Rotary District 6450

District 6450 Rotary Foundation Committee

District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Naperville Downtown

Project Title: **Blue Tea Pot Joint Ireland Project**

☐ Progress Report ☒ Final Report

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?

Blue Teapot is a non-profit Theatre Company in Galway, Ireland, that provides opportunities for intellectually disabled young people and adults, most with Down's Syndrome, to participate in theater. Blue Teapot works "to radically transform theater practices by telling stories through the lens of disability, paving the way for inclusive practices to become the norm. By pushing the boundaries of what is possible, Blue Teapot celebrates creativity and challenges the narrative about intellectual disability."

The District Grant paid the costs for the arts training of thirty (30) students with intellectual disabilities in the Company for the year, and production of their performances. Credit was given for support of a new play written and performed by members of the disabled community, titled "Into the Dark Woods." The premiere performances of the play were held on September 14-17, 2022, before a live audience in Galway, with great success.

Our Club partnered with the Rotary Club of Galway-Salthill on the project. The Galway-Salthill Rotarians raised funds to match our District Grant contribution, and helped promote the production in Galway. Other partners included the Abbey Theatre (the National Theatre of Ireland) and other funding partners.

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?

About ten members of the Galway-Salthill Club helped with fundraising and promotion, and all fourteen members of the Naperville Downtown Club participated in raising funds for our contribution. Our Club members also had several joint Zoom meetings with the Galway-Salthill Club members to plan the project and to learn about the work of Blue Teapot Theatre Company.

3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

(See answer to 2.) Chuck and Mary Corrigan also met in person in Galway with several members of the Galway-Salthill Club in July 2022, to discuss the project's progress, to connect with the Rotarians there, and to see how the Galway-Salthill Club raised its funds for the project.

4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?

About thirty actors, the screenplay writer, and dozens more backstage staff of the Blue Teapot Theatre Group directly benefit from the project.

5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?

Blue Teapot Theater Company and performances such as "Into the Dark Woods" enable the disabled community to be creative and expressive in ways not generally available. They also educate the non-disabled community about how the disabled think and how they can express themselves. This particular play undoubtedly will be performed many times over the coming years to audiences around the world. A documentary about the creation and performance of the play was commissioned, titled "My Light will Blind You." The documentary followed the creative process of a company actress writing the script for her first play and the process of bringing the play to the stage.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?

Blue Teapot Theatre Company organizes the theatre group and provides training, production services, and facilities for the participants.

Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!

7. Income

	Amount
1. District Grant funds approved by the District	$1,273.00
2. Club contribution	$1,273.00
3. Other funding (specify) – Rotary Club of Galway-Salthill	$2,605.00
Total Project Income	$5,151.00

8. Expenditures - please be specific and add lines as needed - receipts must be attached

1. Blue Teapot Theatre Company (through Rotary Club of Galway-Salthill)	$5,151.00
(5,000 euros donated – equates to $5,151 US)	
2.	
3.	
Total Project Expenditures	$5,151.00

9. By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures have been provided to the District.

Certifying Signature Charles J Corrigan Date: November 28, 2022

Print name, Rotary title, and Club Rotary Club of Naperville Downtown

Charles Corrigan
President-Elect