

# The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

## Lightbox Theatre

#ZM6K1KZ4QR submitted on 22 November 2023

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### **1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us**

We are seeking £4,500 in project funding for the community tour of our upcoming production of *Looked After* (a working title) which stories the lived experience of foster carers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the UK and of those they care for. A key part of this tour is the post-show audience engagement with our partner organisations who work within the field.

### **1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative**

Founded and directed by Emma Faulkner, Lightbox Theatre discovers and brings to life stories that are untold or overlooked. We love connecting with real people's lives and stories, and reaching new audiences. We believe that theatre has the power to create connection and give voice to people who feel unheard, which in turn reduces isolation and disadvantage.

Our new production; *Looked After*, will have a 2-week tour in strategic places across Bristol, identified by our partners, to begin conversations which raise audiences' awareness of fostering & UASC. Based on research, real accounts, and our own R&D process, this hopeful story follows two foster families as they navigate an UASC being placed in their care. It will be authentic, honouring and celebratory of the children who are arguably the most vulnerable in our society, and of those who journey alongside them, in the hope of opening up a conversation about the issues entangled and to inspire action as a response.

We are keen that our work goes beyond being piece of art; to have a real life impact for those whose stories we are telling. We want to use the production to begin a conversation that inspires audiences to take the next steps in enacting positive change in this area, such as considering fostering or supporting organisations that work with asylum seekers, refugees and UASC. Directly following each performance we will be handing over the conversation opened by the performance to a number of partner organisations, such as Home for Good, Easton Family Centre and Trauma Foundation South West, who work directly within these issues, enabling audiences to engage with the work the organisations do and consider how they might get involved.

This innovative model of working, whilst unique within our industry is one we have used before with success in previous productions and therefore know that the engagement we expect to get from our audiences is realistic and how to make this fruitful. We truly listen to what our partners are telling us their needs are and as the project continues to develop, it will do so in a way that facilitates these needs being met in a practical and sustainable way. Being a response to partner's needs, the show will support their work with vulnerable UASC, and create empathy, understanding and social action in the communities they serve in Bristol.

This project was conceptualised and has been pioneered by Dannie Dart who's undergraduate psychology dissertation work forms the basis and initial impetus of this original creative piece of work. She also has personal experience of being a foster-carer herself and has worked with refugees, asylum seekers and UASC in multiple ways. Dannie and the rest of our team, are well aware of the need to tell these important stories in an authentic, human and hopeful way that is contrary to the narratives that are far too often portrayed.

We passionately believe that this production can and will creatively engage and inspire communities around Bristol to enact positive social change through raising awareness of UASC and their foster carers and connecting them with well established organisations working to offer relief.

### 1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

E - Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

#### 1.3e Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

Foster care for UASC is key, as it's a rich environment that supports language, cultural understanding, and emotional support in comparison to those in supported accommodation (Holden et al., 2020), who report greater PTSD symptoms (Bronstein, et al., 2012). It is particularly important to the UK given the numerous daily channel crossings, and for Bristol as a city of sanctuary.

### 1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

### 1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

No

### 1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

We will evaluate this project through;

Weekly production meetings.

Regular discussions with partners, artists and volunteers, pre-production and during the tour.

Gathering audience feedback.

Monitoring engagement on social media and at post-show discussions.

Debriefing with each of our partners at the end of the tour.

Monitoring show bookings and attendance.

Reviewing final expenditure and income of the production.

Holding an internal evaluation meeting between Lightbox Theatre's staff and its Board of Trustees post-production.

## 2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Production costs	£8,300	e.g. - Set costume, props, venue hire, lighting & sound.
Marketing	£3,500	e.g. employing a freelance marketer, merchandise production, printing costs, paid social media, employing a videographer / photographer.
Creative team salaries	£23,700	We have the industry union standard (Equity) to calculate fair salaries for all working of this project.
Other	£4,600	e.g. volunteer expenses, van hire for set transportation, eco-friendly set disposal, additional resources, contingency, rehearsal space & per-diadems.
TOTALS	£40,100	

## 2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Arts Council England	£15,012	£0	We are awaiting a decision

			in Dec 2023
UWE Bristol	£15,000	£0	We are awaiting a decision by Nov 2023
Foyle Foundation	£5,000	£5,000	
Crowd Funding	£500	£225	
TOTALS	£35,512	£5,225	

**2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?**

£4,500

**2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?**

No

**2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)**

£35,000

**2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?**

No

**2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful**

LIGHTBOX THEATRE  
40212237  
09-01-28

**3.1 Your name**

Dannie Dart

**3.2 Your contact telephone number**

07469939510

**3.3 Your position within the organisation**

Associate Producer

**3.4 Your email address**

[Lightboxproductionassistant@gmail.com](mailto:Lightboxproductionassistant@gmail.com)

**3.5 Organisation name**

Lightbox Theatre

**3.6 Please state the status of your organisation**

UK Charity

**3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does**

Through our productions, community engagement and participation opportunities we are committed to advancing the public's access and exposure to the arts. We aim to reach new audiences and in particular offer opportunities for creative engagement for those from disadvantaged backgrounds so as to alleviate the effects of poverty, isolation, illness and exclusion. We believe that stories can be found in the everyday and that theatre should be inclusive and accessible to everyone.

**3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation**

St Pauls Learning Centre  
94 Grosvenor Road

Bristol  
BS2 8XJ

**3.9 UK telephone number**

07469939510

**3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)**

157668

**3.11 Year established**

2013

**3.12 Website (if applicable)**

<https://lightboxtheatre.co.uk/>

**3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)**

@lightboxtheatre (Instagram)

Lightbox Theatre (Facebook)

**4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?**

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