

Press release

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Andrew Lloyd Webber
Foundation

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER FOUNDATION LATEST GRANTS WORTH £153K TO FUND EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ARTS

- £25,000 awarded to The Lowry to support the burgeoning arts ecology of Greater Manchester and £45,000 to the Shakespeare Globe Education's work with London students transitioning to secondary school
- £37,000 to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings for an advanced training scheme working on historic buildings and £15,000 to Bishopsland Educational Trust's specialist training in British silversmithing

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has today announced new grants awards worth over £153k to seven organisations, facilitating dynamic arts education, artistic professional development at key career stages and training to preserve historic buildings. Each grant supports a project improving skills, access and diversity across the arts, heritage and culture sector.

With this round of grants, the Foundation's active grant giving programme, founded in 2010, will now have awarded almost £11m to more than 255 recipients across the UK.

The grants awarded will facilitate school students to study and perform Shakespeare with Shakespeare Globe Education and to enrol in a professionally led playwriting scheme with the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh. Young musicians in West London and Northern Ireland will receive unique pit-band and professional training from acclaimed musicians via the Mayor's Music Fund Orchestra and the Ulster Youth Orchestra. In Greater Manchester, emerging artists at three key stages of their career will receive bespoke support and artistic professional development through The Lowry's Studio Artists Development Programme

In heritage, there is funding for talented recent silversmithing graduates to join a one year residential course at Bishopsland Educational Trust and for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to offer four full time bursaries giving qualified professionals the practical skills and knowledge needed to preserve historic buildings across the country.

Andrew Lloyd Webber has said,

“Nurturing and encouraging young talent from all backgrounds is key to a diverse and vibrant creative industry. I am thrilled my Foundation can help in this way. From within primary and secondary schools through to post-graduate and professional training, these projects recognise the importance of the artists being equipped with the skills, experiences and support needed for the UK's creative industry to continue thriving.”

The seven organisations to receive funding are:

- **£45,000 over 3 years to Shakespeare Globe Education's *New Journeys with Shakespeare* project** which uses the study and performance of Shakespeare's work to bridge the gap between primary and secondary school for year 6 and 7 students. In 2016 *New Journeys with Shakespeare* will take place in 9 schools across three London boroughs, targeting areas of high social economic deprivation.
- **£25,000 to The Lowry's Studio Artists Development Programme** for emerging artists (individuals and companies) who will receive bespoke support and artistic professional development. Those to benefit from the programme will be young theatre makers, students and recent graduates who will receive professional development to begin their careers in the arts; five artists or companies identified by the Lowry to have talent in writing, performance or production who will receive a year-long package of support and mentoring; and one selected Associate Artist who will benefit from a significant amount of long-term support as well as financial contributions towards productions and placement opportunities.
- **£15,000 match funding over 2 years towards the Mayor's Music Fund Orchestra Project**, following the successful pilot year which was founded by the Foundation in 2014. Based at the Lyric Hammersmith and in partnership with the Tri Borough Music Hub in West London, the project provides unique pit-band experience and progression routes for young musicians. It will engage with 1,000 young musicians in schools and music societies, with 60 going forward to form the orchestra.
- **£13,000 to the Traverse Theatre's Class Act Project**, a professionally led 6-month playwriting scheme for up to 70 secondary school children aged 15 to 18 from five state schools across Edinburgh. The funding will support creative writing workshops held both at the theatre and in schools, to challenge and encourage pupils to draft, develop and stage their own pieces of new writing with the final performances being taken to the Traverse stage.
- **£3,000 to Ulster Youth Orchestra for their annual 10 day Summer Residency** for 90 talented Northern Irish musicians, aged 14-23. The young musicians will receive professional training to develop their abilities and careers, including masterclasses from acclaimed conductor Takuo Yuasa and the residency will culminate in public concerts at Guildhall, Derry and Ulster Hall, Belfast.
- **£37,000 over 2 years to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings** to fund 4 full-time bursaries, each lasting 9 months. This advanced training scheme is for qualified professionals from the fields of architecture, building surveying or structural engineering to gain experience working on historic buildings across the country through the acquisition of practical skills and knowledge.
- **£15,000 over 3 years to Bishopsland Educational Trust's specialist training in British silversmithing**, a one year residential course. Each year 12 participants who have completed a BA in silversmithing or jewellery will receive hands on training, working with metal and materials as well as learning the key skills of balancing books, presenting their work and dealing confidently with clients and exhibition spaces.

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Notes to editors

About the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principal provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £11m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, £1m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation owns two important paintings, a Canaletto “Old Horse Guards from St James’s Park”, currently on exhibition at Abbot Hall Gallery in Kendal and a Stanley Spencer “The Garage” on exhibition at The Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, Berkshire.

In 2014, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation awarded 36 new grants to organisations, a third more than 2013, made 15 grants to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships to young performers on the brink of their careers.

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