



Andrew Lloyd Webber
Foundation

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation awards 22 new grants to support emerging artists and the provision of music education, performing arts training and heritage skills

- **22** new grants awarded worth a total of **£630,060** to projects across the UK and beyond
- Grants will ensure access to high quality **arts education**, nurture skills to ensure the preservation of **heritage** and support **emerging artists** at the early stages of their careers
- Particular focus is placed on projects that increase **diversity** and break down barriers to participation in the arts

Andrew Lloyd Webber said:

“This latest round of grants reflects my passion for the importance of arts education, increasing diversity on and off stage and ensuring that the next generation is equipped to champion and preserve our heritage. Many of the projects require matched funding and I urge other philanthropists, foundations and government to recognise the benefits and step up to support the life-enhancing effects of the arts and heritage.”

This April, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has awarded grants worth a total of £630,060 to 22 projects across the UK and internationally. This includes over **£159,500** to projects supporting artists at the early stages of their careers, **£150,000** to youth theatre and dance programmes, **£105,000** to support emerging playwrights, **£52,000** towards youth orchestras, **£44,000** for programmes developing skills in the heritage sector and **£100,000** to Little Kids Rock’s state school music programme in the US.

Support is spread across the length and breadth of the UK with programmes and initiatives reaching from Plymouth to Leeds, Northern Ireland, Wales and even further afield to New Jersey in the USA. Championing projects that break down barriers to participation in the arts, the Foundation prioritises projects engaging young people and supporting emerging artists and individuals from hard-to-reach and minority backgrounds.

The recipients in this round of grants are **Ballet Black, Bath Festivals, Burnley Youth Group, Creative & Cultural Skills, Dark Horse Theatre, Hall for Cornwall, Iris Theatre, Little Kids Rock, National Theatre Wales, Nevill Holt Community Arts, Nottingham Music Service, Paddington Development Trust, The Prince's Foundation, Royal Court Theatre, Tamasha Theatre Company, The Customs House Trust Ltd, Theatre Peckham, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Ulster Youth Orchestra, Watermill Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse** and **Women and Theatre**.

Supporting artists at all stages of their careers, **£105,000** has been awarded to projects working with emerging playwrights at the beginning of their careers. This includes **£90,000**, the biggest UK grant this spring, awarded to the **Royal Court Theatre** to support their writer's workshops for up to 100 emerging and new playwrights across the country. Awarded over three years, the programme will unearth new talent and nurture diverse voices from across the UK through a series of workshops and playwriting groups. Since the Foundation began funding this programme in 2012, 14 writers have seen their work produced on the Royal Court Theatre's stages.

From opera singers to costume designers and stage management trainees to community arts leaders, further grants totalling **£159,500** will ensure the provision of training programmes across all areas of arts and culture. Awarded **£46,500** over three years, **Watermill Theatre** will use their funds to provide a year-long Production and Stage Management Assistant position for three years. Open to post A-Level students unable to afford university, the position will offer an alternative route into the industry and provide bespoke backstage training in a professional venue. **West Yorkshire Playhouse** will also provide free Community Arts Leader training for young people aged 18 to 25 from diverse backgrounds across Leeds. Awarded **£30,000**, the programme will empower young people not in education, or those at risk of being excluded. Participants will work towards the Gold Arts Award and the possibility of employment at the theatre, within its award-winning Creative Engagement department, following completion of the programme. In the opera world, **Nevill Holt Community Arts** has been awarded **£5,000** to offer 24 leading young conservatoire students the opportunity to experience life in a professional opera company in the East Midlands. Providing training in singing, languages, dancing and community work, the programme will support their transition from education to career.

Increasing the engagement of young people and ensuring greater access to the arts, grants totalling over **£150,000** have also been awarded to youth theatres and programmes for young dancers from Cornwall to South Shields, Burnley and Peckham. Supporting 50 disadvantaged young people across Lancashire, **Burnley Youth Theatre** has been awarded **£45,000** over three years towards their **Step In Programme**. Taking place in their newly refurbished Youth Theatre, participants will work towards Arts Awards with the opportunity of work experience placements in the theatre. **Hall for Cornwall** will receive **£50,000** over three years to continue to develop their Youth Programme in the community whilst major redevelopment takes place to the venue. Working with hundreds of young people per year, it will develop all areas of the youth theatre and dance provision, including supporting practitioners to work with the young companies. **Women and Theatre** will also receive **£20,000** over two years to fund their free youth theatre programme, targeting looked after young people, young carers and young people with additional educational needs aged 12 to 18 from Birmingham and Solihull.

Supporting music education and conserving heritage and fine arts across the country are also significant areas of focus amongst the Foundation's grant giving programme. With no comparable specialist music training in the area, Northern Ireland's **Ulster Youth Orchestra** has been supported once again to continue its provision of intensive training for young musicians across the province. Awarded **£45,000** over three years, the grant will enhance the provision at their annual Summer Residency for 86 talented musicians aged 14 to 23. The grants programme will once again reach beyond the borders of the UK, with the award of **£100,000** to US-based **Little Kids Rock** over two years. Supporting the provision of free musical instruments, weekly lessons, and performance opportunities to 100,000 disadvantaged school children in public schools across Chicago, it will provide over 10,000 instruments and training for 300 teachers. Graduates of the programme include 6th grader Vincent Molden who has since been selected to perform the leading role in the US touring production of *School of Rock*.

Fostering the development of heritage skills, **The Prince's Foundation** received **£24,000** over two years towards an eight month practical skills course in heritage crafts for young people at the start of their careers. **Paddington Development Trust** also received **£20,358** for their heritage skills internship programme at St Mary Magdalene Church, Paddington, specifically aimed at supporting graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds who would not be able to take part in the project without this funding.

Further grants awarded include:

- **£34,275** over three years to **Bath Festivals** towards a three year project to mentor and develop music and production skills for vulnerable young people in the most deprived areas of the city
- **£20,000** over two years to **Theatre Royal Plymouth** to support The Lab Company, a part-time, year-long training course for 12 early career artists
- **£18,000** match funding to **National Theatre Wales** over three years towards their Emerging Directors Programme, training four directors a year alongside National Theatre Wales professionals
- **£15,000** to **Dark Horse Theatre**, Huddersfield, for the Silent Approach training method to help students overcome challenges with learning and literacy skills through involvement in the arts
- **£15,000** to **Theatre Peckham** to provide professional musical theatre training for 50 young people aged 7 to 15, as well as paid roles for apprentice performers and technicians
- **£15,000** to **Tamasha Theatre Company** over two years towards a professional development programme for emerging Black Asian and Minority Ethnic writers facing economic disadvantage
- **£13,920** to **The Customs House Trust, Tyne & Wear** over two years to support an aspirational theatre development programme for 50 young people aged 15 to 25 including drama workshops, creating a bespoke play and mentoring
- **£10,000** to **Ballet Black** to provide bursaries for young people from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds across London to join their Ballet Black Junior School
- **£7,010** to **Nottingham Music Service** towards the Robin Hood Youth Orchestra project for 63 young people aged 11 to 19
- **£5,000** to **Iris Theatre, Covent Garden** towards funding professionally paid posts for two early career costume designers per year for two years
- **£1,000** to **Creative & Cultural Skills** to support the Apprentice of the Year award at their Annual Conference at The Lowry, Salford

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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 £19m 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.andrewloydwebberfoundation.com