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

   Reclaming land, rebuilding lives

2. Award category you are entering

   Reclaiming and Developing Wasteland

3. Describe your project in one sentence
People in recovery creating a beautiful space in an inner London churchyard, planting an orchard in the city, bringing benefit to others and building links with the local community, helping to end stigma and isolation particularly around addiction and homelessness

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

Garden course, The New Hanbury Project, SCT’s training and personal development centre in Shoreditch, East London. for people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, part of our pathway to recovery including Drop-In center for homeless and residential rehab hostel.

5. What are the project’s objectives?

We help students, most of whom have been homeless, develop self-esteem & gain independence and provide the opportunity to get back to work through a range of courses that also fit within SCT’s complete recovery pathway – ‘from a sleeping bag to a job’. An important step in the recovery process is having the chance to develop new skills and rebuild self-confidence.

The aim of the orchard is for the students to understand and experience planting larger kinds of plants; to have opportunities not normally available to inner city gardeners.

To learn about tree planting, measuring – turfing and planting distances – using basic maths, managing an orchard, pruning, care of fruit trees, fruit pollination, pest control, looking out for diseases, protecting early fruit, awareness of varieties.

To witness the link between tree planting and the harvesting of fruit; and to provide fruit for the cooking course at the New Hanbury Project and/or chutney for sale in our social enterprise coffee/bookshop, Paper and Cup. (www.paperandcup.co.uk)

To be aware of longer term maintenance, and passing something on to others.

‘I used to meet my dealer in the church gardens, now I am watching something I have done grow.’

6. What are the project’s activities?
Garden courses are: 2 days per week x 4 sessions x 48 weeks per year = 384 sessions per year
The course is run by a tutor who qualified with the Royal Horticultural Society
There are on average 6 students per session
Students work under the tutelage of the garden tutor and learn basic gardening skills; greenhouse growing, garden/border planting and maintenance; planting up large vegetable planters; the class includes novices and those with some experience
The NHP is responsible for the garden planting and maintenance of a large inner city churchyard that is used by the local community as a park. It is here that preparation for tree planting will start this Spring and take one term (12 weeks). (the trees were donated by a local resident in memory of his daughter who died)
Stories and photos are attached.

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

The impacts of the project are many:
- Addicts want everything immediately; learning to plant seeds, wait, look after them is a powerful metaphor for patience and time needed for recovery in their own lives; working for something that will last and has a future
- The Orchard reclaims a run-down area of a city churchyard for local benefit
- Increasing student’s knowledge, experience, expertise
- Providing experience to go on to further study at horticultural college, or other local garden organisations
- Better equipped to work; increased confidence, self esteem
- It will provide fresh fruit for the cooking course and for students to have at lunchtime.
- It will provide a new form of gardening for students to learn and will complement the other forms of planting and horticulture they practise.
- Students will learn and develop skills not normally available to city gardeners.
- We are hoping to extend the Orchard planting to develop a Shakespeare Garden for locals to enjoy – as he had connections locally and it is the 450th anniversary of his birth. This will link with art, storytelling, and woodwork courses as well as local businesses and residents, bringing all sorts of people together

8. How is your project evaluated?
Evaluation is carried out by
Initial meeting and assessment with NHP Manager who recommends suitable courses
Student questionnaire and feedback
Tutor assessment for each course is at the beginning and end of each term – there are four terms per year – Tutors and students look at skills learned, improved but also less obvious changes in anger management, self confidence, communication, friendships. Reconnections to family
Students have individual care and move on plans
Where students are keen to gain qualifications, or find employment they are helped to apply to horticultural college (students currently attend Capel Manor the RHS training centre and one student has a job with the royal parks)

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

We have the opportunity to work with another Charity which has recently moved into a refurbished church, St Clements in Eastcheap, EC1. There is a small, derelict churchyard, currently covered in building debris, broken tombstones, with dry empty borders and some shrubs. It is hemmed in by tall buildings, but with access from the street.

The charity has neither the capacity nor the remit to reclaim the plot but we would love to take this as an opportunity to use the experience of the Orchard Project and take on another space to design, prepare and plant. This would be a real transformation and make a difference to the city workers around and really give our students both a new challenge, but also the opportunity to build on what they have learned.

We would use prize money to fund garden tutor time and materials. We would need extra tutor time because the current course and maintenance of garden, greenhouse and orchard, alongside supporting students in their recovery, is only 2 days a week. We would need a third day a week for the duration of a new project in the city.

Further in to the future we would like to develop a gardening social enterprise, ‘Bloomin’ Heights’, for which these small defined but interesting projects would be good evidence of what we can offer.

Budget
one day per week x 1 term (12 weeks) to work on a garden project at St Clements, Eastcheap (in partnership with Amos Trust)
Tutor cost 12 days (including monitoring and evaluation of students work) £1,340

Plants for small inner city garden - Herbaceous/flowers/shrubs/bulbs £ 200

(Students also grow plants from seed in NHP greenhouse)

TOTAL £1,540

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.