

MEETING: 12/02/2014

Ref: 12136

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector

London Funders

**Adv: David Farnsworth
Base: Camden
Benefit: London-wide**

Amount requested: £54,000

{Revised request: £100,000}

Amount recommended: £100,000

Purpose of grant request: For London Funders to be a space for funder learning and collaboration; a voice for funders in London; and a place to identify effective funding.

Background

LF exists to strengthen and support funders to better meet the needs of Londoners. As a network of funders and investors supporting London's voluntary and community sector it is unique in that its membership comprises local authorities and independent funders. Originally an informal network, your officers have been active in shaping its development and in 2005 it became a registered charity. It has c.100 members including foundations, the public sector and corporate givers. It provides the opportunity for funders to share their experience and learn from each other and a defining feature of its work is its 'cross-sectoralism'. (The City of London Corporation and City Bridge Trust are in membership and find it very useful).

LF helps forge productive relationships which contribute to the wider benefit and overall sustainability of London's voluntary and community sector. It aims to share knowledge about policy issues in London, increase understanding of current funding trends, and identify best practice and innovation in grant making, commissioning and investing. It does this through regular network meetings, the provision of advice and information on the big issues which are impacting London and producing a regular news bulletin, an annual conference and a useful website which provides up to date information on a wide range of funding issues.

Funding History

LF has received one grant from the Trust, in 2011. This was for £84,000 over 3 years to support core costs. The grant will expire in June 2014. If approved, this new funding will begin when the current grant ends. Monitoring of the current grant to date is rated as good.

Current Application

London is a complex city and its funding landscape is changing dramatically. This change is being driven by a combination of factors including the redefining of the role of the state (both national and local),

the changing profile of poverty and the needs of the population within London, and an increasingly complex governance and public policy landscape. No one funder or sector can provide the solution: now, more than ever there is a need for effective collaboration between funders across London. LF is uniquely placed to enable this work.

LF applied for £54,000 over two years by way of continuation of its core grant award. Following an assessment visit by your Chief Grants Officer, and discussion with the organisation's director, LF confirmed that, given the scale and need for successful delivery of its new strategic plan, they would revise their application to £100,000 over two years.

Financial Observations

Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012 show a surplus of £16,236 (8.8% of turnover), comprising £14,618 on unrestricted funds and £1,618 on restricted funds.

The organisation's reserves policy is to maintain free reserves equal to at least three months' worth of expenditure, which based on the current year budget equates to £38,339. At 31 December 2012, free unrestricted reserves stood at £69,129 equating to 5.4 months' worth of current year expenditure.

Draft accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013 show a deficit of £8,059 (5.8% of turnover), comprising £8,517 on unrestricted funds partially offset by a restricted fund surplus of £458.

The budget for 2014 shows a deficit of £1,056 (0.7% of turnover), all on unrestricted funds. Total income is expected to be £152,300, of which £143,100 (94%) has been confirmed. At 31st December 2014 free unrestricted reserves are estimated to be £59,556 equating to 4.7 months' worth of current year expenditure.

The organisation recently appointed a new director who has implemented a strategy which aims to increase activity and impact. Any additional grant approved by your Committee will contribute to the delivery of this new strategy, combined with the organisation looking to use any of its reserves held in excess of the recommended amount stated in its approved policy.

Officer's Appraisal

LF is uniquely placed to enable more effective funding to meet the needs of Londoners. Given the scale of cuts to funding and the dramatically changed environment, the need for this is paramount and the application sits squarely within your Investing in Londoner's programme area, Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector.

LF has an experienced board, an active membership of c.100, and a clear strategic plan being delivered under able new leadership. It remains

though an organisation with only two employees. A grant at the level of £50,000 a year for 2 years will provide stability to the core team and also free up resources drawn from membership fees to buy additional capacity to deliver better funding for London.

Recommendation

£100,000 over two years (£50,000; £50,000) towards the core costs of London Funders on condition that a satisfactory revised budget is submitted to take account of the increased activity and related spend to deliver LF's strategic plan.

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of your organisation: London Funders | |
| If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name? | |
| In which London Borough is your organisation based? Camden | |
| Contact person: Mr. David Warner | Position: Director |
| Website: http://www.londonfunders.org.uk | |
| Legal status of organisation: Charitable company | Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1116201 |
| When was your organisation established? 03/10/2005 | |
| <p>Aims of your organisation:</p> <p>London Funders mission is to strengthen and support funders to better meet the needs of Londoner's. This mission is achieved by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing an independent space for cross sectorial forums for learning and collaboration between funders, enabling them to have a shared understanding of issues affecting London and develop collaborative responses; 2. Being a voice for our members and to actively influence policy development and debate in key areas which impact on types, levels and mechanisms for funding in the Capital; 3. Identifying and promoting new and/or effective funding models that can unlock wealth, improve efficiency and enrich the lives of Londoners. | |
| <p>Main activities of your organisation:</p> <p>Our main activities are designed to support our mission and aims, and can broadly be grouped into three areas:</p> <p>Information - We provide a monthly e-bulletin covering areas of relevance to funders, sharing members news & developments, updates on policy affecting London; we undertake a range of surveys to obtain members views on various matters, to inform our annual programme of events and support our voice function.</p> <p>Networking & Learning - We provide a programme of learning and development events: Funder Forums- an opportunity to focus in on a major issue effecting London; Learning from Funders - providing learning and development opportunities to improve the work of members; project and action groups targeted on particular themes or policy issues which provide a space to learn, network, & act collaboratively.</p> <p>Promoting & Representing - Making sure that the voice of funders is represented in London's policy and governance structures, and that funders are kept informed on broader issues affecting London.</p> | |

Number of staff

| Full-time: | Part-time: | Management committee members: | Active volunteers: |
|------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 | 0 | 14 | 0 |

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? |
| Rented | 5 years |

Environmental Impact

City Bridge Trust wants to help voluntary sector organisations to have a positive environmental impact. Please tell us how much your organisation is already doing to have a positive environmental impact using the definitions below to help you decide.

Making progress: We have reviewed our organisation's environmental impact and have started to carry out a plan of improvements.

Grant Request

Details of grant request

| |
|--|
| Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector |
| Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? More organisations with improved skills in financial management More organisations with improved capabilities in monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting |
| Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. For London Funders to be a space for funder learning and collaboration; a voice for funders in London; and a place to identify effective funding |
| When will the funding be required? 30/06/2014 |
| How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £27,000 Year 2: £27,000 Year 3: £0 Total: £54,000 |
| Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to fund it? We will be working over this period to further develop the long term sustainability of London Funders through increasing self-generated income, and developing new sources of funding, including corporate sponsorship and partnerships. |
| If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached? |

Summary of grant request

London Funders mission is to strengthen and support funders, and promote effective funding, to meet the needs of Londoners.

London is a complex city and its funding landscape is changing dramatically. This change is being driven by a combination of factors including the redefining of the role of the state (both national and local), the changing profile of poverty and the needs of the population within London, and the increasingly complex governance and public policy landscape that our members operate within.

London Funders needs to change the way that we work (and what we do) to reflect the new economic and political landscape that our members are working within. We need to combine being a safe place to think and talk (something that we do well) to become an effective place that can facilitate collaboration and action. We need to develop as the voice for funders (and funding) in London, to seek to actively influence national and regional policy, and London's complex and multiple governance structures. We need to demonstrate our impact in supporting our members achieve their varied and diverse missions.

Our strongest asset is the diversity, creativity and reach of our members work; our biggest challenge is how we support our members to help them "do more with less"?

London Funders has three core objectives:

1. To provide the space for learning and collaboration between funders;
2. To be a voice for funders and to actively influence policy;
3. To identify and promote effective funding models;

Our aims are:

to provide an independent space which brings together public, private and charitable funders so that they can share information, collaborate and learn from each other in a way which promotes effective funding.

to be a voice for our members and to actively influence policy development and debate in key areas which impact on types, levels and mechanisms for funding in the Capital.

to galvanise the expertise across our membership -- and across London more generally -- and to promote effective and new or innovative funding models which can be used to "unlock wealth" and "enrich the lives of Londoners".

London Funders is a unique network. Our members invest in every aspect of London's life, from the arts through to welfare, and they fund across all 32 boroughs and the City of London. These funds are invested in London through a number of channels including the voluntary and community sectors, social enterprises and the private sector, as well as directly to the citizens of London.

For the period 2014 to 2017, London Funders have identified three policy priorities:

- I. Poverty, inequality and destitution;
- II. Children and young people;
- III. Health and wellbeing.

These policy priorities will underpin the range of events, activities and outcomes for London Funders over the next three years.

London Funders work directly meets two of the four programme outcomes; more organisations with improved capabilities in monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting, and more organisations with improved skills in financial management.

London Funders meets the trusts 'Principles of Good Practice' through:

evaluation and impact monitoring across our annual series of events and meetings;
periodic membership surveys and forums;
an ongoing programme of outreach work to funders, and others involved in the London funding ecology, to bring them into membership;
sharing the outcomes and learning from our work via our website and our regular e-bulletin

This application is for the continuation of an current core grant award from City Bridge Trust.

Outputs and outcomes

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

Funder Forums (4 meetings) -- Broad policy/topical issues focussed, audience mostly from membership but may be opened up to other funders (and occasionally others) on a case by case basis and paid for. May be done jointly with other partners;

Learning from Funders (4 meetings) -- Members only -- training and learning network focussing on specific technical aspects of the funding process, or on the challenges facing funders in their relationships with those they fund;

Project Groups (Thematic and cross-cutting) -- Project groups are member lead and look in detail at specific areas of interest and that cut across our policy priorities. Currently two in operation and a possible third one planned for 2014. Open to all members and self-selecting.

Action Groups (issue or policy based) -- Action groups are time limited and focussed on developing a specific response or outcome, including examples of practical collaboration, around our policy priorities. Membership is to be drawn from members, and other players, on a case by case basis.

Publication of a monthly e-bulletin of relevant and timely information and resources relevant to funders

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

That funders of all shapes and sizes make more effective funding decisions as a result of their learning and sharing at London Funders events and meetings.

That through our work a number of new partnerships, initiatives and relationships are brokered and developed.

That funders, and others in London, have a better understanding of complexity of London's funding ecology and of the way that funders are working together o achieve more with less.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

2,000

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

London-wide (100%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

All ages

What gender will beneficiaries be?

All

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

A range of ethnic groups

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

1-10%

Funding required for the project

What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

| Expenditure heading | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Staff & Governance | 107,467 | 110,691 | 0 | 0 |
| Meetings, events. membership | 16,500 | 16,995 | 0 | 0 |
| ICT | 4,500 | 4,635 | 0 | 0 |
| Administration | 11,549 | 11,895 | 0 | 0 |
| Rent & Services | 10,840 | 10,840 | 0 | 0 |
| Governance | 2,500 | 2,575 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL: | 153,356 | 157,631 | 0 | 0 |

What income has already been raised?

| Source | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Membership Subs | 105,950 | 118,100 | 0 | 0 |
| New Member subs | 9,200 | 10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Gifts In Kind | 12,000 | 12,000 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL: | 116,350 | 140,100 | 0 | 0 |

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

| Source | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

How much is requested from the Trust?

| Expenditure heading | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Finance

From your most recent audited or independently examined accounts, complete the following:

Financial year ended - 31

Month: **December**

Year: **2012**

| Income received from: | £ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Voluntary income | 184,850 |
| Activities for generating funds | 0 |
| Investment income | 183 |
| Income from charitable activities | 0 |
| Other sources | 0 |
| Total Income | 185,033 |

| Expenditure: | £ |
|--|----------------|
| Charitable activities | 163,078 |
| Governance costs | 2,792 |
| Cost of generating funds | 2,927 |
| Other | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 168,797 |
| Net (Deficit)/Surplus: | 16,236 |
| Other Recognised Gains/(Losses) | 0 |
| Net Movement in Funds | 16,236 |

| Asset position at year end | £ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Fixed assets | 1 |
| Investments | 0 |
| Net current assets | 72,628 |
| Long-term liabilities | 0 |
| *Total A | 72,629 |

| Reserves at year end | £ |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Endowment funds | |
| Restricted funds | 3,500 |
| Unrestricted funds | 69,129 |
| *Total B | 72,629 |

* Total A and Total B must be the same and should be taken from your balance sheet

9. Statutory funding

For the financial year above, what % of your income was from statutory sources?

10. Material changes

Describe any material changes to the organisation's activities, structure or financial position since the date of the most recent accounts:

Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

| | 2010 £ | 2011 £ | 2012 £ |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| City of London (except City Bridge Trust) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| London Local Authorities | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| London Councils | 60,000 | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| Health Authorities | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Central Government departments | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other statutory bodies | 25,000 | 0 | 0 |

Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

| Name of Funder | 2010 £ | 2011 £ | 2012 £ |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Big Lottery Fund | 9,910 | 9,200 | 0 |
| Bank of America Foundation | 15,443 | 0 | 0 |
| Comic Relief | 0 | 4,000 | 6,500 |
| Trust for London | 0 | 5,200 | 9,000 |
| Community Development Foundation | 0 | 0 | 9,000 |

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 Warner**

Role within **Director**

Organisation: