

Press Release

OVER £5K granted to Somerset's Culture and Diversity Groups!

In the last 18 months Somerset Diverse Communities Small Grants Fund has distributed £5921.54 and a total of 22 grants across Somerset, seeing communities benefit from funding specifically to support black and minority ethnic (BME) community groups in Somerset.

95% of successful applications have been directly from BME communities/community groups with 70% of those from informal community groups, so it is worth putting in an application if you need support with your group or idea even if you're a small informal group!

The Small Grants Scheme has a very simple application process, and can be used by community groups for a wide range of proposals, including activities and equipment. Grants are for a maximum of £500 and the funding has been provided by: Somerset Equalities Officer Group

Somerset Diverse Communities and the fund celebrate and share the diversity in the county; bringing people together, developing skills and building long term relationships and networks whilst working collaboratively with BME communities in Somerset.

Beccy Jesson, Community Engagement Worker for Somerset Diverse Communities said: "The accessible and welcoming nature of the small grants scheme has allowed many groups who would not usually apply for funding to access support. It has been a catalyst for further conversations about the long term aims and stability of the groups and helped facilitate access to additional services and other communities in a now growing network locally and Countywide. It has also enabled some wonderful activities and events to take place for both the BME communities and wider community!"

Feedback for a cultural education session run by Multicultural Frome:

"Your passion and enthusiasm for the theme shone through and I know our children enjoyed it. We loved the fact that you asked about pupils' heritage. They and I learnt a good deal about each other and I believe this fostered some respect and understanding.....A huge thank you again for brightening and enriching our day!"





The next round of funding will be May 2019 (date TBC). For updates and information, please check our webpage or Facebook:

https://somerstrcc.org.uk/our_work/supporting-individuals/diversecommunities/



/Somerset Diverse Communities

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Background

Somerset Diverse Communities is a project of Community Council for Somerset (CCS) funded by: Sedgemoor District Council, Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner, Somerset Equalities Officer Group, South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council.

Somerset Diverse Communities aims to build relationships with and between groups who support BME communities, to develop skills which facilitate the long term sustainability of BME community groups and to build unified, resilient and safe communities for all residents of Somerset, empowering visible and vocal BME communities across the county.

Somerset Diverse Communities webpage: http://somerstrcc.org.uk/our_work/supporting-individuals/diversecommunities/

