

£6.3m awarded to West Midlands from Cultural Recovery Fund

More than £6 million in grant funding has been awarded to 75 venues across the West Midlands to help them bounce back from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

A total of £6.3 million has been allocated in the third round of the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund which goes to arts, culture and heritage organisations and independent cinemas across the region.

Among those to receive a share of the capital are the Pen Museum and Repertory Theatre, both in Birmingham, Godiva Awakes Trust in Coventry and Lichfield's Garrick Theatre.

This latest cohort are among 925 organisations across the country to share in £107 million from the additional £300 million announced by the Chancellor in March's budget for the Culture Recovery Fund, bringing the total cash support package made available for during the pandemic to close to £2 billion.

Among the other venues in the region to receive funding is Sutton Coldfield Town Hall which has been awarded a £34,000 grant.

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The venue, which formed as a charity in 2016, returned to hosting theatrical productions and functions in September and the new grant will be used to keep the building safely maintained and secure and support the continued hosting of shows and events, including its December pantomime Cinderella.

Chairman of the trustees Richard Mason said: “The fund has come through to help our charity venue at a critical time.

“The winter is always a costly season, with maintaining an old building at a time when we look forward to welcoming greater numbers back to our much-loved venue.

“This funding will help keep standards of events high, keep audiences warm and secure and support the jobs of our hard working team.”

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Another Birmingham-based recipient is the Mockingbird Cinema in Digbeth which has been awarded £78,140.

Programme director Lee Nabbs said: "This is very important to us as it enables us to carry on the work we have been doing in the local community.

"The fund allows us to carry on offering a diverse range of film programming while also supporting the Birmingham film community with a place to exhibit their own work."



Mockingbird Cinema is among 75 West Midlands venues to receive funding

Darren Henley, chief executive of Arts Council England, said: “This continued investment means our theatres, galleries, music venues, museums and arts centres can carry on playing their part in bringing visitors back to our high streets, helping to drive economic growth, boosting community pride and promoting good health.

“It’s a massive vote of confidence in the role our cultural organisations play in helping us all to lead happier lives”.

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries added: “Culture is for everyone and should therefore be accessible to everyone, no matter who they are and where they’re from.

“The Culture Recovery Fund is supporting arts and cultural organisations so they can continue to bring culture to communities the length and breadth of the country, supporting jobs, boosting local economies and inspiring people.”

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