

the reading agency

Participate: Creative Reading

Partnerships and funding opportunities

This document complements the *Participate Partnership Working* paper in Making Change Happen. It describes elements of and suggestions for successful partnerships. It also draws together a range of funds which you could approach, in partnership with young people or local arts and community groups, to develop your creative reading work.

There are lots of different opportunities for partnerships in your area. It could be running joint events with a bookshop, or a theatre group. Key elements to any successful partnership are:

- Recognise what each partner is bringing to the process
- Set out achievable aims and objectives
- Allocate clear tasks and responsibilities within a realistic timescale
- Ensure meetings are inspiration rather than bureaucratic
- Establish effective communication systems (phone/email etc) and review progress on a regular basis
- Maintain an enthusiastic and positive approach and be prepared to be flexible.

The establishment of an effective partnership takes time and effort and must be built on a commitment to achieving shared outcomes. Problems can arise when individuals understand too little about each other's organisational culture and priorities – setting time aside to discuss this will be time well spent.

Case Study: Cutting IT in Plymouth libraries

The library outreach worker made contact with a local training agency offering vocational courses in hairdressing and childcare. The training agency's staff commented on the low literacy levels of many of their students (aged 14 - 18 years and mostly young women), and so the idea of doing a piece of outreach work with the students originated. The outreach worker ran three one-hour sessions in course time, using informal games and activities – such as library bingo, reading confessions, book title lucky dip. These activities were all designed to be non-threatening, inclusive and fun, and reading-related. The outreach worker devised some of these materials herself, and others were from Reading Agency publications. At the end of the sessions, the young people were invited to take out library membership, and 40 chose to sign up.

Partnership organisations that you could approach include:

- Local theatres
- dance schools
- music colleges
- local radio
- First Light Movies: www.firstlightmovies.co.uk

Creative funding opportunities

Below is a selection of the many grants available to support your creative reading work with young people. Many of the funds listed below require you to apply in partnership with young people and/or voluntary organisations.

Mediabox

www.media-box.co.uk/

Mediabox offers grants of for disadvantaged young people. Mediabox does not have a single, fixed definition of disadvantage, but expects applicants to have their own strategy for engaging hard to reach young people. Grants range from £500 to £40,000. Larger grants are designed for organisations with a strong track record of developing media projects with young people. This grant can assist organisations to deliver new programmes that allow a larger group of young people to work collaboratively. Match funding of 40% of the total project cost is required, 20% of which must be cash.

First Light Movies

www.firstlightonline.co.uk/

First Light is the UK's leading initiative enabling young people to realise their potential via creative digital film and media projects. Since launching in 2001, they have enabled over 20,000 budding young filmmakers to write, act, light, direct and produce over 900 films. They administer three grant schemes, the two most relevant being:

- **Young Film Fund** – UK Film Council's Lottery funded filmmaking initiative for 5 to 19 year olds. Grants are given for script writing projects up to £3,000.
- **Mediabox** www.media-box.co.uk/ grants from £500 to £40,000 to help young people have a positive voice in the media. It offers disadvantaged 13 to 19 year olds the opportunity to develop and produce creative media projects using film, television, radio or online platforms.

Arts Council of England

www.artscouncil.org.uk

The Arts Council of England gives money to a wide range of organisations, including local authorities for creative work through a wide variety of funding streams. Visit the website for more detailed information and go to your region's page.

Lloyds TSB Foundation

www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/

The Lloyds TSB Foundation awards grants of between £500 and £10,000 to a wide range of community groups and priority areas, including children and young people. The Foundation gives grants for salaries. It focuses on under-funded groups that help disadvantaged or disabled people of all ages to play a greater role in the community. They fund social and community needs, education and training.

Young Roots (Heritage Lottery Fund)

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/>

This Heritage Lottery Fund scheme gives grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 for projects which involve 13-20 year olds (and young people up to age 25 with special needs) in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement. Applicants must have community links.

Awards for All

www.awardsforall.org.uk

Awards for All, England offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 for projects that improve communities, and the lives of people within them. It is for voluntary and community groups, schools and health organisations, parish and town councils. You could support young people or local community groups to put in an application that develops your creative reading opportunities.

Local Network Fund for Children and Young People

The Local Network Fund (LNF) gives grants of between £250 and £7000 for small, local community groups in England to support vulnerable children and young people. It aims to counter child poverty and youth disadvantage by providing opportunities for children and young people to achieve their full potential.

Projects must fit at least one of the following: Isolation and Access, Aspirations and Experiences, Economic disadvantage, Children' voices.

Contact the Local Network Fund for Children and Young People on 0845 1130161 for more information, or check out your local Community Service Volunteers (CSV) website for further information as this fund is often administered locally by CSV.

Foyle Foundation

www.foylefoundation.org.uk/

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant-making trust that distributes grants of between £5,000 and £20,000. The Foundation's primary aim is to support charities whose core remit covers learning, the arts or health. Charities, community groups and schools are eligible to apply but will need to show why the project cannot be funded through statutory money. Applications from school PTA's are often well received, so you could use partnerships with local schools or voluntary organisations to access this fund.

Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

www.theworkcontinues.org/

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund gives grants to organisations for projects with

disadvantaged young people aged between 12 and 25 years. Proposals are welcomed by 'invitation-only', so you would need to make an approach before putting in a bid. Previous grants awarded have been between £25,000 and £300,000.

The Foundation for Sports and the Arts

www.thefsa.net/aboutus.htm

The Foundation for Sports and the Arts channels money originally donated by The New Football Pools to a wide range of sporting and artistic causes. They administer grants of mainly between £5,000 and £10,000 but they will fund up to £75,000. The fund closes in 2012.

National Foundation for Youth Music

www.youthmusic.org.uk

The National Foundation for Youth Music administers 3 open programmes offering between £1,000 and £30,000, which you can apply to for funding to support your work with young people:

- **Music Maker** – supports music-making in any style or genre for 5-18 year olds, or up to 25 year-olds with special needs
- **Plug into Music** – develops music technology skills for 5-18 year-olds
- **Singing Challenge** – encourages new and exciting ways of singing for 5-18 year-olds.

Ernest Cook Trust

www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk

The Ernest Cook Trust gives grants of up to £10,000 for educational projects which provide opportunities for young people; encouraging them to gain qualifications to improve employment prospects. They will not fund building or refurbishment work, overseas work or sports and recreation projects. Projects that educate about the rural environment, the countryside and the arts are given preference.

Charities or not for profit organisations can apply, individuals cannot. Project submissions from library services would therefore have to be in partnership with a charity such as The Reading Agency or a local organisation.