

## Arts Council England awards £498,555 Ambition for Excellence grant to the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries talent and diversity development programme

- **A new partnership with the British Council will deliver an international training programme for early career participants.**
- **New collaboration with PRS Foundation announced, supporting producers of the future.**

*“Gaining this opportunity was like someone throwing me a life raft; it was the step on the ladder that I was looking for and I think as many other people as possible should also be allowed that experience”.*  
Samantha Gillingham, Creative Bursaries placement with Activate Performing Arts.

Jerwood Charitable Foundation has been awarded £498,555 by Arts Council England’s prestigious Ambition for Excellence fund to support the growth of an ambitious new phase of the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries.

The Creative Bursaries is a nationwide talent and diversity development programme, supporting arts organisations from across the UK to build their capacity for outstanding artistic achievement, and to expand their approach to culturally diverse recruitment and workforce development.

Working with new delivery partners including the British Council, the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries 2017-2019 will create a powerful peer network of 40 organisations and 40 talented recent graduates from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, investing in their creative and leadership potential through new national and international training and residency opportunities. New activity supported by Ambition for Excellence funding will also increase the sustainability of the programme and extend the impact for the sector through intensive evaluation and sharing of what is learnt.

Ambition for Excellence is a strategic programme run by Arts Council England, aimed at stimulating ambition and supporting talent and excellence across the arts sector in England. The fund aims to realise significant impact on the growth of an ambitious, international-facing arts infrastructure. 80% of placements on the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries 2017-2019 programme will be awarded outside of London, ensuring that young people and organisations nationally can thrive. Alongside paid year-long placements, a development programme for all participants will ground their on-the-job experience with valuable training, seeding a strong peer network and legacy for the programme.

A new partnership with the British Council will deliver an international strand for the first time, including 12 international residencies for selected placements and host organisations, and an international training trip for all 40 placements. Given the changes that the UK is experiencing in its global context, it is crucial that young people entering the arts have the opportunity to develop first-hand insights into cross-cultural working.

Jerwood Charitable Foundation is also pleased to announce a new partnership with PRS Foundation, building on PRS Foundation’s learning from its successful New Music Plus programme which ran between 2009 and 2014. The organisations will work together to create two new entry-level roles in arts organisations, aimed at young people beginning careers as producers in new music.

Alongside funding from Arts Council England and PRS Foundation, Jerwood Charitable Foundation will continue to fund the programme, and is grateful for the significant continuing support of Garfield Weston Foundation. New support is welcomed from CHK Charities Limited. Thanks to these supporters, 100% of the Ambition for Excellence grant will directly support participating organisations and participating graduates.

Shonagh Manson, Director, Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Kate Danielson, Director, Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries said:

*“As an organisation supporting the development of artistic talent and ideas, we are mindful of the politics and realities of who gets access and to what in the arts, and of how these factors will influence the future of our artistic and cultural lives. If talent and potential is truly to be realised then the diversity of who is entering the sector must be addressed; achieving excellence and enabling access go hand in hand.”*

Joyce Wilson, London Area Director, Arts Council England, said: “Fair access to opportunities is one of the most urgent issues facing the arts today. It is excellent that we have been able to fund Jerwood Charitable Foundation, in whose expert hands this project will have the best possible impact. By engaging participants in strong principles of inclusion they will go on to open doors for others, and create lasting and meaningful change in the sector.”

To date, the Creative Bursaries programme has worked with 75 of the UK’s best arts producers across art forms to kick-start the careers of 84 talented young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; in Truro, Wakefield, Belfast, Leeds, London, Margate, Cardiff, Birmingham, Glasgow and beyond. Critically, it allows organisations to develop new year-long job roles which close skills gaps in their greatest areas of need. The programme has raised the profile of the debate around diversity, with press coverage in *Arts Professional*, *Arts Industry Magazine (AI)* and *The Stage* and has directly resulted in job creation, with 60% of placements being extended and 32 % of roles being made permanent, or leading to longer term employment relationships, across both editions.

The initiative was included as a case study in DCMS’ *Culture White Paper* and referred to as exemplary in Arts Council England’s commissioned report *Analysis of Theatre in England*.

The Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries 2017-2019 in Autumn 2017. Please note that participating organisations will be sought by invitation. All placements will be publicly advertised from Autumn 2017.

**Further information:** [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/projects/weston-jerwood-creative-bursaries](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/projects/weston-jerwood-creative-bursaries)

**Twitter and Instagram:** @ShonaghM

**#CreativeBursaries**

**ENDS-**

**Notes to Editors**

#### **About the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries**

The Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries programme provides talent development opportunities for recent graduates from low-income backgrounds. Through it, Jerwood Charitable Foundation and its partners seek to change the socio-economic barriers that skilled graduates entering the arts workplace are facing. The programme provides paid entry-level jobs at leading UK arts organisations, supported by a structured programme of ambitious professional development and peer mentoring.

*The Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries 2017-19 programme is designed and managed by Jerwood Charitable Foundation in partnership with the British Council. It has been made possible through the combined support of Arts Council England’s Ambition for Excellence Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, Jerwood Charitable Foundation, CHK Charities Limited and PRS Foundation.* [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/projects/weston-jerwood-creative-bursaries](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/projects/weston-jerwood-creative-bursaries)

#### **Jerwood Charitable Foundation**

Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)

#### **British Council**

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. It creates friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. Using the UK’s cultural resources they make a positive contribution to the countries it works with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. It works with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Each year it reaches over 20 million people face-to-face and more than 500 million people online, via broadcasts and publications.

Founded in 1934, it is a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. The majority of its income is raised delivering a range of projects and contracts in English teaching and examinations, education and development contracts and from partnerships with public and private organisations. Eighteen per cent of its funding is received from the UK government. [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

#### **Arts Council England**

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

#### **Garfield Weston Foundation**

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded charitable grant-making foundation which supports a wide range of causes across the UK, donating over £58million in the most recent financial year. It was established in 1958 by Willard Garfield Weston and since then has donated over £900million, becoming one of the largest and most respected charitable institutions in the UK. The trustees are descendants of the founder and the Weston Family takes a highly active and hands-on approach. [www.garfieldweston.org](http://www.garfieldweston.org)

#### **CHK Charities Limited**

CHK Charities is a family foundation which derives from the wish of Sir Cyril Kleinwort and his descendants, who make up the members of the company, to devote some of their time and resources to charitable activities. The grant making trust supports a wide range of charitable causes throughout the UK and last year donated over £2million.

[www.chkcharities.co.uk](http://www.chkcharities.co.uk)

#### **About PRS Foundation**

PRS Foundation is the UK's leading charitable funder of new music and talent development across all genres. Since 2000 PRS Foundation has given more than £23.6 million to over 5,300 new music initiatives by awarding grants and leading partnership programmes that support music sector development. Widely respected as an adventurous and proactive funding body, PRS Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity – from composer residencies and commissions to festivals and showcases in the UK and overseas. [www.prsformusicfoundation.com](http://www.prsformusicfoundation.com)

JERWOOD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



CHK Charities Limited

