

PRESS RELEASE 21 February 2019

Theatres Trust launches new grant scheme to improve environmental sustainability of theatres

The latest round of the **Theatre Improvement Scheme**, in association with the **Wolfson Foundation**, will offer theatres grants of **up to £20,000** for projects focusing on **Improving Environmental Sustainability**.

Protecting the environment is one of the biggest social issues right now and the theatre sector is keen to be more environmentally sustainable. While operational changes can make a difference in reducing energy wastage and carbon footprint, major energy consumption comes from heating, ventilation, stage machinery and lighting.

Sadly, many of the UK's stock of more than 1,000 active theatres, particularly the older ones, do not meet today's environmental standards. **Theatre buildings** and the plant that services them are in **desperate need of investment to make them more efficient**. In a recent Theatres Trust survey of theatres planning capital works in the next 5 years, 50% cited environmental improvements as one of the key reasons for the works.

It is hoped that these grants will support a range of projects that consider different ways theatre buildings can reduce their environmental impact. From **sedum roofs to new windows, building management systems** to more **efficient water heaters**, funding will be given to projects that demonstrate how a small intervention can have a big impact.

Tom Stickland, Theatres Adviser at the Theatres Trust says: "A lot of great work is already happening to make the theatre sector 'greener', but bringing buildings up to the required standard is a big challenge for theatre operators. Environmentally-friendly buildings are not just an ethical imperative but a business necessity that can impact on a theatre's viability. We know from our research and from applications to our other smaller grant schemes that there is desire to carry out environmental improvement work so we are pleased to be able to offer this support".

Theatre operators can apply for **grants of up to £20,000 towards** their building or equipment as part of the scheme. The deadline for applications is **Friday 13 September 2019**.

Full details of the scheme are available on the Theatres Trust website
<http://www.theatrestrust.org.uk/how-we-help/grants-funding/theatre-improvement-scheme>

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The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance.

We champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities.

We 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

theatretrust.org.uk

Wolfson Foundation is an independent charity that aims to improve the civic health of society by supporting excellence in the fields of science, health, education and the arts and humanities. Founded in 1955, it has awarded over £900 million (£1.9 billion in real terms) to some 11,000 projects across the UK, all on the basis of expert peer review. The Foundation's existing funding programme for the performing arts aims to support and promote excellence in the sector.

Wolfson Foundation has long been providing capital funding to the cultural sector, supporting museums and galleries, historic sites, educational institutions and performing arts organisations. Since the beginning of the 2017 Theatres Trust has been working with the Foundation to develop a scheme focusing on smaller, regional theatres, complementing its existing funding programme and building on the knowledge and expertise of Theatres Trust. Our partnership continues with the **Theatres Improvement Scheme**.

wolfson.org.uk/funding/arts-and-humanities/performing-arts/