

Lottery money for community projects that benefit the disabled

August 2005 - The London region of Awards for All is seeking more applications to fund community projects that either benefit the disabled or their carers or increase accessibility for the disabled to community activities.

Olly Dawson, Senior Awards Officer at Awards for All London commenting on their campaign "We want to see more community groups applying to us to fund projects that benefit the disabled. Whether its sports or arts projects for the disabled, respite for carers or simply a grant to pay for wheelchair access Awards for All London can fund them and actually gives them a priority. The application process is simple, straightforward and you will receive a response in under two months"

Examples of projects recently funded by Awards for All London can be found on page two of this document.

Introduction to the Awards for All programme

Awards for All is a Lottery grant programme designed to enable a wide range of community-based projects to access Lottery money. The grants are relatively small, £500 to £5000, but are easily accessible and do not require a lengthy bureaucratic application process. Awards for All is uniquely positioned to fund a very diverse range of activities. In early 2006 grants of up to £10,000 will be available. Further information: www.awardsforall.org.uk

Regional funding priorities

The London region of Awards for All has a set of five funding priorities referred to as its 'regional focus'. All applications submitted to Awards for All are assessed against national aims and the regional focus using a scoring system. Demand for Awards for All funding in London is very competitive so if more eligible applications are received than can be funded, preference is given to those projects that meet the regional focus criteria.

One of the key 'regional focus' priorities for the London region of Awards for All is to fund projects that benefit disabled people and/or their carers. Applications that meet that condition will be given priority for funding.

Disability is defined in its broader sense i.e. a physical or mental impairment that has an adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out day-to-day activities. Awards for All want to support projects that improve the quality of life for the disabled and/or provide support or respite for those that care for them.

Further information: www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/london/london_focus.html

Workshops - to clarify the application process

Two briefing workshops will be held by Awards for All London where potential applicants will receive guidance on the application process and also have the chance to put questions directly to members of the Awards for All team.

When:

- 7pm to 9pm, Wednesday 21 September 2005
- 7pm to 9pm, Wednesday 19 October 2005

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Where:

- Awards for All London, Big Lottery Fund, 1st Floor, 1 Plough Place
London, EC4A 1DE

How:

- Places at the workshops will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please book your place through our website:
www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/london/London_news.html

Disabled access: Awards for All London offices are wheelchair accessible and have disabled toilets. A sign language interpreter can be made available (two weeks notice required). Any other requirements please use the comments form on the workshop booking page as above.

Public transport to Awards for All London:

Tube: Chancery Lane - Central line
Farringdon (5 min walk) – Circle, Hammersmith and City and Metropolitan lines

Train: Farringdon (5 min walk)

Bus: 8,17,25,45,46,242,341,525

Location map:

www.multimap.com/map/browse.cgi?lat=51.5167&lon=-0.1089&scale=10000&icon=x

Awards for All fund a diverse range of projects

Some examples follow of projects recently funded by Awards for All in the London region that have benefited the disabled and demonstrate the diverse range of activities that can be funded.

Ladder to the Moon Entertainment is a theatre company based in South London. Their slogan is simple: 'Igniting Imaginations'. They take professional, high quality, entertaining theatrical performances to people that for a number of different reasons do not have the chance to experience it.

With the support of St George's Hospital Arts Officer, a £5,000 grant from Awards for All and support from other funders (Help a London Child, Arts for the Healing Environment) they developed a story and a pair of characters that were played by professional actors who toured the children's wards at the hospital, remaining in character throughout, and involved everyone they met in their story.

Chris Gage, Ladder to the Moon Entertainment Company Director commented on the project "The straightforward application process and short turn around meant we could develop and carry out this project in a matter of months. The reaction we had when touring the hospital was overwhelming. Not only is it a distraction from their present circumstances but it is also a chance for people to experience professional theatre, tailored to them, at their bedsides."
www.laddertothemoon.co.uk

Barry Tebb founded **Sixties Press** a small publishing outfit twelve years ago with the express aim of bringing poetry and other works written by the mentally disabled or their carers to a wider audience. Essentially Sixties Press is a writer's co-operative.

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A grant from Awards for All is enabling Sixties Press to publish an anthology of poems from artists across London. It will feature the work of around 100 different writers and fill over 400 pages. Printing costs and distribution to hundreds of different organisations that work with the disabled will be paid for by the Lottery grant. All the poems will also be freely available on the internet. This will be the first in a series of books that will shed light on an issue that has become stigmatized and raise awareness of mental health issues generally.

Barry Tebb explained the importance of the forthcoming book "For those going through mental illness and those that care about them the ability to share experiences with others through words is enormously important. For those that are suffering from mental illness it can literally be the difference between life and death. This book will give people a chance to engage in what is essentially art therapy which can really be such a huge help."
www.sixtiespress.co.uk/

Twenty One and Co (formerly Positively Down) is a self-help group set up set up by parents of children with Down's Syndrome, a condition found in one in every 1000 live births in the UK. A grant from Awards for All will help pay for two social interaction groups every week for 14 children. Led by trained professionals the sessions develop the children's social and communication skills, something that is critical at this stage of their development. It also gives parents reprieve from what can be a very challenging role and a chance to meet others in the same position and share experiences.

Previously parents had to pay for their children to attend interaction groups, a cost that was proving prohibitive for some parents. Since receiving funding from Awards for All Twenty One and Co have managed to raise funds from other sources and are able to help over 35 members

Alison Roberts, founder of Twenty One and Co commenting on the project "We were delighted to receive the grant from Awards for All, there was really nowhere else we could have gone. Developing the communication skills of children with Down's is very difficult but imperative if they are going to succeed in later life. We can all see the impact the group sessions are having on our children: they are visibly happier."

Wandsworth Work and Play is a community scrap store. Unwanted clean, surplus, materials such as fabric, card and paper are collected from local businesses, and then made available as a resource for educational, arts and play activities. Over 200 different community groups use the reusable materials for projects in adult education, social services, nursery, primary and secondary education, the health service and the voluntary sector.

An Awards for All grant of £5,000 paid a substantial proportion of the cost of a new extension ramp making it possible for wheelchair users and parents with push chairs to access the new Work and Play training unit without difficulty. Alan Kelly, Development Worker of Wandsworth Work And Play said "Fundraising is a constant and demanding challenge. Awards for All was one of the few grant programmes that didn't take up too much time. A small grant has meant our capacity to share resources, and our accessibility has increased. Many people, particularly those with young children and the disabled, will reap the benefits for years to come."

The Wallace Collection is a national museum based in central London and is home to one of Europe's finest collections of works of art, paintings, furniture, arms, armour and porcelain.

Having previously received funding from Awards for All to hold special events and increase accessibility to various ethnic minorities the Wallace Collection developed a new project for the deaf and hard of hearing.

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Training was arranged for curatorial, conservation, guide lecturers and front of house staff to help them to understand the needs of the deaf community and ensure the museum is adequately providing for them in the long term. Sign language interpretation is now offered for free gallery tours every month and other activities were undertaken to engage deaf people such as art sessions with deaf artists. Another key aim of the project was to begin to reduce the psychological barrier that prevents special needs communities to attend museums such as the Wallace Collection

Naomi Waite, Development Officer at the Wallace Collection who worked on the project said: "Funding from Awards for All will mean a permanent change in the way the Wallace Collection interacts with members of the deaf and hard of hearing community. Over 100 people have benefited through this programme which has involved creative art days led by deaf artists, British Sign Language interpreted tours and training for our front of house staff."
www.wallacecollection.org

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