

# The City Bridge Trust

## Bridging Divides: Application for a grant



### About your organisation

#### Organisation Details

Name of your organisation: <b>Greater London Volunteering</b>	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name? <b>n/a</b>	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? <b>Westminster</b>	
Contact person: <b>Ms Margaret Cooney</b>	Position: <b>Chief Executive</b>
Website: <b><a href="http://www.glv.org.uk">http://www.glv.org.uk</a></b>	Social Media Accounts: <b>@londonplus18</b>
What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold? <b>None</b>	

#### Legal Status

Legal status of organisation: <b>Registered Charity</b>			
Charity Number: <b>1115303</b>	Company Number: <b>4070342</b>	CIC Number:	Bencom Number:
When was your organisation established? <b>13/07/2006</b>			
<b>Aims of your organisation:</b> We exist to champion London's civil society through insight, influence and powerful connections. We have three objectives:  We will bring people together and convene meetings, events, workshops, training programmes and hackathons to connect people, share information, build skills and shared understanding.  We will commission and conduct research to generate new knowledge and insight and collect, collate and critically evaluate good practice to build a robust evidence base that demonstrates what works and why for civil society.  We will engage and influence decision-makers, funders and policymakers so that they understand the importance of civil society and the vital role infrastructure plays in underpinning civil society.			

**Main activities of your organisation:**

Our four main areas of service delivery are evidence-based - we use the evidence we gather to make decisions to inform what we do. In brief:

Data and Intelligence - research, data literacy support, data projects e.g equality data standard project

Networks, partnerships and collaborations - service networks of infrastructure organisations, e.g Pilotlight consortia project, CVSSs, VCs, London wide infrastructure forum

Advocacy and voice - Good Work Commission, support Cornerstone Fund projects, advocating for the role of CSOs in social prescribing

Communications, digital content and operations - creating a centralised knowledge and information hub about CSOs in London.

The attached business plan includes an activity plan from July 2019 - July 2020 with details of our activities to date. As a relatively new organisation, our activities and work are evolving constantly and a table version of this document will have a clearer timeline, outcomes, activities and will form the basis of a monitoring framework is being developed.

**Your Staff & Volunteers**

Full-time:	Part-time:	Trustee/Board members:	Active volunteers:
<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

Do you have a Safeguarding policy? **Yes**

**Are the following people in your organisation subject to DBS checks?**

Paid Staff  
**No**

Volunteers  
**No**

Trustees / Management Committee Members  
**Yes**

**Property occupied by your organisation**

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
<b>Rented</b>	<b>8 months</b>

**Environmental Impact****What action have you taken in the past year to progress environmentally sustainability principles and practice?**

Sustainability is part of our ethos and values and we actively minimise our environmental impact. We have chosen our office building as they have an active green approach with an excellent recycling scheme. We avoid printing and focus on being digital first. We have developed a strong environmental policy to support us to continue to minimise our environmental impact as an organisation which is available on request.

## Finance Details

### Organisation Finances

	Year of most recent audited / examined accounts	Current financial year forecast	Next financial year budget
End of financial year date	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	31/03/2020
Grants & donations:	£232,939	£313,626	£455,120
Earned Income:	£16,638	£0	£0
Other income:	£11,186	£4,689	£0
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>260,988</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£455,120</b>
Charitable activity costs:	£224,544	£289,000	£367,799
Cost of raising funds:	£2,499	£3,000	£30,913
Other costs:	£0	£0	£11,250
<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b>£227,044</b>	<b>£292,000</b>	<b>£409,962</b>
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end:	£41,165	£49,000	£45,717

#### What is your organisation's reserves policy?

The charity maintains a risk-based reserves policy to cover the costs of winding up, payment of redundancy settlements to eligible staff, a final audit, a month's office costs and legal fees, and staff contingency costs. This was last reviewed in November 2018 and there is enough to cover these costs, but it will be updated in 2019 to reflect changed circumstances.

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?  
**1-10%**

#### Organisational changes

Describe any significant organisational changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts.

**The organisation Greater London Volunteering became London Plus, with new articles and constitution, a new staff team, brand and website. A transitional board remains in place. London Plus supports civil society across London through the provision of data and intelligence, networking and information and advocacy.**

## Grant Request

Which of the Trust's programmes and priority areas will your application deliver? <b>Connecting the Capital/Capacity building support</b>				
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve?				
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. <b>Support London Plus to deliver a portfolio of priority projects offering CSOs access to business, technical and enterprise support, and promoting their voice in the issues that matter to Londoners.</b>				
When will the funding be required? <b>02/09/2019</b>				
Is this request to continue work that is currently funded or has been funded in the last year by:				
City Bridge Trust?		Another funder? (if so which)		
<b>Yes</b>				
How much funding are you requesting?				
Year 1:	Year 2:	Year 3:	Year 4:	Year 5:
<b>£230,000</b>	<b>£285,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Total Requested: £515,000</b>				

### What 3 main differences or outcomes do you want to achieve through your funding proposal?

<p>Role of local VCS offices in each borough is understood. CSOs are networked, supporting each other across London (sharing expertise and best practice). New opportunities are created through convening events and bringing people together. Increased resources for civil society. Funders/decision makers understand importance of infrastructure and support it.</p>
<p>Evidence base that demonstrates the value of civil society in London is established and accessible The evidence base for the importance of infrastructure is developed, well-known, lauded and used.</p>
<p>Londoners increase and improve their voice in policy making CSOs actively involved in key decision making. Politicians, funders and the public understand the value of CSO infrastructure The value of civil society in London is understood and recognised The culture of voluntary sector funding and attitudes of funders improves.</p>

### What are the main activities or outputs you will deliver to achieve these differences?

<p>Convene and connect annually we will deliver: -10 London wide network events -4 sub-regional events -2 large scale thematic events -4 research dissemination events 40 events over 2 years reaching on average 40 organisations per event = 1600 organisations</p>
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**Evidence-based practice - annually we will:**

- Commission one strategic research project
- Produce four thematic analyses of topics of concern for CSOs in London
- 2 multi-partner cross-sector collaborations on focused issues
- Create an online knowledge & resource hub of evidence-based practice
- Open source repository to collate CSO evidence and reviews/evaluations

**Speaking up, changing attitudes, annually we will:**

- meet 8-12 funders and attend funders networks (London Funders, ACF etc.)
- 8 meetings with policy/decision-makers
- attend appropriate conferences, fora, standing committees and workshops to engage with policymakers to represent the sector
- Collaborate with peers on topics of shared concern - regionally



## You and your grant request

### **What, specifically, are you applying for (your project)?**

Two years of funding to enable London Plus to implement an ambitious programme of work developed during our first year, the setup and development phase. This is based on detailed consultation with CSOs across London and we are now ready to implement the projects and strategic programmes for which we have established a clear need and evidence base. In addition to supporting networks, harnessing the power of data for CSOs and increasing CSOs voice and influence, we will deliver three, new projects. A data stories programme helping CSO's to use data to tell their story; a research and network development project to ensure CSOs are equipped to play a full role in London's social prescribing delivery, and a skills development and advocacy project about housing in London. A detailed business plan, with objectives, outcomes and a full list of all activities is included with this application, showing milestones to date.

### **How will the project described achieve your stated outcomes?**

The attached business plan describes our entire portfolio, but all our work, including the three new projects in development, will have three overarching objectives, accompanied by activities and outcomes:

#### **Convening and connecting.**

Using our position to run networks across London with the VCS, funders and policy-makers and bring people together by convening meetings, events, workshops, training programmes and hackathons to connect people, share information, build skills and understanding.

#### **The development of evidence-based practice.**

Our primary focus for evidence-based practice will be to demonstrate the value, importance and impact of civil society

#### **To speak up and change attitudes.**

We will have targeted programmes of engagement and influencing to achieve a shift in attitude towards civil society infrastructure from policymakers, businesses and funders so that the concerns and priorities of Londoners are heard. We will use our own influence and evidence base to shape and inform new policies and funding priorities.

### **How do you know there's a need for this work?**

From evidence produced by the Way Ahead, and since June 2018, by speaking to London's infrastructure organisations, our strategic partners and the public. The following list indicates where it was felt London Plus could provide targeted and impactful support.

- Help Londoners to have more of a voice in policies affecting their lives.
- Promote the role of infrastructure organisations to funders, decision-makers, public.
- Raise awareness/understanding of what local VCS does at all levels.
- Convene CSOs to reflect and learn, and make space to pursue new ideas.
- Support CSOs to move beyond problem identification to long-term solutions.
- Short-term funding and policy cycles.
- Fill the evidence gap about what works well.
- Develop an evidence-based policy that identifies needs and helps our partners to address them.
- Encourage funders to support what works well rather than pursue 'novelty or 'innovation' for its own sake.
- Convene and connect CSOs for a better understanding of London's needs.

**How will the work be delivered - specifically, what will you do?**

To make a difference our delivery will be targeted, focused and specific for greater impact. The work portfolio will prioritise three strategic projects, with a focus on delivering these well. We will collate relevant data, conduct new research, and contribute new intelligence and insights about our priority projects. We will convene and activate networks for supportive and proactive partnership working with the goal of delivering positive outcomes for Londoners. We will also share learning, intelligence, evidence-based practice for a greater impact on identified issues across London through our centralised 'hub' and at network events. We will advocate for CSOs, highlighting their role, expertise, reach and impact in order to support better locality planning and coordination. We will amplify and direct the voice of the local VCS and the communities they serve to ensure that decision makers, businesses, funders and policymakers recognise and value of civil society in the capital.

**Why are you the right organisation to do this work?**

London Plus emerged from a consensus that for civil society to have a greater impact on Londoners, a more unified approach was needed to help the public, politicians and business better understand the range, complexity and importance of the work that it does. The Way Ahead identified an opportunity to support CSOs differently, by creating a small centralised knowledge and information 'hub' harnessing the power of data and working across institutional boundaries. London faces major challenges; post-Brexit uncertainty, growing inequality, pressure on local government, political polarisation, and ongoing austerity hitting communities and the small organisations that serve them, hard. London Plus is ideally placed to show how CSOs are a powerful and essential force for good, able to work in places and ways that the state, public sector and business find difficult. In doing so it can transform lives, unlock resources, realise assets and help London's diverse communities negotiate change.

**How does your work complement and not duplicate other services within your area?**

We are a pan-London civil society infrastructure organisation positioned between a London wide network of localised and specialist infrastructure bodies and higher level, umbrella and strategic level bodies, like NAVCA, NCVO and the GLA, so our position is unique. We lead and convene networks of infrastructure organisations delivering services to smaller organisations and help them to set and shape evidence-based policy to create a better future for Londoners. And we also support them to make sense of regional and national level policy at local level. Our ongoing portfolio will continue to focus on:

- Filling the knowledge/awareness gap about the role of civil society in London
- Addressing the evidence gap about what works, and where there are emerging or unmet needs
- Facilitating better sharing, partnership work and collaboration within and across our networks.

We know there is a need for this approach and will build on our achievements to date.



**How will you ensure that your project will hear and represent the views and needs of disadvantaged people and/or diverse communities?**

By supporting London's CSOs to improve their impact because that helps to create a city where all Londoners thrive. Our vision reflects this too. We are not a front line delivery body so will always take an evidence-based approach to our work before embarking on any course of action. This project will continue to help our networks support people and communities in London who are underrepresented and experiencing disadvantage. For example; we have an ongoing collaboration with Inclusion London and its membership to help them achieve a better equality data monitoring standard for disabilities. The evidence they had was that the standard currently used was inadequate. The 'Good Neighbours' project we are developing responds to the evidence from our networks of infrastructure bodies that smaller, local community organisations have limited means to engage in planning developments that negatively affect their housing and communities. It will support them to do this.

**How does your project engage and empower individuals and/or communities to come together on this issue? Will you be working with people who are particularly excluded?**

London Plus works on a number of issues, across different locations and with CSOs and other partners who want to improve the lives of Londoners. Our role will be to support CSOs working at the front line of austerity, using the approaches we have developed so far; to convene and connect networks, support and develop evidence-based policy and practice, and speak up on behalf of, and change attitudes towards civil society for the better. Although the next two years will see our work focus on health and well-being, housing and building data literacy, these are critical issues for Londoners so we will continue to harness new evidence, build relationships and resources to enable excluded organisations, groups and individuals to benefit from them. As an example, our data stories project will incorporate a strand of work with BAME organisations to help them understand how to use race disparity audit data.

**Is the focus of your project meeting an already identifiable need (acute or otherwise) or are there elements which are preventative and/or incorporate early action?**

The focus will be on building capacity and supporting infrastructure organisations to remove need, identify emerging needs and be in a better position to address them. The work that we deliver on data and intelligence, is primarily about helping CSOs to be able to take early intervention. Alongside the data literacy work we deliver, we are developing a programme of research, informed by our networks on one level, which will be delivered in house, or in partnership to develop the evidence base for CSOs to act earlier.

Our advocacy work, in particular, will argue that the relationship between government, business, local government and CSOs should be reset so that London's diverse communities can be supported to overcome difficult challenges by the local or specialist organisations who are often best positioned to help them and understand their needs. This continues the system change work initiated by the Way Ahead

**Who might you need to work closely with in delivering this project - whether before, during or afterwards?**

We are already working with London's networks of CVSs, Volunteer Centres, CSO employment/skills organisations, specialist infrastructure membership bodies like Advice UK. These will inform our work, shape its direction and some will be either involved in the delivery or direct beneficiaries.

We will continue to work closely with the GLA - Team London, Health and Communities Team, Civil Society team.

Specialist organisations; Inclusion London, ROTA, HEAR, BTEG, the LGBT Consortium will be advisers and delivery partners.

Research partners - universities, and think tanks.

360 Giving, Datakind.

Trust for London and other funders.

Other small charities delivering services - Superhighways, Pilotlight, FSI.

Subject matter specialists - Heathy London Partnership, Healthwatch, CCGs, STPs, tenants rights organisations, housing associations, think tanks, consultancies like Rocket Science.

The membership of the Good Work Commission.

Individual London boroughs and commissioners.

**Our aim as a funder is to help people move positively between any of the four stages of Surviving, Coping, Adapting and Thriving. For your project at which of these stages will most people begin their journey?**

We work with organisations, not individuals. Through our networks, we know that the main challenge for small CSOs is that many are barely surviving due to a lack of appropriately targeted resources and funding. Our role is to challenge attitudes and help to change the mindsets of funders and policymakers to help smaller CSOs to adapt and become more sustainable and stronger organisations that can develop to thrive over time.

The organisations that we work with focus on supporting the most needy in society, so their beneficiaries will be at different levels of surviving, coping and adapting. Our role will be to understand what they need from our service to adapt and thrive and provide essential support to their most vulnerable beneficiaries, enabling them to move from surviving to coping, adapting and even thriving.

**Will there be any elements of this project that will help you or your beneficiaries to reduce your environmental footprint?**

London Plus has developed an environmental policy that informs the way we work. Our work is directed at other organisations and we will seek to work with those organisations that share our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint. Where possible, we will use only digital materials and avoid the need for print.

## Funding required for the project

### What is the total cost of the proposed activity / project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Staff costs (salaries, recruitment, travel, subsistence)	281,653	273,971	0	0	0	0
Volunteer expenses	1,850	1,906	0	0	0	0
Office costs (rent)	36,000	37,080	0	0	0	0
Office costs (other and includes website)	10,350	10,661	0	0	0	0
Project delivery (current & ongoing)	42,500	33,784	0	0	0	0
Project delivery (new projects)	20,000	143,000	0	0	0	0
Governance	11,250	11,588	0	0	0	0
Equipment	3,800	1,442	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>409,962</b>	<b>513,432</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
GLA x 3 grants confirmed	28,500	0	0	0	0	0
CBT Cornerstone (balance c/f)	107,570	0	0	0	0	0
TfL Employment & Skills	19,250	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>155,320</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
CBT (as a delivery partner for Superhighways)	4,800	0	0	0	0	0
Team London Awards	4,500	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Staff costs (salaries, recruitment, travel, subsistence)	159,451	218,560	0	0	0	0
Volunteer expenses	1,038	1,058	0	0	0	0
Office costs (rent)	20,197	25,850	0	0	0	0
Office costs (other and includes website)	5,807	5,917	0	0	0	0
Project delivery (current & ongoing)	23,844	24,634	0	0	0	0
Project delivery (new projects)	11,221	0	0	0	0	0
Governance	6,312	8,450	0	0	0	0
Equipment	2,132	800	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>285,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## Who will benefit?

How many people will directly benefit from the grant per year?

**61,500**

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

**London-wide**

Does this project specifically target any groups or communities?

**No - open to everyone**

This project will specifically work with the following age groups:

**0-15/16-24/25-44/45-64/65-74/75 and over**

This project will specifically work with the following gender groups:

**Male**

**Female**

**Transgender or other gender identity**

This project will specifically work with the following ethnic groups:

**Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups**

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

This project will specifically work with Deaf and disabled people:

**No**

This project will specifically work with LGBTQI groups:

**No**

This project will specifically work with other groups or communities:  
**We may identify issues with specific groups; eg deaf and disabled people, BAME**

How will you target the groups/communities you have identified? What is your expertise in providing services for these groups?  
**We will use the expertise of our network who service London and also specialist infrastructure - e.g equalities.**

Are there any groups or communities you think your organisation will find hard to include through this project?

**No**

If yes, please specify which groups or communities? Where possible using the categories listed above.

If yes, what steps will you take to make your services accessible to and meet the needs of the groups/communities you have identified?

### **Declaration**

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes      Full Name: **Margaret Cooney**

Role within Organisation:                      **Chief Executive**