

Committee	Date
Grants Committee of the Bridge House Estates Board	20 June 2022
Subject: Cornerstone Fund Round 2	Public
Which outcomes in the <i>BHE Bridging London 2020 – 2045</i> Strategy does this proposal aim to support?	1 & 3
Which Bridging Divides Funding Strategy priority does proposal aim to support?	1, 2 & 5
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No (funding allocated from BD designated grant fund)
Report of: David Farnsworth, Managing Director of BHE	For Information

Summary

The Cornerstone Fund was originally approved in October 2016 with an additional allocation of £3million to assist in the strategic development of infrastructure support for London’s civil society. Round 1 of this Fund was launched in April 2018, as part of the overall Bridging Divides funding strategy, with Round 2 being launched in April 2021. The Cornerstone Fund is a collaborative initiative, bringing together funders and civil society support organisations and their partners, with the aim of enabling the systemic change needed for a thriving civil society, with a focus on tackling structural inequalities. The purpose of this report is to introduce the five applications presented for decision today.

Recommendations

The Grants Committee is recommended to:

- i) Receive this report and note its contents.

Main Report

Background to Cornerstone Fund

1. The criteria of the Cornerstone Fund were co-designed by a cross-sectoral group working in partnership with City Bridge Trust (CBT) which became the funder collaboration comprising Trust for London, the National Lottery Community Fund, the GLA, John Lyons Charity and London Funders. A total of 10 partnerships were supported during the first Round. Collaborate CIC was appointed as Learning Partner to work alongside CBT and a summary of their end of Year 2 report can be found [here](#).

Cornerstone Fund Round 2

2. The second Round was launched in April 2021. Trust for London has awarded CBT a grant of £500,000 over 3 years towards this. As with Round 1, there was a two-stage application process, with the successful Stage 1 applicants being awarded a development grant of up to £25,000 in order to work up their Stage 2 proposals. Originally, 13 partnerships submitted successful Stage 1 bids although one of these

has since had to withdraw from the programme due to unforeseen circumstances. Of the remaining 12, four Stage 2 bids were approved at the Grants Committee March 2022 meeting, five are included in today's papers, one is for decision by Delegated Authority and two are under consideration for funding directly from the National Lottery Community Fund (also due for decision this month).

3. Collaborate CIC successfully tendered to deliver the learning brief for this second Round and two learning workshops have already taken place with the lead partner organisations, funders and other in-kind contributors to the Cornerstone Fund such as London Funders and London Plus. It is testimony to the success of the Cornerstone Fund that lead partners have been willing to fully participate in the workshops before the outcome of their second stage application is known.

Conclusion

4. At the time of its launch in 2018, the Cornerstone Fund was breaking new ground in approaches to collaborative ways of working and the relationship between funders and grantees. Learning from Round 1 helped influence the approach of the London Community Response to the Covid pandemic, although the response was on a much larger scale, of course.

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