

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: Sound Connections	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Tower Hamlets	
Contact person: Mr. Philip Flood	Position: Director
Website: http://www.sound-connections.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1095947
When was your organisation established? 14/10/2002	

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 capabilities in monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. To support music organisations working with young people in London who are facing challenging circumstances to better understand and evaluate the benefits of their work.
When will the funding be required? 02/01/2017
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £14,000 Year 2: £22,000 Year 3: £24,000 Total: £60,000

Aims of your organisation:

Sound Connections' mission is to develop, enable and empower young Londoners through music.

Main activities of your organisation:

As the go-to strategic development organisation for Music Education in London, Sound Connections brings together organisations and practitioners working across key music specialisms:

Challenging Circumstances, Early Years, Youth Voice.

Across these specialisms we lead the way in best practice, enabling organisations and practitioners to ensure high-quality provision.

We do this in 5 ways:

Research -- mapping provision, analysing need, conducting best practice research

Advocacy and Campaigning -- producing briefing papers, informing and campaigning on government strategy, informing industry steering groups

Training and Development -- leading professional networks, producing conference and peer sharing events, providing sector leadership support

Consultancy -- offering expertise as the leading organisation in music education in London to other areas

Networking -- providing an essential link between front-line practitioners and policy makers, schools, and statutory services.

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
4	3	9	9

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	9 months

Summary of grant request

THE NEED

In 2013 Sound Connections commissioned a briefing paper to establish the support needs of those providing high-quality music education activities for children and young people facing challenging circumstances. In response, Sound Connections spearheaded the Challenging Circumstances Music Network (CCMN) to facilitate peer-to-peer support and to provide opportunities for shared learning. The network now has 66 members including freelance practitioners and small to mid-scale organisations. These organisations vary but include those working with: visually impaired children, refugees, young offenders, young people with mental health problems, those with disabilities, young people living in social deprivation.

Organisations and practitioners are highly-skilled but are often under-resourced and face increasing pressures to advocate and fundraise for their vital work. A recent network meeting identified a particular need for support with monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting - particularly soft outcomes reporting. Our partners London Music Masters have also identified the need for dedicated 1-1 support in impact measurement.

AIMS

Sound Connections aims to develop and expand the work of the network to include establishing and disseminating evidence of need, supporting Theory of Change development, providing monitoring and evaluation toolkits and providing training and support.

METHOD

We will achieve this in a number of ways:

- Providing Evidence of Need: We will identify gaps in provision including "cold spots" and review existing evidence that can be used in advocacy.
- Supporting Shared Practice: Through roundtable discussions led by and for the sector, we will identify common goals leading to a stronger community of practice.
- Developing Monitoring and Evaluation toolkits: We will identify, develop, collate and disseminate a range of models for different organisations and circumstances.
- Providing evaluation training and support: We will provide training sessions and seminars as part of an annual conference, regular round table discussions, and bespoke 1-1 support sessions to identify needs and to match organisations with experts e.g. Impact Measurement experts Project Oracle.
- Expanding and evaluating the network reach: We will establish a reporting framework to monitor the cascade benefits. Through recording and celebrating the involvement and achievement of network partners we will attract additional members and therefore support yet more quality music provision.

WHY US?

Sound Connections lead the sector by challenging organisations to push the boundaries of best practice. Sound Connections have a strong track-record of providing support services to those working in music education: Our London Early Years Music Network is well-established, our Youth Voice work continues to promote excellence, and we are sought-out as consultants. In short, we are the go-to support organisation for anyone working in music education in London.

STRENGTHENING LONDON'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR

This work will paint the picture of impact across organisations, aligning shared goals and demonstrating the collective achievements of the sector. Through the expansion of the work of the network we will be equipping practitioners and organisations with improved capabilities in monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting.

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Tracking the cascade benefits - We regularly evaluate the benefits of the network and invite members to report to us on the benefits of their membership. We will establish a

monitoring framework to further establish the full reach of this work.

Involving Feedback - we invite feedback from our network members after every meeting. We will also evaluate our training provision and use the feedback to inform future work.

Improving Access to Services - The network has many members who are smaller and less well-resourced. This grant will create toolkits to strengthen their practice and will attract new members.

Sharing Learning - All learning outcomes will be made available network-wide and to the wider sector through our website and partners across the UK.

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?

Investors in People

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.

Production of a needs analysis report identifying cold spots of provision and a baseline against which to evaluate change

4 x roundtable discussions with network members per year

Development of evaluation and monitoring toolkits for different sizes/types of organisations -- ongoing over three years

1 x network conference per year to include dissemination of learning, evaluation training, and to provide opportunities for peer-to-peer sharing

10 x 1-1 support sessions per year for practitioners and organisations to meet with Sound Connections project leads and specialists to gain advice and support

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.

More young Londoners facing challenging circumstances will be able to access high-quality music provision. Stronger evaluation will lead to more and better provision.

A stronger community of practice with shared understanding and common goals. The network will provide invaluable peer-to-peer support and develop a powerful collective voice.

Practitioners and organisations with increased knowledge of gaps in provision.

Practitioners and organisations better able to monitor and evaluate their work.

Practitioners and organisations better able to advocate for the need for their work to funders and statutory service providers.

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?

Sound Connections are dedicated to supporting organisations working with young Londoners facing challenging circumstances, and will continue this work beyond this grant. Sound Connections will seek funding from other sources to achieve this - Youth Music have been valued supporters of our work to date and future network plans may continue to be underpinned by Youth Music funding.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

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

12,000

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

London-wide (100%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

0-15

16-24

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?

11-20%

Funding required for the project

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

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Event production & delivery	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
Freelance fees (speakers, tutors etc)	5,000	6,000	6,000	17,000
Staff costs	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Resource production	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
Overheads (inc. marketing, web support etc)	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Evaluation support	3,000	4,000	4,000	11,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	22,000	24,000	24,000	70,000

What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Youth Music	8,000	2,000	0	10,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	8,000	2,000	0	10,000

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	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
Event production & delivery	2,000	4,000	5,000	11,000
Freelance fees (speakers, tutors etc)	2,000	5,000	6,000	13,000
Staff costs	3,000	4,000	4,000	11,000
Resource production	2,000	3,000	3,000	8,000
Overheads (inc. marketing, web support etc)	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Evaluation support	3,000	4,000	4,000	11,000
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	14,000	22,000	24,000	60,000

Finance details

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

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2016
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	5,029
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	131
Income from charitable activities	341,479
Other sources	0
Total Income:	346,639

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	346,005
Governance costs	0
Cost of generating funds	500
Other	0
Total Expenditure:	346,505
Net (deficit)/surplus:	134
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	134

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	2,248
Investments	0
Net current assets	89,113
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	91,361

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	11,023
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	80,338
*Total Reserves (B):	91,361

*** 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?
51-60%

Organisational changes

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

N/A

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	255,500	180,000	168,555

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 £
RBS	0	11,490	11,490
Foyle Foundation	15,000	15,000	15,000
North Music Trust	10,395	3,850	0
PRS for Music Foundation	0	1,825	1,825
UBS	0	0	8,000

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: **Philip Flood**

Role within **Director**
Organisation: