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
   Paxton Green Time Bank Nature and Crafts Group

2. Award category you are entering
   Nature-themed Arts & Crafts
3. **Describe your project in one sentence**

The group shares ideas and skills drawn from our different cultural approaches to nature to produce "what we need from what we have".

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<th>4. <strong>Specify the setting(s) where your project is delivered (e.g. homeless agency, housing organisation etc)?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Paxton Green Time bank, based in the community of the Kingswood Estate and surrounding areas, taking referrals from local GPs and also open to the whole community. Positive mental health and wellbeing remit.</td>
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<th>5. <strong>What are the project’s objectives?</strong></th>
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<td>To create a space for the mindful exploration, wellbeing and enjoyment of nature shared with each other.</td>
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To create a model for an open, accessible cohesive community group based on sharing and cascading craft skills.

To enable communication and create connections especially with those who are isolated or housebound.

To tap into and share an appreciation of the seasonal and spiritual aspects of nature across different cultures.

To envision our future together in a world of rapidly reducing resources.
6. What are the project’s activities?

Nature walks and urban foraging connecting us to and 'greening' our surroundings through a sense of stewardship.

Mindfulness exercises, wellbeing meditations and environmental art activities, integrating art and life.

Group discussions examining current environmental images and issues raised by group members connecting the local to the global.

Skill-sharing, make-do-and-mend, recycling and co-production of items needed by the group enabling us to value the handmade and reduce our carbon footprint by working with our hands.

Outreach by main group participants with housebound group members through deliverable craft mini - projects.

Wellbeing & making sessions using herbs, plants and scents, learning about the diverse histories of pharmacopoeia and plantlore.

Communicating our resilient group purpose and activities with other time banks via social media to enable others to replicate our successes and drive social change.
7. **What has been the impact / achievement of the project?**

Through activities such as walks with a historical, nature and geological theme. Trips including collecting, learning to distil lavender and making lavender bags. Wreath making including foraging for materials, clay work, and other shared crafting sessions. Timebank members have been able to use the five ways of wellbeing to improve their mental health. These are: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. The project gives people the chance to get together and try something different, express creativity and get to know each other in a safe environment.

8. **How is your project evaluated?**

We ask new members to fill in a wellbeing questionnaire when they join and again after 6 months. We also capture testimony, use photography, focus groups, and on-going evaluation by members themselves as part of our coproduction model. We also use time online software to monitor membership, exchanges of skills, skills exchanged and hours spent working on projects.

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

1. investing in materials that can't be foraged for e.g.:

   - base ingredients for herbal cosmetics and perfumes such as oils and fragrances.
   - safe organic paints, pigments, binders, glycerine, varnishes, wax.
   - wools, threads and materials that have been sustainably sourced.

2. investing in equipment that cannot be sourced from within the group e.g.
various craft/making and DIY tools such as: sewing, cutting and measuring tools, leather-crafting tools, jewellery-making and beadcraft equipment and tools

a couple of second-hand hand-operated sewing machines

equipment for moulds and casting

Two sets of woodcarving tools.

Preserving equipment.

3. Minibus travel for those who are physically incapacitated for educational trips to visit exhibitions, wild spaces and educational institutions. These could include: Craft Museums & exhibitions, the South London Herbarium, the Chelsea Physic Garden and the Stuart Hall Library at Iniva, Hoxton. This has an impressive array of books, catalogues and multimedia materials on culturally diverse and global art.

4. Buying plants, seeds and any edible ingredients.

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.