

Stepping Stones – Round 5

Summary of Recommendations for Rejection during Stage 1

Ref & Organisation	Purpose	Reason for Recommendation for Rejection	Amount Requested	Grants Officer & Area
<u>Stepping Stones</u>				
14766 Belarus Free Theatre	To upgrade BFT's financial management and business planning capacity to ensure 'investment readiness' to successfully manage a new international arts-centre opening in 2021.	A refugee-led campaigning theatre which has won a bid to manage a new arts venue on the Isle of Dogs as part of the Crossharbour regeneration plan. Whilst the application proposes Stepping Stones to improve financial and business operations, and buy consultancy support, plans are not sufficiently well developed to make a case for support.	£48,360	TW Lambeth
14695 British Youth Council	To build on our seventy-year history and realise our new three-year strategy, becoming a more entrepreneurial, operationally creative and resilient youth council for the future.	The applicant wishes to re-start and scale up its consulting services, develop an M&E strategy and review its membership offer. There is no obvious connection between the proposed work and an investigation of social investment, nor is it clear how social investment might be used. Overall, the proposal lacks sufficient detail to be taken to the next stage.	£48,500	TW Hackney

Ref & Organisation	Purpose	Reason for Recommendation for Rejection	Amount Requested	Grants Officer & Area
14746 CLARITY - Employment for Blind People	To build internal 'employment services' capacity and social impact reporting capacity so that CLARITY can apply for financial investments to secure differentiated income streams.	An organisation delivering employment support and employment opportunities to visually impaired people. The proposal seeks Stepping Stones funding to develop employment services, capacity and impact reporting with a view to replacing an anticipated scale down in statutory funding. Whilst the proposal mentions the possible use of social investment there is little clarity what this might be used for. The detailed proposal adds very little to what is in the main application form, and the organisation currently holds unrestricted reserves significantly above target which indicates the work could be self-funded.	£45,500	TW Waltham Forest
14777 Energy Local	Develop business case and operational model to work in partnership to develop Energy Local with London based partner organisations.	A Wales-based organisation focusing on community energy clubs to lower household energy costs through community negotiation with suppliers. The proposal seeks funding to develop an Energy Local scheme with London-based partners. Stepping Stones would be used to develop a regional structure for replication elsewhere. It is not clear there is any role for social investment in their development plans, and whilst the proposed social benefit is strong it is not clear this is a relevant application given the aims of the Stepping Stones Fund.	£19,400	TW Outside London

Ref & Organisation	Purpose	Reason for Recommendation for Rejection	Amount Requested	Grants Officer & Area
14747 Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development - FORWARD	We will develop our capacity and readiness to scale up our work and deliver services and programmes that meet better the needs of our beneficiaries	The application is a clear fit with the organisation's strategic goals, but whilst the applicant is a very well-regarded organisation, there is no role for social investment here. The proposal is a request for general capacity building which falls outside the purpose of the Stepping Stones Fund.	£48,720	TW Hammersmith & Fulham
14748 Goldfinger Factory One C.I.C.	We need support to upgrade our site to accommodate more tools, more artisans and more trainees by expanding our academy and workshop.	A registered CIC based at foot of Trellick Tower offering bespoke furniture and interiors, skills training for artisans and artisans in the making. The organisation wishes to upgrade its site to offer more training space. This is essentially a capital request and part of a larger funding proposal since the cost of work exceeds the request to Stepping Stones. The proposal does not make a clear fit with Stepping Stones or with social investment.	£28,000	TW Kensington & Chelsea
14774 Her Centre Limited	To pilot fund our advice hub and fair food cafe	A women-focused and women-led organisation tackling domestic and sexual abuse. Her Centre wishes to pilot an advice hub and fair food café. Whilst the social impact of the training and advice hub are clear (and the social benefit of the cafe also appears strong), there's no obvious connection to social investment here, or to the aims of Stepping Stones Fund.	£45,000	TW Greenwich

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14751 Journey of Hope CIC	We are seeking funding to enable Journey of Hope to rigorously evaluate the impact of our services, its replicability and to increase its market.	A community based suicide prevention service wishing to evaluate the impact of its services with a view to expansion (most likely through health commissioners). The organisation is too recently established and small to be considering social investment and, in any case, social investment does not form part of the funding request. This is essentially a request that falls outside the scope of the Stepping Stones Fund even though the organisation's work is of high importance.	£24,000	TW Kensington & Chelsea
14754 Merton Voluntary Service Council	Capacity building in business planning, cost analysis, marketing and social value measurement to explore social investment approaches that will support our work and mission.	Funds are requested for business planning, cost analysis and marketing towards MVSC's Fayre and Square employability service for disabled people. The applicant does not provide a persuasive case that social investment is a fundamental part of its thinking for the future, so the proposal is instead a (well presented) request for general business support which is outside the scope of Stepping Stones.	£35,880	TW Merton

Ref & Organisation	Purpose	Reason for Recommendation for Rejection	Amount Requested	Grants Officer & Area
14755 Money A+E UK Community Interest Company	To get expert advice and recruit a director to support with the piloting of housing, accredited training and practical work experience for our service users.	A money advice and education organisation focusing on BAME and socially excluded communities. The application is hard to follow and the nature of the request to Stepping Stones is unclear. There is little detail in the proposal to describe the services they wish to focus on or what sort of investment may be needed. The applicant did not submit a more detailed proposal along with the grant application, so any supplementary supporting case material must be interpreted from a lengthy and organisation-wide business plan - this does not help determine what Stepping Stones would be used for.	£40,000	TW Newham
14776 Root Camp Foundation	We are looking to hire an education outreach coordinator to maintain and develop contacts in the education sector, e.g. schools, colleges (catering colleges) and universities.	An organisation encouraging young people to lead healthier and more independent lives through teaching cookery skills and managing food budgets. The route to scaling and investment is insufficiently clear. It is unclear why social investment would be the right approach compared with a lower risk strategy of gradual growth and steady improvements in turnover and margins.	£19,320	TW Southwark

Ref & Organisation	Purpose	Reason for Recommendation for Rejection	Amount Requested	Grants Officer & Area
14760 The Community Channel	To pilot a major new membership drive for Together across London, increasing our social impact and financial sustainability, and making us ready for social investment.	The applicant wants to undertake a major membership drive with a view to enhancing its financial sustainability and social investment readiness. From the proposal received, it is difficult to see why the organisation would consider social investment if they can make a success of the suggested contributor model and sustain operations through regular giving rather than debt. The study they propose is London-focused but it would most likely be preferable for them to look UK-wide.	£40,000	TW Islington
14761 The Philosophy Foundation	Developing a new revenue streams to support TPF's core work with disadvantaged pupils and communities through training and development for Corporate Clients, and sponsorship opportunities.	An organisation facilitating philosophical enquiry in schools, learning communities and workplaces, it now wishes to develop new revenue streams to support growth in face of cuts to education budgets. The link to social investment is not sufficiently well made in this application, and it is unclear why they would not pursue growth through reinvestment of surplus.	£49,861	TW Lewisham
14773 We Are Stronger Charity	To fully fulfil our anti-bullying mission	An ineligible application because the organisation does not yet have a year's worth of examined accounts. Apart from this the link between the proposed work and social investment is insufficiently clear.	£39,200	TW Kensington & Chelsea

Ref & Organisation	Purpose	Reason for Recommendation for Rejection	Amount Requested	Grants Officer & Area
14764 Why me? Victims for Restorative Justice	To build the organisation's business, finance and impact measurement skills in order to develop a business plan, test products and services and become investment ready	An application from a restorative justice specialist wishing to use Stepping Stones Finance to develop business operations and marketing capability as well as enhancing social impact measurement. The link with social investment is insufficiently clear, and based on this application there is no obvious need for borrowing or other third party finance compared to a lower risk strategy of generating and re-investing surplus.	£25,476	TW Southwark
14768 Youth Justice Legal Centre	To employ a Traded Income Development Manager who will upskill JfKL to explore possible social investment models for our training packages for youth practitioners.	A community based legal representation and advocacy centre for children and young people, that wishes to employ a Development Manager to increase their training offer and generate more revenue. There is only brief mention of the possible role social investment might play and this isn't worked through in sufficient detail.	£49,200	TW Islington
<i>Total Stepping Stones (16 items)</i>			£606,417	
Grand Totals (16 items)			£606,417	