

Individual Executive Decision Notice

Report title	Art Fund – Going Places Project Grant	
Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal - Cabinet Member for Visitor City Councillor Louise Miles – Cabinet Member for Resources	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Ian Fegan, Director of City Economy and Partnerships James Howse, Director of Finance	
Originating service	Arts and Culture	
Accountable employee	Author name	Ruth Stanway, Arts and Culture Manager
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Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Summary

The Arts and Culture service has been selected by the Art Fund as a partner for their Going Places Project: Development Phase.

Going Places will engage and involve underrepresented audiences with museum collections through high quality, collaborative touring exhibitions and public programmes. The programme will establish five networks of 3-5 small to mid-sized museums, with each network producing two touring exhibitions over five years (2025-2030). Local communities will be involved in selecting exhibition themes, outreach programming, and bring their voices and stories to each display. These exhibitions will meet high standards of environmental sustainability and build organisational resilience after the compounded challenges of the last few years.

During the development phase the networks will be formed, and participants will:

- gain a better understanding of current and future audiences
- build skills and confidence in collaborating with local audiences and underrepresented groups, including through consultation, co-production and co-curation
- participate in training, skills sharing and mentoring opportunities

- understand touring practicalities and best practices
- be supported in making use of exhibitions tax relief
- have access to funding to support their participation in the development phase, alongside funding to support community activities and research to inform the delivery phase

During the development phase networks will develop outline exhibition and engagement plans (and budgets) for a five-year delivery phase, with the delivery phase funding application submitted to The National Lottery Heritage Fund in November 2024. As Going Places is committed to being truly collaborative, and shaped by participating museums and their local communities, the final programme is yet to be determined but it will include sufficient funding for networks to enable:

- up to two touring exhibitions per network
- continued support for community consultation, co-creation, co-curation and engagement
- continued training and mentoring opportunities
- programme evaluation
- support to develop a wider fundraising strategy around their exhibitions and to build the long-term sustainability of the networks successful in securing £94,000 from the AIM Connected Communities Fund for the period November 2023 – December 2024.

Recommendation for decision:

In accordance with the constitution, authority is delegated to the cabinet member for Resources and the cabinet member for Inclusive City Economy, in consultation with the Service Director for of City Economy and Partnerships and the Director of Finance to create a supplementary budget of £490 (Initial Funds) in 2024/2025. During the development phase increases to this budget for further funding (Further Funds) to be provided at Art Fund's discretion (Initial Funds and Further Funds together make up the Grant) to support participation for the grant and agree to the terms of the partnership agreement as detailed in the Going Places Partnership Agreement – Development Phase dated 10 January 2024 (Appendix 1) and further reports will be brought if finance received

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Art Fund is a registered charity and independent organisation that helps museums and people to share in great art and culture. The organisation funds art, helping the UK's museums to enrich their collections, build audiences and amplify the museum sector, through the Museum of the Year award and creative events that bring the UK's museums together.
- 1.2 The Arts and Culture Service submitted a Going Places Partner Application to the Art Fund that was accepted for the development phase in January 2024.

- 1.3 This IEDN covers the development phase only that runs from January 2024 – February 2025.

2.0 Discussion

- 2.1 Wolverhampton Arts and Culture (WAC) will work collaboratively with the Art Fund to develop this project in the development phase with external partners across the UK, with a vision to continue this project and enter into a new agreement to deliver the project (Delivery Phase) in February 2025.

2.2 Project Aims

To celebrate and share the collections of museums across the UK, promoting the importance and relevance of these objects to contemporary society.

To engage underrepresented audiences, offering opportunities for local communities to be involved, and embedding local experiences, stories and voices in displays and outreach programmes.

To support small and mid-sized museums to connect with one another and build organisational resilience through collaborative touring exhibitions and public programmes, enabling the participation of museums who may not otherwise have the capacity or expertise to do so.

To create high quality touring exhibitions that meet high standards of environmental sustainability.

3.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 3.1 If there is not a signed agreement and supplementary budget in place, then the Arts and Culture service will not be able to participate in this project.

4.0 Reasons for decision

- 4.1 A signed funding agreement and supplementary budget is required as a condition of the grant funding.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The financial plan for the delivery phase will be created within the development phase in 2024/2025. A budget of £490 is required for 3.5 days of time for a Curatorial Assistant to backfill the staff taking part in the programme that will be funded by the Art Fund.
- 5.2 Further funds may be agreed throughout the development phase, with funding available on application by the Partner at Art Fund's discretion for activities such as community

engagement / consultation / co-production / co-curation, and other network activities such as travel and research. Further reports will be brought if received.

- 5.3 Art Fund will be responsible for meeting the costs of provided training and skills sharing opportunities and attendance at the in-person Project meetings Art Fund organises (including reasonable travel, accommodation and subsistence) for up to two attendees.
- 5.4 No match funding is required.

[SB/08042024/N]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 In order for the Council to be in receipt of the funding and be part of the project it must enter into a Partnership Agreement. Legal Services will review and advise the Council on the terms of the Going Places Partnership Agreement – Development Phase dated 10 January 2024 (Appendix 1)

[RR/04042024/W]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 The service delivers to the Arts Council England investment principle **Inclusivity and Relevance** and has committed to.

‘Improve the diversity of the workforce to ensure that the service is representative of the population. Work with staff, volunteers, freelancers, and consultants to ensure that diverse thinking is embedded in the programme to ensure they are inclusive and relevant’.

This aligns with the City of Wolverhampton Principle ‘Fair and Equal’

- 7.2 The project aims to engage underrepresented audiences, offering opportunities for local communities to be involved, and embedding local experiences, stories and voices in displays and outreach programmes.

8.0 All other Implications

- 8.1 The WAC service delivers to the ACE investment principle Environmental Responsibility and have committed to

‘Embed awareness of environmental issues and climate change into all aspects of exhibition programming. Raise public awareness through learning initiatives with schools. Support the delivery of the Council's carbon neutral goals through the management and operation of the listed buildings’

8.2 The project aims to create high quality touring exhibitions that meet high standards of environmental sustainability.

8.3 All relevant Human Resources policies and procedures will be followed

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1 There are no background papers to consider.

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1: Going Places Partnership Agreement – Development Phase, dated 10 January 2024.

10.2 Appendix 2: Going Places partner application.