



100th grant awarded through Theatres Trust Small Grants Programme with The Linbury Trust

Glasgow's Tron Theatre is the 100th theatre to receive a grant through Theatres Trust's Small Grants Programme with The Linbury Trust, as the national advisory and advocacy body announces the latest round of recipients.

This marks the seventh round of the Small Grants programme, with 20 theatres receiving grants of up to £5,000 each totalling £96,242. The funds help theatres to improve their sustainability, access and viability. This takes the total number of grants awarded through the scheme to 112, a huge milestone for Theatres Trust, which aims to support theatres to become fit for the future and thrive as cultural community hubs.

The 100th recipient, Tron, has been awarded a grant of £5,000 for a project to relocate and upgrade its accessible toilet to provide more privacy and a better experience for customers. Tron Theatre Executive Director Patricia Stead comments, *We're extremely grateful to the Theatres Trust Small Grants programme with The Linbury Trust for their support. This project to upgrade disabled toilet facilities within our café-bar is part of a much larger, strategic commitment the Tron Theatre has to improve our building and levels of accessibility, which in turn improves the experience of visiting for our customers.*

Other accessibility schemes supported in this round include the refurbishment of the accessible bathroom at The Institute Braintree, replacement of accessible doors at the Guide Bridge Theatre in Greater Manchester, and installation of captioning screens at Macrobert Arts Centre in Sterling.

MAST Mayflower Studios in Southampton receives funding for a sustainability project that includes better recycling, more composting, the installation of a rainwater harvesting system and creating green spaces using the compost and harvested water. Worthing Pavilion Theatre will replace all its taps with state-of-the-art sensor taps, reducing water consumption and wastage and improve the accessibility of the facilities. The other sustainability projects funded in this round at The Boardwalk Old Sheriff Court, Glasgow; The Chipping Norton Theatre; Finborough Theatre, London and Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Well are all focused on replacing traditional lighting with energy-efficient LED equivalents.

Buxton Opera House; Chisenhale Dance Space, London; South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell; York Theatre Royal and YouthAction Northern Ireland, Belfast all receive funding to upgrade essential equipment including communications systems, sound and lighting desks. This will improve the experience of these theatres for audiences and artists alike.

Two London theatres receive funding for improvements to their buildings. Omnibus Theatre in Clapham will improve its backstage facilities for staff and performers while Hoxton Hall will upgrade its safety doors in keeping with its Victorian aesthetic. The remaining three grants are for vital and urgent repairs. Northampton's Royal Theatre will receive a contribution towards repairing its plasterwork ceiling, Royal Court Theatre in London will make emergency repairs to its chiller, while Seaford Little Theatre will repair its roof.

Jon Morgan, Theatres Trust Director says, *We are delighted that our partnership with The Linbury Trust has been able to support so many theatres with essential projects to enable them to survive and thrive. As our 100th recipient, the accessibility improvements at Tron Theatre is exactly the type of project that this scheme was designed to fund and we are thrilled to be able to support it.*

Stuart Holey, Director of The Linbury Trust, *We're delighted to have reached this important milestone, supporting resilience of theatres right across the UK. From work to become more energy efficient, to improving accessibility, these grants are a testament to local theatres and their role at the heart of local life.*

The next round of the scheme is currently open for applications with a deadline of noon on Friday 17 January 2025.

Notes to Editors

Title	Theatres Trust
Website	http://www.theatretrust.org.uk/smallgrants
Twitter	@TheatresTrust @TheLinburyTrust
Photograph	Team at Tron Theatre celebrating their grant

The Small Grants Programme funds small projects that make a big impact to a theatre's resilience, sustainability, accessibility or improving the diversity of audiences. This scheme provides grants of up to £5,000 for essential works to enable not-for-profit theatres across the UK to be viable and thrive in the future.

It was launched in 2021 with the generous support of The Linbury Trust, which renewed its funding in 2022 for a further three years. The scheme has received additional support from The Mackintosh Foundation and Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust.

Small Grants Programme recipients

The Boardwalk, Old Sheriff Court, Glasgow, £5,000

The Boardwalk is a black box studio theatre located within the basement of Glasgow's Category B Old Sheriff Court. The grant will help to cover the costs of replacing key stage lighting from tungsten to LED, which can reduce energy use by up to 80%.

Buxton Opera House, £4,942

Grade II listed Buxton Opera House was built in 1903 by leading theatre architect Frank Matcham. The grant will fund improvements to the backstage communication system. The new system will improve the quality of productions, make the venue more attractive to touring productions and provide industry standard training opportunities for young people.

Chisenhale Dance Space, London, £4,878

CDS provides an affordable and low-risk environment for over 200 dance and performance artists, 70% of which identify as marginalised, to develop their skills. The grant will enable the venue to invest in a new lighting desk, which will be more energy efficient, accessible and easy to use, giving artists more options to experiment and play when making work.

Finborough Theatre, London, £5,000

Based in Earl's Court, Finborough is well respected London fringe venue, that has been presenting new writing and unique rediscoveries since 1980. A grant of £5,000 will enable Finborough to complete the next stage of its journey to reduce its carbon footprint and subsequently its running costs. Currently, 10% of its carbon footprint is from the use of lanterns in the auditorium, which would be reduced by 70% by switching to LED lanterns.

Guide Bridge Theatre, Greater Manchester £4,536

The volunteer-run theatre has been based in Audenshaw, Tameside since 1972. The grant will fund replacing two sets of accessibility doors, which lead out onto the accessible area of the car park. The new doors will also have the added benefit of reducing heat loss and decreasing draughts in the theatre.

Hoxton Hall, London, £4,955

Hoxton Hall is a Grade II* Victorian music hall. The grant will fund repairing the fire safety doors to bring them up to modern safety standards, while remaining in keeping with the venue's Victorian aesthetic and maintaining its 'wow' factor for visitors.

The Institute, Braintree, £4, 266

Grade II listed, the Institute was built in 1862 as a gift from the Courtauld family to the people of Braintree and is Braintree's only theatre. The Bocking Arts Theatre Trust has been awarded a grant of £4,266 for the renovation and refurbishment of the main hall's accessible bathroom to respond to customer feedback.

Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling, £5,000

Located on the University of Stirling's main campus, Macrobert Arts Centre is central Scotland's leading multi-arts centre. The grant will fund the installation of screens to provide captioning to enhance the theatre-going experience of the d/Deaf and hearing-impaired community and others who require additional text support.

MAST Mayflower Studios, Southampton, £4,975

MAST Mayflower Studios is a creative producing theatre which opened in 2021 working under the Mayflower brand to reach a goal of providing inspiring experiences for all. MAST will use the grant to fund a sustainability initiative focused on transforming waste into valuable resources. The project will include upgrading recycling systems, expanding composting, installing a rainwater harvesting system, and creating green spaces on the rooftop and balcony using harvested water and compost. These efforts will help MAST become more eco-friendly and further its commitment to environmental responsibility.

Omnibus Theatre, London, £5,000

Omnibus Theatre is a 110-seat award-winning independent theatre in Clapham, housed in a Victorian library building. The grant will fund improvements to backstage facilities, including the creation of toilet, shower and kitchen / green room facilities, as well as making the space accessible, to provide a better experience of staff and visiting companies.

Royal Theatre, Royal & Derngate, Northampton, £5,000

A temporary scaffolding structure is currently in place within the Grade II listed Royal Theatre following the failure of the ornate plaster ceiling in the Royal Auditorium in 2023. However, this impairs sightlines, reducing the number of seats available and is unsightly. Northampton Theatres Trust has been awarded a £5,000 contribution towards the major repair works to secure the plaster ceiling. The works will enable the auditorium to open to full capacity and preserve and make safe the historically significant architecture.

Royal Court Theatre, London, £5,000

Established in 1956, the Royal Court a leading force in world theatre for cultivating and supporting writers. The grant will support emergency repairs to the theatre's chiller, an integral part of the air conditioning system for maintaining correct building temperature.

Seaford Little Theatre, £5,000

Seaford Dramatic Society will be celebrating its 80th anniversary next year, but first it needs to repair the roof in its home Seaford Little Theatre. A £5,000 award from the Small Grants Programme will contribute towards this vital project to stop leaks, water ingress, mould and any further damage and ensure this much-loved theatre can continue to entertain its local community.

South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, £3,703

Grade II South Hill Park mansion was repurposed and opened as an Arts Centre in 1973. It hosts a varied programme across multiple spaces including The Cellar Bar, which hosts The Comedy Cellar, the longest running comedy club in the UK outside of London. A grant of £3,703 will enable the sound and lighting in this space to be updated, with higher quality, easier to use equipment and waterproof LEDs suited to the basement conditions.

The Theatre Chipping Norton, £5,000

The 200-seat theatre opened in 1975 in a converted Salvation Army Citadel. Energy costs represent 5% of the theatre's total running costs with the largest part of that coming from its traditional stage lighting. The grant will represent a contribution towards

the significant project to replace the stage light with LEDs, which will reduce energy consumption by 90%.

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, £5,000

Trinity Theatre is a Grade II* listed church that was converted into a theatre and arts centre in the 1980s. The grant will fund upgrading the stage lighting, to more versatile and energy-efficient options. The upgrade will reduce Trinity's stage lighting electricity consumption by 76%.

Tron Theatre, Glasgow, £5,000

Tron has built a reputation for producing and presenting ambitious, contemporary, and proudly subversive theatre. In 1999 the Tron opened a new build extension to the theatre including a café/bar area and administration offices. Within the café/bar area there is one stand-alone disabled toilet, which is poorly positioned in a busy area that lacks privacy. The grant will contribute to the project to relocate the accessible toilet by modifying one of the existing non-disabled toilets whose entrance is discrete and more private, into an upgraded and fully accessible toilet.

Worthing Theatres and Museum, Pavilion Theatre, £4,364

Grade II listed and originally known as the Pier Pavilion, the theatre opened in 1926. The grant will fund replacing 15 taps in public and backstage washrooms at the Pavilion Theatre with state-of-the-art sensor taps. This will reduce water consumption, limit water wastage and improve the accessibility of the facilities.

York Theatre Royal, £5,000

Grade II* listed theatre, the theatre was built in 1744 and has been in continuous use except for during the pandemic. The grant will support upgrading of technical equipment in the studio theatre, including starting the journey to fully replace of the lighting with LED units.

YouthAction Northern Ireland, Belfast £4,623

YouthAction Northern Ireland is a membership-based youth work and arts charity, with an 80-year history of supporting young people to improve their life chances. Its Techie School trains young people in light, sound and audio-visual equipment. The grant will fund replacing outdated equipment with industry standard equipment, which will allow more training opportunities for the growing number of technical volunteers and help build their employability skills.

Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust is the national advice and advocacy body for the UK's theatres supporting all forms of theatres, whether old or new, commercial, subsidised or community-run.

We protect theatres and champion the future of live performance by advising and supporting our nation's theatres to develop best practice in design and management following the four principles of resilience, environmental sustainability, inclusivity and placemaking.

The Linbury Trust

The Linbury Trust is an independent grant-making Trust established by Lord Sainsbury and his wife Anya, Lady Sainsbury CBE. It funds compelling projects in the areas of culture, environment, social and community welfare; and also funds work benefiting young people, older people and overseas humanitarian aid. www.linburytrust.org.uk

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Isobel Jaffray

E: isobel@chloenelkinconsulting.com, M: 07772 643 959

W: www.chloenelkinconsulting.com