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

St Mary’s secret Garden

2. Describe your project in one sentence

Our small community garden supports a number of groups, specifically those with learning disabilities, mental health problems, physical impairments and brain injuries, and older people, to engage in gardening and food growing activities, cooking and creating products for sale.

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

The project is delivered at our beautiful community garden; gardeners come to us through social services, Agewell UK, Mildmay Mission Hospital, medical professional referrals and self-referrals. We also do outreach workshops as well as garden maintenance at community events and organisations, a local church yard and local estate.

4. What are the project’s objectives?

Educating those around us: providing education in horticulture and healthy living

Relieve social inclusion: provide a safe environment for vulnerable and isolated individuals to work with others in an open garden
Provide therapy through horticulture; our programmes use our expertise to help people with particular needs to grow plants, make friends and live healthier lives.

Create a well-being hub for the community; our garden is a valuable resource to the local community, open to all and a venue for community events.

5. What are the project’s activities?

We run 2 therapeutic gardening days per week for people with learning disabilities and mental ill-health, one session per week with people living with HIV and Aids, one session per week with older people; these are our gardeners, who maintain the garden, grow and cook food and make products from the garden for sale. More importantly, they get a chance to socialise, work with others and garden within a community setting. We also run training 4 days a week for students with learning disabilities or mental ill-health carry out gardening work as a team within the garden and at local venues and get the opportunity to gain a qualification.

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

12 older people enjoyed ‘The Good Grub Club’. Some stayed on to volunteer with us and we have begun a second project for older people the, Vintage Gardeners.

21 local residents gained accredited qualifications. Over 40 residents attended basic gardening courses and workshops.

Over 12 young carers attended our gardening and cooking sessions. 16 carers attended our herbal produce workshops and ran an outreach workshop for Carers and people with Alzheimers.

Over 50 people have achieved accredited qualifications over the last 2 years including 35 young people.
We provide 16 therapeutic placements for vulnerable adults to attend the garden weekly

Up to 20 volunteers a week access the garden, including supported volunteers

Up to 26 people from Mildmay Mission Hospital attend a therapeutic gardening session weekly

We’ve hosted a variety of community events

7. How would you spend any prize money to further your project/initiative?

Improve our vegetable growing area – revamp dilapidated raised beds, create new accessible food growing beds and repair paving

Revamp our herb and sensory area and create information signs for garden visitors

Develop further outreach activities such as herbal workshops

Have a pop-up consultation event to engage the local community in developing the garden into the future

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!