

Our Ref./Ein Cyf. LP/JS
Your Ref./Eich Cyf.
E:
T: (01495)
Date:/ Dyddiad: 21st March 2023



Private & Confidential

Arts Council of Wales
Bute PI
Cardiff
CF10

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Awen Cultural Trust – Investment Review Application

It gives me great pleasure to support Awen Cultural Trust's application for Arts Council of Wales revenue investment.

Blaenau Gwent has a proud cultural heritage and an enduring sense of community. It is because Awen understands this that they were our chosen partner to operate the Metropole theatre, Abertillery.

The Met is a key venue for us as a council and provides a professional, facilitated space where so many of our community arts thrive. With growing numbers amongst our youth groups, maintaining the Met is critical for the area and its people. Awen's introduction has not only provided assurance in terms of The Met's operation but also a new ambition to introduce new work, develop audiences and re-establish the venue as a regional presenting theatre.

Blaenau Gwent has many challenges, some of which are referenced within the Investment Review's own criteria. By supporting Awen, the Arts Council would be enabling a new wave of activity into the region, supporting our creative economy while all the time sustaining and enhancing grass-roots performing arts opportunities. For an area lower in car ownership and with significant socio-economic barriers to participation, having a funded professional performing arts venue is imperative to supporting the ambitions of our young people.

Awen have demonstrated time and time again their ability to offer solutions, demonstrate impact and a transparency through to their well-established governance processes. I have no doubt that if successful, the Arts Council of Wales funding will go even further as we work with Awen to unleash the potential of other funding avenues such as the Shared Prosperity Fund and Capital City Region framework.

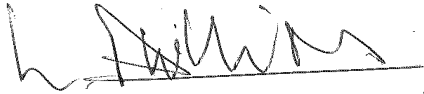
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Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

I wish them every success with their application.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lynn Phillips
Corporate Director of Education /
Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg