

Music venue St George's Bristol secures support for major Heritage Lottery funding

By [Geoff Bennett](#) | Posted: March 14, 2015



CONCERT venue St George's Bristol has secured initial support for a £750,200 grant from the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#).

The money is part of its 'Building a Sound Future' appeal, a £5.5 million capital project to reconfigure and extend the Grade II* listed premises in Great George Street,

Development funding of £24,800 has also been awarded to help St George's Bristol progress plans to apply for a full grant at a later date.

The new funding award will take the total raised for the 'Building a Sound Future' appeal to £3,500,000.

The project will help secure the long term future and financial sustainability of St George's Bristol by:

Preserving its built heritage, reducing maintenance costs moving forward

Providing full access for all to the building for the first time

Re-configuring the crypt of the building to provide an engaging heritage interpretation space

Delivering a plan to engage current audiences and attract new visitors with the full heritage story of the historic building

Suzanne Rolt, Chief Executive, St George's Bristol said: "We are delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has committed its support to our 'Building a Sound Future' project.

"The building was designed by Sir Robert Smirke, the architect of the British Museum, and has been an integral part of the community since 1823.

"Now with a worldwide reputation as a music venue with outstanding acoustics, the Heritage Lottery Fund's support will secure our heritage and extend our physical access and reputation for both current and future generations."

The St George's Bristol overall 'Building a Sound Future' capital development project involves the construction of a brand new extension to the building, improving and extending the core facilities of the venue which already hosts some two-hundred live music events each year.

The fundraising appeal was kick-started by an initial pledge of £1.95 million from Arts Council England and reached the halfway point towards the end of 2014, following major grants from the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#), the [J.Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust](#) and the Sir Siegmund Warburg's Voluntary Settlement.

This latest contribution will take the appeal a major step closer to reaching its final target by the end of this year.

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 Bristol'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."

Initial ground works for the construction of the new extension will begin in spring 2016, with St George's Bristol remaining open throughout the majority of the build. Completion is scheduled for autumn 2017.

Further major public and private sources of funds are currently in active negotiation and any interested parties should contact Simon Farley, Head of Fundraising & Development at St George's Bristol, via email: s.farley@stgeorgesbristol.co.uk or by telephone: 0117 929 4929 x205

Read more: <http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/Music-venue-St-George-s-Bristol-secures-support/story-26172419-detail/story.html#ixzz3UYICneds>

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