



Garfield Weston FOUNDATION

Over £30 million awarded to Arts organisations across the UK from the Garfield Weston Foundation

The Weston Culture Fund increased to over £30 million due to level of need

Over a hundred cultural organisations across the UK are being awarded over £30m from a new one-off fund to support the cultural sector set-up by the Weston family in response to the devastating impact of Covid-19. The Weston Culture Fund is supporting a diverse range of organisations from museums to regional theatres to national touring ballet companies.

Some of those receiving funding from the Foundation include [Ballet Black](#), the [National Theatre](#), [Paraorchestra](#), [Lakeland Arts](#), [Northern Ballet](#) and the [NoFit State Circus](#). Grants range from £100,000 up to £1.5m based on the size of the organisation.

The Foundation's Trustees decided to increase the fund to over £30m after seeing the level of creativity and determination from arts organisations who have been hit by the pandemic and are fighting hard to 'keep the lights on'.

The Garfield Weston Foundation's Director, Philippa Charles, says:

"Our cultural sector is at the heart of our local communities providing not only entertainment but education and inspiration for many. Our Trustees were impressed by the entrepreneurial spirit shown across the arts in response to Covid-19 and it was a privilege to hear what organisations had been doing to not only survive but also to reinvent the way they reach audiences. What really stood out was the level of collaboration and support they had for each other and the determination to keep going, despite the increasingly difficult situation.

We all want and need our cultural sector to thrive and, if anything, our time away from the arts has shown just how important they are to us - bringing much needed pleasure and enrichment to our lives. Arts organisations are desperate to re-open and get back to what they do best and we hope that this new funding will help many of them do exactly that."

Northern Ballet is one of the UK's leading touring ballet companies but when the pandemic hit touring productions were paused, making reaching audiences digitally all the more important. Chief Executive, Mark Skipper says the £600,000 grant will make a real difference.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Weston Culture Fund for awarding us this game-changing grant which will enable us to film and distribute our new full-length ballet Merlin, and our next children's ballet, both of which will première this autumn.

This grant will enable us to significantly increase our digital output for years to come, reaching millions more young people and adults in the UK and internationally, breaking down barriers to dance and ensuring ballet is accessible to everyone, everywhere."

The NoFit State Circus in Cardiff has been awarded £276,000. It's Artistic Director, Tom Rack says:

"The support from the Weston Culture Fund changes everything. It is the difference between just surviving the next 12 months, to ensuring a creative future post Covid. This support gets us so much closer to welcoming our artists and audiences back to the big top."

The Foundation highlighted that its regular funding streams are still open and it very much welcomes applications across all areas of its grant programmes. Since April 2020, the Foundation has given away over £75 million in funding to support charities across the UK.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editor:

Information on the recipients of the Weston Culture Fund can be found at:
<https://garfieldweston.org/weston-culture-fund>

Information on regular funding can be found at: <https://garfieldweston.org/apply-to-us/>

Images are available and for any press enquiries, please contact:

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Garfield Weston Foundation

Established over 60 years ago in 1958, the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#) is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK and gave over £88million last year. It has donated well over £1billion to charities since it was established.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown, so too have the charitable donations.

From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. Around 2,000 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.