



Theatres Trust awards grants c£100,000 with £360,000 available over the next three years to improve theatre sustainability

Through its partnership with the Wolfson Foundation, Theatres Trust is awarding c.£100,000 to five theatres to be more environmentally sustainable. These awards are made as the Wolfson Foundation announces the renewal of its funding for the Theatre Improvement Scheme, with a further £360,000 to be awarded over the next three years.

Before the pandemic took hold, the biggest challenge facing the theatre sector was responding to the climate crisis and Theatres Trust, the national public advisory body for theatres, is keen that this priority should not slip. Theatres, like all public buildings, have an impact on the environment, with major energy consumption coming from heating, ventilation, stage machinery and lighting and sadly many theatres do not meet modern environmental standards.

The projects supported in this most recent round of funding include installing solar panels, upgrading house lights to more efficient LEDs and replacing the Building Management Systems that control heating, ventilation and energy use. The five theatres receiving funding in this round are Chichester Festival Theatre, The Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond, Lyric Theatre Belfast, The Marlowe in Canterbury and Northern Stage in Newcastle.

Jon Morgan, Director of Theatres Trust, comments *Despite the immediate issues caused by Covid-19, it is imperative that we continue to focus on the long-term environmental sustainability of the theatre sector. Environmentally friendly buildings are not just an ethical imperative but a business necessity that can impact a theatre's viability. The volume and quality of the applications we received for this scheme shows there is a real appetite amongst theatres to make environmental*

improvements to their buildings, so we are delighted that the Wolfson Foundation has renewed this partnership and we'll be able to help more theatres make vital changes.

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation says, *At this critical moment for the UK's performing arts sector, we are delighted to be able to renew our partnership with the Theatres Trust for a further three years. The impact of Covid-19 has only increased the importance of taking an environmentally sustainable approach. We hope this funding will encourage theatres across the UK to think about the often small changes that can make a significant difference to their environmental impact. Never has it been more important to help theatres improve the viability of their buildings.*

The next round of the Theatre Improvement Scheme is now open for applications, with £120,000 to be awarded in grants of up to £20,000 for projects to improve theatres' sustainability. The deadline for applications is 6 September 2021. Further details on the scheme can be found at <http://www.theatrust.org.uk/how-we-help/grants-funding/theatre-improvement-scheme>

Notes to Editors

Title	Theatres Trust
Website	www.theatrust.org.uk
Twitter	@TheatresTrust

Theatre Improvement Scheme grant recipients

Chichester Festival Theatre, £19,988

The grant will enable the theatre to complete an upgrade to its house lights, switching to LEDs in the studio space Minerva Theatre and enabling another major saving in its environmental impact.

The Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond, £20,000

The existing boilers and Building Management System are only operating at 65-70% efficiency so will be replaced to improve ventilation and heating in one of the UK's oldest theatres.

Lyric Theatre, Belfast, £18,250

Northern Ireland's only full-time producing theatre was given a grant to upgrade its Building Management System, giving the theatre greater control over energy management, allowing it to achieve energy saving targets.

The Marlowe, Canterbury, £20,000

As part of a wider environmental project, this leading regional theatre will install 500m² of photovoltaic solar panels on its roof, which is estimated to offset 10% of its annual energy usage.

Northern Stage, Newcastle, £20,000

The north east's largest producing theatre Northern Stage will change over its house lights from halogen to LED in its largest performance space, Stage 1.

Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. They believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance. They champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. They do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres, campaigning on behalf of theatres old and new and offering financial assistance through grants. In 2020 Theatres Trust committed to five Environmental Principles to reshape its work and help influence and improve the sector's sustainability.

The Wolfson Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation is an independent charity that supports and promotes excellence in the fields of science and health, heritage, humanities and the arts. Education and research underpins all that they do. Founded in 1955, it has awarded over £1 billion (£2 billion in real terms) to some 14,000 projects across the UK, all on the basis of expert peer review. The Wolfson Foundation has long been providing capital funding to the cultural sector, supporting museums and galleries, historic sites, educational institutions and performing arts organisations. The Foundation's existing funding programme for the performing arts aims to support and promote excellence in the sector.

www.wolfson.org.uk/funding/funding-for-places/funding-for-performing-arts-organisations/

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