

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving London's Environment**Chelsea Physic Garden Company****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Amount requested: £86,337****Base: Kensington & Chelsea****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £86,300****The Charity**

Chelsea Physic Garden (CPG) founded in 1673, is one of Europe's oldest botanic gardens. It was created by the Society of Apothecaries, a Livery Company since 1617, to train apprentices to identify and test plants for medicinal use using specimens bought back from all over the world by the ships of the East India Company. It occupies four acres of land on the edge of the Thames displaying more than 5,000 plants. CPG contains the history of pharmaceutical plants, a garden of world medicine, the oldest rock garden in Europe along with glasshouses and many rare and endangered plants. In 1983, it became a registered charity and opened as a public garden and education resource.

CPG is maintained as a charity for public benefit with education as its principal charitable purpose. The Garden's role as a place of learning underlies and informs all of its activities. These educational aims are achieved through the provision of formal and informal learning for visitors and students about the importance of plants and environmental conservation. The medicinal plant display – one of the largest in the World - contains extensive ethnobotanics, useful and edible plant collections. Visitor numbers have increased steadily in recent years and the Garden now welcomes 50,000 visitors each year. The growth in visitor numbers reflects steadily increasing public awareness of the garden and provides the opportunity to more effectively fulfil its educational purpose through interaction with a widening and increasingly diverse audience.

The Application

CPG has been running an education programme for school children since 1983. This expanded in the 1990's offering directed learning to families, schools and teachers, alongside increased outreach educational centres. The Education Department currently provides curricular courses for over 3000 schoolchildren each year, and more than 1000 adults and teachers. CPG is seeking funding over three years towards the salary cost of the Education and Outreach Officer, central to developing the community education and outreach programme.

The Recommendation

This project builds on a pilot scheme funded by John Lyon's Charity to improve their current offer for families, working closely with teachers and increasing outreach activities to reach broader audiences. As well as an extensive programme of activities and events aimed at families, CPG gives regular public lectures and tours on a variety of botanical and horticultural subjects. It also operates a reciprocal volunteer/traineeship exchange programme with other botanical gardens. The education and outreach programme is of a high standard. The Band Trust has awarded £45,000 over three years towards the project costs. Funding is advised as follows:

£86,300 over three years (£20,400; £32,600; £33,300) towards the salary and on-costs of a full time Education and Outreach Officer.

Funding History

(None since 2004)

Background and detail of proposal

CPG is well regarded for its work with the local community and collaborates with a number of leading botanical, horticultural and related organisations. Its very active and growing education outreach programme has been successful with both schools and community groups with which they work. In addition, the programme now works with Waltham Forest Young Offenders Centre (WFYOC). These are 12-18 year olds, most of whom are engaging with horticulture and botany for the first time. The postholder will extend CPG's on-site and outreach educational programmes. This will increase the number of school visits and wider outreach with adults and community groups with a particular focus on groups experiencing social deprivation. CGP believes, given the success of the programme, there are opportunities to extend and widen activities to deliver a diverse range of enjoyable, high-quality learning experiences to inspire and engage participants of all ages. The project will build on the pilot and adapt to meet the needs of the growing and diverse communities in and around London.

Financial Information

CPG's income is principally generated from admission fees, annual subscriptions from Friends of the Garden and the Adult Education programme. In addition the commercial activities of CGP Enterprises Limited make a significant contribution, together with support from Charitable Trusts and Foundations. The charity receives support from over 100 volunteers donating their expertise, willingness and support in all areas of the organisations activities. Future plans include restoring the historic fabric, collections, and physical access to the Garden whilst protecting the character. CPG plan to invest around £10m with a proposal to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund by end of 2017.

Year end as at 31st December	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
	Audited Accounts	Audited Accounts	Forecast
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,416,799	1,501,081	1,579,400
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	n/a	55%
Expenditure	(1,238,828)	(1,398,185)	(1,551,100)
Gains on Investments	21,249	403,402	
Total surplus/(deficit)	199,220	506,298	28,300
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(8,040)	4,365	107,400
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	207,260	501,933	(79,100)
	199,220	506,298	28,300
Cost of Raising Funds	349,771	410,638	456,000
- % of income	24.7%	27.4%	28.9%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	1,144,257	1,308,195	1,511,100
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	587,767	612,174	533,074
No of months of operating expenditure	6.2	5.6	4.2
Reserves policy target	608,400	654,097	755,550
No of months of operating expenditure	6.4	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(20,633)	(41,923)	(222,476)