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

Environmental Music

2. Award category you are entering

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES ABOUT WILDLIFE AND NATURE

3. Describe your project in one sentence

Children with disability are collecting litter from their local river and design music instruments out
of it to then record their music to tell the story of their local river.

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

The project is currently trailed in one school for children with special needs in London.

5. What are the project’s objectives?

The Objectives are:

1. Increase self – esteem of children with learning disability
2. Learn new skills in a playful way such as motoric skills whilst creating the instruments
3. Increase health and wellbeing through outdoor activity
4. Improve social skills whilst working as a team
5. Encourage and stimulate creativity amongst children
6. Provide space for Musial education and autonomous decision making.
7. Raise awareness of litter problem in the area
8. Increase the knowledge about the impact of litter on the environment
9. Improve children’s knowledge about the local river and wildlife
10. Improve overall aesthetics of area by removing rubbish
11. Building a sense of shared responsibility and community pride for the local environment

Research shows that children with learning disabilities are especially likely to suffer from self-esteem issues. Self-esteem is an important factor in learning new skills and in success at school. Poorer young people (disabled or not) are often socially isolated or aware of the stigma associated with poverty, which can lead to low self-esteem, experts recognise the importance of positive self-esteem to healthy development.

The first-hand knowledge of their environment helps to give young people a sense of belonging and can inspire them with ideas on how to care for and improve the area, and the quality of life for the whole community. In addition, the health and well-being of children will be improved through outdoor activity.

Children will have more opportunity for autonomous action and learn new skills and confidence. Disabled children don’t often have the chance to make autonomous decisions and take actions outside school as they are often rely on their carers and family. Within the environment we will create and supervise, children will be able to make their own decisions. We will make the children feel proud of their achievements by providing the opportunity to record their musical creation and
upload it to the Thames21 website so that it will be available to thousands of people.
6. What are the project’s activities?

Thames21 organise a litter pick in the local area. Before, during the event and after the event the officer talks to the children and explains the impact of litter on the local environment and how to look after the local environment.

Once back in the class room the litter will be sorted and participants can decide which litter can be useful to create music instruments. The litter is then cleaned and music instruments are designed.

Once the instruments are ready Thames21 staff goes into the school again to teach the group a basic rhythm to play with the self-made litter music instruments. The sound will then be recorded using professional recording equipment. Once recorded the soundtrack will be enhanced in a record studio. The soundtrack from the children’s instruments is used as a foundation to compose a soundtrack. Additional sound elements such as sound of a stream and pebbles in water as well as additional music will be added to create a coherent piece of music.

The final soundtrack is then given to all children and will be uploaded to our Thames21 website for
everybody to listen to and enjoy.

Children with their music instruments

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

1. Children are very excited and proud of their achievement and are keen to continue the activity.
2. Children learnt new skills (motoric and social skills, team work)
3. Children increased health and wellbeing through outdoor activity
4. Creativity stimulated amongst children
5. Musical education and autonomous decision making have been encouraged
6. Awareness of litter problem in the area has been increased
7. Knowledge about the impact of litter on the environment has increased
8. Children’s knowledge about the local river and wildlife improved
9. Overall aesthetics of area improved by removing rubbish
10. Project is run as part of Duke of Edinburgh award
8. How is your project evaluated?

An accessibility questionnaire will be sent out to teachers prior to an event, this will ensure that we have information on the group and in addition inform the group of our strategy to make the event as accessible as possible. Following an event we would send out a follow up questionnaire to learn how the event went from the groups’ point of view and how we could improve future events. This valuable feedback will allow us over time to further develop and improve the accessibility to our events.

In addition, our staff will monitor the group and collect feedback from participants during the activity to monitor and if necessary improve performance.

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

We are currently trailing the project with only one school. The group is very small and we would love to roll out the project across London and work with more schools and children. The prize money would be used to increase our activity.

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.