

Report to Twinning committee
26 February 2014
Report of The twinning officer
Subject Application for a twinning committee grant

Item

10

Purpose

To consider a grant application received from the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Recommendations

To grant £200 to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association to support the annual Paul Cross Memorial concert in January 2015 which promotes friendship with Novi Sad, Vojvodina, Serbia and fosters appreciation of the music and culture of Novi Sad.

Financial consequences

There are sufficient funds to pay for this grant which fulfils the aims of the council to promote and foster links and exchanges between the people of Norwich and the twin cities.

Corporate objective/service plan priority

The report helps to meet the strategic priority *City of character and culture* and the service plan priority of providing a range of cultural and leisure opportunities and events for people.

Contact officers

Jackie Rodger, senior committee officer

01603 212029

Background documents

None

Background

1. The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association has submitted an application for a twinning committee grant for the sum of £200 to support its annual Paul Cross Memorial concert, to be held in January 2015.
2. At its meeting on 26 February 2014, the committee approved retrospectively the grant of £200 to assist the travel expenses of two internationally renowned concert performers to fly from Novi Sad for the concert which was held in January 2014.
3. The committee has granted £200 towards the costs of the annual Paul Cross Memorial concert since 2004.

Application

4. The association has applied for a grant towards the cost of organising the 2015 Paul Cross Memorial concert which will be held on 17 January 2015 at the Assembly House, Norwich at 7.30pm. There will be a piano recital by Aleksander Djermanović from Novi Sad.
5. The purpose of the concert is to promote the aims of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association to promote friendship and foster an appreciation of the music and culture of Novi Sad and its surrounding area. The association extends hospitality to the Lord Mayor, Sheriff, Chairman of Norfolk County Council, the two Norwich MPs and representatives from the Serbian Embassy in London. The concert is therefore a platform for the twinning of the two cities.
6. The total cost of the event is £1,300. The association has received grants in previous years from the Fitzmaurice Trust, the John Jarrold Trust and the Goodman Trust. The amount of grant received from these organisations has not been specified. However it is likely that the association will also seek grants for the 2015 concert. The association also sells tickets to the event and there is raffle to raise funds. The association has not provided information on the amount that is realised from ticket sales. However in recent years, with rising costs, it has been difficult to break even.
7. The concert fulfils the aims of the twinning associations in that it promotes a better understanding of a shared culture and helps to promote informal links between people and organisations in the city of Norwich and the county of Norfolk and is dedicated to furthering friendship between the two cities. The granting of £200 towards the costs incurred in arranging the concert is therefore within the aims of the committee. It is therefore recommended that the grant is used for the travel expenses for the young pianist to travel to Norwich and perform at the concert.