



Stronger Communities

Assessment Reports

Joslin, Jack

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Age Concern City of London (Ref: 14349)

Amount requested: £9,940

Amount recommended: £9,940

Purpose of grant request: To develop a community outreach programme, regular meetings and the setup of a new community group targeting older Bengali women that reside in the Mansell Street estate and surrounding areas.

The Charity

Age Concern City of London (ACCL) is an independent Charity that is linked to Age Concern London who have 'deemed' control as they share 3 out of 5 directors. ACCL is a separate company, limited by guarantee that produces separate company accounts and has its own bank account. Both Charities are linked on the Charity Commission website and therefore come under the same Charity number.

Background and detail of proposal

Over the last 12 months ACCL have been building and developing relationships with older women from the Bengali community on the Mansell Street estate. Through running a monthly coffee morning, they have been consulting on the needs of this specific community and looking at what opportunities they may be able to provide. This application looks to develop on this consultation work and employ a bi-lingual outreach worker to work two days a month. The worker will work with older women in the Bengali community and establish volunteering opportunities around setting up the Mansell Street Women's Group. Through this work and the setup of the group work will be done to promote healthy lifestyles within the community. Access to ESOL classes will be promoted, trips to local libraries, and a range of volunteering opportunities to develop and encourage active citizenship.

The project plans to start, if funding is agreed, in February 2018 with a programme of work taking place throughout the year. The target at the end of the 12 months is to ensure that the Mansell Street Women's Group has been set up and established by the volunteers. ACCL anticipate that they will work with at least 40 older women from the Bengali community but believe there could be scope for more once the volunteering programme gets off the ground.

Financial Information

The Charity is majority funded by the City of London through its Health Watch, Care Navigators and Befriending programmes. This makes up over 80% of their income. Although the organisation has low free reserves the organisation has ongoing income from the City of London Corporation contracts it delivers.

Year Ended 31 March	2017 Independently Examined Accounts	2018 Forecast Accounts
Income	198,948	192,000
Expenditure	190,366	193,000
Surplus/deficit	(8,582)	(1,000)

Free Reserves

At 31 st March (number of month's expenditure)	13,351 (0.8)	11,300 (0.7)
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Recommendation

Age Concern City of London provide services to Older people in the City of London. They are majority funded by the City of London for a variety of programmes and are administratively joined to Age UK London. This project is well targeted and based on a year's consultation with the Bengali community on the Mansell Street estate in the City. The budget is well reasoned and the project will be well managed and sympathetic to the needs of this specific community. The setup of a volunteer run Women's group at the end of the 12 months is a particularly positive outcome of this work. This project fits with the programme outcomes as it will promote health and wellbeing outcomes for older Bengali women while also finding avenues for them to engage in the development of community activities through volunteering. Funding is therefore recommended as follows:

£9,940 over a 12 month period to develop a community outreach programme, regular meetings and the setup of a new community group targeting older Bengali women that reside in the Mansell Street estate and surrounding areas.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Aldgate Community Events (Ref: 14353)

Amount requested: £9,300

Amount recommended: £9,300

Purpose of grant request: ACE seek support for the Aldgate Community Play, to improve community cohesion and celebrate the areas rich heritage.

The Charity

Aldgate Community Events (ACE) formed in October 2014 as a Constituted Voluntary Organisation. The purpose of ACE is to bring people in Aldgate and the surrounding area together, combat social isolation and promote unity, friendship and a strong sense of community through organising arts, culture and learning activities, as well as information exchange between all groups connected to, and by, the Aldgate area. Run primarily by volunteers that are passionate about their community ACE produces events to celebrate the past, present and future of the Aldgate area and the people who live work and play there.

Background and detail of proposal

ACE's primary project for 2017-18 is The Aldgate Play and Heritage Project, which is being built in partnership with Claque Theatre and the City of London. The project is open to community members, groups, organisations and businesses from around the area, and for people passing through; offering a fantastic programme of free activities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. This programme looks to support the regeneration of the Aldgate area allowing residents the opportunity to assist in the design and planning of a community play.

A contribution is being sought towards the artistic engagement programme that will operate alongside the design and delivery of the play. The play will take place over 3 nights in June 2018 with the rehearsals starting in May 2018. The final performances are expected to take place on the new square in Aldgate and bring communities from all the local City and Tower Hamlets estates together. The total project cost is £87,700 with ACE expecting to be raise the balance from match funding and in-kind donations. The artistic engagement that will run in parallel to the play will cost £12,450 for which £9,300 is being requested with this proposal. The artistic engagement elements will be doing outreach in the communities, encouraging local people to be involved in the design and delivery of the play.

Financial Information

The organisation has been dormant for several years as they save for the major project in 2018. In December 2016, they received a grant from the City of London (Community Development) of £30,000 to seed fund the community play and work of the artistic director. The play is set to be developed and put on in 2018/19 when they expect to have significant expenditure and will spend down all the seed funding they have received. The Treasurer has supported by an accountant to set up appropriate financial systems and management accounts are reported to the management board monthly. A bank statement was provided at assessment that supports the financial information provided.

Year Ended 31 March	2017 Income & Expenditure Accounts	2018 Income and Expenditure Accounts
Income	30,000	661
Expenditure	0	254
Surplus/deficit	30,000	407

Free Reserves

At 31 st March	35,000	35,407
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Recommendation

ACE are planning to run a community play on the new square in Aldgate in June 2018. The play will showcase the diversity and history of the area. Funding is being sought for the artistic engagement that will work directly with the local community on the various City housing estates. The programme will provide workshops and development in the build up to the performance in June 2018. This application fits well with the Stronger Communities programme as it will celebrate and bring together the community in and around the new Aldgate Square development. Funding is recommended as follows:

£9,300 towards the artistic engagement programme, workshops, venue hire and associated performance costs that will run in conjunction of the main Aldgate Community Play programme.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

All Hallows by the Tower Church (Ref: 14341)

Amount requested: £10,000

Amount recommended: £10,000

Purpose of grant request: A building project at All Hallows Church to provide a self-contained space for community and charity activities with a kitchen and toilet.

The Charity

All Hallows by the Tower is the oldest Church in the City of London and was founded by the Abbey off Barking in 675AD, 300 years before the Tower of London was built. A registered charity the church is located next to the Tower of London on Byward street. In the crypt beneath the church is a second century Roman pavement, discovered in 1926, evidence of life on the site for nearly two thousand years.

Background and detail of proposal

The Church has a long history of delivering community activity within the City and to surrounding areas. This project is looking to build on that rich history by refurbishing some of its existing space to open it up to more community use. The Church is already used by a range of local organisations for community use but they would like to extend this further with this refurbishment. A number of organisations have been in touch who are looking to use the space for meetings or to deliver counselling sessions. The work is planned to begin in June and a feasibility study has already been undertaken.

The total project cost will be £67,500 including VAT and a range of funding has already been secured for the refurbishment from the Northcott Foundation, Tower Hill trust and through local fundraising. Although the £10,000 contribution being requested will not complete the funding for the work it will take them very close to the total required. Funding is sought for a contribution to the total cost of the work.

This application to refurbish the upstairs space at the Church to make sure that it is in good condition to allow for more community use. The room will be refurbished with additional toilets, an upgraded kitchen space as well as a partition for more discreet meetings to take place. This room will be on the first floor and therefore not fully accessible. Other parts of the Church are accessible however and services can use other spaces within the Church to cater to their client's needs where necessary.

Financial Information

The budget forecast for 2017 demonstrates an overspend, however the actuals are looking like there will be a surplus by the end of the year.

Year Ended 31 December	2016 Independently Examined Accounts	2017 Management Accounts	2018 Forecast Accounts
Income	397,639	324,950	331,775
Expenditure	346,753	335,370	328,570
Surplus/deficit	50,886	(10,420)	3,205
Free reserves (number of month's expenditure)	99,724 (3.4)	89,304 (3.2)	92,509 (3.4)

Free Reserves

At 31 st December (number of month's expenditure)	99,724 (3.4)	89,304 (3.2)	92,509 (3.4)
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Recommendation

This application is looking to improve some already actively used community space in the oldest church in the City. The refurbishment will allow for one of the upstairs rooms to be used more actively and privately for counselling sessions, debt and legal advice services and other community use. This project meets the criteria as it will promote a higher take up of services and broaden the scope of how the space can be offered. As this is an upstairs space it will not be fully accessible which should be considered within the decision making. Funding is recommended as follows:

£10,000 contribution to the refurbishment of community space at the All Hallows by the Tower Church to make it more accessible for community use.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Golden Lane Residents Association (Ref: 14340)

Amount requested: £10,000

Amount recommended: £3,100

Purpose of grant request: To support the cost of setting up, establishing and training the new management structure of the Golden Lane Estate Community Centre.

The Charity

Golden Lane Estate Residents' Association (GLERA) has been in existence since 2010. A constituted voluntary organisation their objectives are to further the common community interests of the residents of the Golden Lane Estate. They promote the maintenance and improvements of amenities on the estate and support their members with dealings with the City of London Corporation and other bodies. Although this application is to set up a new legal entity to manage the Community Centre GLERA will manage the funds in the initial stages.

Background and detail of proposal

The Golden Lane Community Centre is owned by the City of London Corporation and is undergoing refurbishment. The centre has until recently been managed by a separate organisation and it was felt that it was not inclusive to everyone in the community. A steering group of residents that are part of GLERA has recently been set up to ensure that resident's thoughts are being taken into account with the refurbishment of the Community Centre. GLERA are planning to take on the management of this building and are looking for support to have an independent feasibility study done to ensure this is a practical solution.

A feasibility study was carried out by Locality with support from this programme. The recommendations of the feasibility study outlined that the steering group of GLERA should set up as a new independent community organisation in order to oversee the running of the newly refurbished community centre. This application is looking for funding towards the set up and training costs that will be required to set up this new organisation. Costs included in the budget are for training of management committee members, purchase of equipment, website development and safeguarding training. It is anticipated that all of this work will take place in the first 4 months of 2018 with most training delivered by Locality.

Financial Information

The organisation has not received any Income over the last 2 years and has very little expenditure. The Leaseholders Reserve Fund represents the Reserve balance transferred from the Golden Lane Owners Association and held for legal, architects' and surveyors' fees in protecting the legal position and assets of the leaseholders. None of this reserve has been allocated to this specific project. At assessment your

officer was reassured that the organisation had appropriate financial controls and oversight in place to manage funds.

Year Ended 31 March	2016 Independently Examined accounts
Income	0
Expenditure	221
Surplus/deficit	(221)
Free reserves (number of month's expenditure)	4,939 (268)

Recommendation

This application is to support the cost of training and set up of a new community led management structure to oversee the running of the Golden Lane Community Centre once it has been refurbished. This application fits with the Stronger Communities funding theme as the ultimate outcome will develop stronger neighbourhoods and communities on the Golden Lane Estate. At the Officer Panel it was decided that funding should be provided for the initial training and skills audit for Trustees as a new organisation is established. Other aspects of the request have not been approved due to equipment and a website should be applied for once a new organisation has been set up and Safeguarding training can be accessed for free through the Safeguarding Board. Funding is therefore recommended as follows:

£3,100 for the cost of training in governance, skills development and peer visits to develop the capacity of a new organisation to manage the Golden Lane Community Centre. Funding is conditional on confirmation that GLERA will manage all funds and that no transfer will take place once the new organisation has been established.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Goldsmiths, University of London (Ref: 14347)

Amount requested: £9,885

Amount recommended: £9,885

Purpose of grant request: £9,885 over a 9 month period towards the cost of the Project Lead, Research Assistant and associated delivery costs of a social action research project looking at social cohesion amongst isolated communities in the City of London and its housing estates.

The Applicant

Goldsmiths, an exempt Charity, is based in New Cross and has been delivering education on its site for the past 200 years. In 1792 the Counter Hill Academy opened in a house built by Deptford distiller, William Goodhew. The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths acquired the school and reopened it in 1891 as The Goldsmiths' Company Technical and Recreative Institute. At the turn of the twentieth Century the Company handed the institute to the University of London who re-named it Goldsmiths College.

Background and detail of proposal

In 2015 the Centre for Community Engagement Research at Goldsmiths undertook a study in partnership with the City of London investigating social isolation and loneliness in the City of London. This proposal aims to further extend this work by looking at other groups and residents in the City and its Housing estates. The project will look at young people, LGBTQI communities, single parents, BAME groups among others. The purpose of the work would be to produce a social action research report that would inform ways that the City could implement programmes that promote social cohesion both within the City and its housing estates.

In practical terms the project would look to start in February and work over a 6 to 9-month period. Overseen by a project lead and Research assistant the work will target specific estates and work in collaboration with the relevant officers in the Community and Children's Services department. Peer interviewers will be sourced and trained from the different areas who have an interest in their local communities. These peer interviewers will then conduct street based interviews in the City and its housing estates to collect data on resident's perceptions of the area and how community cohesion could be promoted. The project will focus on an Assets Community Development Approach which will focus on the principle of identifying and mobilising individual and community assets rather than community's problems and needs. The project will culminate in a report being produced which will provide recommendations and propose solutions to how social cohesion can be achieved within the communities that exist in the City and its housing estates.

Financial Information

As a university the organisation has very large turnover and requires significant cash flow to support the running of operations. Funding for specific projects like this one still need to be sought from grant making bodies for them to take place. As noted a contribution towards this project has been made by the University.

Year Ended 31 July	2016 Audited accounts
Income	103,969,000
Expenditure	104,399,000
Surplus/deficit	(6,198)

Free Reserves

At 31 st July	22,498,000
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Recommendation

Goldsmith's are a well-established academic institution in London. They have had previous experience working with the City of London on this type of research and this programme fits with the outcomes as it will provide research into how stronger neighbourhoods and communities can be developed within the City and its housing estates. Funding is recommended in full as follows:

£9,885 over a 9 month period towards the cost of the Project Lead, Research Assistant and associated delivery costs of a social action research project looking at social cohesion amongst isolated communities in the City of London and its housing estates.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Mint Street Music Festival (Ref: 14338)

Amount requested: £4,884

Amount recommended: £4,884

Purpose of grant request: To deliver a Mardi Gras community celebration in February and Mint Street Music Festival in July, both free, plus supporting arts activities.

The Charity

Mint Street Music Festival (MSMF) is a constituted voluntary organisation, with three Trustees who meet 4 times a year or when necessary depending on their festival schedule. The Trustees are all residents of City of London owned housing estates. The Charity's objects are to provide music, dance displays and activities for all members of the community, specifically residents of Southwark and the surrounding area. They have been running the Mint Street Music Festival and Mardi Gras festivals in Borough and Bankside for the past 2 years.

Background and detail of proposal

This application is looking for funding towards the 2018 Mardi Gras event in February and the Mint Street Music Festival in July. The event targets residents of local housing estates and the wider community. Residents of Collinson Court, Great Suffolk Street, Sumner Buildings and Pakeham House are all involved in the set up and delivery of both festivals.

The Mardi Gras festival will take place in February with rehearsals for the musicians commencing in early January. The Mardi Gras will bring together a Pancake day celebration, Latin American Mardi Gras and Italian Carnivale traditions. Music, food, dance and activities for all ages will be available for all the community. The Mint Street Music Festival is a larger and more established festival that will take place in July 2018. The festival usually attracts around 3000 people and has a stage with a variety of music and dance that reflects the cultures of the local residents and communities. Both festivals will bring together local residents from the City of London owned housing estates and wider community. Connections have also been established with other City owned housing estates such as Avondale Estate, with volunteering opportunities being planned.

The budget breakdown outlines the specific elements that are being requested for funding. This will cover a lot of the volunteer coordination, set up and associated costs of the two events.

Financial Information

MSMF have a small turnover and depend on grant income and the funds they raise delivering the festival events. At assessment the organisation confirmed that they were currently looking at formerly registering as a Charity or a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. At assessment your officer was clear that the organisation had appropriate financial systems in place and oversight of budgets for both festival events.

Year Ended 31 March	2016 Income & Expenditure Accounts	2017 Income & Expenditure Accounts	2018 Budget Accounts
Income	3,590	21,834	14,519
Expenditure	4,164	14,819	18,038
Surplus/deficit	(574)	7,015	(3,519)

Free Reserves

At March 31st (number of month's expenditure)	426 (1.2)	7,441 (6)	3,922 (2.6)
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Recommendation

This application fits very closely to the sub-theme of the Stronger Communities programme as it will develop stronger neighbourhoods and communities in the City of London Housing estates. This project has a focus on all the Southwark estates that are maintained by the City of London. It will provide two celebration events for a modest budget that will have a great benefit and legacy for the local community. Funding is recommended as follows:

£4884 to support the rehearsal, coordination, publicity and other associated costs of a Mardi Gras festival in February and the Mint Street Music festival in July 2018.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities

Opening Doors London (Ref: 14350)

Amount requested: £9,890

Amount recommended: £9,890

Purpose of grant request: To provide fortnightly social opportunities for older City of London LGBTQI residents to tackle social isolation and develop social networks.

The Charity

Opening Doors London (ODL) registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee in April 2016 and registered as a Charity in June of the same year. It is a subsidiary of Age UK Camden and was set up as it was established that by being independent it could maximise fundraising potential while remaining part of the Age UK family. Three of the serving board of Trustees are independent and two have been co-opted from Age UK Camden. The objects of the charity are to promote the welfare of older people identifying as LGBTQI throughout the UK with a specific focus on the greater London area. The Charity deliver a range of social opportunities, befriending, training and representation which aims to reduce social isolation and develop social networks within this specific community.

Background and detail of proposal

ODL are one of the largest providers of services to older people from the LGBTQI community in the UK. Many older people from this community fear discrimination and are at risk of social isolation. ODL provide services that ensure that their beneficiaries can live happy, confident and independent lives. This application is looking to develop an existing pilot project that is seeking to increase estate opportunities for the City of London's older LGBTQI residents. The project will provide opportunities for residents to get more involved in their community while providing training for mainstream organisations to encourage a broader understanding of the diverse needs of these communities.

ODL currently run a monthly social activity programme at the Barbican once a month for 20 older LGBTQI residents. With this funding they would like to expand this provision to once a fortnight and increase the scope of the activities and outings they can offer. ODL will develop their outreach for this programme and anticipate increasing the numbers of beneficiaries to 80 older people over the course of this grant. Starting in March 2018 the project will provide group cultural opportunities to a variety of the City of London's cultural institutions and museums. An inter-generational project will be scoped and established, creating links with a local youth led project. The workers will also provide two half-day workshops to mainstream organisations like leisure centres and libraries about the specific needs of the older LGBTQI community. Funding is being sought to cover the staff costs, management, volunteer recruitment, marketing and evaluation.

Financial Information

The Charity set up in April 2017 so the Independently Examined accounts show the turnover for an 11-and-a-half-month period. Unrestricted reserves remain low across the forecast and budget. They anticipate there to be a small deficit in their unrestricted reserves in 2018 which is why their unrestricted free reserves do not change in the table below. The charity has a fundraising plan in place and has already secured 94% of its income for year ending 31st March 2019. They anticipate that they will have developed healthier unrestricted reserves by 2019 but wanted to emphasise the security of their grants and contract income.

Year Ended 31 March	2017 Independently Examined Accounts	2018 Forecast Accounts	2019 Budget
Income	218,491	317,596	360,000
Expenditure	203,421	319,103	360,000
Surplus/deficit	15,070	(1,507)	0

Free Reserves

At March 31st (number of month's expenditure)	5,400 (0.3)	5,400 (0.2)	5,400 (0.2)
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Recommendation

ODL are a well-run organisation that understands the needs of the community they serve. At assessment it was clear that this programme will have significant benefit to the older beneficiaries it will work with while also having a wider benefit through its training programme. This project encourages a broader understanding of the diversity of local communities and their needs. Funding is recommended as follows:

£9,890 over 12 months for the sessional staff, management and associated costs of a fortnightly activity programme targeting the older LGBTQI resident in the City of London.