publicised to MTA's existing data base and via Social Services and Lewisham Young Carers.

Just under 50% of MTA's members are from low income households, over 400 concessionary course places were taken in 2015/16 and there were 12 completely free scholarships.

Older People

MTA work with over 55's as individuals and also within residential homes. Cases studies show the positive impact that dance and social contact have on physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. Participants have stated that engagement decreases isolation and improves physical health.

2. Negotiate reductions and seek alternative funding streams

Are there any proposals that you can put forward that will deliver significant saving against current expenditure? This can include capital investment to change your delivery/business model.

The organisation stated that that the current £10K grant is in part what funds the concession rate and scholarship programmes.

MTA's Artistic Director has been unable to work unfortunately due to illness and as there currently is a small staffing team there are no staffing efficiencies to be made.

It was expressed that the aim is to expand rather than contract the organisation.

What alternative funding streams are you already pursuing?

Work has taken place in 2015/16 on increasing the organisations fundraising avenues. Online funding campaigns have been successful including Local Giving, the Big Give and the Childhood Trust. Work is being put into place to engage with individuals of high net worth.

Are there any other funding streams that you can identify that the council can support you to access?

Lewisham officers will continue to support MTA by signposting for relevant areas of support.

3. Work with groups to consider mergers or asset sharing

Are there any organisations doing similar work to you in the borough who you may consider sharing resources or merging with? Who have you considered/approached?

It was stated that there is not an appropriate organisation to merge with in the borough doing similar work.

Current partnerships include Greenwich Theatre, Lewisham Pensioner's Forum, The National Theatre Connections Programme, GLYPT and local schools.

Are there other groups in the local area that you could share resources with even if they are delivering a different type of service? Again, who have you considered/approached?

It was stated that the board do not consider that a merger would be financially or logistically beneficial to MTA.

MTA are looking for a venue to house both their office and performance/storage space in the borough and have significant financial backing to realise this if the correct space can be secured.

What support might you need to move these suggestions forward?

Officers will continue to support MTA in potential sites for a new venue in borough.

4. Pro-rata reductions across all groups

What would a 25% cut in your grants look like in service delivery terms? What are the wider impacts?

It was stated by the organisation that the impact of a 25% cut would be a reduction of concessionary places that could be offered to young people.

Have you modelled this cut and developed an action plan for its implementation?

This hasn't been modelled at this time.

Conclusion

Any other comments / areas discussed

The Founder/Director of MTA has unfortunately been unable to work in this period due to illness. The organisation has achieved high quality outputs and outcomes in challenging circumstances with a small part-time staffing team. The organisation has finished 2015/16 with a £17K surplus and increased their concessionary and scholarship places in Lewisham.

Conclusion and recommendation

Outputs and outcomes have been overachieved in 2015/16. It is predicted that they will also be overachieved in 2016/17.

It was expressed that the board do not consider that a merger would be financially or logistically beneficial to MTA.

MTA are looking for a venue to accommodate both its office and performance/storage space in the borough. The organisation has significant financial backing to realise this if the correct space can be secured and this will provide greater stability moving forward. Lewisham officers will continue to support MTA by signposting for relevant areas of support.

It is recommended that Montage Theatre Arts receive a pro-rata cut.

Equalities groups disproportionately impacted by recommendations

Children and Young People, Older Adults.

Ethnicity:		Pregnancy / Maternity:	
Gender:		Marriage & Civil Partnerships:	
Age:	X	Sexual orientation:	
Disability:		Gender reassignment:	
Religion / Belief:			

Commentary and potential mitigations:

Montage Theatre Arts provision is for children and young people and older adults in the borough. The impact of the recommendation will therefore disproportionately impact on age. Officers will work with the organisation to explore ways in which the impact of a cut can be mitigated.