

This form should be returned to the Director of Finance & Central Support, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, DOVER CT16 3PF

REVENUE GRANT APPLICATION FORM

PART 1 - APPLICATION

1. Name of organisation/individual:

ASTON THEATRE ARTS CENTRE

2. How much grant is requested from Dover District Council ?

£8,000.00

DECLARATION:

I hereby declare that I have the authority to submit this application on behalf of the organisation of individual detailed above:

Signed: 

Name (Block capitals): JON JOHANSON

Date: 2/7/01 Status (eg Chairperson, Secretary): MANAGING DIRECTOR

Please note: (a) The information provided on this application will be held on a database and used to provide information to officers and members of the Council.

(b) A copy of your Organisation's latest accounts should be submitted with the form, together with an up to date summary of funds ie current bank and investment balances.

3. Name and address of Chairperson and Secretary (if applicable):

Chairperson

Name: JON JOHANSON

Address: ASTON THEATRE ARTS CENTRE

STAMFORD ROAD

DEAL

KENT CT16 6AB

Telephone No. Day: 01304 366077

Telephone No. Evening: "

Secretary:

Name: BACHELOR COOP

Address: THE NEW BARN

MILL LANE

EBERTY

SANDWICH CT13 0JW

Telephone No. Day: 01304 620600

Telephone No. Evening: N/A

4. Name and address of the person to whom the cheque should be sent if a grant is approved.

Name: JON JOHANSON
Address: ASTOR THEATRE CENTRE
STANHOPE ROAD, DEAL CT14 6AB
Position in Organisation: MANAGING DIRECTOR

5. What is the main purpose of your organisation?

To provide a high quality Arts Centre for the benefit of the surrounding communities, presenting a professional program of music, drama, dance and art, and incorporating workshops, exhibitions and classes.

6. If your organisation is a club with membership, please provide the following details:

Membership: Number of adult members: Number of junior members:

Does your club charge for membership? No : Yes:

If yes, please give details of the membership scheme and charges applicable:
(Should the space below be insufficient, please use a separate sheet of paper.)

~~N/A~~

What activities are available for members?

Is club membership restricted in any way ? If yes please provide details:

N/A

7. What are the aims of your organisation ?

Our aims and objectives are stated in our development plan, approved by the Council (please see attached). Funding is being sought from various sources - South East Arts, Single Regeneration Budget, Coalfield Regeneration Trust, and many more smaller funding agencies and Trusts.

8. Why do you think the Council should support your Organisation ?
How will you help the Council fulfil its own objectives and strategies ?

We are the only true theatre in the Council's district. The potential benefits for the area are already evident, although there is still a long way to go. Professional fees have been accrued and the professional team required to run the theatre are currently unable to draw their agreed salaries due to a delay in funding. It is envisaged that these salaries will be met in the future by income generated from the arts centre itself and additional specific funding from other agencies.

An application for a contribution in the annual amount of £5,000.00 from the Council for Professional fees was detailed in the development plan (page 27 - enclosed) and approved by the Council.

By agreeing a 25 year lease the Council has endorsed the plan and it is hoped share the vision. Early results from the independently researched Feasibility Study currently in progress indicate strong endorsement of our plans for the Astor.

PART 2
(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

1. Date application received: by Dept:

Officer

2. Committee to be submitted to:

FLGP H & H TS DJT PLAN TED

3. Officer responsible for processing grant:

Date forwarded to this officer: by officer:

Date received by responsible officer:

PROCESSING OF APPLICATION

4. CHECK LIST 1 - APPLICATION FORM

Details acceptable NR Not required SL Sent letter

CHECK LIST 2 - SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1 years accounts Up to date summary of funds Previous grant awards (from database)

Grant applied for last year/amount approved

Grants Panel recommendation

5. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not approved Approved

6. Date notification to applicant:

7. FMS code: Date of payment:

Section III - The Way Ahead

Objectives and Policy Statements

Vision Statement

To provide a high quality arts centre for the benefit of all sections of the surrounding communities.

Key Objectives

The key objectives of the Development Plan are to:

- Develop a programme that encourages participation in the arts as an effective means of personal growth and social inclusion.
- Develop an audience and client base for the outputs of the Theatre through a proactive outreach programme and policy of providing access through appropriate marketing strategies and transport for those sections of the community who find it difficult to participate.
- Sustain and develop an artistic and educational programme.
- Adopt and follow clear artistic, education and equal opportunities policies.
- Aim to employ local staff, provide training and work experience and promote equal opportunities.
- To secure funding for a feasibility study into the development of the Theatre by major refurbishment, capital projects and future artistic programme.
- Acquire equipment and material necessary to provide and support high quality facilities for life-long learning in the arts.
- Develop and implement management and financial infrastructure and policies to ensure that the Theatre is self-supporting for operating costs.

Policy Statements

Artistic Policy

The Artistic Policy of the Astor Theatre is to:

- Sustain and develop the existing high reputation the Theatre has for classical music, building a similar reputation for contemporary acoustic-based music and adding a new strand of programming for professional drama of equally high quality.
- Design a drama programme to develop an audience for drama in Deal and District, catering for age groups from pre-school children to adults, thus ensuring present and future participants and audiences for the work of the Theatre. The programme will include the best and most innovative drama for children available. Both children's and adults' programmes will showcase new productions of classic texts, new writing and cultural diversity.

The revenue and cost projections in on **Page 24 (Yellow)** indicate that the Theatre will be increasingly self sufficient for all operating costs, including salaries, from the end of the current year. However, it is intended that the salaries and fees should be performance related in future years, which would absorb some of the modest surpluses predicted. Also, a high revenue surplus could reduce the support from grants in aid in the future. In the first 18 months of the development programme, there will be additional 'set-up' costs for the Company to acquire charitable status and to set up the necessary financial management and accounting regime, notably, legal and accountancy fees. These costs are not known at present and have not been included in the financial projections.

Accordingly, in addition to granting the 25-year lease, the Company will approach the DDC for:

- A contribution towards the cost of professional fees to the value of £5000 per annum from 1 October 2000 to 31 March 2001, to be reviewed annually thereafter in relation to revenue earning performance and other grants in aid.
- Financial support towards the cost of the feasibility study up to £2,000.
- Revenue funding of the artistic programme through the annual DDC Arts & Events grant scheme.
- Capital grant funding towards the major renovation project, subject to the outcome of the feasibility study.
- Continued payment of building insurance for the premises.
- Continued concessions with regard to rates.
- Continued charging of a *peppercorn* rent for the lease.

Summary

See Executive Summary at front of Plan on Yellow Pages

Annexes:

- A. Expressions of Interest in the New Company and Charitable Trust
- B. Artistic Programme - 5 Year Financial Projections
- C. Funding Sources (00/01 to 04/05)

Financial Data Supplement:

Examined half-year accounts (1 April – 30 September 2000)
Examined accounts for 3 years (96/97, 97/98 and 99/00)

Contribution in kind

Theatre Manager

Although conditioned to 3-days per week at £100 pd, the Theatre Manager has been working 5 to 6 days per week at the Theatre, as well as most evenings when there is a major performance or event, since July 2000. Much of this essential voluntary contribution is at the expense of other income producing entertainment business activity and can be realistically costed at £1,300 per month, ie, the same again as the actual remuneration given. This additional commitment is expected to continue for the period of this application during which the Theatre Manager will carry most of the burden of the major refurbishment and Audio Visual Studios capital project management.

£15,600

Artistic Programme Manager

Although conditioned to 2-days per week at £100 pd, the Artistic Programme Manager has been working 3 or 4 days per week on Theatre business, including acting as Bookings Secretary and attendance at all major performances, since July 2000 and earlier. Much of this essential voluntary contribution is at the expense of other income producing performing arts business and can be realistically costed at £867 per month, ie, the same again as the actual remuneration given. This additional commitment is expected to continue over the period of this application during which the fund raising effort for the new artistic programme will be intense and critical to the success of the development plan.

£10,400

Therefore, the total value of continuing contributions in kind donated by the professional senior management team over of the period of this application is estimated at:

£26,000

Professional fees

Accountants £2,500.00

Reeves and Neylan
Batchelor Coop

Legal fees £1,500.00

Hardman and Co.
McKenzie Dillon

Total £4,000.00

These fees are related to the initial setting up of the company and the current application for charitable status; financial reports and licence applications.

Management fees

Theatre Manager £7,800.00

Artistic Manager £5,200.00

Total £13,000.00

GRAND TOTAL £17,000.00

All of the above fees are currently owed and due.

For the remaining financial year, until March 31, 2002, professional and management fees due will include the following:

Accountants 3,000.00

Management fees

Consultancy fees 1,000.00

Manager 11,700.00

Artistic Manager 7,800.00

Total £23,500.00

GRAND TOTAL £40,500.00