

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - INFORMAL EDUCATION AND GREEN FUNDING

This call for proposals is to provide grants to London-based charities working in the sectors of informal learning, special educational needs (SEN), green spaces, green learning and biodiversity.

This call looks to fund **new** work in two project areas:

INFORMAL EDUCATION

Helping young people, including those with SEN, to develop soft skills, knowledge, employment skills, and/or social capital outside of the formal learning spaces.

Eligible projects will target young people aged 0-25 to:

- Broaden their horizons and gain new experiences;
- Obtain pathways to higher education, employment and/or training;
- Improve awareness of career prospects and raise aspirations;
- Develop life skills, including confidence, resilience and social capital;
- Gain access to cultural institutions, such as museums and galleries, and STEAM opportunities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) in an informal setting.

Who can apply:

For this project area, only **charities with a turnover of more than £1M are eligible to apply** for a grant of up to 10% of their last year's turnover, with a maximum potential grant size of £200K.

Charities with a turnover of less than £1M are already well-represented in our Informal Education portfolio and so **not** eligible for the Open Call at this time.

GREEN GRANTS

Working to improve London's green space provision and increase biodiversity.

Eligible charities will design, develop and deliver:

- Biodiversity and urban greening projects, for example (but not limited to) green roofs, tree planting, rewilding, and creation of wetlands. Green engagement projects improving access to green spaces or helping Londoners benefit from the natural environment, for example (but not limited to) community gardening, disabled access improvements, reuse and recycling initiatives and green social prescribing
- Environmental education programmes for young people and/or the local community

Who can apply:

For this project area, **charities with a turnover between £250K and £1M are eligible to apply for a grant of up to £25K**, provided they are based in the following boroughs:

Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham, Brent, Camden, Islington, City of London, Lambeth and Southwark.

Charities with a turnover of more than £1M are eligible to apply for a grant of up to 10% of their last year's turnover, with a maximum potential grant size of £200K. These can operate anywhere within London.

The project you are applying for must respond to one or more of the elements listed above, and activities should start between August 2023 and April 2024. The grant activities must be completed by the end of 2025.

If you have any questions about your organisation's eligibility or the suitability of the project, please feel free to call us on 020 7420 0655.

Types of work we will fund:

We will take a particular interest in enterprising and innovative ideas, and work led by inspiring, visionary individuals and teams who are passionate about their work.

- Sustainable projects, i.e. projects that can continue once the grant period is over, or have lasting benefits
- Pilot projects
- Training
- Capital projects, with associated programming
- Feasibility studies, project evaluations and community consultations will be considered as part of wider programming

Previous and current Kusuma grantees

We are prioritising new applicants in this call, however, previous Kusuma Trust (KTUK) grantees will be considered. Current KTUK grantholders, please speak to us before applying. Organisations who have been declined a grant from KTUK in the past 12 months should also speak to us before applying.

ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Eligibility

You must:

- Be a registered charity in England with a turnover of over £250K in your latest published accounts to apply for a green grant. Only organisations with a turnover greater than £1M are eligible for the informal education stream.
- The project being applied for must take place entirely within the 33 boroughs of London.
- Projects that only engage the community of one borough must be impacting in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, Brent, Camden, Islington, City of London, Lambeth, or Southwark
- Hold a valid UK registered bank account in the name of the organisation
- Have an active website
- Have governance and financial management systems appropriate to your overall work and the proposed programme
- Hold relevant DBS checks and safeguarding policies and procedures
- Have paid staff

Organisational Exclusion Criteria:

- Schools, colleges, or nurseries, even if registered charities
- Places of worship, even if registered charities
- Political organisations, or those primarily concerned with policy influencing or advocacy

Programmatic Exclusion Criteria

- Campaigning programmes
- Funding for projects or programmes that are completed
- Funding for the practice of religion, or any activities that actively promote religion or particular belief systems
- Organisations that benefit only one or a small number of individuals (e.g. under 10)
- Programmes of work that are primarily the responsibility of statutory authorities
- Mental health/emotional wellbeing work that is not part of wider programming
- Sports activities that are not part of wider programming

ASSESSMENT

The application process consists of a two page concept note and budget. The application will be assessed against the following criteria:

You must show that:

- There is a need for the project you are proposing
- The project will change the lives of Londoners in line with at least one of the two project areas listed above

- You have a history of successfully delivering programmes in the sector, and the capacity to implement grants effectively
- The project will be monitored and evaluated effectively
- KTUK funds will make a demonstrable difference to your ability to work
- You have taken steps to ensure the sustainability of the project if applicable
- Core operating costs do not account for more than 20% of the budget
- The size of the grant must not exceed more than 10% of an organisation's budget
- The project offers reasonable cost per beneficiary.
- For capital projects, builds which have already received planning permission from the local authority, and have confirmed costings through a tendering process will be looked upon favourably in this grant round.

Guidance on budget:

- Please provide a specific, detailed budget. For each major line item, please include a breakdown of the costs included in that line item (for example within staffing, please give details of the staff members, their annual salary and the percentage of their time allocated to the project).
- For those operating on a full cost recovery model, please provide information on any central functions included in the budget.

If your application is successful, due diligence will be carried out by KTUK. This will include (but not limited to) reviewing governance and management, financial accounts, the capacity to implement projects, technical expertise and current partnerships.

HOW TO APPLY

If your organisation and proposed project fit the criteria above, please download the concept note. Please upload the completed document and additional attachments by following the link at the bottom of the concept note.

The final closing date is **14 April 2023**, however we may close the application process once we have received 100 applications if we deem the quality of applications to be sufficient. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a 90 minute due diligence meeting with the Grants Team. We aim to have made final decisions regarding grant recipients by the end of July.

If you are unsure of whether your organisation is eligible to apply to the open call, or would like to discuss your proposal with us before submitting your application, please get in touch with us at grants@kusumatrust.org. Our team would be happy to arrange a phone call with you.