

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2714

Title: London Music Fund 2024-25

Executive Summary:

Every young Londoner should be able to learn a musical instrument. But for some families, the cost of lessons is prohibitive and means children are missing out on the chance to learn new skills which will improve their life chances.

The expenditure requested under this decision form will support the development of the musical and social skills of young Londoners from low-income families, including those from underrepresented backgrounds, through participation in instrumental tuition, projects and performances that have the potential to improve life chances. Learning a musical instrument enables young Londoners to gain confidence, and access social networks and vital skills which will set them up for life. This, in turn, has a wider impact on families, introducing them to a world of music they would otherwise be unlikely to access, from free tickets to concerts to watching their child perform at world famous venues.

This Assistant Director Decision seeks approval of the expenditure from the Culture, Creative Industries and 24 Hour London (CCI24) budget of £26,000 in 2024-25 of GLA revenue funding for the continuation of London Music Fund's programme delivery.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Culture, Creative Industries and 24 Hour London approves:

- The expenditure of up to £26,000 in 2024-25 from the Culture, Creative Industries and 24 Hour London revenue budget as a grant to the London Music Fund, as outlined in this Decision form.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name: Shonagh Manson

Position: Assistant Director Culture,
Creative Industries and 24 Hour London

Signature:



Date:

01/07/2024

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Access to music education should be available to every young Londoner. Unfortunately, for some families, the high cost of lessons prevents children from acquiring valuable skills that could enhance their life prospects. As the cost of living rises in the UK, more families will have their finances stretched. This results in music education becoming even more unattainable and accessible only to those who can afford to pay.
- 1.2. From increasing academic attainment to improving behaviour and social skills, there is growing evidence that learning a musical instrument enriches a young person's life and education, having a tangible impact on their development as well-rounded young people.
- 1.3. The London Music Fund, of which the Mayor is Patron, has a track record of achieving outstanding outcomes. Since 2011, the Fund has invested more than £4m in music education across the capital to more than 60,000 young people. It has given four-year music scholarships to 832 young instrumentalists from low-income families, 62 per cent of whom were from Black, Asian or ethnically diverse backgrounds. It has also funded 60 wider collaborations with professional arts organisations, schools, community music providers and music hubs.
- 1.4. Young people on the London Music Fund's Scholarship programme come from challenging backgrounds, often living in cramped, shared accommodation. They are from some of the most under-served communities across London. Music provides them with an emotional and creative outlet that they do not access elsewhere.
- 1.5. Expenditure outlined in this paper seeks approval for a total of £26,000 of the Culture, Creative Industries and 24 Hour London Unit revenue budget in 2024-25

Programme	Amount Revenue
London Music Fund (paras 2.1 to 2.4)	£26,000
TOTAL	£26,000

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. Every young Londoner should be able to learn a musical instrument. However, for some families, the cost of lessons is prohibitive which means children are missing out on the chance to learn new skills that will improve their life chances.
- 2.2. The investment aims to provide grant funding to the London Music Fund to enable 26 young Londoners on the scholarship programme to learn a musical instrument and develop their musical talent.
- 2.3. The GLA 2024-25 investment of £26,000 will deliver the following outputs:
 - Enable instrumental lessons for 26 young London musicians for one year.
 - Provide access to weekend music tuition to scholarship recipients for one year.
 - Enable the provision of free tickets for the families of scholarship recipients to watch their family member perform for a year.

- Provide scholarship recipients free concert tickets to expand their musical influences, for one year.
- 2.4. This will support the development of the musical and social skills of young Londoners from low-income families, including those from underrepresented backgrounds, through participation in instrumental tuition, projects and performances that have the potential to improve life chances.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the Mayor of London must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, between people who have a 'protected characteristic' as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and those who do not.
- 3.2. The grant to the London Music Fund will enable the continued creation of opportunities for Londoners, providing social and economic benefits in the capital. The funding of 26 scholarships aligns with ensuring that all Londoners – regardless of whether they have a protected characteristic – can enjoy, experience and benefit from being creative and have equal access into music education.
- 3.3. The London Music Fund specifically provides opportunities for young people from low-income backgrounds to realise and fulfil their potential through musical education, increasing their confidence and skills and ensuring they have an equal opportunity to nurture their musical talents and pursue musical aspirations. Currently, 65 per cent of past participants have been from Black, Asian and ethnically diverse backgrounds.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. The programmes and policies outlined in this decision also link to the following Mayoral strategies:
- Culture for All Londoners, the Mayor's landmark strategy for culture, which outlines an ambitious vision to ensure all Londoners can engage with and contribute to the capital's rich cultural offering on their doorstep.
 - Inclusive London, the Mayor's EDI Strategy, which sets out that a successful city needs to work well for all residents. Everyone should be able to share in its prosperity, culture and community life regardless of age, social class, disability, race, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status or whether they are pregnant or on maternity leave.
 - The Mayor's Social Integration Strategy, which aims to improve social integration in London. This means enabling people to have more opportunities to connect with each other positively and meaningfully; and supporting Londoners to play an active part in their communities and the decisions that affect them.

Risks

Risk	Mitigations in place	RAG rating
Financial mismanagement by any organisation in receipt of GLA grant funding.	Responsible GLA officers overseeing grant-funded programmes will closely monitor delivery and meet regularly with delivery partners. Robust funding agreements will be put in place; payments will be made against clearly defined milestones and, where appropriate, in arrears.	Green

Conflicts of interest

- 4.2. There are no conflicts of interest to note for any of the officers involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision form.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Approval is being sought for expenditure of £26,000 for a grant to the London Music Fund.
- 5.2. The grant amount of £26,000 expenditure is included in the Culture, Creative Industries and 24 Hour London budget for London Music Fund in 2024-25.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete grant funding agreement• Scholarships awarded• Progress report submitted to GLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 2024• Summer 2024• February 2025

Appendices and supporting papers:

None.

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Francesca Gluscevic has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Corporate Investment Board on 1 July 2024.

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature:



Date:

01/07/2024

PP on behalf of Anna Casbolt