

Voices Foundation receives £25,000 from second round of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund

Voices Foundation has been awarded £25,000 as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure they have a sustainable future.

As a result of this grant, Voices Foundation can maintain our viability through 20/21, continuing to deliver inspiring and impactful singing programmes and products in the short term, and will be in a position to return to financial stability and growth once schools move beyond this crisis. This will then put us in a strong position for future development and growth as we work towards the goals of our 2020-23 strategy.

Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, said:

"Our record breaking Culture Recovery Fund has already helped thousands of culture and heritage organisations across the country survive the biggest crisis they've ever faced.

Now we're staying by their side as they prepare to welcome the public back through their doors - helping our cultural gems plan for reopening and thrive in the better times ahead."

Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair, Arts Council England, said:

"Investing in a thriving cultural sector at the heart of communities is a vital part of helping the whole country to recover from the pandemic. These grants will help to re-open theatres, concert halls, and museums and will give artists and companies the opportunity to begin making new work.

We are grateful to the Government for this support and for recognising the paramount importance of culture to our sense of belonging and identity as individuals and as a society."

Voices Foundation Interim CEO, Jennifer Coleman-Peers, said:

"We are thrilled to have been awarded a Culture Recovery Fund grant. The Covid-19 pandemic has created huge uncertainty for our funding whilst at the same time requiring us to rapidly innovate to ensure that we can continue to support schools in delivering a high-quality music education. Support such as this, which is designed to bridge organisations back to sustainability, is therefore desperately needed. Huge thanks to the Arts Council and DCMS for this grant and to all our supporters who are ensuring we can continue working to help every child find their voice, no matter what."

The funding awarded today is from a £400 million pot which was held back last year to ensure the Culture Recovery Fund could continue to help organisations in need as the public health picture changed. The funding has been awarded by Arts Council England, as well as Historic England and National Lottery Heritage Fund and the British Film Institute.

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Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

- Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's Culture Recovery Fund. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.
- At the Budget, the Chancellor announced the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund would be boosted with a further £300 million investment. Details of this third round of funding will be announced soon.

Voices Foundation has been working since 1993 to help schools, academies, Music Education Hubs and other partners across the UK to establish sustainable and effective music education in their settings through singing. For more information about our work, please visit www.voices.org.uk