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# ST GEORGE'S BRISTOL SECURES LOTTERY FUNDING

The St George's Bristol concert hall hopes to secure a £750,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) after being awarded initial funding to help it apply.

Development funding of £24,800 has been awarded to help the venue apply for a full grant. It is hoped that the grant will contribute towards a £5.5m project to extend and renovate the venue.

The 'Building a Sound Future' project involves the construction of a brand new extension to the building on Great George Street and renovating the existing facilities of the grade II-listed music venue.

So far, it has received £1.95m from Arts Council England as well as grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the J Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust and the Sir Siegmund Warburg's Voluntary Settlement.

Construction work on the new extension will begin in spring 2016, with completion scheduled for autumn 2017.

Nerys Watts, head of Heritage Lottery Fund South West, said: "As well as being a beloved local landmark, St George's Bristol played an important role in the city's social history.

"We look forward to seeing the plans develop to make this heritage a prominent and integral part of the exciting development plans for the building."

The building was designed by Sir Robert Smirke, the architect of the British Museum, and opened in 1823.