



FESTIVE FUNDER

**1 December
2020**



Agenda

6.00 - 7.30pm, Tuesday 1st December

6.00: Welcome

6.15: Pitches

6.45: Pledging

7.30: Thank you and Close

<https://bit.ly/FESTIVETFN>



With thanks to Macquarie Group for supporting this event



OMNIBUS THEATRE

Registered Charity: 1143709
2019-20 income: £563,184
Sponsor: Jenny Sheridan
www.omnibus-clapham.org

What does Omnibus Theatre do?

Omnibus Theatre is driven by the needs of its local communities, using the transformative powers of art to give a voice to those that feel voiceless. Opened in 2013, Omnibus Theatre is currently the only organisation offering regular free arts engagement in Clapham. We are located in Lambeth, the 12th highest percentile for child poverty in the UK. Since opening, we've offered 26,000 free arts opportunities. Projects are developed in collaboration with our local community. Free opportunities include holiday programmes, youth groups and community festivals. We are seeking support for our participation programme; a series of projects engaging marginalised adults and young people.

What problem(s) will this work address?

These projects address inequality, disadvantage and isolation.

- **Routes:** tackles food insecurity and encourages confidence. Teachers told us many young people receiving free school meals feel anxious in school holidays as they may not eat lunch.
- **Kitchen Table:** tackles social isolation in women - mothers from Iqra School shared poignant stories of prejudice & community disconnect (88.3% have English as 2nd language).
- **Story Circle:** tackles increasing isolation & mental health issues in people aged 60+ in midst of the pandemic. 1.2 million UK-based older people are chronically lonely (AGE UK).

What is your solution to this problem?

We empower participants, giving them an active and creative role. We will work with 228 people on these projects, from young people in receipt of free school meals to women experiencing isolation to older people living alone.

- **Routes:** Guided by our facilitators, 8-11-year olds create a play which they perform at the end of the week, focusing on collaboration & creativity. They receive breakfast & lunch, relieving pressure on families during financial difficulty.
- **Kitchen Table:** Over weekly shared meals, participants use memories of food as a starting point for conversation. Participants learn storytelling techniques, whilst building new social connections and developing confidence in their creativity. They will have a platform to share their experiences, encouraging cross-culture empathy and new friendships.
- **Story Circle:** Weekly creative writing workshops where participants are encouraged, to share their own stories. In writing, talking and reading work aloud to each other participants find new confidence alongside human connection.

What social change will this work achieve?

Our work gives a voice to those that feel voiceless and tackles feelings of isolation and community disconnect. These are issues that are only magnified by the pandemic. We provide relief and connection in the wake of such challenging times. Our projects build relationships, increase confidence, improve mental health and provide practical support such as meals. Projects will be run in line with government guidelines, and can be adapted online to suit the needs of participants. We assess throughout, including implementing benchmarking levels at the start and end, plus regular meetings with stakeholders.

What would you do with a contribution from TFN?

A TFN contribution would allow us to develop our participation programme, in line with increasing demand and our local communities' ever-changing needs. TFN support would guarantee security for our holiday programme, *Routes*. Following a successful pilot of *Story Circle* this summer, support would allow us to develop the project further, doubling our output and delivering four terms of the project next year. We would also be able to deliver a pilot of new project *Kitchen Table*, before rolling out a second iteration engaging a larger number of women experiencing isolation. Your support will make a huge difference to our ability to support our community during these challenging times.



Registered Charity 1164747
2019-20 income: £101,076
Sponsor: Michael Bentley
www.foag.org

What does Farmers Overseas Action Group do?

We work with Children's Centres and schools for disadvantaged children, funding life changing opportunities and developing agricultural practices with subsistence farmers. FOAG was started in 1981 as a response to the famine in the post-Amin era. We support infrastructure projects, sponsor secondary education and fund life-changing surgery for children. We use our agricultural expertise to develop work with subsistence farmers as a response to the ever-pressing need to improve farming in the face of declining soil fertility, rising populations and climate change. FOAG's aim is long-term, systemic change. We are seeking funding to run Conservation Agriculture Training at four Centres and with their local community of farmers to increase food security, restore soil fertility and make farming more sustainable.

What problem(s) will this work address?

Children's Centres face a relentless challenge to feed their children and suffer the constant anxiety of food insecurity. This was painfully brought home with Covid. Sadly their land now yields little and with current practices yields will only worsen. Farmers in their community are in the same position. Evidence collected globally shows that improving soil quality is key to increasing yields. Improving this requires the new agricultural practices of Conservation Agriculture, which will enable the Centres and local farmers to once again grow maize and beans as fertility is restored.

What is your solution to this problem?

Our Conservation Agriculture project is focussed on training at Children's Centres and with farmers in the surrounding communities throughout each growing season. It is led by a dynamic, experienced Ugandan agriculturalist, who is working regularly with the Children's Centres. Training of the community farmers was hampered by Covid but will now go ahead. The project in the Centres is now in its third planting season and needs at least two more planting seasons to fully embed the new practices. The results so far are promising. Our vision is to maximise production and minimise food bills. This season's yields show two centres with 42% and 60% increased yields of maize respectively. Overall, two centres are nearly self sufficient in maize and the other two are continuing to make progress to achieve self sufficiency.

What social change will this work achieve?

The yields so far achieved indicate that growing their own crops reduces stress and food bills. It is a step towards food security and self-sustainability. Each Centre is working with FOAG at validating their evolving business plan, helped by having growing confidence and determination. We hope that the Centres will be seen as a progressive hub for the community and therefore able to share their learnings more widely. The slowly increasing yields demonstrates that Conservation Agriculture practices are restoring soil fertility - it is evidence-based and used extensively in East Africa but is not embedded yet in Uganda. Feedback from the Sisters (who run the Centres) leave us in no doubt as to the significance of these yields and the importance of pursuing their vision of food security and not depending on charity. Their self esteem and pride grows as they see their achievements.

What would you do with a contribution from TFN?

We would fund the agriculturalist, Patrick Walusansa, for one Planting Season. We would also subsidise some inputs and provide training for the local farmers in the area, as well as training Sisters and Field Managers so that they can become more self-sufficient. We would also fund Patrick to continue to work with the Centres on their Business plans to enable them to become more sustainable.



Registered Charity: 1174481
2019-20 income: £55,450
Sponsor: Sam Lush
www.parallelhistories.org.uk

What does Parallel Histories do?

We are a UK Educational charity which aims to improve the life chances of disadvantaged young people through innovations in the teaching of history. Founded by teachers in 2017, over 100 schools now use our programme. We are the only educational charity working to get controversial topics back into the classroom. We know that students who have (a) learned both sides of a conflict and then been challenged to critically evaluate evidence and come to their own judgement, and (b) learned how to make arguments and disagree robustly but respectfully, have acquired the skills equipping them to play their part in a flourishing pluralistic democracy. We use innovative interactive software to explain both sides of a conflict as preparation for online debates. We are seeking funding to connect school communities in inner London, the South and North West of England through an online history debating programme for disadvantaged students.

What problem(s) will this work address?

School students from disadvantaged backgrounds lag behind their peers in speaking skills, are less likely to find employment and more likely to have poor mental health. In addition, students from very homogenous schools are more likely to hold negative views about other races or religions (Centre for Research & Analysis of Migration, UCL). COVID restrictions have exacerbated the attainment gap between rich and poor students, and even though schools are operating again, most of the extra-curricular provision designed to lift up the disadvantaged has been cut. After lockdown, demand for our programme surged. Over 80 teachers attended 14 successive days of online training and we ran online debates for 11 schools.

What is your solution to this problem?

We will work with 234 young people aged 14-18 from schools with a high percentage of (a) pupil premium, (b) English as an Additional Language, and (c) high degree of homogeneity in student body. Through debating, students learn how to analyse historical evidence and make arguments about a controversial topic. We provide educational resources for students, pair schools together or in groups of three or four, recruit history teachers to provide feedback, and we host the online events. At the end of each programme of debates students will have built their oracy skills and confidence, engaged positively with people from different backgrounds with different views, and learned how to disagree robustly but respectfully. The programme is scalable because the teacher training provided will make it easy for schools to continue to participate in future years. It's potentially replicable in 4000 UK secondary schools.

What social change will this work achieve?

By building speaking skills among disadvantaged students and connecting students from very different backgrounds this project will improve the life chances of disadvantaged students and reduce friction between communities. We will measure the impact with two online surveys of students assessing change in knowledge, attitudes and abilities conducted at the start and finish of the programme. We will also conduct one on one interviews with teachers at the end of the programme.

What would you do with a contribution from TFN?

This summer we ran 7 online debate events involving 11 schools from the UK, France, Ireland and Turkey. The TFN funding will pay for us to recruit a part-time member of staff to expand this debate programme. It will pay for recruiting and scheduling schools, educational resources, teacher training, workshops for students, chairing, moderating the online debates, and providing feedback. We can deliver a programme including 18 schools each debating three times over a year for a cost of about £750 per school which is at the low end of the Educational Endowment Foundation's metrics on cost effectiveness of interventions in schools.



THANK YOU

