

Community Chest Application Summary 2017/2018

Local Authority	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Organisation	Spinning Wheel
Amount Requested	<i>£5,880</i>
Total Project Cost	<i>£10,280</i>
Match Funding	Yes - <i>£2,900</i>
Partnerships	St John's Centre, Bury St Edmunds
West Suffolk Bid?	No

Key Points

- Spinning Wheel creates innovative productions and provides creative opportunities for rural communities in the East of England.
- The Youth Takeover Project will invite a group of up to 20 people aged 15-25 to create their own theatre production.
- The group is split into committees which will specialise in particular areas including and help them gain beneficial practises in: IT, strategic planning, diplomacy, team work and leadership. Such skills would be beneficial in their adult life when it comes to job interviews, etc.
- Project start: **September 2017**
- Project end: **July 2018**

**St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Community Chest Grant Application
Form
Part A**



Community Chest funding supports voluntary and community groups who make a contribution to improving the quality of life for people in West Suffolk. The information you provide will help us consider your application. If you have any questions, please give us a call on 01638 719763. Before completing this form, we ask you to please read the guidelines, which are available on:
<http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm>

Please return your completed, signed form and supplementary documents to:
richard.baldwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk

1. Name of your organisation(s):

2. Organisation address details

Address Ln1	The Old Post Office		
Address Ln2	The Street		
Address Ln3	Rickinghall		
City/Town	Diss	Postcode	IP22 1EG
Main phone	07709 424948	E-mail	amy@spinningwheeltheatre.com
Website	www.spinningwheeltheatre.com		

Main Contact Person		Second Contact Person	
Title	Miss	Title	Mrs
Forename	Amy	Forename	Becca
Surname	Wyllie	Surname	Gibbs
Role	Artistic Director	Role	Producer
Daytime Tel No.	07709 424948	Daytime Tel No.	07812 130064
Mobile No.	See above	Mobile No.	See above
Email	amy@spinningwheeltheatre.com	Email	becca@spinningwheeltheatre.com
Address Details (if different from Org address)		Address Details (if different from Org address)	
Ln1	10 Raingate Street	Ln1	
Ln2		Ln2	
Town	Bury St Edmunds	Town	
Post Code	IP33 2AR	Post Code	

About your organisation

3. What local authority area(s) does your organisation work in?

St Edmundsbury, Forest Heath, Mid-Suffolk

*Community Chest funding is offered by both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils. As the decision making process is different any projects applying for funding across West Suffolk, must apply separately.

4. What is the status of your organisation?

Registered charity		Charity number:
Applying for charitable status	✓	
Company limited by guarantee	✓	Company number: 2841365
Community Interest Company		
Part of a larger regional or national charity (Please state which one)		
Constituted Community Group		
Social Enterprise		
Other (Please specify)		

5. How many people are involved in your organisation?

Management committee	5	Service users	2500
Full Time staff / workers	2	Volunteers and helpers (non-management)	10
Part Time staff / workers	1		

6. What is the purpose of your organisation? Please briefly describe why your organisation was set up, its aims and objectives and who primarily benefits from your organisation.

Spinning Wheel Theatre is a growing company based in the rural county of Suffolk. We create innovative productions and provide creative opportunities for rural communities in the East of England. We are passionate about providing our audiences with the opportunity to experience and participate in high quality, vibrant and accessible theatre on their doorstep.

As outlined in the Arts Council's survey 'The value of arts and culture to people and society', "participation in the arts can contribute to community cohesion, reduce social exclusion and isolation, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger". This is at the heart of our work.

We collaborate with the communities we tour to, consulting them on the type of productions they want to see, extending the invitation for anyone in rural Suffolk, irrespective of cultural, financial or educational background, to experience high-quality theatre. As a result of this consultation, we create professional touring work, and outreach projects with young people and communities which actively engage them in the arts. Our work is crucial to the development of a theatre-going culture in an area that has been identified as having the UK's lowest access to cultural provision (Hidden Deprivation and Community Need in Suffolk Report 2011)

7. What was your organisation's total income for last financial year? £24768.00

8. What was your organisation's total expenditure for last financial year? £10544.00

9. Does your organisation have more than six months running costs? Yes

10. What are your organisation's current unrestricted reserves or savings? £236.00

11. West Suffolk prioritises building resilient families and communities that are healthy and active. Please indicate which of the following areas your project contributes towards:

- A thriving voluntary sector and active communities who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable.
- People playing a greater role in determining the future of their communities.
- Improved wellbeing, physical and mental health.
- Accessible countryside and green spaces.

About your project – why are you applying for this funding?

12. What do you want the funding for? Please be specific. Please note that 'project' is meant to describe the project for which you are seeking funding, and not your organisation.

The Youth Takeover Project will invite a group of up to 20 young people aged 15 – 25 to create their own theatre production. Alongside performing in the piece, the participants will take responsibility for fundraising, marketing, design and all other technical aspects of the production with the guidance and supervision of an established professional theatre company. Through this experience they will be enabled to utilise their own creativity and to learn new skills that are not only essential for a career in the arts but are transferable across a number of other educational and career pathways.

The Takeover participants will be commissioned with developing a production for their community to be performed during the Easter Holidays. This will be undertaken in consultation with a focus group of their chosen age range, and will be on a subject/theme/story of their choice.

The group is split into committees, which will specialise in particular areas of creating the production. Through their assigned tasks they will learn arts skills such as design, technical drawing and stage management as well as transferable skills including fundraising, budget management, scheduling, IT, strategic planning, diplomacy, team work and leadership. There is also a legacy attached to this project whereby alumni of the group are offered continued assistance with job and training applications and interviews.

Further elements of this project will be to develop and deliver children's activity workshops (for children aged 5-12), and in the Summer Term, the young people will then create a

smaller scale touring piece for young children which they will tour to rural locations in the region. This will not only provide the participants with the opportunity to develop and widen their skillset, but to also engage fully with their community.

13. How has the project been developed out of the community's desire to improve the lives of local people? What evidence do you have that there is a need for this project? Please include sources of evidence, including any public/user/community consultation.

As outlined in the Arts Council's survey *The value of arts and culture to people and society* (March 2014), "There is strong evidence that participation in the arts can contribute to community cohesion, reduce social exclusion and isolation, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger". Our participatory projects are developed with this at the forefront of our minds. We collaborate with the communities we work with, researching and consulting with them on the type of productions they want to see and the sorts of projects they want to take part in.

This project will be another way that we can extend the invitation for new people, irrespective of cultural, financial or educational background, to experience high-quality theatre. "Standing on the set that we built and painted, listening to sounds that we recorded and performing the scenes that we worked so hard to give life to, we don't feel like 'young artists', but artists in our own right..." (Participant, Youth Takeover)

This project will build on our reputation in East Anglia and will be a continuation of our development of a theatre-going culture within isolated communities, which have been identified having the UK's lowest access to cultural provision (*Hidden Deprivation and Community Need in Suffolk, 2011*).

One of the most significant disadvantages facing young people in this region is their ability to access services, activities and opportunities. As a predominantly rural area, young people in Suffolk often rely on sporadic public transport, as the cost of running their own car (or being even being insured on a parent's vehicle) has become impractical for most. "Many parts of Suffolk have limited opportunities for young people. Demand and supply of employment opportunities do not always match geographically." (*Hidden Needs and Deprivation in Suffolk Report, 2011*). This has a variety of knock-on effects. Aside from the obvious high rate of unemployment, young people can begin feeling trapped or resentful of their community for its lack of opportunities, becoming unmotivated and disenfranchised and, in some cases, displaying anti-social or criminal behaviour, or suffering from anxiety, depression or other mental health disorders.

As an almost entirely youth led project, this is a rare opportunity for young people in this region which has had a significant and lasting impact on the wellbeing and career prospects of its participants since it first began in 2014.

14. How will the project help local people to support one another?

The pivotal element of the Takeover Project is to equip its young participants with the skills to deliver their own projects in their own communities. This project is a unique opportunity for young people in Suffolk, offering them control over their own creativity, the chance to learn practical skills and to feel empowered and motivated. This experience is designed to provide them with the tools needed to make a constructive contribution towards their employability and emotional wellbeing and to make a positive impact on the world around them.

Having now run the Youth Takeover project for two years, we are able to see dramatic benefits to our participants in terms of career progression and opportunities and confidence.

A unique project in this region, young people in Suffolk would have to travel to London in order to acquire a similar experience. Since participating in this project, 67% of its participants aged 18+ have successfully embarked upon degree courses in playwriting, set design, stage management, acting, theatre in education, sound design and theatre for social change. They have all sited this project as being instrumental in them achieving a place on one of these highly competitive courses, and used their achievements as part of the project as the basis for their portfolios. Another four have gone on to form their own Community Interest Company creating arts projects in Bury St Edmunds. 100% of previous Takeover participants have said they feel more confident, motivated and positive as a result of taking part in this project.

"Youth Takeover is an experience that I can't even put into words. It sounds cheesy but it literally changed my life, without it I doubt I would be heading to University this September. I joined thinking I wanted to be an actor and left with an entirely new outlook on the theatre industry as a whole. There is nothing better than at the end of a rehearsal period standing on a set you built, performing a script you wrote and watching it come to life with lighting and sound designs that you designed as a team. We are so lucky in this area to have the opportunity to explore and learn skills in all aspects of theatre including technical design, marketing, fundraising and directing all things that usual drama groups may not teach. The takeover team are my second family and I can't thank them enough." – Jade Laurie, Takeover participant 2015-16. Now studying Drama and Theatre Practice at University of Hull

15. Are you working with any other organisations on this project? Yes

If yes, please state the names of these groups and the nature of the relationship.

St John's Centre, Bury St Edmunds

Spinning Wheel Theatre has an excellent relationship with the St John's Centre, having based all of our participatory projects there for the last three years. The organisation is eager to continue to develop it's relationship with Spinning Wheel, and to promote our engagement with young people and the local community by offering us a significant discount on hall hire, enabling us to keep running costs as low as possible.

16. When will the project start?

September 2017

17. When will the project finish? or is the project ongoing?

If this is an ongoing project, how will it be funded and continue going when the funding ends?

N/A

18. Which years funding are you applying for?

19. How many people do you expect to benefit directly from the project on either a weekly, monthly or annual basis?

20 participants aged 15-25 (engaged weekly for 1 year) – Youth Takeover Team
10 participants aged 5-12 (engaged for 3 days of workshops) – Workshop participants

20. What results (including targets/numbers) do you expect to see as a result of the funding and how do these relate to the Community Chest funding criteria? If your project is health related how does it improve health outcomes for residents within community networks and beyond?

We would expect to see an increase from 67% to 75% of participants securing places at further education/training/employment as a result of participation in the project.

We would expect to see a continuation of our current track record of 100% of young participants expressing an improvement in their emotional wellbeing, confidence and motivation on the conclusion of the project.

21. What is the total cost of the project?

Please provide a full breakdown of the total cost of this project, including VAT if applicable along with any in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours.

Item or activity	Cost (£)
Practitioner 1 Fee - (1 session (3 hrs) x 38 weeks @ £75 plus 2 weeks prep)	£3000
Practitioner 2 Fee - (1 session (3 hrs) x 38 weeks @ £75 plus 2 weeks prep)	£3000
Weekly hall hire - (38 sessions @ £35 per session)	£1300
Performance venue hire (4 x full day venue hire @ £100 per day)	£400
Activity Workshop venue hire (3 x full day venue hire @ £100 per day)	£300
Set build and materials	£1200
Costume	£400
Props	£400
Marketing (A5 flyers, A4 posters, programmes)	£250
Total cost of items listed above:	£10280.00

22. How much funding are you applying to us for?

£5880.00

23. What funds have you raised so far for this project?

Source	Amount (£)
Participants Fees (£35 per term x 20 participants x 3 terms)	£2100
Estimated Ticket sales	£300
Workshop participant fees (£50 x 10)	£500

Total fundraising:	£2900.00
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24. What other funders have you applied to for further funding for the project?

Funder	Amount (£)	Timescale for decision
Kickstarter Campaign	£1500.00	This crowd funding campaign will be created by the participants and will be launched in Sept 2017, with outcomes expected within 1 month of its launch.
Total:	£1500.00	

25. What other grants and contracts has your organisation received over the past year from either Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council?

Funder	Amount (£)	Reason for funding
Forest Heath District Council	£9000	I Heart Newmarket project
St Edmundsbury Borough Council (locality budget)	£1000	Youth Takeover 2015-16
Total:	£10000.00	