

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Breathe Arts Health Research receives grant from Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund**

**Breathe Arts Health Research** has been awarded a grant as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure a sustainable future.

Breathe Arts Health Research is delighted to be one of 1,385 cultural and creative organisations across the country receiving this much needed support. £257 million of investment has been announced as part of the very first round of the Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England.

The Culture Recovery Fund will help Breathe to face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and will go a huge way in supporting them to survive and thrive this year and into 2021. Focusing on organisational resilience by re-designing and adapting their business, programme and fundraising plans, Breathe hope to be able to support even more people to improve their health and wellbeing through arts and creativity.

This grant will help Breathe to pilot more innovative creative programmes and rigorous research in the communities that they work in, and local neighbourhood of Southwark. Whilst Southwark is rich in culture, many residents face significant barriers to arts engagement and are not accessing these opportunities.

Breathe will focus on adapting programmes to be fit-for-purpose following COVID, delivering vital work in removing those barriers to access, supporting more people to solve complex health conditions. Embedding free, culturally relevant and easily accessible high-quality arts in health programmes into hospitals, community spaces, day centres and community health settings, means Breathe can further diversify their programmes and broaden their reach.

**Head of Development, Breathe Arts Health Research, Lydia Hayes, said:**

*"We at Breathe Arts Health Research are absolutely delighted to have been awarded funding from the Culture Recovery Fund from Arts Council England, DCMS and HM Treasury. This funding will help Breathe survive in the face of Covid-19 and enable us to adapt our life-changing Arts and Health programmes to be delivered in a Covid secure manner. This will help us ensure we can be #HereForCulture in to 2021 and beyond."*

**Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:**

*"This funding is a vital boost for the theatres, music venues, museums and cultural organisations that form the soul of our nation. It will protect these special places, save jobs and help the culture sector's recovery."*

*These places and projects are cultural beacons the length and breadth of the country. This unprecedented investment in the arts is proof this government is here for culture, with further support to come in the days and weeks ahead so that the culture sector can bounce back strongly."*

**Chair, Arts Council England, Sir Nicholas Serota, said:**

*"Theatres, museums, galleries, dance companies and music venues bring joy to people and life to our cities, towns and villages. This life-changing funding will save thousands of cultural spaces loved by*

*local communities and international audiences. Further funding is still to be announced and we are working hard to support our sector during these challenging times.”*

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**Notes to Editors:**

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in *Let's Create* that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund** and unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19)

**Breathe Arts Health Research** delivers highly effective creative arts programmes, within healthcare and community settings, clinically proven to improve health and wellbeing in patients, staff and visitors. Our programmes are evidence-based to ensure life-changing impact and annually we reach over 37,000 people. We are one of the first not-for-profit Community Interest Companies with its roots in arts-in-health to be recognised and commissioned by NHS England and named as a 'New Radical' by Nesta.

We may be small but our reach is not; annually we deliver over 1,400 cultural events/projects, across 80 healthcare locations, employing 115 renowned artists from a range of artistic disciplines. What makes us unique is the way we collaborate equally across the three sectors of arts, health and science, working with the very best people in each field. Find out more at [www.breatheahr.org](http://www.breatheahr.org)

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