

NSC Grant Report – 6 month

On 12th March 2019 the Network for Social Change (NSC) awarded Performers Without Borders (PWB) a grant for £7213. As part of the grant it was stipulated that a 6 month report should be completed giving a summary of progress carrying out the activities contained in the original proposal. PWB would be interested in exploring the potential of further partnerships with NSC and its members based on the success and wider need for this outreach work teaching circus arts to disadvantaged young people to improve their wellbeing – <https://www.pwb.ngo/research>.

OVERALL SUMMARY

All proposed activities have been successfully completed or are scheduled to occur within a month of this report being filed. All activities ran on budget and fulfilled their stated goals. PWB would like to thank NSC for the grant and invite them to read the longer evaluation report and video associated with the UK circus workshops and the data and photos gathered from the Nicaragua circus workshops that were funded as part of the grant:

<https://www.pwb.ngo/swisscottage/> and <https://www.pwb.ngo/tours/nicaragua-2019/>

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

- 1) £1500 – **Nicaragua Outreach Project** – to fund local circus performers to deliver mini-Tours in Nicaragua given that the volatile political situation prevents PWB from sending its usual international performers contingent.
- 2) £2000 – **Good Governance Programme** – awarded in order to enable PWB to improve its internal processes of marketing, administration and evaluation.
- 3) £1500 – **PWB-UK (PUK) Circus Workshop Project** – delivering a series of circus workshops to disadvantaged young people in order to improve their quality of life in various ways.
- 4) £2000 – **Evaluation and Administration Programme** – funding to evaluate the CWP, including funding to administer it and also pay for any travel expenses and extra circus equipment necessary to complete the programme.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- 1) This programme was completed successfully, however due to unexpected local changes it was completed in a slightly different format than expected. It had been envisaged that 2 to 4 local performers would deliver the programme as one mini-Tour maybe lasting a month in 3-4 different locations. Instead, because we had to fit in with the schedules of our partner organisations, the mini-Tour was split in two parts of 2 weeks each. In Spring and Autumn 2019 one week was spent with Las Chavaladas and Ninos del Fortin (in Leon) and then one week with Los Quinchos in San Marcos. Evaluation data and photos of the tour can be seen on our page dedicated to this tour as well as a summary below: <https://www.pwb.ngo/tours/nicaragua-2019/>
- 2) This programme was completed successfully and allowed us to pay the PWB Manager Dr Peter King £2000 to compensate him for his time developing numerous administrative and managerial tasks that were long overdue to update, rebrand and make PWB a safe place to work and volunteer for. Some main examples of this are: updating and improving our Safeguarding measures; developing and implementing a comprehensive Monitoring Evaluation Accountability Research and Learning (MEARL) culture in PWB; rebranding, redesigning and rebuilding the website; and applying for funding and developing our fundraising strategies. Much of this hard work can be seen on the Safeguarding, MEARL and Get Involved tabs of our modernised and fully functional website which is also a great platform for our fundraising activities: www.pwb.ngo
- 3) From May 17th to July 12th a series of 8 circus skills and performance arts workshops were delivered by our PUK Manager South – Jamie Moore, at the Swiss Cottage Special Needs School in North London. The workshops were well attended, well received and overall achieved our proposed goals – please see the associated evaluation document linked below for more details, pictures and results.
- 4) The evaluation of the workshops series was conducted by Peter King who attended the first and last workshop to collect evaluation data across several formats from participants, carers and Swiss Cottage Staff. Jamie Moore also assisted by collecting video interviews. We concluded that circus workshops did improve the

quality of life of the participants in various ways and now have substantial qualitative data to back up this claim. We hope that this will help us secure more funding in future. The full results can be found here:

REPORT - <https://www.pwb.ngo/swisscottage/> and **VIDEO** - <https://vimeo.com/367617119>

Below are some of the highlights of the Swiss Cottage and Nicaragua projects:

SWISS COTTAGE

Teaching Assistant (TA): “They’ve been *learning new skills* and trying different experiences. I’ve seen their *confidence* being built up; it’s an important thing to have.”



Student: Yeah, I feel more confident. Because it’s a good lesson and it’s a fun thing to do and you can enjoy yourself having fun and learning new tricks.



Catherine (Deputy Head): “There is a lot of thought behind the activities that you’re presenting. So while the pupils are engaged in, what seemed very playful, actually they’re developing their *coordination, hand eye coordination, motor skills, confidence, self-esteem*. They’ve done really well.”



TA: Yes, circus skills has been helpful in loads of different ways: it’s helped the students learn how to improve their own self-awareness, work in teams, explore different creative abilities.



Student: I like learning how to do new cool things, tricks... and that makes me very happy.

NICARAGUA



Spring 2019: 22 sessions, 47 Hours, 79 participants (50% females), 2 shows, 90 audience.

Autumn 2019: 20 sessions, 36 hours, 50 participants (40% female), 2 shows to 73 audience.



PWB Local Instructor: “...we were super pleased with their enthusiasm for learning and dedication, and the acro, juggling, and diabolo acts they pulled off for their final show! They are a great group of kids. I hope PWB comes back next year and can work on stage presence and more theatre/games to help them conquer the self-consciousness”



PWB Local Instructor: “A few of the kids had experience in acro, diabolo and ball juggling, so the instructors would work on that... They were enthusiastic to do exercises and create a show and practice. A few of the boys also asked about Will and Jacob! They remembered the funny dance ‘Movimiento tuanis’ part of PWB’s show last year.”