

Contingency Funding Covid Community Fund – 2021



Walk East

Total award - £4,500

Funding Category:
Covid-19 Organisational
Support - major

Amount requested:
£4,500

Recommendation:
£4,500

Recommendation

Walk East is a not-for-profit social enterprise set up in 2010 to promote the pleasures and benefits of walking – for health and wellbeing, discovery, and community – with Tower Hamlets residents.

Activities include;

- Tower Hamlets weekly health walks programme (seven community-based walk groups).
- Two workplace walk groups
- Walk leader training sessions, articles written for Our East End on self-guided walks.
- A Taste of Watney Market: working with 24 Shadwell residents to create Bangladeshi recipe cards, and then a cookbook including articles on local food-growing projects, and a 10-week projects to help 44 local residents develop skills in archive research and creating booklets on Bethnal Green housing heritage, the East End's brewing heritage, and Victorian Footprints (with Oxford House).

Covid-19 impact

Group walks and face-to-face community projects had to be suspended for much of the past year in line with public health guidance: suspended Mar-Aug 2020, limited activity Sept-Dec 2020, suspended again Dec 2020 – Mar 2021, and re-started from Apr 2021.

Funding for managing the health walks programme in Tower Hamlets – usually around £5-6,000 per annum from LBTH (sourced from Transport for London LIP funding) – was not renewed for 2020-21 due to shortfalls in LIP funding, leading to a substantial shortfall in Walk East's income.

Grant funding for community heritage and journalism projects was suspended by most foundations.

To help mitigate impact of covid

The organisation continued small pieces of work to sustain income during lockdown - Writing a quarterly walk feature for Our East End (£1,000 per annum) and a Zoom-based 'History on the Doorstep' project in Feb-Mar 2021. This application provides specific clear details about what is to be put in place with our funding. It uses the organisations experiences and local knowledge to demonstrate the need for the funding now and how it will contribute to the protection of future services. It clearly meets our priorities for residents as

well as supporting a thriving voluntary sector.
Equalities considerations can be seen within answered.

Funding Award Details

Walk East would like to undertake two projects to help become more financially resilient and to pivot activities to reach new audiences online, completely re-designing the organisations website to become a 'hub' of East End walking routes and resources for Tower Hamlets residents, together with an online shop and associated social media work to extend reach towards more people living in the borough. publishing a book (for sale) of 10-12 self-guided walks 'East End Footprints' – aimed primarily at Tower Hamlets residents.



Emmott Close Senior Citizen Club

Total award - £4,500

Recommendation

Funding Category:
Covid-19 Organisational
Support - major

Amount requested:
£4,500

Recommendation:
£4,500

Emmott Close Senior Citizen Club have applied for £4,500 of the Covid Community Fund to fully reopen its doors to the local community and start delivering services. The organisation is in itself is located in a purpose built setting for older residents and have been delivering in the community for the last 50 years as set out in their application. They further state in their application that the Centre remained closed from March 2020 to meet covid19 restrictions.

Once the organisation safely fully reopen then they will commence their programme of outreach activities to the local community and the funds will be used for the following;

- Weekly social activities to re-start for local older people.
- Advice on welfare and other related enquires, signposting
- To pay for equipment, electric, gas, insurance.

Outreach work to ensure we are reaching all elders and other vulnerable local people, including providing sign posting and direct support. 20 weeks x £15 per hr x 2hrs per weeks. £600

Keep providing hot meals and continued support for these residents who can't get out and about. Food, containers and delivery costs.

Food and equipment £135 per week x 20 weeks, £2,700, workers time including engaging with residents, cooking, shopping and delivery £15 x 4 hrs per week x 20 weeks £1,200.

Covid has had a significant impact on the organisation and their ability to

deliver services as well as the human impact of losing members due to covid. The remaining members of the senior citizens club would like normal services and activities to resume as soon as possible allowing them to partake in coffee mornings, bingo, luncheon clubs as soon as possible.

The organisation is applying to the Covid Community Fund because there is a need to continue to provide additional service responding the needs of local vulnerable elders and others in the community as they have detailed in their application form.

This is the only facility in ocean area that provide help and support to older residents and the council recently refurbished the centre costing over £40k.

Funding Award Details

It is clear this proposal will continue to support several very vulnerable older people. Funding these Covid related activities into the winter, when we could see an increase in transmission of the virus alongside the flu, will result in better outcomes for those that receive the services. It will give the organisation time to find further funding to continue activities in the new year. This community group is a small front-line provider.



Grand Union Music Theatre Ltd

Total award - £5,000

Recommendation

By its nature, the Grand Union's work depends very much on face to face communication, word of mouth and patient leg-work; on the other hand, the nature of the pandemic and how the Government has been handling it, has made this approach more or less impossible over the last year or so.

Due to covid and the social distancing measures introduced to ensure continuation of service in a safe covid reliant way. GU have implemented a range of social distancing measures in place as detailed below and the covid community fund will help the organisation deliver their upcoming programme safely to residents.

Moreover, with over a year of events being cancelled or postponed they have lost a vital revenue stream through ticket sales and fees which amounts to about £25,000. These additional costs of implementing covid safety measures have all had an impact on the organisation's finances.

The organisation is requesting funding for:

Covid Impact

- last 18 months the organisation had to cancel or delay long-planned Youth Orchestra workshops based at Rich Mix, training sessions for emerging artists at Poplar Union, specialist projects for the Bengali community, and a large-scale participatory project at St John on Bethnal Green.
- Continued to deliver scaled down service online by streaming events

Funding Category:

Organisational
Support - major

Amount requested:

£5,000

Recommendation:

£5,000

and regular contact via social media - which involved purchasing new digital, sound and video equipment – and recasting work in a number of imaginative ways.

- This Fund will help us through a difficult short period of transition, until we can resume developing and delivering cost-effective creative work again, already set up for later in the autumn. This support is vital for us to be able to produce and deliver projects to replace those cancelled or postponed, or adapt them to the current climate, and keep the company running to ensure it continues to provide decades of service to the citizens of Tower Hamlets.

Funding Award Details

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Moreover, with over a year of events being cancelled or postponed they have lost a vital revenue stream through ticket sales and fees which amounts to about £25,000. These additional costs of implementing covid safety measures have all had an impact on the organisation's finances.

The organisation is requesting funding for costs associated with organisational repurposing due to covid -19