



Committee: Funding Committee of the City Bridge Foundation Board	Date: 4 December 2023
Subject: CBF Chief Funding Director's Update Report	Public
Report of: Sacha Rose-Smith, CBF Chief Funding Director	For Information

Summary

To support the Funding Committee in the discharge of its duties, this regular report provides an update on key areas of activity to note and agree, where necessary. Specifically, the report provides details on the following:

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Funding Committee of the City Bridge Foundation Board, in discharge of functions for the City Corporation as Trustee of City Bridge Foundation and solely in the charity's best interests:

- i) Note the contents of the report.

Main Report

Catalyst

1. Catalyst – Ellie Hale (Producer at Catalyst) will be presenting at this meeting. If Members have any questions they would like to share with Ellie ahead of the presentation, please send them to natalie.heath@cityoflondon.gov.uk by 28 November 2023.

- **Organisation:** Catalyst (incubated by Centre of the Acceleration of Social Technology currently, but soon to become a separate entity)
- **Date of grant:** Current grant 1 November 2021 - 31st October 2026
- **Funding amount:** £900,000, over five years (£200k, £200k, £200k, £175k, £125k) (but previous seed funding also provided)
- **Website:** <https://www.thecatalyst.org.uk>
- **Aims of organisation:** Catalyst, founded in 2019 as a collaborative initiative, aims to empower charities in adapting to the evolving needs and behaviours of their communities. Their mission revolves around catalysing the transformation of civil society through digital, data, and design.

The ongoing development and deepening of Catalyst's collective work can be defined by three objectives:

- a. Continuation of ongoing direct support to the sector through vital services and resources
- b. Maintaining momentum and progress towards longer term plans; building on the prototypes created in the last year that support sector-wide technical and relational infrastructure
- c. Transition of Catalyst towards a more equitable network-led model.

City Bridge Foundation

2. On 26 September 2023 the charity launched a new working name, City Bridge Foundation. Whilst legally the charity continues to be called Bridge House Estates, the working name brings all the areas of the charity's activity under a single brand. The charity's funding activity is therefore no longer being undertaken in the name of City Bridge Trust, with this becoming City Bridge Foundation (CBF). The charity's Board having also rebranded for the Bridge House Estates Board to the CB F Board, means that the name of the Funding Committee has also been amended to reflect the new working name. An internal launch event was held on the morning of the 26 September, to raise the profile and understanding of the charity with these key stakeholders, with an external rollout and PR programme taking place with key audiences and stakeholders over the coming year.

Bridging Divides Funding Updates

3. Suicide Prevention – Sacha Rose-Smith, Chief Funding Director, continues to develop this work, supported by Abi Sommers, Funding Manager. Sacha and Abi have completed in-depth desk-based research, including reviewing CBF's existing work in the area (across both the charity's primary and ancillary objects) national and local suicide prevention strategies, research papers, and programme evaluations. Desk-based research has been supported by bilateral meetings with stakeholders, including the Department for Health and Social Care. In October 2023, CBF held two roundtables bringing together key stakeholders in the area of suicide prevention. The roundtables were scheduled to allow attendees time to digest and reflect on the Government's new five-year suicide prevention strategy (published in September 2023) and to coordinate with the City Corporation's City Hope Conference (see below in Strategy Update section) demonstrating an aligned approach to suicide prevention. The roundtables elicited rich discussion and learnings for CBF on suicide prevention in a London context, sector reflections on the national suicide prevention strategy, and where CBF could best add value. Sacha and Abi are currently engaging with an advisory group of people with lived experience of suicidal ideation or bereavement by suicide to further develop their ideas.
4. LocalMotion – LocalMotion is a collaboration between CBF and five other funders, joining forces to tackle economic, environmental, and social inequality in six places. CBF is aligned to Enfield, and Sacha Rose-Smith, Chief Funding Director, continues to support the ongoing development of this work. The Enfield Place visit and the Learning Summit took place this November and included three Members of the CBF Funding Committee. A report regarding CBF's ongoing commitment is on the agenda for this meeting. Thereafter a paper will go to the February 2024 CBF Board for decision.
5. Social Investment – The October 2023 meeting of the Investment Committee approved the charity's Social Investment Policy, and this December 2023 meeting, the CBF Funding Committee will receive the first investment recommendation for a criminal justice support scheme in North London. Given that the charity's social investment fund has been closed to new opportunities since early 2021, there is some work to be done to restart management and operations. The charity will recruit

to a new post for due diligence and relationship management, build a scouting network for investment proposals and develop proposals for an enterprise readiness programme which can align with the Future Funding Direction.

6. Anchor Programme – Following a period of assessments over the summer, Officers presented 15 Round One Anchor Programme recommendations to the CBF Funding Committee and to Board in September 2023. The Anchor Programme aims to support equity-led infrastructure organisations by supporting them to deliver systemic change by awarding long-term core grants. Recommendations were considered totalling £15,948,630 towards 15 organisations. 14 recommendations were approved, with one organisation approved in principle subject to grant conditions being met. Grants awarded include £993,700 over eight years to Galop, an LGBT+ anti abuse charity, to develop its research and policy team and to undertake a mapping study of LGBT+ specialist support services in London. Another example of an Anchor grant awarded is £1,491,000 over ten years to Action for Race Equality to enable it to continue to support the BME- led voluntary sector.
7. Since the Funding Committee and Board meeting, offer letters were sent to the successful applicants and the CBF communications team published a press release announcing £14m long-term funding boost for charities fighting inequality. In addition to the press release, Anchor co-leads Clara Espinosa and Khadra Aden, were invited to speak on a panel organised by Shared Intelligence and the Greater London Authority, sharing their learnings on increasing participation for Londoners. Clara was also interviewed by London Live about the programme.

Philanthropy Updates

8. Corporate Volunteering – The Corporate Volunteering Manager job-share handed in their notice in October and left in mid-November to take up a sustainability-focused role at the Port of London Authority, following 4.5 years in post. The Philanthropy Director is pausing backfilling their role, pending confirmation of the City Corporation’s funding support for it. A positive recommendation supporting funding will be made by the Chamberlain’s Department to the January Resource Allocation Sub Committee meeting on the back of productive engagement with the City Corporation’s SLT by the Philanthropy Director.

Impact and Learning (I&L)

9. Since the Funding Committee last met, Funding Managers have undertaken 5 more learning visits with organisations funded by CBF, bringing the total number of learning visits in 2023 to 16. There are a further 9 learning visits in progress.
10. Each Member of the Funding Committee is welcome, and encouraged, to attend at least one learning visit per year, to meet staff at funded organisations, hear about their successes and challenges and share thoughts on issues in London. Other Members of the Board are also welcome to do so. Members are matched with visits according to their interests and areas of expertise. Please get in touch with Ruth Feder, Head of Impact & Learning (ruth.feder@cityoflondon.gov.uk) for more information.



11. The I&L team delivered their monthly CBF wide Data Digest session, which featured two reports about race – one on racial justice, and another looking at how institutions have gone about reframing history to make it more inclusive. These also covered child poverty, an anti-poverty framework, and the impact on the LGBTQ+ sector of MacKenzie Scott's unrestricted donations. All Members are welcome to attend these sessions, please contact CBF Data Analyst Emma Horrigan (emma.horrigan@cityoflondon.gov.uk) for more information.

Communications Updates

12. Media Coverage – In October there were around 550 items of media coverage featuring CBF, including widespread national coverage of the maintenance work on Millennium Bridge which appeared in outlets including [The Times](#) (£), [The Guardian](#) and [Daily Telegraph](#) (£); and with interviews with Assistant Director of Engineering Paul Monaghan on [London Live](#) and [GB News](#), Group Engineer Tom Creed on [BBC London](#) and [Times Radio](#), and Director of Communications & Engagement Cathy Mahoney on [BBC London](#).
13. Other coverage in October included a [Charity Digital](#) podcast on how the foundation and the wider sector are tackling climate change, featuring Board Member Alderman Alison Gowman; widespread coverage of engineering work at Tower Bridge including on [BBC London](#); and reports of the reopening of the foundation's Small Grants programme in key charity sector media including [Third Sector](#), [Fundraising](#) and [Charity Times](#).

Conclusion

14. This report provides a high-level summary of CBF activities since the Funding Committee last met in September 2023. The Funding Committee is asked to note the content of the report. Further information on any of the updates given in this report can be provided to the Funding Committee orally in the meeting or in written format in advance of or as a follow-up to the meeting.

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