



Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund

Assessment Pack – February 2022

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COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

Outset Contemporary Art Fund (ref. 18864)

Amount requested: £344,335

Amount recommended: £344,335

Purpose of grant request: To support a three year delivery partnership securing long-term creative infrastructure, and rapid activation using short-term projects, to achieve “Fuelling Creative Renewal” and “Culture/Commerce Taskforce” strategic aims.

Type of cost: Revenue

Ward(s) benefitting: *All wards*

The Applicant

Outset Contemporary Art Fund (Outset) was established in 2003 and is recognised as a leading international charity supporting innovative art projects. With a presence in nine countries, the charity has raised over £18 million worldwide in support of the creative ecosystem. The charity works with a range of stakeholders in the UK and has strong relationships with many cultural institutions in London, with whom they fund artistic projects.

Background and detail of proposal

The applicant is seeking funding to pay the staff and delivery costs for three years of the 'Studiomakers' project within the City. The project will deliver a number of activities to support the creative industry within the City and raise the profile of the City as a cultural hub. Outset will achieve this by using their established networks to help broker property agreements between the creative and commercial industries, with the intention of securing at least 42 free workspaces and providing mentorship to creative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are currently under-represented in the City.

The applicant has provided an in-depth set of delivery plans which outline how they will meet their objectives. They offer free access to a team of professionals who provide legal and financial advice to the organisations and individuals supported by Outset; they are committed to working with Corporation departments to understand the Corporation's needs as a stakeholder in this project; they will work with local businesses to enhance the City's night-time and weekend offer; they are committed to using this period of funding to secure long-term partnerships that will support artistic communities to flourish in the City.

Outset has a track record of working successfully with corporate partners and local authorities (including the City of London Corporation) to deliver the physical space and career guidance needed support the next generation of talent in the Arts. Outset have thought carefully about how this application aligns with the City's own strategic aims and how their work can help to drive footfall and commerce into the City by making it appeal to new audiences.

During the pandemic, Outset supported the Greater London Authority with work to protect the cultural sector. Outset delivered community outreach sessions and webinars that saw high levels of engagement (four times the industry average) and demand for their support, such as helping organisations broker zero-rent agreements. Outset are a trusted partner to many organisations who recognise the value of the creative and cultural sectors to London's economy. Since submitting this application, Outset have already been successful in forging a partnership with BH2, an independent real estate business, who have offered their entire portfolio across the Square Mile as potential sites for this project.

Financial Information

Like many other charitable organisations, Outset saw their income fall because of the pandemic, decreasing from £1.2m in 2019. Outset have an unorthodox reserves policy, which states: “holding reserves is considered unnecessary by the Trustees of Outset as we are consistently keeping up-to-date and monitoring our allocation of funds” they do, however, go on to add “we do not ring-fence a buffer as a reserve but are looking into formalising this for future years”. Despite the lack of policy and posting a significant loss in 2020, Outset have managed to stabilise their financial position and maintain a healthy level of free reserves. If this grant were to be approved, we would ask Outset to strongly consider formalising their reserves policy.

Outset are contributing £57,000 towards the running of this project.

Year end as at 31 August	2020	2021	2022
	Signed Accounts	Year end accounts	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	736,756	729,089	906,411
Expenditure	(945,635)	(806,829)	(866,001)
Surplus/(deficit)	(208,879)	(77,740)	40,410
Reserves:			
Total restricted	17,210	23,859	23,859
Total unrestricted	170,093	85,704	126,114
Total reserves	187,303	109,563	149,973
Of which: free unrestricted	166,155	88,415	128,825

Recommendation

This application would find natural synergies with other work being funded through the CILNF and support the City's cultural offer to be greater than the sum of its parts. Taken on its merit alone, this is a good project from a well-established organisation that is certain to deliver positive outcomes and enhance the City's cultural offer.

£344,335 over three years (£110,932; £114,733; £118,670) to support a three year delivery partnership securing long-term creative infrastructure, and rapid activation using short-term projects, to achieve “Fuelling Creative Renewal” and “Culture/Commerce Taskforce” strategic aims.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

Historical Royal Palaces (ref. 18896)

Amount requested: £590,000

Amount recommended: £590,000

Purpose of grant request: Celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and create a garden attraction for the City by providing access infrastructure to the Tower of London moat.

Type of cost: Capital

Ward(s) benefitting: *All wards*

The Applicant

Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) was established in 1998 as a Royal Charter Body and is a registered charity. It is responsible for the care, conservation, and presentation to the public of the unoccupied royal palaces: HM Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace State Apartments, the Banqueting House at Whitehall and Kew Palace with the Royal Kitchens, Queen Charlotte's Cottage, and the Great Pagoda. These palaces are owned by HM The Queen in right of Crown. HRP is contracted by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport to manage the five London palaces on his behalf and the contract is re-authorised until 31 March 2028. HRP is also contracted by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to manage Hillsborough Castle and Gardens in Northern Ireland.

HRP is a Public Corporation but receives no public funding, all costs are met by self-generated income. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, all of whom are nonexecutive. Historic Royal Palaces Enterprises Limited is a company wholly owned by Historic Royal Palaces. It forms the charity's general trading arm, responsible for running the commercial activities such as retail, functions, sponsorship, and other events at HRP. It gift aids its taxable profits to the Charity.

Background and detail of proposal

HRP is planning a stunning display of flowers in the Tower of London moat to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In spring 2022, over 20 million seeds will be sown in the moat from carefully designed seed mixes. From June to September, the flower display will erupt into new colours and patterns creating a dramatic and engaging experience. Designed to attract pollinators, 'Superbloom' will bring a spectacular natural beauty to the urban space and introduce a new biodiverse habitat for wildlife. Visitors can wander along a weaving path into the centre of the flowers. Specially commissioned sound installation and sculptural elements will also be added to enhance the experience.

This application seeks capital funding for the hard-landscaping and infrastructure that will enable the Jubilee 'Superbloom' celebration. The permanent infrastructure will then allow public access to the Tower moat for visitors in future years to enjoy a

new landscaped garden in Tower of London Moat. The particular elements for which HRP is seeking CILNF support are:

- A) Access to the moat garden: construction of a new entry ramp in the southwest corner of the Tower to provide step-free access to the moat.
- B) Access to the moat garden: installation of hardwearing, accessible resin-bonded pathways throughout the moat
- C) Enabling the moat garden: removal of redundant outbuilding and diesel tank
- D) Enabling the moat garden: installing a French drains to the new path network

The scheme has been designed by Historic Royal Palaces, working with landscape architects Grant Associates and University of Sheffield Professor of Planting Design, Nigel Dunnett – both of whom have extensive expertise in urban horticulture and landscape design. When the 'Superbloom' display ends in September 2022, the new natural landscape created to support it will remain in the moat as a permanent Jubilee legacy. The project will have a positive impact on the environment. Around 95% of the plants to be used are classed as 'native' or near native by the RHS and they will be highly beneficial to pollinating insects. Engineered soil (made of sand and green waste) will be used, and the seeds will be grown specifically for this project. Superbloom will be free to view from Tower Hill and tickets to enter the moat will be available for around £12.00, 3million visitors are anticipated.

This project will support the five-year vision for a vibrant and thriving City, a diverse and sustainable London and a globally successful UK outlined in CoL's Future City Report. Superbloom will be an unmissable spectacle, drawing tourism and leisure visitors back to the City to spend time and money with leisure and hospitality businesses. The biodiversity and wellbeing benefits of Superbloom will be continued by the permanent moat garden. This will be a publicly accessible green space in which to walk, collaborate and relax, helping to make the City a more attractive place for living and working. There will be a special ticket price of £1 to the Tower of London and the Superbloom for City of London and Tower Hamlet residents.

HRP has a proven track record of delivering similar projects. In 2014 the project 'Blood swept fields and seas of red' filled the moat with 888,246 ceramic poppies in a mass participation and engagement event to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War and seen by 5million people. 'Beyond the Deepening Shadow' in 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice and filled the moat with 10,000 flames for 11 evenings. Both moat displays were made possible by an effective large-scale volunteering programme.

To deliver the event safely HRP is working with the relevant statutory and local Authorities and stakeholders which include Historic England, City of London Corporation, particularly the Highways department and Tower Bridge management; Tower Hamlets Council; St Katharine's Docks management; City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police; London Ambulance Service, London Fire Service; Transport for London. HRP are also working with a specialist crowd management consultancy to create a robust and resilient crowd management plan and tickets will be timed.

Ensuring Superbloom offers an experience inclusive to all is a key aim for HRP. Steps we will take include BSL and sensory tours throughout the run of the

Superbloom and quiet slots for visitors who require this. Seating will be provided in the moat, on Tower Hill and on the Wharf. The lighting design includes path edge lighting and path edges and falls have been designed to be friendly to Blind and visually impaired visitors. The path is well-designed for wheelchair access. HRP's learning programme will empower 350 school communities from across London and the UK to come together to create a new garden to celebrate the Jubilee and to improve the biodiversity of their school environment. Through collaboration with partner community groups in the City, Tower Hamlets and other neighbouring boroughs HRP will deliver outreach and volunteering programmes.

HRP have consulted widely in developing its plans, including with the Royal Household, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, livery companies, Tower Bridge and the Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport. Its plans for the Jubilee will complement the Government and Royal Household-led celebrations and those planned by the major livery companies. The pan-livery Pollinate London Together initiative welcomes HRP proposals for biodiversity.

Financial Information

Due to the sudden and devastating impact of COVID-19, Trustees agreed at the end of 2019/20 to transfer all designated funds to free reserves to meet operating commitments over 2020/21. As uncertainties remain over the coming months, the same approach has been adopted for this financial year. Target levels of reserves will be reviewed by Trustees in 2021/22, pre covid they were £5m. The forecast for 21/22 shows losses of £25.5m and the budget for 22/23 anticipates losses of £12.5m. These losses result from substantially reduced income because of the pandemic's effect on tourism. HRP had hoped that 21/22 would be a year of full recovery with a greater return to international tourism in 22/23 but it is now more cautious as various new strains are developing. HRP will be maintaining and increasing its marketing and focus on domestic and near domestic markets.

In March 2021 HRP received a Culture Recovery Fund repayable loan of £40m from the DCMS, administered by Arts Council England. This loan will support it in covering its losses in 21/22 and 22/23 and enables it to allocate funds for investment in revenue generating projects across all palaces. This gives good reassurance over the very large forecasted unrestricted reserves deficit as it is a government back loan with generous repayment terms. Both the interest and capital have a 4 year payment holiday from March 2021, so HRP are accruing the interest payments on the CRF loan at £800k per annum and will start repayments in December 2024. Whilst there are very large free reserves deficits anticipated for 2021/22 and 2022/23 the impact on cashflow is manageable because of the substantial loan which means they can make payments as they fall due even whilst incurring losses. Your Officer is confident that the financial position would be acceptable for the duration of this grant which is 8-12 months only.

The last 18 months have been very challenging for HRP, as they have been for many organisations reliant on tourism. HRP has re-structured the group to allow for more efficient use of resources and sharing of duties. This has meant significant redundancies. It should be noted that all previous moat installations have depended on significant volunteer involvement and the use of volunteers for Superbloom is not related to the redundancy programme. The charity has a wholly owned trading

subsidiary Historic Royal Palaces Enterprises Ltd (HRPE), whose principle activities are retail, functions, and events. HPRE has experienced the same impact as HRP from the closure of the palaces and similar measures have been implemented to cut expenditure and it has renewed the overdraft facility with its bank for one year. The Independent Auditor review for the Accounts YE2021 does not identify any material concerns that affect HRP as a going concern for the next 12 months from the signing of the accounts, until October 2022. The Directors do acknowledge though that there remains uncertainty for HRPE Ltd that may cast significant doubt on that entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The charity is hoping that the Superbloom Jubilee celebration at the Tower will be a key to its recovery. The balance of the overall project costs which total £5.5m will be funded through a mixture of grants, donations, sponsorship, ticket sales and commercial revenue. £1M of the £2m pre-opening fundraising target has been raised thorough grants and sponsorship. Whilst Officers note significant issues with the ongoing financial health of the organisation, in the short term (over which this grant will be funding the charity) we have received adequate assurances that there are sufficient plans and resources in place to deliver the project.

Year end as at 31 March	2021	2022	2023
	Signed Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	32,695,000	41,402,000	61,484,000
Expenditure	(53,552,000)	(66,998,873)	(73,943,000)
Gains/(losses)	890,000	0	0
Surplus/(deficit)	(19,967,000)	(25,596,873)	(12,459,000)
Reserves:			
Total restricted	7,417,000	17,723,000	19,162,000
Total unrestricted	33,450,000	(2,452,873)	(16,350,873)
Total reserves	40,867,000	15,270,127	2,811,127
Of which: free unrestricted	5,163,000	(30,739,873)	(44,637,873)
Reserves policy target	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Free reserves over/(under) target	163,000	(35,739,873)	(49,637,873)

Recommendation

As a flagship project at a global landmark in the London, just on the boundary of the City and adjacent to Tower Bridge. This project will bring people from across London and the UK together in celebrating the Platinum Jubilee, whether as visitors or as part of outreach and learning programmes (with schools and community partner organisations) or volunteering opportunities. It will have impact that reaches across London and beyond. The permanent moat garden, with a planned mix of traditional English habitats, will have an enduring legacy providing additional green space for London and provide a sustainable income stream for HRP.

£590,000 over one year for the hard-landscaping and infrastructure that will enable the Platinum Jubilee 'Superbloom' celebration. The permanent infrastructure will then allow access to the Tower moat for visitors (significantly discounted for City and Tower hamlets residents) in future years to enjoy a new landscaped garden in the heart of London.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND (CILNF)

**Pollinating London Together (an initiative of the
Wax Chandlers' Charitable Trust) (ref. 18909)**

Amount requested: £230,000

Amount recommended: £230,000

Purpose of grant request: The appointment of a full-time ecologist and project manager, administration support, operational expenses and planting audits and pollinator nesting boxes

Type of cost: Mixture of revenue & capital

Ward(s) benefitting: *All wards*

The Applicant

Pollinating London Together (PLT) is an ecological initiative officially launched in September 2021 after being active for more than a year. It aims to create spaces in central London where all the natural pollinators can thrive, and their habitats can be enjoyed by everyone by making it more pollinator-friendly, through raising awareness of the role of pollinators and ways to protect them, and by gathering evidence and monitoring biodiversity.

A pan-livery collaboration originally initiated by the Worshipful Companies of Wax Chandlers and Gardeners, PLT has since also been joined by Grocers, Information Technologists and Farmers. It has several working groups, each chaired by a different livery to best utilise their respective links and expertise. The project is managed by its own Board but governed by the Wax Chandlers' Charitable Trust (WCCT), the Trustee of which and part-funder is the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers. Any monies raised by PLT are held by WCCT (this would also apply to any funding awarded under the CILNF) and treated as restricted funding, with PLT reporting to WCCT on a quarterly basis.

Background and detail of proposal

Acknowledging the vital role of pollinators in both urban and natural environments and referring to the UK National Pollinator strategy calling for '*more, bigger, better, joined up, diverse and high-quality flower rich habitats (including nesting places and shelter)*', in the summers of 2020 and 2021, PLT volunteers, most of whom are members of the livery groups signed up to the initiative, carried out plant audits of 12 green spaces in the City, such as churchyards and City gardens. The audits have helped PLT produce a list of recommended pollinator-friendly flora suitable for the Square Mile's needs and different seasons, which is shared with the keepers of the spaces, along with advice and support. The initiative has launched a website, produced informative videos, and is encouraging the use of pollinator nesting and reproduction boxes, focusing on native species of bee rather than the ubiquitous honeybee. A major part of PLT's work is to aid in the development of biodiversity corridors throughout the City, linking to surrounding boroughs; certain pollinator

species can only travel for a limited time before they need to locate a suitable plant to refuel.

On top of having had input in the City of London's (CoL) Biodiversity Action Plan, PLT is consulting the CoL Biodiversity Officer to be part of a coordinated effort to increase biodiversity in the Square Mile. Using citizen science (help of volunteers in collecting data), PLT feeds into existing databases and plans to monitor the impact of its activities in the future years. Kew Gardens has helped it establish the framework for citizen science and had visited spaces audited by PLT.

The links PLT has been able to make so far include the following groups: *Friends of City Gardens, City of London Open Spaces, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation Trust, Greater London Authority's Head of Green Infrastructure, Golden Leaf of London, Bristol University's Urban Pollinator Research, and City Livery Action Group*. Additionally, the initiative's members have further connections with other relevant Environmental Sciences and Horticulture organisations, both domestic and international. PLT also wishes to connect and work with London Wildlife Trust and the B-line project among others. The initiative has received praise from the former Lord Mayor William Russell and the Environment Minister Rebecca Pow.

PLT is seeking £230,000 from the CILNF over two years to build on the work of its volunteers and a part-time Project Coordinator. The bulk (£65,000 p.a.) of this funding is budgeted towards salary and on-costs of a new post of an Ecologist/Project Manager, reporting to PLT's Chair and Deputy Chair. Having experience of leading major projects and the relevant academic knowledge, this post will create new partnerships for PLT and foster existing ones. It will also be instrumental in creating a 'green map' of the City and helping to establish its first biodiversity corridor. £15,000 per year is earmarked for administrative support. PLT budgets to spend £25,000 each year on project overheads, such as outreach events, media and communications, IT, accounting, and travel. The remainder of the requested amount (£20,000 over two years) is to be spent on audits of green spaces and bee nesting boxes. As of December 2021, this grant request, should it be successful, would constitute approximately two thirds of PLT's budget, excluding in-kind support from the initiative's partners.

In its 2022 business plan, PLT aims to expand its green spaces audits and encourage pollinator-friendly planting whilst increasing its membership base. PLT also hopes to collaborate with the Historic Royal Palaces Magnificent Super Bloom concept for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. It also wishes to utilise Livery Schools in the planting of trees. It has expressed the possibility of working with space management and recreational management companies, and with the Chartered Architects and Building Surveyors to educate about the benefits of changing planting activities to increase diversity and pollinating. The applicant has expressed interest in the CoL's LEAP volunteering programme.

Financial Information

As at September 2021, WCCT has received £73,198 in restricted income in relation to PLT. The financial assessment has been carried out for WCCT, where PLT's income and expenditure are accounted for as one of its restricted funds. WCCT does

not have budgets due to the nature of its activities and instead implements other finance monitoring controls. The Trust is in a very healthy financial position, and your officer has no concerns regarding its viability throughout the grant period. The Trust's reserves target has been set to cover its charitable giving. The organisation has considerable free reserves and expendable endowment; although free reserves are above target, this specific project relates to the charity's PLT restricted fund and high reserves indicate an ongoing ability to provide donations as required.

Year end as at 31 March	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Signed Accounts
	£	£
Income & expenditure:		
Income	50,064	74,970
Expenditure	(37,593)	(49,483)
Gains/(losses)	(14,832)	120,403
Surplus/(deficit)	(2,361)	145,890
Reserves:		
Total endowed (expendable)	562,019	641,209
Total restricted	0	31,336
Total unrestricted	256,846	292,210
Total reserves	818,865	964,755
Of which: free unrestricted	256,846	292,210
Reserves policy target	19,089	19,582
Free reserves over/(under) target	237,757	272,628

Recommendation

This pan-livery initiative chimes well with the CoL's Biodiversity Action Plan. PLT's Board comprises people with relevant experience in the fields of horticulture and environmental sciences, and with the support of the associated liveries, it will likely have a lasting and positive impact on the City's biodiversity whilst engaging people with the Square Mile's green spaces. The network of affiliated organisations PLT has been able to link up with also makes a case for this collaboration to be successful, and the need for a full-time Ecologist-Project Manager to progress PLT's aims to the next stage has been demonstrated. Supporting this initiative by the CILNF will offset some of the damaging effects of the City's built environment on wildlife.

Recommended for funding as follows:

£230,000 over two years (£112,500; £117,500) towards the post of a full-time Ecologist/Project Manager, administrative support, and related project costs.