

Grant Policy Agreement: Yes, I have read the Ware Town Council Grants Policy

Name of Group/Organisation Requesting Grant: Generation Circus

First Name: Emma

Brief Description of the Group/Organisation: Generation Circus is a non-profit community circus based at Ware Drill Hall. We want to redefine what circus can BE and WHO can learn and perform it, fostering a more diverse and inclusive culture of circus. Our core purpose is to make circus training possible for everyone. We believe circus can enrich and change lives and we play an active role in the development of Social Circus in the UK. We run weekly classes and workshops for ages 6yrs-100yrs, and we are gaining a reputation for our work with older people. Sport England are funding our FREE, year-long circus fitness classes for over 50s and our pride and joy is our groundbreaking performance group CAN DO CIRCUS COMPANY - people aged 55-77 (including one wheelchair user) who have been training in aerial circus and circus theatre since April 2024, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund (and supported by Live Longer Better Hertfordshire).

Website of Group/Organisation (if applicable): <https://www.generationcircus.co.uk>

Address of Group/Organisation Requesting Grant (If not applicable please use applicant address): Ware Drill Hall, Amwell End, Ware

Applicant Position within Organisation: Artistic Director

Applicant Email Address: info@generationcircus.co.uk

Applicant Phone Number: 07460514214

Is your organisation a Registered Charity?: No

Brief Description of service/project: Generation Circus is reshaping the traditional circus with Will You Still Love Me?- a groundbreaking production by CAN DO CIRCUS COMPANY. This ensemble of local people aged 55-77 (including one wheelchair user), began their journey into circus arts in April 2024. Through a blend of aerial theatre, dance, animation, and video installations, they challenge

societal stereotypes while sharing powerful, personal narratives from the community, addressing themes of ageing, resilience, and social connection. The performance will be staged at the Ware Drill Hall in June 2025, involving the wider community of Ware in this important, inclusive project that celebrates creativity, empowerment, and collaboration

What is the catchment area of your organisation?:

Ware and surrounding

Estimated Start Date of project/service (if applicable):

April 1 2025

Please describe in detail what the grant funding will be used for:

Projector: £1100

We'd like to purchase a laser projector to help us explore creative ideas during rehearsals with students from Herts Regional College. It will allow us to showcase videos and artwork by the local community as part of the show. The projector will serve as a valuable investment for our future initiatives and will also support broader community and cultural events at Ware Drill Hall, where it will be set up permanently.

The laser projector will give us the freedom to explore ideas and be creative throughout the rehearsal process, whenever we need it. It will also be more cost-effective than constantly hiring a projector.

This will not only be beneficial to the making of the show but also provide our creative technology students with a deeper, hands-on experience and learning process.

Hire of Ware Drill Hall £1080 (30 hours)

We are asking for £1,080 to contribute towards the cost of hiring Ware Drill Hall for both rehearsals and the show. This amount will include tech rehearsals, exploratory sessions with the cast and students from Herts Regional College, as well as the space required for the final performance

How will the project/service benefit the community of Ware?:

This project will engage the local community of Ware, fostering lasting connections by bringing diverse groups together through circus arts. It will inspire pride and a sense of ownership in a community-led initiative. We will draw directly from our work with local participants to create narrative and material for the show, collaborating with care home residents, incorporating sketches and paintings from local amateur artists, and facilitating intergenerational conversations

between older adults and children about ageing. We are also providing young creatives (animation, video and costume design students from Herts Regional College) with valuable hands-on work experience. We believe this project offers a unique way to unite people in creating something inspiring and extraordinary, engaging a diverse range of local participants.

Tickets for the show will be affordable (£6) and we will give free tickets to some groups (for example, residents of the care home we work with).

The show will promote the positive contribution that older people in Ware make to society and help to counteract everyday ageism.

The show will allow the often hidden voices of local older people to be heard and their stories to be shared.

CAN DO CIRCUS COMPANY features performers aged 55–77, whose work will inspire local audiences. By showcasing their skills, we hope to encourage more people over 50 to join our classes, demonstrating that it's never too late to learn circus arts.

Ware residents can take pride in this project being part of UK-wide initiative Age Without Limits Day, supported by Age Friendly Communities Hertfordshire and Age UK.

Amount Requested: 2180

Amount of other funds available or anticipated available towards the cost of the project/service: 3650

Please list any other organisations that are jointly funding the project/service for which you are applying for grant funding (if applicable): Age Without Limits / UK Network of Age Friendly Communities (£650 microgrant). East Herts Community Grant (up to £3000 - awaiting decision) These funds will contribute to the cost of making the show - choreographers, costume resources, lighting design, volunteer expenses etc

Account Name: Generation Circus

Account Number: 79635760

Sort Code: 30-99-50

Type full name to authorise application: Emma Taylor

File Upload of your latest published accounts (if available): [Generation-Circus-annual-accounts-2024.pdf](#)

Grant Application
Agreement:

Yes, I understand & accept the terms and conditions