The City of London Growing Localities Awards 2013/14

A. About the Awards

Lemos&Crane working with City Bridge Trust presents the Growing Localities Awards 2013/14. A total of £2,500 prize money is being offered to projects using nature to enhance and improve local communities and the lives of vulnerable or socially excluded people, generating positive outcomes such as health and well-being, new skills and knowledge, new relationships, and a sense of purpose and belonging.

There will be 6 award categories from which a winner and three runners up will be selected:

The 6 award categories are:

- **GARDENING AND GROWING FOOD** – for communal eating and small-scale enterprise
- **LOOKING AFTER ANIMALS** – bees, chickens, pigs, etc for the experience of care but also to farm
- **NATURE-THEMED ARTS AND CRAFTS** – woodcraft, photography, film-making, writing, etc
- **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES ABOUT WILDLIFE AND NATURE** – including trips and excursions to teach people about flora and fauna
- **RECLAIMING AND DEVELOPING WASTELAND** – projects initiated and led by residents and tenants
- **“GREEN” EXERCISE** – groups for walking, cycling, running, etc with a nature theme

Entries are invited from non-profit organisations in London such as:

- Community-based and voluntary organisations
- Faith groups
- Health organisations
- Homeless agencies
- Hospices
- Prisons
- Resident committees
- Schools
- Social housing providers
- Social care providers
- Supported housing providers (providing mental health services, substance misuse, learning disabilities, etc)
B. Timetable

- Deadline for entries – Friday 24th January, 2014
- Shortlist announced – Friday 21st February, 2014
- Winners announced – April 2014

C. Rules and procedures

1. Entries must be completed using this entry form and submitted electronically here

2. Receipt of all entries submitted online will be automatically acknowledged.

3. Entrants may be asked to provide further information.

4. The judges' decision is final. Awards will be made at the judges' discretion and no correspondence will be entered into concerning any decision. Not all the awards advertised may be awarded if the judges consider the criteria have not been met. Additional commendations may be made at the judges' discretion.

5. The content of any entry may be used for informing other practitioners and also for publicity purposes unless the entrant withholds their consent to this in writing.

6. Entrants are deemed to have accepted these rules and procedures and to have agreed to be bound by them when entering this competition.

D. Your Entry

Please do not exceed 1500 words in total.

1. Name of the project you are entering for The City of London Growing Localities Awards 2013/2014

   Bee Urban: Keeper’s Lodge Project and Camberwell Subterranea

2. Award category you are entering

   - GARDENING AND GROWING FOOD – for communal eating and small-scale enterprise
   - LOOKING AFTER ANIMALS – bees, chickens, pigs, etc for the experience of care but also to farm
   - EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES ABOUT WILDLIFE AND NATURE – including trips and excursions
to teach people about flora and fauna

- **RECLAIMING AND DEVELOPING WASTELAND** – projects initiated and led by residents and tenants
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### 3. Describe your project in one sentence

**Bees, bicycles and beans** - urban environment projects engaging all walks of life to develop unused areas of South London to create community learning and growing hubs for beekeeping, food growing, environmental education and green transport.

### 4. Specify the setting(s) where your project is delivered (eg homeless agency, housing organisation etc)?

- Housing estates (Brandon 3 SE5, Brandon 2 SE17, Castlemead SE5, Four Squares SE16)
- Parks (Kennington Park, Myatts Field Park)
- Allotments (Fielding Street)

### 5. What are the project’s objectives?

- Provide food growing space and skills for residents and local people.
- Greening of unused urban areas.
- Increasing environmental awareness.
- Providing free bicycle maintenance, lessons and bicycle recycling.
- Teaching and supporting sustainable urban beekeeping including forage planting.
- Providing inclusive activities for vulnerable people (mental health, substance misuse, learning disability, offending).
- Using simple and sustainable practices in everything we do.
6. **What are the project’s activities?**

| Cycle maintenance skills, bicycle recycling, repairs |
| Urban beekeeping, mentoring and training |
| Environmental education, particularly the role and care of bees and other insects |
| Gardening (food and wildlife gardening) |
| DIY workshops (painting, carpentry, plumbing and electrical) |

7. **What has been the impact / achievement of the project?**

We have taken otherwise unused sites and working with local people we have created a number of useable, beautiful and green spaces and workshop spaces for community use, learning, and social interaction. We have built raised beds, taught and enabled food growing, trained and mentored new beekeepers, painted, decorated, plumbed, skilled up local communities and brought people together.

For example, at Camberwell Subterranea we have:

- Cleared and converted 2 garages to workshop space
- Installed electricity
- Created a site for bicycle workshops
- Built and planted 10 raised beds for community food growing

At the Keeper’s Lodge we have:

- Cleared a derelict and over grown space
- Built an eco, timber framed classroom
- Planted a bee-friendly green roof
Created and managed twice weekly community volunteer sessions

Supported participants with a wide range of needs (learning disability, mental health, substance misuse)

Our open days regularly attract 50 visitors; our bike hub typically has 15-20 people per week. We have 10 regular volunteers in addition to this, as well as involvement of local residents on each of the estates.

8. How is your project evaluated?

We are in the process of developing more a more formal evaluation structure and are working with colleagues in neighbouring organisations to achieve this. Current evaluation typically includes feedback from volunteers, participants, trainees, tenant and residents associations and visitors. We use evaluation forms and questionnaires as well as informal feedback and comments books. Through engaging with social media we have been able to see frequent ‘likes’, increases in followers of our twitter page and positive comments. We were one of Project Dirt’s most viewed projects in 2013.

9. How would you spend the prize money to develop the project?

Design and printing workshops for participants to produce project logos, volunteer t-shirts and promotional materials.

Developing a peer mentoring model where project participants would be supported to mentor people setting up similar projects on neighbouring estates. This money would pay for training to enable satellite dr bike and bee friendly planting workshops in neighbouring areas.

E. Submitting your entry

Please return this entry form by Friday 24th January 2014 by uploading it on this page
If you have problems uploading your entry or would like to add documents, photos, videos or other media that are relevant to your entry, please email them to awards@lemosandcrane.co.uk quoting ‘The City of London Growing Localities 2013/2014 entry’ and your organisation name in the subject heading.

Thank you for your entry.