

# The City Bridge Trust

## Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



### About your organisation

Name of your organisation: <b>The Garden Classroom (TGC)</b>	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? <b>Islington</b>	
Contact person: <b>Ms Marnie Rose</b>	Position: <b>CEO</b>
Website: <b>http://www.thegardenclassroom.org.uk</b>	
Legal status of organisation: <b>Charitable company</b>	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: <b>06759008</b>
When was your organisation established? <b>19/11/2008</b>	

### Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? <b>Improving London's Environment</b>
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? <b>More Londoners with a greater knowledge and understanding of the 'green' environment and biodiversity More people reporting improved wellbeing through greater use of open spaces and through growing and greening initiatives</b>
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. <b>To provide a part time salary for a Community Education Support Officer four days a week, finance officer one day a week and associated costs</b>
When will the funding be required? <b>01/12/2015</b>
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: <b>£26,588</b> Year 2: <b>£27,121</b> Year 3: <b>£27,664</b>  <b>Total: £81,373</b>

**Aims of your organisation:**

The Garden Classroom's vision is of inner city children and young people living fuller, richer lives through discovering the complexities and joys of the natural world. To do this we create innovative experiences in urban parks and gardens which inspire children with a love of nature and help them make sense of all their learning.

**Main activities of your organisation:**

TGC aims to connect Londoners to nature by offering:

Outdoor learning experiences which enhance the curriculum - thus ensuring equality of access for all children - for primary schools, currently with sites in three London boroughs, we hope to spread to more

Continuous professional development days for teachers on behalf of the Royal Horticultural Society

Vocational training leading to a qualification for children with special educational needs

Workshops to A'level secondary pupils to give real life relevance to biology studies - a pilot programme is in progress

Holiday workshops - currently two week-long programmes at one site, could be more

Community events in local parks and gardens for families

Countryside nature discovery days

Regular parent/carer toddler groups in parks - currently one, could be more

**Number of staff**

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>

**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?
<b>Rented</b>	<b>4 years</b>

## Summary of grant request

Since 2008, with the support of City Bridge Trust, The Garden Classroom (TGC) has grown from a tiny enterprise responding to a very local need to an organisation that brings the benefits of a connection with nature to communities in three London boroughs. CEO Marnie Rose uncovered the thirst to connect with nature through founding Islington's award winning King Henry's Walk Community Garden. This coincided with publication of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto (2008) and from working with one school, TGC has grown to work with over 40 primary, secondary and special needs schools in Islington, Hackney and Haringey.

TGC has done a lot with a very small team but now the activity and potential for growth exceeds the management time available. All TGC's activity is managed by Marnie Rose (part time) and a part-time Education Programme Manager (EPM). However TGC could not operate without volunteer time given by the CEO and a board member. TGC's grant request is for two part-time posts. The Community Education Support Officer will lead on community engagement and volunteer management and will support the EPM to deliver the education programme. The Finance Officer will ensure better accountability so that financial information is readily available and robust. Both roles will relieve the CEO of time-consuming tasks enabling her to deliver the business and evaluation plan, generate new income streams and manage the transition from social enterprise to registered charity, which move will also open up new funding opportunities.

The new Community Education Support Officer will be managed by the Education Programme Manager. He/she will be responsible for cultivating relationships in the community to develop and deliver projects that engage families with their local park and green space. These might include providing family activities such as our bee days at community events, school holiday programmes, parent/carer and toddler nature discovery sessions and tree walks and workshops. Volunteers add value to our service and volunteers tell us their involvement with TGC is very beneficial to them. The Community Officer will recruit, train and manage the volunteer programme. In addition he/she will support the EPM in delivering 5000 nature learning experiences for primary, secondary and special educational needs schools every year and support the CEO in delivering the business plan.

The importance of cultivating and maintaining a connection with the natural environment is high on the international stage at the moment, thanks to President Obama's recent interview with Sir David Attenborough. Since 2008 TGC has been leading a cultural shift in learning about the natural environment outside the classroom in the part of London where this is most needed. In January 2015 Natural England reported a positive correlation between the availability of greenspace and levels of both frequency of visits to the natural environment and levels of physical activity in East London. No borough in the country, except the City of London, has less greenspace than Islington. By working through schools, TGC is ensuring that all children, whatever their economic, social or ethnic backgrounds, have an equal opportunity to learn about the natural world. This is important in ensuring the children of Islington, the City and neighbouring boroughs gain the emotional, social, educational and health benefits derived from a connection with nature and understand their role in conserving and enjoying it.

This is a service run by local people for local people using the skills and talents of local, ethnically diverse freelancers and volunteers. We are very environmentally responsible.

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? **No**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

**We have a Quality mark from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom**

### **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.

**5000 high quality learning outside the classroom experiences which develop London children's knowledge and understanding of the natural environment, increasing each year in line with the business plan**

**At least 10 additional volunteers recruited and trained per year to support TGC's activities at each green space in which we deliver educational programmes**

**At least 6 community engagements events per year held in parks/gardens to provide families with more information about the nature in their local park and how they can help to conserve and protect it**

**Communication to be improved; website to be developed and updated regularly, increased use of social media, newsletters to be written and distributed, press coverage to be sought**

**New community and education programmes to be devised and developed, responding to the needs of the local community**

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.

**The cultural move towards London children learning about the natural environment outside the classroom will be strengthened and increased by the further development and delivery of TGC's pioneering work and the dissemination of the benefits the work is bringing to urban children**

**The individual needs of some 10 volunteers per year are met, enabling them to proceed into paid employment, settle into a community or discover whether they like working with children. Our facilitators feel supported and workshop participants have an improved experience because child:adult ratio is greater**

**Parks and gardens will have an increased footprint and Londoners will learn to value the contribution nature makes to their lives and their wellbeing. We are cultivating a cycle of using, loving, protecting and conserving local parks which will be passed from generation to generation.**

**Schools in Islington, Hackney and Haringey (a new venue for TGC) are more aware of the support TGC can offer them and book more sessions. TGC receives more approaches from the community to provide community and school education in parks and gardens**

**TGC has the capability to respond to invitations and is able to be proactive in searching for new opportunities to meet the needs of the community in educating the community about the natural environment and the benefits of using their local park**

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?

**Yes. We are actively seeking corporate sponsorship. Our new chair has experience of dealing with the corporate sector and is working with us to develop materials and an appropriate approach. In addition we are working with ELBA to**

## Who will benefit?

### About your beneficiaries

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

**5,000**

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

**Islington (70%) Hackney (20%) Haringey (5%) Several NE London (5%)**

What age group(s) will benefit?

**All ages 0-15**

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
Community/Education Support Officer 4 days a week incl oncosts	20,240	20,645	21,058	61,943
Finance officer 1 day a week including oncosts	6,348	6,476	6,606	19,430
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>26,588</b>	<b>27,121</b>	<b>27,664</b>	<b>81,373</b>

### What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
None	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
None	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Community and Education Support Officer	20,240	20,645	21,058	61,943
Finance Officer	6,348	6,476	6,606	19,430
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>26,588</b>	<b>27,121</b>	<b>27,664</b>	<b>81,373</b>

## Finance details

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

Financial year ended:	Month: <b>August</b>	Year: <b>2014</b>
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	698
Activities for generating funds	31,365
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	0
Other sources	39,718
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>71,781</b>

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	0
Governance costs	7,870
Cost of generating funds	83,182
Other	0
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>91,052</b>
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus:</b>	<b>-19,271</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds:</b>	<b>-19,271</b>

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	2,229
Investments	0
Net current assets	8,695
Long-term liabilities	0
<b>*Total Assets (A):</b>	<b>10,924</b>

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	0
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	10,924
<b>*Total Reserves (B):</b>	<b>10,924</b>

\* 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? 0%
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### Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:  A new chair and new board member have been appointed. Education Programme Manager in place. Rent free HQ building secured for 4 years. SLA with Islington Council signed for 4 years.
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### 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	0
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 £
Local Food Lottery (RSPB/Wildlife Trust)	30,000	30,000	0
Esmee Fairbairn	0	0	30,000
Bulldog Trust	0	0	15,000
Goldman Sachs Gives	0	0	15,000
Ernest Cook Trust	10,000	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: **Marnie Rose**

Role within                      **Chief Executive Officer**  
Organisation: