



REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR SPECIFIC PROJECT

FINANCIAL YEAR 2023 -2024

DATE: 12/01/2024

ENCLOSURE 8

TO: KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL / FINANCE & GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Please read the Project Support Grant Criteria before completing this form

NAME / GROUP & MAIN CONTACT	Alexander Kaniewski in association with The English Heritage Trust
PROJECT TITLE	Will we impress Good Queen Bess?
TOTAL SUM REQUESTED	This is a music and theatre event taking place at English Heritage site Kenilworth Castle on the 12 th of July 2024. We are asking for £500 to support the participatory element for local residents of Kenilworth. Residents attending the event will enjoy new musical compositions, a collection of short theatre performances, interactive walking performances and group participatory songs and dances
COSTING OF PROJECT WITH FULL DETAILED BREAKDOWN	A grant from Kenilworth Town Council will be used to facilitate elements of the event tailored to the local community and used to target that audience, involving them in the wider event. £300 for payment of facilitators. 6 hours of material preparation, 4 hours of event facilitation with local audience during performance event. Facilitators: James Mcilwrath, Georgie Taylor and Alex Kaniewski @ £10 an hour 10 hours. £80 for targeted event advertisement and community engagement, actively seeking local audiences and inviting them to take part in the event. Meeting with local groups, posters, flyers and advertisement in local publication. £120 for materials, used to make and provide props for the interactive performance elements and to provide accessibility aids, making the experience available for all. ----- Full event Costings The above elements for which we are requesting support are relating to a Kenilworth specific presentation and community engagement, following a larger project, funded through Ignite grant. Full cost breakdown below. Peter Bell – New compositions for natural trumpet. Delivery of the score. Musical composition £330 8 hours of rehearsal time with Trumpeters £170 <u>£500</u>

	Students from the Birmingham Conservatoire (trumpeters) x4 8 hours of rehearsal £170 x4 <u>£680</u> Maarten Benschop – organising the guitar concert for primary school students. Writing a vocal piece. 8 hours of rehearsal and preparation time with students £170 James Mcilwrath – Preparation time 6 hours £130. Workshop with the children £170. Performance material on the day £170 - <u>£470</u> Georgie Taylor - Preparation time 6 hours £130. Workshop with the children £170. Performance material on the day £170 - <u>£470</u> Alex Kaniewski – 32 hours of Directing, organization and rehearsal Time (£21.25 per hour) <u>£680</u> Costumes – resources and materials <u>£800</u> for 20 costumes. £40 per costume. £3,770 Transport subsidy Workshop day at Priors Field: 3 people (Alex, Georgie and James) (£18 per person both ways) £54 Performance day – (4 trumpeters, Maarten, Alex, Georgie, James.) 7 people (£18 per person both ways) £126 <u>£180</u> Total: £3,950
DETAILS OF OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING APPLIED FOR AND NAMES OF PARTNER ORGANISATIONS IF PROJECT IS JOINT/ MULTI GROUPS AND DETAILS OF FUNDING SUPPORT REQUESTS MADE BY THEM	The artist has applied for an Ignite grant through Warwickshire County Council for £4385 to cover the cost of the main performance, and workshops with Priors Field School Primary School and Warwick School. This application is part of a wider strategy including an application for funding from Arts Council England. However, these funds would specifically support Kenilworth residents' participation in the event. English Heritage is offering support in kind through free site access and staff support from both the onsite team, and the Grants and Trust Department. The project is also supported by The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Warwick School Foundation and Priors Field Primary School
PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE ENCLOSED YOUR MOST RECENT AUDITED BALANCE SHEET OR EQUIVALENT.	Yes.
TIMESCALE / DATE OF EVENT	Project Time Line This event will be a retelling of Robert Dudley's elaborate theatrical activities to win the heart of Queen Elizabeth I when she visited him at Kenilworth in 1575 for nineteen days of pageantry and parties.

This is the full timeline of the event. Sections that are directly linked to the funding from Kenilworth Town council have been highlighted

February- March 2024

Research and development

- Approach groups and arts organisations in Kenilworth, to explore the possibility of their involvement within the project as well as asking them about how they operate as an organisation.
- Creative research into the history of Robert Dudley and his theatrical pageant. Taking inspiration from Walter Scott's novel Kenilworth.
- The development of ideas and material within the fields of dance, music and theatre for the project.
- Begin initial creative meetings with artists that will be involved in the project:
- **Composer Peter Bell:** New compositions for natural trumpet.
(Three Trumpeters required)
- **Composer Maarten Benschop:** New composition for voice.
- **Performer and facilitator James McIlwrath:** Development of school workshop facilitation and performance material.
- **Performer and facilitator Georgie Taylor:** Development of school workshop facilitation and performance material.

April- May 2024

- Costume and design preparations for the artists' costumes and sixth form students from Warwick school.
- Details of workshops with Priors Field primary school and Warwick school confirmed for June 2024.
- Additional workshops and activities with community groups in Kenilworth identified through the research development phase.
- Devising and Rehearsals with artists and preparations for workshops with Prior Field Primary.
- English Heritage and the artist working collaboratively to promote the project and advertise amongst the Kenilworth and Warwick district communities.

June 2024

- Regular devising workshops at Warwick School commence with Sixth Form students.
- Final preparations to performers design and costume.
- Blocking of activities within Kenilworth Castle, with the support of English Heritage site staff, including the route the audience will take around the different performances taking place during the event.

July 2024

- Workshops at Priors Field introducing the pupils to the performers and their characters, teaching them performance material enabling them to take part during the event.
- Rehearsal at Kenilworth Castle with performers, musicians and students from Warwick school, supported by English Heritage staff.

	Performance event 12 July 2024. It will feature a collection of promenade performance pieces delivered by Priors Field pupils, Warwick School sixth formers, and local emerging performance artists. The audience would be made up of students from Priors Field, and the general public. The intention is to invite as many members of the local community as possible. Elements of the event will be interactive, engaging our audience directly through performance material. The event will also feature an acoustic guitar concert performed by pupils from Prior Field.
NUMBER OF KENILWORTH RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT	We would hope to provide entertainment, involvement, spectacle and laughter for 250 residents over the course of the daylong event. This would be made up of the families of the pupils taking part and residents we have been able to reach through our advertisement. This number would be increased by passive engagement from regular visitors to Kenilworth on the day.
OTHER INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION	
English Heritage is a leading conservation charity which looked after over 400 sites across the country. Our mission is not only to care for England's historic sites but to make them engaging and accessible to all, with a particular focus on local community engagement. We have an experienced Grants and Trust team who work alongside the site teams to ensure timely communication with funders. Under our care, Kenilworth Castle has a particularly rich and varied history of events and performance in partnership with local organizations, such as the annual 4th November fireworks onsite at the Castle hosted by Kenilworth Round Table. We are also running interactive children's days across the February 2024 half-term, and so feel we have the experience and expertise necessary to facilitate this project. In 1958 Kenilworth Castle was given as a freehold to Kenilworth Town Council, making the residents the real owners of the site. For this reason, we are particularly interested in partnering with projects which encourage local engagement and were therefore happy to support Alex and his team with this project when it was proposed to us. Alexander Kaniewski is a director, designer and producer, who creates large-scale outdoor community spectacles, involving music, costume, dance and performance. These works are location specific and include local people, schools and organisations. As a director, the focus of his artistic activities is working collaboratively with local artists from a range of disciplines, to devise performance material that develops their practice as well as meeting the needs of a current project. He endeavors to fill projects with 'personality', colour, music, movement, humour, heart and inclusivity. These projects are also opportunities for artists to share their passion for their material via workshops with community groups and schools, giving young people firsthand opportunities to see creatives at work, raising their aspirations within the boundaries of what live art can offer. Alex received his Degree in Theatre from York St John University, receiving the Graduate Prize for highest achievement in 2018. This led to him being appointed the University's first Theatre Artist in Residence and a commission for a new work by York Theatre Royal, <i>MEDEA MARIA 2018</i>. He left York to teach drama at Warwick School and is still an associate Artist with the school and facilitate workshops with their youth theatre programme. He recently received his MMus in Experimental Performance from The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and was awarded the 2023 MMus course prize for outstanding achievement. Their most recent work <i>A Book of Portraits April 2023</i>, brought together the community and school children of the village of Hatton, along with a group of local artists, to create a fictitious folk ceremony based around a collection of character Portraits and performance instructions contained within a magical book. The event provided an interactive experience for the 120 pupils of Ferncumbe Primary School leading them to various	

performance locations around their village; the local woodland, church etc. The same event was then enjoyed by a public audience providing a unique evening of performance for 80 individuals

The event was beautifully described by an audience member as:

"It was a heart-warming communal experience which beautifully captures the weirdness and timelessness of ancient traditions and community rituals. It really felt like we were taking part in something that has happened regularly for hundreds of years. My favourite part was the summoning of the Lavender Man. Holding hands, eyes closed, hearing the leaves swish as he approached through the trees, was just magical. There was a real joyfulness, a sense of fun, and a real gentleness to the whole thing. I know a huge amount of stress and effort must have gone into organising it, but as a participant, I felt nothing but relaxed and included and excited. A huge thank you and well done to everyone who played a part."

Event Documentation:

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/shared/147a86f0ebbe38b29fec322876525dd>

Alex's work encourages the use of non-traditional performance settings and accessible outdoor spaces. This work reimagines public spaces for creative activities which bring the local community together. A shared experience specific to a particular space and time, these are unique events where the public can be actively involved in the making of moments and memories.

The works take inspiration from the place itself, tapping into their local history and traditions or generating new traditions for the future.

These curated events aim to provide a relaxed and accessible environment where people feel comfortable to get involved and take part. This is possible due to my team of local artists that foster an environment where the making of shared artistic experiences seems socially acceptable to all.

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Data Protection Statement

The information which you give when completing your application form will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and for the following purposes: to enable the organisation to create an electronic and paper record of your application; to enable the application to be processed; to enable the organisation to compile statistics, or to assist other organisations to do so, provided that no statistical information that would identify you as an individual will be published. The information will be kept securely, and will be kept no longer than necessary.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM AND ENCLOSURES TO

**THE TOWN CLERK
KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
VIA EMAIL TO kentc@kenilworth.org**

On your covering email – please confirm the following

Name and contact email and daytime telephone number.

Bank details – name and address of payee, bank sort code and account number