

# We Can Create Fund

Example Application

Please tell us about your organisation (if applying as a partnership, tell us about them too)

Please include details about: the history of your group; what you are currently working on; how many people are involved; how many people you work with each year.

We are a community organisation and limited company called Fairlop Meets. We started in 2018 because there weren't many opportunities for local people to spend time together. We organise regular activities:

- a weekly 'coffee and conversation' drop-in;
- an after-school club three nights a week;
- weekly meals where people are encouraged to bring a friend who has not attended before; and
- 10 'fun-days' in the school holidays each year.

Approximately 200 people come to our activities each year. We have 1 full-time manager supported by 10 regular volunteers and 20 occasional volunteers.

Which of our target audiences do you work with?

Families; children and young people; older people

How do you work with the group(s)?

Please give details how your organisation works with each group and what changes they experience as a result. If you've worked with them before to help design a new project, please tell us about that.

These three groups regularly attend all our activities:

- Our drop-ins are mostly attended by older people. They regularly tell us that the drop-ins improve their happiness and social connection.
- After-school club is for children. We ask all parents to rate the after-school club and the average is 6.5/10.
- 'Fun-days' are for families. They encourage children to play, socialise and get exercise. It also helps people spend quality time together as a family. The days regularly get 50 attendees which shows how much families appreciate them. 3-4 times a year we ask people to fill in a feedback form after the fun-days and 90% of people said that the days were 'good' or 'really good' for their family's wellbeing, and 60% said they or their child made a new friend.

We use the feedback from our surveys to help design our future projects. This helps people feel like they're more involved.

## What is your idea for an arts or culture project?

Please mention: your concept; who you hope will take part; what the final outcome might look like, and how participants will shape it; how your project will enhance what you already do.

We want to create a new sculpture in Fairlop Waters that represents local people. At a recent drop-in, people were discussing how our histories and cultures aren't well represented in the park. Some people said they would love to show pride in our area, and make it feel more attractive, but wouldn't know where to start.

We would like to run creative workshops so that the groups we work with can help to design the sculpture. It also means people can learn a new skill and get involved in a free activity if they don't have a lot of money. Together we can decide together what the sculpture should look like and what it represents.

We think this will also be a great way to get new people into Fairlop Meets and get a range of people from different ages and backgrounds working together.

## Where will your project activities take place?

We want to understand the types of venues your project will be in and their locations.

We usually meet at Fulwell Cross Library or at Fairlop Waters. The sculpture would be in Fairlop Waters.

## How will you engage new people in your project?

We are expecting more than half of participants to be new to your organisation. How will you promote your activity to people you haven't worked with before? Will you partner with other groups, and who might they be? What do you think your total numbers of participants will be?

Our organisation is constantly looking to engage new local people. We will partner with the local High School, Play Centre and Library to increase numbers of children and older people involved in the project. So far, they all have promised to promote the opportunity with their community members.

We will also produce flyers to be placed in nearby public places and businesses, such as cafés, faith venues and the library. We will ask people who currently come to our projects to bring a friend or neighbour along. We will ask the park wardens if we can put up a weatherproof poster, and if we can hold a stall there on two weekends to sign people up to take part.

## What difference do you hope that your project will make to local people?

Your answer must refer to at least one Colours of Redbridge objectives, and up to two others if you wish. Please include how you will find out whether you have made a difference (e.g. numbers taking part, feedback forms, case studies).

We believe that our project will 'Bring the joy' - bringing different communities together through a fun activity. There aren't many opportunities for older people to do an activity with people of other ages, so this will be quite a new way for us to work together. The process will help people talk about their histories and culture, which will be an exciting way to share stories and create a lasting piece of artwork for the park.

We also think the project 'Boosts our neighbourhood' by activating spaces with local people and stories. The park would be improved by the sculpture, making the area feel vibrant and encouraging more people to come to visit the park.

We will monitor the number of people taking park. Feedback forms will see if people have enjoyed the activity, and if they feel it makes the park more interesting and vibrant to visit.

## How might this funding and training support your organisation in the long-term?

We want to know how you might develop your creative programme in the future and what difference this will make to your organisation and the communities you work with.

This project gives us a new way to attract new community members, support local people to develop their skills, and increase people's sense of ownership of their local area. In future years the project could shift from sculpture to other activities such as mural painting or garden design, depending on what people want. We hope that we could also add more sculptures to the park to make an art trail, if this was successful. This will continue to 'bring the joy' and 'boost our neighbourhood' in the future. This project may also open up new funding opportunities for our organisation by giving access to arts grants, which will support our financial sustainability.

## Please outline the budget for your funding

We'd like you to tell us the amounts you'll allocate to a set of budget headings (see below). You will be able to adapt your spending if you need to once the project has started, but if you're expecting significant changes from what you said in your form please let us know.

- Staffing: £700 (project manager and workshop assistant for the project)
- Professional support: £1,500 (workshop facilitation and building the sculpture)
- Materials / equipment: £2,000-3,000 (workshop materials and for the sculpture)
- Publicity: £300 (printing costs, photography for the event)
- Organisational overheads: £250 (accountancy, volunteer coordinator costs)

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- Volunteer expenses: £100 (2 volunteers for 3 workshops and 4 volunteers for build session)
  - Sundries: £50 (refreshments for workshop and build session)
  - Total: £4,900 - £5,900