The City of London Growing Localities Awards 2014/15

A. About the Awards

Lemos&Crane working with The City of London Corporation’s Charity, The City Bridge Trust presents The Growing Localities Awards. Total prize money of £2,500 is offered for projects based in London that demonstrate excellence in using nature to enhance and improve local communities and in particular 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.

To apply for the award you will need to describe what your project already does and to explain how the prize money would be spent to further your work.

This year entries are invited for projects and initiatives in any London borough that involve any one or combination of:

- **Gardening and growing food**: for communal eating and small-scale enterprise
- **Introducing young people to nature**: encouraging young people to develop an interest in nature through bird-watching and similar activities
- **Keeping 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
- **Reclaiming and developing wasteland**: especially led by residents and tenants
- **‘Green’ exercise**: groups for walking, cycling, running, etc with a nature theme
Entries are invited from non-profit organisations such as:

- Homeless agencies
- Supported housing (providing mental health services, substance misuse, etc)
- Social housing providers
- Residential care providers
- Health organisations
- Hospices
- Prisons
- Churches and faith groups
- Other community-based and voluntary organisations.

Entries will be judged based on criteria including:

- **Originality** – the distinctiveness and memorability of the project idea
- **Replicability** – how others could be inspired by and run similar projects themselves
- **Reach** – the numbers of people involved in the project, particularly in engaging the wider community
- **Diversity** – of people engaged, particularly those who are ‘hard to reach’ or have challenging needs and who are brought together with the local community
- **Impact** – of the project (demonstrated qualitatively or quantitatively) on people’s health, well-being, relationships, skills, knowledge, sense of purpose and belonging.

**B. Timetable**

- Deadline for entries – **Wednesday 17 December, 2014**
- Shortlist announced – **End of March 2015**
- Winners announced – **June 2015**

**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 project you are entering for The Growing Localities Awards

Ambassadors Time Bank Gardening Project

2. Describe your project in one sentence

Single homeless people with multiple disadvantage volunteer and engage in a gardening project, a recycling project and the proposed upkeep of a local market space with a view to developing personal self-worth, confidence, overcoming isolation and impacting positively on our wider local surroundings.

3. Specify the setting(s) where your project is delivered (e.g. homeless agency, social housing, prison, community, etc)?

We are a homeless agency offering accommodation and Education, Training and Employment. Our project places volunteers with Core Landscapes in Canning Town, the Brick Box at Canning Town Caravanserai both based in the local community. Our volunteers are single homeless with a history of mental health issues, Criminal Justice histories, substance misuse and domestic violence. The proposed local market place is based within our local community of Canning Town.
4. What are the project’s objectives?

- To develop individual confidence and ability to benefit from structured and therapeutic time
- To engage residents in a programme of structured activities on their journey back to employment, independent living and citizenship
- To improve the social and physical surroundings and environment within Caritas Anchor House and Canning Town
- To develop and maintain a Garden Patio space at Caritas Anchor House
- To develop local partnership working between organisations in Canning Town
5. What are the project’s activities?

- Landscaping local spaces and allotments
- Plant identification;
- Plant maintenance
- Growing food and flowers,
- Recycling products
- Maintenance and upkeep of internal patio area
- Proposal to take on responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of local market area in an area of high deprivation and extensive regeneration
- To participate as a volunteer as part of a team of volunteers on a regular basis engaged in improving local spaces and contributing individually to the projects.
6. What has been the impact / achievement of the project?

- The project is developmental. It has provided structured activities to a marginalised and hard to engage group of people.
- It has been part of a significant increase in the number of volunteering hours undertaken within our organisation.
- This has impacted on the number of residents securing employment as a result of increased skills and confidence and individual sense of well-being.
- It has fostered a sense of ownership and belonging and commitment to the upkeep of the local area and the needs of the wider local community.
- There is now a patio garden space within our building.
- Engaging and motivating a hugely disadvantaged group of people through the Ambassadors Time Bank is the key to the distinctiveness and memorability of the project idea.
- We believe that this is a model that can be replicated.
- Our recent success in engaging local rough sleepers with our volunteers through a local church led to some of the rough sleepers being accommodated.
- Currently 15 individuals are engaged in the Gardening related activities, there are 10 Ambassadors with 50 residents volunteering across the organisation.
- Around 73% of our residents are from BME communities.
- We know that the project is impacting beneficially our residents through their volunteering activities and our physical space as well has improved.
7. How would you spend any prize money to further your project/initiative?

We would use any prize money to continue to fund the continued operation and development of the project. We would also seek to publicise the activities to a wider group of potential funders.

E. Submitting your entry

Please return this entry form by 5pm, Wednesday 17, Dec 2014 by uploading it on this page

Please add any documents, photos, videos or other media that are relevant to your entry and email them to awards@lemosandcrane.co.uk quoting ‘Growing Localities award entry’ and your organisation name in the subject heading.

If you have any problems uploading your entry please also email awards@lemosandcrane.co.uk

Thank you for your time and effort which is much appreciated. Good luck!