

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Hackney City Farm	
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: Mr. Chris Pounds	Position: Farm Manager
Website: http://www.hackneycityfarm.co.uk	
Legal status of organisation:	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 291211
When was your organisation established? 01/10/1984	

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? Improving London's Environment
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? More people reporting improved wellbeing through greater use of open spaces and through growing and greening initiatives More Londoners with a greater knowledge and understanding of the 'green' environment and biodiversity
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. Improving knowledge of ecosystems, biodiversity and food growing in London through school education programmes and volunteer activities, co-ordinated by Volunteer & Education Co-ordinators.
When will the funding be required? 01/09/2015
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £46,500 Year 2: £46,500 Year 3: £46,500 Total: £139,500

Aims of your organisation:

Hackney City Farm promotes healthy living and offers people living in an highly populated urban environment opportunities to experience and learn about agriculture, horticulture, green skills, rural crafts and the wider environment.

We aim to help the more vulnerable groups in our local area, such as people with learning difficulties, refugees and migrants, young people not in education or training, and people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Our mission is to become a place to educate and increase urban biodiversity; a popular community resource valued by users, volunteers and staff with the ultimate goal of becoming a self-supporting and an environmentally sustainable hub.

Main activities of your organisation:

Hackney City Farm gives local people the opportunity to get up close to farmyard animals; see, smell and plant vegetables; and learn new skills to live healthier lives with a lower environmental impact. We run open access volunteer sessions in growing food and animal care, for people of all abilities; and courses in bee keeping, pottery and yoga. We are now Ofsted registered as an Independent school within Hackney; providing alternative education to young people from Hackney who have been excluded from mainstream education whilst also providing work experience placements to other schools. Our volunteering projects are aimed at integrating students, unemployed, people with mental health problems, disabled people and local people who want to get outdoors. We run yoga and language classes for refugees, migrants and those from ethnic minority communities who need encouragement to access resources in the local area and we provide tailored workshops for schools and community groups on environmentally themed topics.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
5	10	5	47

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	69 years

Summary of grant request

The project will improve biodiversity and knowledge of ecosystems by creating new habitats and developing growing areas at the Farm, in nearby schools and at local community projects.

The need for this project is twofold: 'In an urban area like Hackney biodiversity plays a vital role in cleaning our air, reducing the effect of the 'urban heat island'. It has been well documented that contact with the natural environment can improve wellbeing, reduce stress and provide health benefits.' Hackney Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-17

We believe the best way to promote biodiversity is to engage people in caring for it; to do this you need to involve them in the construction and maintenance of greening projects.

There will also be health benefits:

'It is estimated that at any one time, 1/6 adults of working age in Hackney experiences symptoms of mental illness....It is estimated that approximately 3,400 children in Hackney have a mental health disorder.' - from The health and wellbeing profile for Hackney and the City: Our joint strategic needs assessment 2009.

There is an increasing body of medical evidence to show that access to the nature improves wellbeing and helps reduce mental health problems; so this project will aim to both increase habitats for wildlife and to improve the health of participants.

The volunteering arm of the project will involve practical maintenance of organic vegetable gardens and habitat enhancement. We will focus on engaging hard to reach groups, such as people with mental health problems, people with special educational needs, refugees and under 5's with carers on low incomes.

This project will encourage tolerance and understanding between participants by creating a space for people from a diverse range of backgrounds to work together and learn from each other. We will hold 2-3 volunteering group sessions per week as well as offering tailored volunteering for individuals who can't attend these sessions.

This project has evolved through consultation with existing volunteers and we will hold volunteer steering meetings to ensure their continued involvement. All volunteers will receive an initial supervision to define their own goals and will receive on-going support, signposting to other projects and help with further training to suit their needs. We aim to work with at least 120 volunteers over 3 years.

The Education strand of the project focuses on delivering practical environmental education workshops for at least 500 pupils each year. These will be developed around the national curriculum and will cover topics such as growing food, composting and habitats.

We will be setting up a 'forest school' area at the farm, where school groups can come to an outdoor classroom and explore the natural environment through child led learning. In addition we will work with, initially 3-4 schools to set up environmental education projects on their own sites to provide outdoor teaching resources in our wider area.

Hackney City Farm has over 30 years' experience in delivering environmental education and volunteering activities to people in Hackney, staff have experience ranging from horticultural training and forest school leadership to managing their own successful companies and we feel this gives us a strong background to deliver this work. We have recently become involved in Hackney Biodiversity Partnership and as a member are linked

up to other projects working on sustainable environments in the borough.

Reducing our carbon footprint is at the heart of Hackney City Farm's ethos and this project has been designed to reduce the use of bought materials and to reuse as much as possible from waste brought onsite.

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

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

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

PQASSO Level 1

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.

Gardening volunteer sessions. We will hold 3 sessions a week, 2 onsite and one at a community project; to maintain and develop the organic vegetable areas of the farm and develop wildlife habitats such as replanting a green roof on our straw bale building, making log piles and pond areas.

Gardening for young children. We will introduce a weekly session to engage young children in gardening. This will involve making bug hotels, growing food and tasting sessions. The group will be open to any parents/carers with children under 5, but we will promote it primarily to those on low incomes.

Environmental Education Workshops for schools on the farm site. We will hold over 30 workshops a year on topics such as habitats, growing food and composting. These will be developed in line with the national curriculum but will be practical based.

Setting up outdoor classroom spaces, animal habitats or growing food areas in 2-3 schools locally per year. To encourage biodiversity on school sites and to increase access to environmental education facilities.

Forest school sessions. We will set up an outdoor classroom area and invite schools to participate in 6 week sessions of Forest School, promoting child led learning in a natural environment. We aim to work with 2-3 schools per year.

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.

At least 30 people per year will report improvement in wellbeing or mental health, through having access to our volunteering program.

At least 1,200 school children, per year, will have increased knowledge about biodiversity and the importance of green spaces in the urban environment through participation in practical workshops at the farm or in their schools.

By the end of the project at least 6 new outdoor classrooms, or growing projects will have been built in local schools and at the farm site.

We will create at least 10 new habitat areas, which may include green roofs, ponds and bog areas, bug hotels and wild flower meadows; with the aim of increasing the diversity of habitats and food sources for insects and animal life in the urban environment.

At least 20 families with young children will be able to gain practical skills in the garden and an increased awareness of where their food comes from. We hope that at least half of the participants will be families on low incomes in receipt of benefits.

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?

We intend to run a crowd funding campaign and to rent out spaces for use around the farm so that we can secure new funding streams, we will also set up a 'friends of Hackney City Farm' scheme to encourage regular donations.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

1,270

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

Hackney (90%)

Tower Hamlets (10%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

0-15

16-24

25-44

45-64

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?

31-40%

Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salary for Education and Volunteer Co-ordinators (7 days a week)	38,500	38,500	38,500	115,500
NI and Pension contributions	2,460	6,310	6,310	15,080
Volunteer expenses	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Materials for session work	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Sessional workers	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Project administrative costs	6,500	6,500	6,500	19,500
Training for staff and volunteers	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Project management and strategic planning	12,074	12,074	12,074	36,222
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	73,534	77,384	77,384	226,302

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
London Borough of Hackney	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
Own Social Enterprise projects	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,500
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	6,500	6,500	6,500	19,500

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Esmée Fairbairn	19,574	23,424	23,424	66,422
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	19,574	23,424	23,424	66,422

How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Salary and NI	38,500	38,500	38,500	115,500
Materials	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Volunteer Expenses	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
	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:	46,500	46,500	46,500	139,500

Finance details

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

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2014
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	247,956
Activities for generating funds	130,947
Investment income	11
Income from charitable activities	0
Other sources	0
Total Income:	378,914

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	221,268
Governance costs	2,700
Cost of generating funds	149,921
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	373,889
Net (deficit)/surplus:	5,025
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	0

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	122
Investments	0
Net current assets	79,444
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	79,566

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	29,305
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	50,261
*Total Reserves (B):	79,566

* 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?
21-30%

Organisational changes

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

None

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	30,000	30,000	30,000
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	0	0
Central Government departments	0	0	0
Other statutory bodies	98,000	98,000	98,000

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 Fund	94,376	94,377	94,377
Ernest Cook Trust	5,000	0	0
Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity	0	15,000	0
Tudor Trust	0	12,250	2,750
Heritage Lottery Fund	0	0	10,000

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: **CHRIS POUNDS**

Role within **FARM MANAGER**
Organisation: