



Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Foundation

## **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation grants over £600,000 to projects enhancing arts education, participation and diversity across the UK**

- **17** new grants awarded worth a total of **£606,933** to projects across the UK
- This includes grants totalling over **£100,000** to projects providing traineeships and career development programmes to **young people from BAME backgrounds**
- Founded in 2010, the active grant giving programme has now awarded over **£16 million**

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has awarded grants worth over half a million pounds to 17 projects across the UK this spring. These form part of the Foundation's active grant giving programme, which supports projects that focus on the enhancement of arts education, participation, improving access and increasing diversity across the arts, culture and heritage sector.

The recipients of this round of grants are **Arts Insight, Awards for Young Musicians, Furthering Talent, Beatroute Arts, The BRIT School, CLIC Sargent, Creative Access, Crisis UK, Denbighshire Music Co-operative, Frantic Assembly, Hoxton Hall Trust, Live Music Now, Malvern Theatre, MOLA, Rifco, Scottish Civic Trust** and **Tara Arts Theatre**.

With a particular emphasis on increasing access to the sector within Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups and communities, the grants follow the Foundation's publication of *Centre Stage* last year, a report that highlighted issues surrounding the pipeline of BAME talent into musical theatre. Tackling the current imbalance in diversity at all levels of the industry, **Creative Access, Hoxton Hall Trust, Tara Arts Theatre** and **Rifco** will all use their grants to support traineeships and career development programmes specifically for this group.

Following substantial cuts to its government funding in 2016, **Creative Access** has been awarded **£45,000** over three years to provide off-the-job training programmes for paid interns from BAME backgrounds. Working with creative firms including the National Theatre, BBC, Almeida, Paines Plough and Royal Shakespeare Company, 6 and 12 month-long internships will include access to a mentor, induction days, masterclasses, pastoral support, networking, CV clinics and interview training for young people. Interns are also encouraged to visit their former schools, inspiring greater participation by BAME young people within the scheme and the wider sector.

Also awarded over three years, **Rifco** received **£30,000** towards a career development programme for young British Asian emerging and mid-career artists, encouraging greater participation and developing new

audiences from British Asian communities across the UK. Supporting 15 artists aged 20-26, participants will be commissioned to develop and showcase a new piece of work and take part in development workshops, mentoring sessions and receive guidance on progression routes.

**Tara Arts Theatre** and **Hoxton Hall Trust** will use their grants for projects specifically targeting young people aged 18-25 from BAME backgrounds. With a legacy of championing multicultural and diverse theatre, **Tara Arts Theatre** will develop four year-long trainee positions in Lighting, Production, Stage Management and Sales & Memberships for unemployed people with a grant of **£30,000**. An **£18,000** grant awarded to **Hoxton Hall Trust** will fund three trainee positions in Technical Theatre, Directing and Marketing & Development, with applications encouraged from their youth arts programmes and Black Theatre Live networks.

**£12,000** was also awarded to **Frantic Assembly's** Ignition programme to encourage greater engagement from young men aged 16-20, many of whom live in areas of high deprivation with limited access to the arts. Based in regional theatres across the UK, the programme includes intensive professional drama training with an emphasis on physical theatre skills and teamwork. Further grants increasing the accessibility of diverse communities will include **£10,000** to **Crisis UK** to support the provision of informal and accredited performing arts workshops for homeless people in London and **£7,110** to **MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)** towards their Built Heritage Youth Engagement Programme in Haringey, Islington and Tower Hamlets for 30 young people who are or are at risk of being Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET).

The Foundation also continues to support projects that focus on enhancing arts education and celebrating culture and heritage across the UK through grants awarded to **The BRIT School** and **The Scottish Civic Trust**, securing the future of the **Scottish Heritage Angel Awards**.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has supported the **Scottish Heritage Angel Awards** since they were established in 2014. The first such awards in Scotland, they recognise the work of voluntary groups and individuals in protecting and celebrating Scotland's historic environment. Receiving **£144,000**, the **Scottish Civic Trust**, working in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Government and Archaeology Scotland, will continue to deliver the awards throughout 2017, 2018 and 2019, promoting the advancement of heritage protection and restoration throughout the country.

Awarded over three years, the Foundation has awarded **£211,723** to **The BRIT School** to support their Bridge Theatre Company, a free year-long part time course for post sixth form BRIT School students. Providing an opportunity to create a theatre company and produce a show under the guidance of industry specialists and professional creative team, the training culminates in a performance of new work in a London venue. Marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school, the grant will allow the expansion of the company to accommodate Musical Theatre students for the first time, creating a stronger training programme that will benefit more young people.

**Madeleine Lloyd Webber, Lead Trustee of The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, said:**

“Recognising the importance of equipping artists from all backgrounds with skills, experience and support is vital in order to achieve diversity and accessibility across all levels of the sector. From trainee schemes for young people to career development programmes for mid-career artists, I am thrilled the Foundation is able to support so many projects for individuals with limited access to the arts and from BAME backgrounds. We are also pleased to continue our support of the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards and mark BRIT School's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with further funding for their Bridge Theatre Company.”

**Pravesh Kumar, Artistic Director & CEO of Rifco, said:**

"There's been a lot of talk about the lack of diversity in theatre recently and this grant from The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation is a real recognition of this. As a working class British Asian artist I'm proud to tell stories

from an authentic point of view that are accessible to the very audience we are talking to. This grant will allow Rifco to provide more opportunities to emerging British Asian theatre artists to create and showcase their own work, to tell their own stories and access the wider UK theatre industry."

**Further grants awarded are:**

- **£20,000 to Arts Insight** towards performing arts workshops delivered free of charge into primary and SEN schools across the UK, transforming schools into theatres and covering all aspects of putting on a show.
- **£20,000 to Awards for Young Musicians Furthering Talent** programme delivering instrument tuition and individual mentoring support for children from families who cannot afford to continue with music lessons after Key Stage 2. This grant will unlock a further £20,000 in Arts Council match funding.
- **£15,000 to CLIC Sargent's Music Programme** providing residential music workshops delivered by professional music leaders for young people with cancer, enabling them to pursue their musical talents as well as reducing the burden of cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- **£10,000 match funding to Live Music Now** towards their Pathways into Music Programme providing training and performance experience for talented musicians at the start of their careers.
- **£10,000 to Beatroute Arts** for their 'Take a Bow' project providing free instrument provision and music tuition in a disadvantaged area of Glasgow for young people and their families.
- **£10,000 to Denbighshire Music Cooperative** bringing professional music tuition and guidance into rural Welsh primary schools where children have no or very limited access to music.
- **£10,000 to Choirs Beating Time** towards their singing in prisons project for offenders and staff.
- **£4,000 to Malvern Theatres** towards an intensive Advanced Course in Drama and Performance for Professional Theatre for young people applying to Drama School aged 16 and above.

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**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 £16m 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, £2.4m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. [www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)