**Project Name: Caravan of Love**

**Project Description:** The first and opening event of our year as UK City of Culture, and the first of the season Made in Hull will be a large scale and comprehensive celebration of the city, and a statement of intent of the way we will (re)position the city and engage in meaningful ways with the communities of Hull. Caravan of Love references one of the many things that Hull makes and sells to the world and the song by Hull band the Housemartins – we will ask the people of Hull the question from the first line of that song – “Are you ready for the time of your life?”

**Discovery:** We will reach out to the communities of Hull especially those who may not have previously engaged with culture to gather a new social history of the city, going beyond the previously dominant narratives of the city actively seeking out the untold stories of the city.

**Creation:** The stories will be used in two ways, firstly to form a new archive of the social history of Hull and secondly a creative team will weave together the collected memories into the ‘Caravan of Love’. We will work with writers, theatre makers, composers and designers to develop ideas for the event which will feature a large community cast.

**Enactment:** Caravan of Love will take place over four days, on half a mile of closed roads. It will take the form of a market, but the wares on offer will be the stories of Hull, the inspiration will be the stories gathered in the discovery. Projection mapping on buildings will tell of what was there before, local theatre companies will perform, choirs will sing new works and story tellers will perform. The audience will be free to wander mixing with the professional and volunteer cast, finding their own way through the experience, guided by a specially commissioned soundtrack.

**Proposed Delivery Partners:** Hull University, Hull History Centre, the Libraries Service, Hull Culture & Leisure and the Yorkshire Film Archive.

**Other funders:** Heritage Lottery Fund (conversations ongoing as part of wider project), Arts Council England – Ambition for Excellence (EOI approved).

**Total Project Budget:** £1,000,000

**Request for funding:** £250,000

**Funding from Garfield Weston would enable:**

* Specific and additional community engagement work in Hull’s hardest to reach communities
* Training of volunteers – both cast and backstage
* A structure to tour the communities of Hull which will be used to capture people’s stories
* The creation of a community resource bringing together the stories collected which will be free to access and available to all Hull residents.

**Outcomes:**

* (Re)presenting Hull to a national audience and Hull’s contribution to the world
* Community involvement for everyone in Hull
* The creation of a new archive of Hull stories