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

   The Edible Bus Stop

2. Award category you are entering

   GARDENING AND GROWING FOOD
3. **Describe your project in one sentence**

The Edible Bus Stop aims to transform neglected public sites into valuable community growing spaces through design led initiatives.

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

Public Realm sites, unloved public spaces in need of rejuvenation through the greening of the grey or unused land – In the case of this funding application, we are applying for our Crystal Palace Bus Station garden - situated on lawn running adjacent to the bus station. We are collaborating with Transition Town Crystal Palace to engage with the local community, which have already, with our encouragement, started to prepare this site with soil improvement.

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

Working closely with each community, the Edible Bus Stop (EBS) ambition is to provide the framework for locals to utilise neglected and/or forlorn public spaces more productively. We want to move away from the usual stereotype of the community garden, using creatively inspired design to raise their profile. Our vision is to explore the juxtaposition of using high-end aesthetics at lower end budgets to create designs that promote harmonious community spaces that are landmarks, demonstrating that good design is not socially exclusive.

The core of our ethos is the belief that *a brutal landscape makes for a brutal outlook*, and that by taking responsibility for our neglected 'public' spaces we can change people’s perceptions and improve upon the experience of inner city living.

6. **What are the project’s activities?**
Our gardens provide a place for people to come together for the good of the neighbourhood and get to know each other. They become, urban village greens for people to find space to sit and relax in amongst the urban hustle and bustle. They are a resource for education, helping people to learn about where their food comes from and how to grow and maintain a garden - learning ideas that they can take home and recreate in their garden, balcony or window box.

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

It is proven that transforming grey urban space into green ones is beneficial to your health, both mental and physical. Green space improves behavioural issues that occur when you are constantly surrounded by grey - we have seen a considerable improvement in the way people use the gardened spaces, litter has been reduced and anti-social behaviour has been significantly reduced.

In economic terms, by making a place more inviting it encourages more people to stay in the area, utilising local businesses. Local businesses have been very supportive of the work we have carried out to date, some of which have used some of the produce grown in the garden.

The original Edible Bus Stop on Landor Road, is used and enjoyed by many people in its locality, from keen volunteer gardeners, uses of the bus stop, workers and outpatients from the hospital opposite the site and from neighbours who come to enjoy it’s splendour.

8. How is your project evaluated?
By the locals who love the gardens we produce. Our original Edible Bus Stop on the Landor Road, the first of the Major of London’s Pocket Parks to be realised, has a hard core group of gardeners and is well loved and respected within its neighbourhood, where it has become a local landmark of pride. To have received Pocket Park funding from City Hall involved a very detailed review of our success with taking on the original neglected piece of land and animating it with the community. This, alongside our designs and ideas impressed both City Hall and Lambeth.

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

The prize money would be spent on the Crystal Palace Bus Station gardens planting needs (Fruit trees, fruit bushes, hardy herbs and edible flowers, organic fertiliser and soil improver), along with gardening tools and public liability insurance to cover Edible Bus Stop gardening activities and public engagement events and celebrations. (i.e. a Grand Opening and Harvesting events) There will be a dedicated page for the garden on the our website where people can sign up to volunteer and be kept in touch with news and events. It would also cover printing costs and signage for the garden.

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.