

The City Bridge Trust

Bridging Divides: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Organisation Details

Name of your organisation: Locality	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Hackney	
Contact person: Mr David Moynihan	Position: Head of Services (South)
Website: http://www.locality.org.uk	Social Media Accounts: @localitynews
What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold? Investors in People	

Legal Status

Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity			
Charity Number: 1036460	Company Number: 2787912	CIC Number:	Bencom Number:
When was your organisation established? 08/02/1993			
Aims of your organisation: To seek to win allies and influence policy in favour of localised community-led solutions, consulting with members in this work. To help community organisations through programmes to promote community asset ownership, community enterprise, and social action. To increase membership, continue to support members in difficulty, and enhance connectivity between members and their engagement with Locality and the wider movement			

Main activities of your organisation:

Locality is the national membership network for community organisations. We have over 600 members across the country (120 in London) all supporting local people in a local area. These are independent community led organisations operating at the local level - firmly rooted in a sense of place, and committed to positive economic, social or environmental change. They are typically flexible and responsive organisations, providing multi-purpose and holistic solutions to local problems and changes. We support community organisations to be strong and successful, to meet local needs and to give people a purpose, a good places to live and good health. We believe the power of community will build a fairer society. We have four main areas of work:

1. Peer learning and connection through the membership network
2. Resources for local people to get involved & create change in their community
3. Specialist advice and support
4. Campaigning to create a better operating environment for community organisation

Your Staff & Volunteers

Full-time:	Part-time:	Trustee/Board members:	Active volunteers:
40	2	9	3
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 No	

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?
Owned	

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

Locality promotes the work of community-led organisations, advocates on their behalf by commenting on and contributing to public policy developments, briefing and lobbying central/local government, and liaising with a wide range of organisations at all levels. Locality is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of the organisation and to the improvement of the local, national and global environment within the confines of our own resources. In working towards these objectives Locality endeavours to prevent pollution and meet or surpass all applicable legislation to ensure the protection of its employees, the community at large and the environment.

We do this by for example: ensuring the requirements of all relevant legislation and regulations are met/exceeded; taking into account environmental factors in our decision-making processes; reducing waste of energy and other natural resources; separating out at source, categorising/disposing all waste products; encouraging staff to minimise their use of cars for travel.

Finance Details

Organisation Finances

	Year of most recent audited / examined accounts	Current financial year forecast	Next financial year budget
End of financial year date	31/03/2017	30/06/2018	30/06/2019
Grants & donations:	£0	£0	£0
Earned Income:	£4,561,000	£6,429,000	£6,247,000
Other income:	£0	£0	£0
Total income:	4,561,000	£6,429,000	£6,247,000
Charitable activity costs:	£4,808,000	£6,611,000	£6,352,000
Cost of raising funds:	£0	£0	£0
Other costs:	£0	£0	£0
Total expenditure:	£4,808,000	£6,611,000	£6,352,000
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end:	£1,678,000	£1,104,000	£999,000
What is your organisation's reserves policy? Locality's policy on unrestricted reserves is to have at least 6 months essential core running costs plus sufficient funds to cover any necessary restructure and a loss of unconfirmed income			
For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources? 41-50%			

Organisational changes

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

In 2018/19, Locality is changing its financial year from 1st April-31st March to 1st July to 30th June

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying?

Connecting the Capital

Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve?

Connecting the Capital\Civil society organisations are more effective and resilient

Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence.

We will build capacity and voice within civil society organisations; by strengthening evidence base of what works; & supporting community organisations to adapt, become resilient and thrive in challenging times.

When will the funding be required? **01/10/2018**

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)

No

How much funding are you requesting?

Year 1:

£52,816

Year 2:

£53,872

Year 3:

£54,950

Year 4:

£0

Year 5:

£0

Total Requested: £161,638

You and your grant request

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

Our project will build capacity and voice within civil society organisations in London. It will do this by strengthening the evidence base of what works in terms of community organisations adapting, becoming resilient and thriving in challenging times. Our experience of working with civil society organisations has told us that they prefer to learn from the experience of their peers. The project will build relationships ? between different sectors and also between neighbourhood- borough-London levels. As England?s most densely populated region, London?s most articulate and responsive voice is often at the neighbourhood level. For this voice to be effective ?it also has to be connected to wider strategic networks and structures (at borough or city-wide levels) to ensure it can influence and channel resources. Finally, the project will also fortify the role and resilience of community organisations ? by examining needs/strengths/opportunities and delivering a peer-learning improvement programme.

What are the changes you hope to achieve?

?Developing an evidence base? strand - civil society organisations will have a more prominent role in inspiring and directing others to achieve within the sector. They will also become much more active neighbourhood-based centres for understanding and responding to local needs and issues using a robust evidence base. Finally, they will be equipped to support strategic partners to deliver co-production exercises with service users.

?Building relationships? strand - established neighbourhood-based civil organisations will have a strong collective voice, which influences strategic bodies in London. In turn, this will create a better operating environment for civil organisations across London.

?Strengthening role and resilience? strand - over 100 civil society organisations with an improved understanding of their respective strengths and weaknesses, with additional skills/resources to help address weaknesses and with improved governance/accountability structures. Furthermore, some organisations will develop the skills and resources to share their strengths with others in the sector.

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

Locality has over 120 community members in London and we are in regular dialogue with them to support their work, thereby having an insight about their challenges ? principally, maintaining and sustaining essential community-led services, activities and assets in capital within the current political/economic/social environment. This is allied to our understanding of current pressures on these organisations in the capital. We know from these that:

1. They are facing an increased demand on their services. Recent research has found that that as many as 4 in 10 Londoners have an income below the level that is deemed necessary for a minimum socially acceptable standard of living. Furthermore, there is evidence of an increased polarisation of neighbourhoods within the city as unimaginable wealth and extreme poverty live together side by side.
2. Civil society organisations are facing financial constraints due to a loss of local authority and other available grant income.

How will the work be delivered - specifically, what will you do?**1. Developing an evidence base strand**

? A series of detailed profiles of community organisations intended to act as inspirational as well as technical support guides to others in the sector.

? Help community organisations collect credible data about their communities/neighbourhoods.

? Co-production centres - support community organisations to become the facilitators and natural settings for co-production exercises.

2. Building relationships

? Forge closer relationships with pan-London policy bodies such as City Hall/London Councils, and individual borough authorities

? Locality London - we will create a London Locality hub within our overall network

3. Strengthening role/resilience

? Strategic planning for resilience ? diagnostic to comprehensively assess their organisational strengths and weaknesses, highlighting actions needed

? Plugging common gaps - running up to 3 workshops per annum, seeking to plug common areas of weaknesses, with a strong peer-to-peer element.

? Governance and representation - improving community organisations? accountability to their communities.

Why are you the right organisation to do this work?

We believe in the power of local communities to build a fairer society. We have over 600 England members all supporting local people in a local area. We work across housing, employment, health and wellbeing, arts/culture, the environment and more. Locality currently supports a network of 120 community organisations across London. These are independent community led organisations operating at the local level - firmly rooted in a sense of place, and committed to positive economic/social/environmental change. They are typically flexible and responsive organisations, providing multi-purpose and holistic solutions to local problems.

Locality exists to support these organisations to start, organise, and become resilient. We believe that community organisations are more important than ever and that there is the opportunity to ensure that every neighbourhood in London has a resilient community organisation. However, operating landscape is increasingly difficult, with rising demand for their services at a time of continued austerity.

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

Due to a difficult financial climate, there are not only fewer infrastructure bodies; those that remain are investing fewer resources in their policy functions.

We believe a key part of our role is to act as a fearless, credible and influential voice on behalf of our members. We have recently expanded our policy team to three, to grow our advocacy/influencing work on behalf of members, to create a better operating environment for community organisations.

The project will complement Locality's existing policy work in London and support additional, London focused policy capacity to achieve a step change in our advocacy and influencing activities in London. As far as we are aware, there are no other national voluntary sector infrastructure organisations that have a specific London policy focus. It will enable us to amplify our voice and work collaboratively with emerging Hub for London and engage with CVS's in different boroughs.

How will this proposal meet the Programme Outcome(s) under which you are applying?

? Local communities have better, more sustainable, assets ? by strengthening key neighbourhood based community organisations and improving their sustainability our interventions will strengthen assets for London?s local communities

? Civil society organisations are more effective and resilient ? through an improved evidence base, strong relationships with wider/strategic bodies and service providers, and through a strengthened role/resilience ? participating community organisations will be more effective and resilient.

? Londoners experiencing inequality or disadvantage are better heard etc ? by working with London?s community organisations, who are close to their constituent communities, and by creating better links between them and with London strategic bodies ? we will ensure Londoners experiencing inequality/disadvantage are better heard/represented, thereby improving decisions.

? Londoners experiencing inequality/disadvantage have greater well-being/independence ? our strengthening of community organisations also means that they are more likely to continue to provide a range of community services/activities in their neighbourhoods

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

We will amplify the role and voice of community organisations in London and therefore in turn will make much more prominent the views/needs of disadvantaged people. The community organisations we work with in this project are typically ?anchoring? organisations in their neighbourhoods - reflecting and being agile to the needs and want of residents in their communities. We believe they are much more better placed than local authorities, strategic and infrastructure organisations for representing and responding to the views/needs of disadvantaged groups, but this does not mean that this role could not be strengthened. Therefore, as part of our ?strengthening role and resilience? strand, we will be challenging these community organisations to improve their accountability to their communities - testing whether they are representing all constituent sections of their neighbourhoods and putting in place actions to ensure that the voices of more disadvantaged/marginalised groups are represented in their work.

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?

Resilient community organisations are crucial to ensuring that London?s success is something that can be shared by all of its communities. Locality?s members ? community organisations ? exist to empower local people to be in charge of their own destinies - an independent power base so marginalised voices can no longer be ignored. These organisations also act to retain wealth in the local area and ensure that local residents benefit from local growth. They also provide inclusive spaces and services, bringing together people from all types of backgrounds and enabling them to meet each other and forge trusting relationships. These actions go some of the way to reducing economic and social exclusion.

Through the project we will be supporting participating community organisations to strengthen their role in empowering and supporting the typically more excluded sections of the community.

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?

Community organisations and the voluntary sector in general across London face a number of regionally specific challenges, which are often quite different or amplified to those facing the rest of the UK. By 2030 London's population is projected to grow to 10 million, presenting challenges around ageing, housing, health services, education and poverty. In grappling with these challenges, and with shrinking resources, London's local authorities are not only rationalising resources, but also changing the way they work, with many looking at sharing services, or at commissioning across borough boundaries. All these factors have profound implications for London's community organisations. London is currently undergoing a transformation with rapidly changing neighbourhoods and gentrification creating new challenges around social integration. Locality's members are at the frontline of this transformation, both reacting to the challenges and helping to shape responses in their neighbourhoods to meet local needs, in the face of increasing inequalities.

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

Locality have already begun to build relationships with the Mayoral team, including the Deputy Mayor for Housing and the Deputy Mayor for Social Integration. We are keen to build on these foundations and build stronger relationships with City Hall. Sadiq Khan's priorities as Mayor - tackling the housing crisis, making London a fairer, more equal, more cohesive and greener city - closely align with Locality's vision of 'a fair society where every community thrives'.

Alongside this, we hope to develop the work we have been doing in London boroughs like Lambeth, Hackney and Waltham Forest, to work closely in partnership with innovative local authorities, as they seek new ways to deliver better services in an era of ongoing spending restraint and rapidly rising demand. This work with local authorities would provide an opportunity to develop the work we have led as part of the Way Ahead (convening a 'task/finish group')

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?

Our members tend to be based in the poorest neighbourhoods in the country. 80 per cent of Locality's members work in the 50 per cent most deprived wards in the country. Many of our members work with people who experience severe multiple disadvantage and have particular expertise in providing services for people who traditional services find 'hard to reach'.

Previously, our members' work had been additional to services provided by the state, but, following years of austerity, we now hear that they are under pressure to provide more basic services to fulfil essential need.

So our members, as multi-purpose organisations, will typically work with people across these four stages. However, it is our belief that there is now a greater emphasis among our members on moving people from 'surviving' to 'coping'; whereas traditional community development work might have been more focused on the journey from 'coping' to 'adapting'.

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

All strands of the project will strengthen community organisations' commitment to reduce their environmental footprint. As part of the 'strengthening role and resilience' strand, we will include (within the Lighthouse diagnostic) an assessment of community organisations' work in this area, highlighting where work is needed or (if they are exemplars) how they can share their approach. Through the 'Building Relationships' strand, we believe that we can strengthen local commitments on issues such as environmental sustainability through improved relationships with strategic bodies. Furthermore, through the 'developing an evidence base' strand we will be supporting community organisations to share good practice and review local data on issues such as this.

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver?

Developing an evidence base: through a series of detailed profiles of London community organisations; helping community organisations collect credible data about their communities/neighbourhoods; and supporting community organisations to become the facilitators and natural settings for co-production exercises.

Building relationships - forge closer relationships with pan-London policy bodies and individual borough authorities; and creating a London Locality hub within our overall network - with a remit to amplify the voice of community organisations across London.

Strengthening role and resilience - strategic planning for resilience: diagnostic to comprehensively assess their organisational strengths and weaknesses; plugging common weaknesses, with a strong peer-to-peer element; and governance and representation support.

What 3 main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve?

Developing an evidence base strand: London community organisations have better information about 'what works?', about the profile of needs and issues with their neighbourhoods (and how they can plug information gaps), and can act as a facilitator of co-production activity between local residents and strategic bodies/service providers.

Building relationships: closer relationships between London's community organisations and its more strategic bodies will improve the operating environments for the former and the reach and relevance of policies for the latter.

Strengthening role and resilience: the work in this strand will directly lead to improvements in the effectiveness and sustainability of London's community organisations. It will also lead to self-sustaining peer learning networks to further bolster improvements within the sector.

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
Staffing: (Head of Services) x 0.15 / Head of Policy x 0.15 / London Development Manager x 0.2 / Policy Manager x 0.2 / Policy Officer x 0.1	42,627	43,479	44,349	0	0	130,455
Marketing and promotion	2,000	2,040	2,081	0	0	6,121
Events (hire and refreshments)	1,300	1,326	1,353	0	0	3,979
Overheads (@15%)	6,889	7,027	7,167	0	0	21,083
TOTAL:	52,816	53,872	54,950	0	0	161,638

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	0

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	0

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Staffing: (Head of Services) x 0.15 / Head of Policy x 0.15 / London Development Manager x 0.2 / Policy Manager x 0.2 / Policy Officer x 0.1	42,627	43,479	44,349	0	0	130,455
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TOTAL:	52,816	53,872	54,950	0	0	161,638

Who will benefit?

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

100

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?

Community organisations

This project will specifically work with the following age groups:

This project will specifically work with the following gender groups:

This project will specifically work with the following 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:

Community organisations

How will you target the groups/communities you have identified? What is your expertise in providing services for these groups?

Through our existing network

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: **David Moynihan**

Role within **Head of Services (South)**
Organisation: