

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Friends R Us	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name? N/A	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Hackney	
Contact person: Mrs Rose Hoffman	Position: Chair of trustees
Website: http://N/A	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1121746
When was your organisation established? 01/01/1972	

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? Making London More Inclusive
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? Community buildings that are more accessible and as a result Disabled people reporting increased well-being as a result of taking part in the arts or sport
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. To refurbish Beth Jacob House, creating a fully accessible multi-use community hub for disabled people especially enhancing the lives of young people through sports/arts activity
When will the funding be required? 06/10/2014
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £100,000 Year 2: £0 Year 3: £0 Total: £100,000

Aims of your organisation:

Friends R Us is a youth group based in Stamford Hill catering for Orthodox Jewish girls aged six to 16. It was established in response to the need for a safe, culturally appropriate and stimulating place for the target group to enjoy making friends, developing skills and talents, and having fun.

Most of our users are part of large, financially disadvantaged families and often live in cramped conditions. We are open during times of heavy traffic at home (after school, at weekends and during Jewish and school holidays) and offer users a safe, dedicated space to enjoy artistic and creative opportunities they would otherwise be unable to access.

Traditionally the community's lifestyle can be quite sedentary and we have higher-than-average incidences of obesity. Tackling obesity among our young is a key aim: we are committed to promoting the benefits of healthy, creative and active lifestyles, especially among disabled young people who lack a range of accessible services locally.

Main activities of your organisation:

We have over 900 members and serve the community by providing the following services: Saturday and Sunday youth activities for 120 young people a day from six local schools, who come together for an hour to sing, play, tell stories and take part in the arts; an annual showcase performance, the pinnacle of our annual activities, involving nearly 400 users in 14 separate performance pieces; residential weekends organised for 100 children and young people; our summer sleepaway, a two-week holiday encouraging users' development; twice-yearly day trips where young people can organise their own activities, including carnivals and smaller performances; and social gatherings during holidays and out of school.

As a community we have high instances of disability. Therefore, we are committed to supporting greater numbers of disabled members to attend our services, thus tackling the isolation they feel and address the social stigma still surrounding disability in our community.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
0	0	4	70

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?
Leased	25 years

Summary of grant request

Project/need

Friends R Us HQ at Beth Jacob House, is an astounding property in terms of location and potential space, entrusted to us for community benefit. However, still in its original residential layout it is unfit for purpose: eg main entrance, all floors and washrooms of the building are completely in-accessible (please see enclosed access audit report)*. Stamford Hill's Orthodox Jewish population is growing at a rate of 4% a year, creating a membership with a wide spectrum of needs. Disabled children in particular lack accessible local activities (and the number of children with disabilities in the community is higher than the borough average). There are limited community facilities for disabled adults from the wider community to develop user-led activities or engage in new services that promote their health and independence. We want to provide a building fit for all their needs.

The total cost of the project is £750,000 including VAT. We are in the final stages of securing £500,000 match funding from Big Lottery Reaching Communities and have just secured £150,000 from the Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation to carry out the extension and refurbishment of the building. City Bridge funding of £100,000 would help ensure the refurbishment's accessibility. As the Access Audit report shows modifications will include accessible parking, main entrance; rationalisation of floor levels to eliminate internal changes; improved toilet facilities, including wheelchair-accessible ones; hearing induction loops; a sensory play room and lift access to every public level.

Delivery

We have enclosed a capital project management strategy and business plan that detail our management of the build and vision for the site over the next three years. This includes details of new staff we will recruit to manage the building's use (Project Manager, Caretaker, Security and Book-keeper) as well as a three-year financial projection. These are conservative, but show that even in worst-case scenarios, the organisation will remain solvent during the period of upheaval necessary to deliver a state-of-the-art facility for all users, disabled and non-disabled.

Why Friends R Us

For a small user-led organisation (staffed entirely by volunteers) we have achieved a great deal: services annually for over 820 users; London Youth Quality Mark; generations of support from local families who attended our services; commitment from local councillors and stakeholders; business planning/project planning acumen and significant capital investment secured towards the project. City Bridge funding will future-proof the building for future generations of disabled users.

Aim/City Bridge Outcomes

The building renovation and extension will: increase Beth Jacob House's functional space, creating an inclusive environment to accommodate above-average numbers of local disabled children and adults; provide DDA-compliant access, plus a dedicated sensory room, accessible washroom facilities; renovate the fabric of the building, bolstering its mechanical, electrical, heating and ventilation services; improve it aesthetically and in comfort terms; and make it environmentally friendly. Local disabled children and young people (who previously could not attend FRU activities) will be able to regularly access art activities that encourage their creativity and older disabled residents will be able to access new services and activities which improve their self-expression, emotional health and reduce their isolation.

We envisage 140 new users a year for 25 years minimum more than 3,500 disabled participants.

Best practice

We involve service users planning (eg, a three-year consultation that informed the project); valuing and supporting volunteers (our lifeblood, working 21,108 unpaid hours a year, we have boosted their management role); welcoming people from all backgrounds and valuing diversity (for example, opening up the refurbished space to Muslim groups); taking steps to reduce carbon footprint (all new fittings are energy-saving, we'll institute policies to ensure environmental awareness).

If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

We have completed Pre-planning application enquiry stage to Hackney Council and our full planning application has been submitted 19.5.14. We expect to hear a response on 14.7.14. We are also issuing party-wall notices to all neighbors. The scheme is based on extensive local consultation and our neighbors/local community members are very supportive.

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **Yes**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

We currently hold the London Youth Quality Mark Bronze Mark and are working towards Silver. We also are working towards PQASSO level one self-assessment. As part of our business planning we are developing a vulnerable adults policy (please see business plan).

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.

Friends R Us Arts and Performance Activities delivered year round with showcase performance in February. 50, 62 and 74 disabled users regularly attend activities over three years respectively.

Beth Jacob House rented out to local groups working with disabled children to provide activities to their users. 60, 70, 80 disabled children and young people benefit from inclusive space at Beth Jacob House over three years respectively.

Local disabled people (older people etc) supported to utilise Beth Jacob House for community activities. 5 groups/50 disabled people Year One. 10 groups/100 disabled people Year Two. 15 groups/150 disabled people Year Three.

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.

Local disabled CYP will report being more able to regularly access arts activities that encourage their creativity

Local disabled CYP report improved self-expression, emotional health and well-being.

Local disabled CYP report reduced isolation and increased opportunities to socialise with children in an inclusive setting.

Local disabled people will report improved access to community activities reducing isolation.

Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to sustain it? If not, what is your exit strategy?

No this is capital funding towards a build that will be completed in 2015 as a result of this contribution from City Bridge Trust. There will be no ongoing capital costs - though there will be some ongoing maintenance costs which will be generated by income from room rentals.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

160

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

Hackney (40%)

Haringey (60%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

0-15

16-24

25-44

45-64

65-74

75 and over

What gender will beneficiaries be?

All

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

A range of ethnic groups

Other ethnic group (including Arab)

If Other ethnic group, please give details: **Predominantly Jewish**

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

91-100%

Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Capital Construction Costs inc vat	683,238	0	0	0
Professional Fees inc vat	55,800	0	0	0
Surveys and Reports inc vat	10,962	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	750,000	0	0	0

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Big Lottery Reaching Communities Capital Fund	44,000	0	0	0
Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation	150,000	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	194,000	0	0	0

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Big Lottery Reaching Communities Capital Fund	456,000	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	456,000	0	0	0

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
External ramp to front of building - clearing area	1,278	0	0	0
External ramp to front of building - ramped area	17,040	0	0	0
External ramp to front of building - handrail	14,040	0	0	0
External ramp to front of building - alterations to existing entrances/ steps to accommodate new ramp	2,400	0	0	0
Platform lift	36,000	0	0	0
Disabled toilets - Dock M pack and associated works (walls/doors)	9,118	0	0	0
Accessible kitchen - provisional sum	5,000	0	0	0
Main contractors Prelims	10,311	0	0	0
Main Contractors OHP	4,811	0	0	0
TOTAL:	99,998	0	0	0

Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: October	Year: 2013
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	14,930
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	32,288
Other sources	0
Total Income:	47,218

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	46,809
Governance costs	250
Cost of generating funds	3,910
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	50,969
Net (deficit)/surplus:	-3,751
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	-3,751

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	0
Investments	0
Net current assets	14,395
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	14,395

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	0
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	14,395
*Total Reserves (B):	14,395

*** Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.**

Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?
11-20%

Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

The most notable change is the provisional award of £500,000 from Reaching Communities. We are currently satisfying the Development Stage requirements of this grant (Up to RIBA Stage E) and should receive a decision in Sept this year. We have developed a business plan to support expansion of our organisation in coming years to manage this building successfully.

Previous funding received

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

	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	0	0	9,929
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	0	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	2012 £	2013 £	2014 £
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	0	0	44,000
Big Lottery Awards for All	0	10,000	0
BBC Children in Need	0	7,600	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

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: **Rose Hoffman**

Role within **Chair of Trustees**
Organisation: