

GRANT APPLICATION: Black History Month October 2024

THEME: "Still Breathing"

To Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council:

I am writing to request funding for an arts project to support Black History Month, with the aim of increasing awareness and respect between existing communities and those who have more recently moved to settle in Abingdon, both from the African diaspora and internationally.

This year, as our contribution to Black History Month, we are partnering with Euton Daley of Breaking the Chains Collective to offer a performance of his play entitled "**Still Breathing**". This portrays various aspects of the lived experience of many Black Britons and was well reviewed when staged at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford. **(Please see flier attached for more details)**

Abingdon is a beautiful market town which has a predominantly white population, with a smaller number of residents who are often people of colour, including representatives of international refugees and asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants. The population estimate in 2020 was approximately 40,000 people, of whom 93% were white and 7% from ethnic minority groups. There are reports of racism and disadvantage within some areas of community life, which are both personal experiences and evidence based. It is important that the voices of minority communities who may be disadvantaged are heard more, and that Abingdon fulfills its commitment to become a socially inclusive community.

The play "Still Breathing" will be performed at Christ Church Abingdon, which is offering the venue free of charge. Tickets will be subsidized at low cost to enable as many people as possible to attend, and light refreshments will be served prior to the show.

The cost of one performance of the play is approximately £800.00. We would be most grateful if you would consider funding up to £500.00 to enable us to offer this experience to the people of Abingdon. Any funds granted will be deposited and managed through the Christ Church Treasurer, Martin Steel, treasurer@cca.uk.net at Christ Church Abingdon.

For further information, please contact:

Methlyn Regisford

methlyn@hotmail.com

07808174310

or

Janice Gordon

Janicegordon1870@outlook.com

07934945172