



# **Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund**

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**Assessment Pack – May 2023**

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## **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND**

**ARTBASH & be (ref. 20085)**

**Company registration number: 12076604**

**Amount requested: £75,210**

**Amount recommended: £75,210**

**Purpose of grant request: To create six steel enamelled panels to line the walkway of Globe View. The design will be informed by intergenerational groups from the local community.**

**Type of cost: Capital**

**Ward(s) benefitting: Queenhithe**

### **The Applicant**

ARTBASH & be (ARTBASH) is a company limited by guarantee based in Clapton. It aims to keep creative learning alive for children by running after school workshops, art camps and working with students on large-scale pieces for their schools. ARTBASH also delivers large-scale installations in public spaces in places including Honour Gardens, St John & St Elizabeth Hospital and The Child and Family Centre in Barking. Staff work directly with the people in organisations to produce works that are by and for them. 'ART be' is a therapeutic art programme the company runs. ARTBASH was set up in 2010 and incorporated in 2019. The company has one full-time employee, five part-time employees and works with freelance artists and facilitators.

### **Background and detail of proposal**

ARTBASH are seeking funding to create a permanent piece of artwork to line the walkway of Globe View. The Architectural Liaison Officer at City of London Police has found that artwork is essential for enhancing feelings of security and respect, which will be particularly key in this covered public space. The artwork will enhance this newly-opened walkway by celebrating the local history of the area via a permanent legacy piece showcasing community visions.

Three ARTBASH artists will create work based on the 'ever-changing tides' theme, inspired by the Thames. The work will reflect how the local area has, and will, change over time—centring on past, present and future. To do so, ARTBASH aim to run at least three workshops with each of the three groups they have identified. All groups have been contacted and most have responded expressing a keen interest to be involved if this were to receive funding. The three groups will be families and local residents (from St. James Garlickhythe and Coin Street), children (aged 8-11, students at The Aldgate School and Millfield's Community School Hackney) and

teenagers (aged 15-18 years, students from the City of London School for Boys and Haggerston School Hackney). They will engage in different artistic activities to inform artwork on three layers for each of the six panels. The lead artist envisages that they will facilitate workshops for children to create drawings based on the surrounding architecture and obscured views in the walkway. The teenagers will explore painting techniques to represent the river and what might lie underneath. Older residents will draw on memories of the area, providing the team with words and some drawings. ARTBASH hopes to bring groups together to discuss their ideas and share stories, but this will be informed by group leaders. ARTBASH are exploring working with the Thames Explore Trust to link a mudlarking workshop to a site visit for older residents and children. ARTBASH hopes to organise the logistics of the workshops in early summer (before the schools break up), with workshops commencing at the start of the school autumn term. ARTBASH hopes to have the finished product(s) installed by the end of the year.

The applicant has a strong track-record of delivering high quality art in public spaces informed by key stakeholders. The team has extensive experience in professional art, education, facilitation, and art therapy with a focus on children and vulnerable people. The core team are passionate about well-being, and regularly attend safeguarding training. All freelancers are DBS checked.

### **Financial Information**

ARTBASH has an annual turnover of approximately £100k. The company mainly operates on a project basis, holding little reserves. Around half of the company's income is generated through sales (it charges for its camps and after school sessions), and half from other operating income. The company's staff and other costs have grown along with the business. There are no concerns with the financial viability of the company for the duration of this grant. Should this grant be awarded, funds will be released in three instalments over a nine-month period.

### **Recommendation**

ARTBASH & be are well-placed to deliver this exciting project, which will enhance the newly-opened walkway of Globe View. The company has extensive experience working with communities to co-produce artwork and has established contact with the relevant groups who are keen to be involved. This artwork will enhance feelings of security and respect in the walkway and reflect multi-generational perspectives of the area. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£75,210 to create six steel enamelled panels to line the walkway of Globe View. The design will be informed by intergenerational groups from the local community.**

## **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND**

**Barbican Association (ref. 20155)**

**Amount requested: £449,550**

**Amount recommended: £449,550**

**Purpose of grant request: Constructing a community room in the Barbican Library.**

**Type of cost:** Capital

**Ward(s) benefitting:** Likely to benefit wards in the Northwest of the City, but the room will be available to any City community group.

### **The Applicant**

The Department of Community & Children's Services (DCCS) has applied to the CILN Fund in conjunction with the Barbican Association. The Barbican Association (BA) is the recognised Tenants Association for the Barbican. Approximately 60% of its residents are members, with Barbican residents comprising approximately half of all residents within the City of London. It is run by a General Council of nine elected members and a representative from each house group. The Organisation is a constituted voluntary organisation / resident association.

DCCS focus on delivering the key statutory functions of the City of London Corporation. This includes housing, delivery of Libraries, Education, Public Health and Commissioning of local services. The departments budget comes from City Fund and is restricted to be used for certain purposes and by strict budgets. The Department oversees the City of London's key Library services, including the Barbican Library. The Barbican Library is owned and managed by the City of London Corporation, which is why this work is being applied for by an Internal Department, in conjunction with a community organisation.

### **Background and detail of proposal**

Funding is requested for constructing a community room in the Barbican library. The room is an aim within the Barbican Library's strategy—it will be available to the library for its activities, and community/other groups. The room will be self-contained, be acoustically protected within the open plan space and have an external entrance to enable access outside of library hours. Groups will be able to hire the room, with local community groups able to pay a lower fee. As it generates income from hiring the room out, the library will be able to remove fines, therefore improving accessibility to the library itself.

Representing the main beneficiaries of the proposed project, the Barbican Association will continue to play a key role throughout, collaborating with DCCS to

advertise and promote the room to existing library users and beyond. With input from BA the room is designed to be flexible to cater to different uses, so that the BA residential house groups, mothers' groups, the Barbican Tuesday club and any other ad-hoc groups can utilise the space according to their needs.

Funding was awarded from the Central Grants Unit's Stronger Communities strand in 2021 for preparatory design/costing work for the community room and to support this larger bid to the CIL Fund. There is a need for a space for the library to hold activities, as events can currently be affected by noise from the rest of the Barbican Centre. There is also lack of community space at the Barbican--and with a growing residential community around the Estate, there is a need to create a space that can be used by Barbican tenants and other locals. A report commissioned by the City of London by Dr Roger Green from Goldsmiths on social isolation in the Square Mile detailed the need for 'bumping spaces', which this project would represent—particularly relevant for older residents, some of whom suffer from social isolation. The applicants envisage that the room will not only alleviate the issue of lack of space, but catalyse new groups to form. Once built the room will provide space for Communities across the City of London to use, with an easy booking system to ensure equal access is made to groups.

There are now detailed plans for the room, and planning permission (listed building consent) was granted on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. It is estimated that the work should take around 12 weeks without disrupting usual library functions. The room will hold 50 people seated and 90 standing.

### **Financial Information**

This application has been submitted by DCCS in collaboration with the Barbican Association. Project governance has been discussed and reporting on expenditure agreed with the Central Grants Unit (CGU) officers. A Project Team will be set up to deliver this work, this will be made up of staff from DCCS, Surveyors, Barbican Library and a member of the Barbican Association. To ensure that the funding is managed and transferred when required it is proposed that a member of the CGU will also join the project board. The Budget has provided accurate quotes based on current inflation levels; this will need to be monitored throughout the project to ensure that the project is delivering within the agreed grant.

This project would not be possible without the current Barbican Library Budget. The collaboration with the Barbican Association has made it possible for this work to be proposed to the CIL Neighbourhood Fund in line with the Funds criteria.

### **Recommendation**

This application, made by DCCS in conjunction with the BA, is made for an essential project for library users and community groups. If awarded, the Library would have a much needed event space, shielded from the noise of the Barbican Centre and generating income through hiring fees, making the Library more accessible. The BA, alongside other local community groups, would have a much-needed meeting space to hold activities. The partnership of DCCS and the BA on this project will ensure that the room is designed for library and community uses and appreciated by groups that

need it. The room will foster opportunities for greater community cohesion, as well as the forming of new connections. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£449,550 to construct a community room in the Barbican Library.**

## **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND**

**Urban Learners Ltd (ref. 20154)**

**Amount requested: £49,250**

**Amount recommended: £49,250**

**Purpose of grant request: The Sculpture in the City (SITC) Education Outreach and Volunteering Programme 2023, for local state-school pupils, City-worker volunteers, and Family Activities for local communities.**

**Type of cost: Revenue**

**Ward(s) benefitting:** *Aldgate, Lime Street, Langbourn, Portsoken and Bishopsgate wards.*

### **The Applicant**

Urban Learners Ltd (UL) is a private company limited by shares, set up in 2018. UL is an award-winning organisation, and our team is a mix of qualified architects, architecture students and freelance artists UL provide children and young people, from all backgrounds, with a platform to contribute to their city through creative and aspirational learning experiences. The organisation is passionate about working with those from 'non-traditional' backgrounds/under-represented communities who usually don't have the same access to creative activities as their peers. UL believe that making creative and environmental industries more accessible through early learning awareness, encourages young people from all backgrounds into creative industries. Only by encouraging all people will creative and built-environment professions become more diverse and therefore more equal, and will enable our future cities to be equitable and reflect the people they are designed for.

### **Background and detail of proposal**

UL is requesting £49,250 across one year to develop and deliver the Sculpture in the City's (SITC) education and outreach programme. Funding will cover programme production and management, and evaluation. UL is experienced in the delivery of this programme and have worked with the Corporation for the past 5 years.

UL will recruit, engage and co-ordinate with 9 local state-schools, including COLAT schools from Islington, Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Southwark to deliver 36 half-day workshops (4 workshops per school). Schools (with the exception of Aldgate Primary School) have a high percentage of pupils on free school meals and English as their second language. Workshops will be delivered in partnership with City buildings (hosting workshops), building architects, SITC artists and involve up to 144 City worker volunteers. In the past, buildings have included The Gherkin, The Leadenhall Building, 100 Bishopsgate, The workshops will provide 200 pupils, most



of whom have never visited the City, a chance to discover the area, its public spaces and architecture from up high and at street level. The workshops provide an opportunity to combine art and architecture. Pupils will explore and creatively respond to SITC and the City through a variety of bespoke 2D and 3D cultural and creative activities that include, collaging City views on windows, sculpture ideas for St Helen's Square, a sketching tour of SITC, a temporary installation in response to SITC and to display their artwork, and art and architecture career games. UL actively recruit and brief City workers through the partner organisations involved in SITC.

Teacher feedback, over the years, has indicated that many pupils, through the programme, have discovered that art, design and technology subjects can lead to professional and creative careers. The programme has helped encourage and empower pupils from diverse and under-represented communities to continue with art, design and technology at GCSE and in some cases to A level. Repeat teachers' advise that several have gone on to study either art or architecture at university.

UL will consider the feedback from all stakeholders from 2022 to steer development for this programme. Research of the new sculptures will be undertaken to carefully consider the best opportunities for learning from and suitability for 9–14-year-olds. UL takes an agile and responsive approach dependent on the needs of each school, planning and discussions with teachers shape this individual approach.

Alongside the workshops, UL will develop and deliver opportunities for family activities coinciding with an external event eg. Open House, where families can drop in to create individual artwork to contribute to a collaborative piece.

### **Financial Information**

UL's income is derived from its education project delivery through local authorities and sector grant funding. Due to the nature of the business, UL is not required to hold free reserves, although has built healthy reserves which are planned to be utilised by growing the team when needed. Originally set up as a limited company due to the time restraints to turn around a tender, UL is considering changing its organisation structure to be more reflective of the social purposes of its mission and objects. There are no concerns regarding UL's financial viability for the length of the project.

### **Recommendation**

Urban Learners Ltd has a demonstratable track record of delivery and is well-positioned to build on the work it has achieved over the past five years. This is a well-constructed proposal, with collaboration sitting across all stakeholders. This project provides a chance for local children to engage with SITC, along with unlocking the wider benefits of experiencing the City and opening up arts and architecture to pupils who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity. Funding is recommended as below:

**£49,250 across one year towards The Sculpture in the City (SITC) Education Outreach and Volunteering Programme 2023, for local state-school pupils, City-worker volunteers, and Family Activities for local communities.**

