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

   Outdoor Classroom and Nature Garden

2. Award category you are entering

   Garden and Growing Food / Educational activities about wildlife and nature / reclaiming and developing wasteland
3. **Describe your project in one sentence**

Our Outdoor Classroom and Nature Garden Project has been developed from an unused wasteland area and transformed into a thriving resource that enables children from a largely deprived urban area to access nature and more importantly, be able to learn from it.

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

As mentioned above, our school is set in the middle of urban Barking and serves the children and families of the surrounding area.

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

The project objects are:

- To give inner city children opportunities to learn about the wildlife that is on their doorstep.
- For the whole school community (staff, pupils and parents) to feel that they have joint ownership of a project and have a say in any new developments.
- To give teachers the opportunity to teach children about other areas of the curriculum within this natural environment

6. **What are the project’s activities?**
7. What has been the impact / achievement of the project?

The area has enthused many children in nature (many of whom live in flats with no gardens) and helped to ignite what could well be a life time passion – and even a future career.

In addition to this, more lessons are being taught outside. Research shows that many children learn better outside the classroom. Another advantage of this is that less energy is consumed when learning is taken place outside the classroom (i.e. computers, lights etc.)

Other schools (locally, nationally and worldwide) have been inspired to create their own areas after a science conference was held at the school. In addition to this, our area has also had its own article published in a national magazine (Primary Science Magazine).

Some of the features of the area have contributed as evidence towards the school being the first ever in the LEA to be awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award. This has also attracted attention
from a school in Singapore who are due to visit the project later in the year.

8. How is your project evaluated?

A recent Green Flag inspection has recognised the positive impact that this area has had on the children and their learning.

The project is evaluated by the interest shown by the volume of pupils (also of other schools in the borough), teachers and parents who wish to use it and become involved.

NQTs also attend an induction course that is held at the area each year. Their evaluations are always positive and indicate that they would like to lead similar projects at their new schools.

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

We would purchase an awning that would offer shade from the intense heat of the summer and from the usual spring/summer showers. This would enable our children to get even more use from the area than they do already.
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](mailto: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.