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Bewdley Community Arts Foundation

The Bewdley Community Arts Foundation (BCAF), a new initiative launched by Bewdley Festival, will fund arts-based activities that support, inspire and delight the citizens of Bewdley and Wyre Forest.

By providing funding and resources, facilitating and enabling access to creative activities (such as music, drama, painting, poetry, etc) for those most in need, BCAF will be a catalyst that helps to make a positive change to people's lives.

Background

The creation of the Foundation represents the next stage of Bewdley Festival's vision for securing resources for the arts in our community for future generations.

Taking part in creative activities are now widely recognised as having a positive effect on many areas of life.

Throughout its existence, the Festival has aspired to support the arts in Bewdley and the Wyre Forest by investing in various projects, both large and small scale. From acting as the major partner in the redevelopment of St Georges Hall twelve years ago, to the creation of the Bewdley Youth Festival, we now have a solid and unique track record of delivering innovative, rigorously managed and successful arts-based initiatives for the community.

The trustees and the Organising Committee believe that it is particularly appropriate, in light of the impact of the pandemic on so many, that the Festival should now use their expertise to build further on what has already been achieved over the past thirty years.

Scope and Purpose

As a grant making body, BCAF will provide funding to support young people, the elderly and the disadvantaged to access creative engagement activities that are a catalyst for:

- People to develop skills for life.
- Growth and development.
- Positive and inspiring learning experiences.
- Enhanced community engagement.

We aim to do this by:

- Ensuring that everyone in these three groups within our community has the opportunity to enjoy the life-changing benefits that come from the medium of the arts.

- Helping people achieve their arts goals and ambitions by supplying financial support.
- Providing one off payments or on-going support through scholarship style funding.
- Enabling access to those who would not normally engage, to benefit from arts-based experiences.

We will achieve our aims by granting funds for a variety of activities and initiatives. For example:

- Lessons in a fully diverse range of music, popular music, drama, dance, written word, painting, sculpture, etc.
- The provision of arts equipment.
- Skills workshops.
- The purchase and maintenance of assets.
- Scholarships to undertake further learning.

We have initially invited students from Bewdley School to apply for financial support with art-based projects. Early indications are we will receive applications from students with an interest in drama, music, art, poetry and film making. Later applications rounds will be open to people studying or working or living in the Wyre Forest.

Strategy

BCAF will develop a dialogue and relationships with like-minded individual benefactors, charities and foundations, who are committed to using the arts to provide community benefits, and who, by working with Bewdley Festival, will achieve their own charitable and grant making aims and objectives.

Supporting the Foundation

If you or your organisation can help BCAF realise these ambitions or would like further information about this wonderful initiative, please contact us via email admin@bewdleyfestival.org.uk or by phone on 01299 404808.

If you feel able to support us in our work we are looking for volunteers, fund raising ideas, donations and legacies (bequest and codicil forms are available). Please contact the Festival office for further information.

Donations can be made by cheque sent to the Festival office or by bank transfer to:

Bank: HSBC
Account name: Bewdley Festival Limited T/A BCAF
Sort Code: 40-10-13
Account no: 81460730

Thank you for your support and interest.

Yours faithfully.

Trevor Price (Chairman, Bewdley Festival Society Committee).