

4 June 2019

Derwent London announces successful applications for its Spring 2019 Community Fund

Derwent London is pleased to announce the successful applicants for its Community Fund (spring 2019 round) from local community groups and residents in Fitzrovia & West End and Tech Belt*.



Pop Up Business School in Westminster – 2018



The Garden Classroom – 2018

Over £88,000 is being awarded to the following projects for spring 2019:

Fitzrovia & West End:

- All Souls Clubhouse** – lunch club and coffee mornings for the elderly
- Doorstep Library Network** – literacy support for families
- Fitzrovia Youth in Action** – community Christmas dinner
- Mission Remission** – support group for cancer survivors
- Soup Kitchen at American International Church** – welcome service at soup kitchen
- St Mary Magdalene School** – library bus project
- West London Mission** – employment programme for the homeless

Tech Belt:

- Coney Ltd** – storytelling and digital programming course with Mulberry School
- KIDS** – playground water play rejuvenation
- Peer UK** – zine-making workshops
- St Hilda's East Community Centre** – Boys Space project
- The Spitz Charitable Trust** – one to one music sessions at Bridgeside Lodge
- The Stuart Low Trust** – therapeutic gardening club at Culpeper Community Garden

The projects chosen were from a large number of applications which were submitted as part of the process. In both areas, community panels were convened with officers from the local authorities and staff from Derwent London, to contribute to the decision-making process. There was an impressive range of applications and the winning entries have been selected on the basis that they will offer positive benefits – from employment to environmental, social, cultural, arts and health.

John Davies, Head of Sustainability at Derwent London, commented:

“Now six years into our Fund, we are once again really pleased to see such a great range of local projects and to be able to support these different initiatives which are much needed in the local areas. We are committed to continuing the fund and will be offering the second tranche of the Tech Belt fund in autumn 2019, to give a chance for others to see their projects flourish.”

**The Tech Belt is defined here as the area extending from King's Cross to Whitechapel, largely covering EC1 & E1.*

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Notes to editors**Derwent London plc**

Derwent London plc owns 86 buildings in a commercial real estate portfolio predominantly in central London valued at £5.2 billion (including joint ventures) as at 31 December 2018, making it the largest London-focused real estate investment trust (REIT).

Our experienced team has a long track record of creating value throughout the property cycle by regenerating our buildings via development or refurbishment, effective asset management and capital recycling.

We typically acquire central London properties off-market with low capital values and modest rents in improving locations, most of which are either in the West End or the Tech Belt. We capitalise on the unique qualities of each of our properties – taking a fresh approach to the regeneration of every building with a focus on anticipating tenant requirements and an emphasis on design.

Reflecting and supporting our long-term success, the business has a strong balance sheet with modest leverage, a robust income stream and flexible financing.

Landmark schemes in our 5.4 million sq ft portfolio include White Collar Factory EC1, Angel Building EC1, The Buckley Building EC1, 1-2 Stephen Street W1, Horseferry House SW1 and Tea Building E1.

In 2019 to date, the Group has won the CoStar West End Deal of the Year for Brunel Building. In 2018, we won EG Offices Company of the Year, whilst White Collar Factory scooped RIBA National and London awards, RICS National and London awards, two BCO awards for Commercial Workplace and Innovation, an EG Creative Places award and an NLA Wellbeing award. 25 Savile Row also won RIBA National and London awards and SKA Gold for the fit-out. In 2013 Derwent London launched a voluntary Community Fund and has to date supported 89 community projects in Fitzrovia and the Tech Belt.

For further information see www.derwentlondon.com or follow us on Twitter at @derwentlondon

Background to the Derwent London Community Fund

Derwent London's Community Fund forms part of the Group's on-going sustainability programme and commitment to developing community engagement. Creating Value in the Community is a key priority and, to deliver on this principle, the Group has evolved a voluntary Community Fund to support local projects in the key areas in which it operates. Funds are designed to support projects with a focus on community events, environmental improvements, health & well-being activities, music & culture and ongoing help for disadvantaged/isolated groups. Starting with Fitzrovia in 2013, the Group offered a £250,000 Community Fund and supported 17 local projects from 2013 – 2015. Notable projects have included resurfacing a multi-use games area, music workshops for people with mental health problems, art project for homeless people and lunch club for the elderly. In 2016, Derwent London announced an extension to the fund of £300,000 to be shared equally in Fitzrovia and now in the Tech Belt, to be spread over three years and a further £300,000 commitment was made to continue the Fund from January 2019 for three years, with the Fitzrovia scope being widened to include the West End.

Community Fund in Fitzrovia & West End

The Fitzrovia & West End fund runs once a year and registered charities can apply for £10,000 maximum; non-registered groups, businesses and individuals can apply for £2,000 maximum.

Community Fund in Tech Belt

The Tech Belt Community Fund runs twice a year (spring and autumn) offering c.£25,000 each time. The context, background and issues around the considerably larger Tech Belt area are somewhat different and more diverse than Fitzrovia and so the scope has been extended to support: young people, training & upskilling, increasing employment/apprenticeship opportunities for disadvantaged people in the area and in particular for access into tech/startup businesses; health & well-being activities for all generations; worthwhile community events, music, culture & arts; small improvements to public space. Registered charities can apply for £5,000 maximum; non-registered groups, businesses and individuals can apply for £2,000 maximum.

Applications are considered by representatives from Derwent London and the local community. For further information and how to apply, please visit: www.derwentlondon.com/community-fund or contact Derwent London, Tel: 020 7659 3000 or email community@derwentlondon.com

Broader community/employment initiatives

Building on its long-term sustainability principles, the Group are evolving wider support opportunities with individuals and organisations in the area. Initiatives include work placements, mentoring and volunteering opportunities for our staff.

Derwent London Community Fund – Organisations funded so far:

2013 – Fitzrovia:

Fitzrovia Centre – community garden at the centre

Fitzrovia Youth in Action – resurfacing the multi-use games area at The Warren & local football league

All Souls Primary School – running lunch and after-school clubs and parenting classes

All Souls Clubhouse – Wednesday Lunch Club for older people

Fitzrovia Trust – replanting the garden at the Fitzrovia Nursery

2014 – Fitzrovia:

Fitzrovia Noir – 140 Characters or less - an art project portraying streetlife in Fitzrovia

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association – Positive Health exercise and massage project for women

Upbeat Music – Songs inspired by Dylan Thomas – music project for people with mental health issues

All Souls Clubhouse – supporting the Clubcare project and providing new kitchen facilities

All Souls Primary School – Learning together through technology; photography project for children

Women Like Us – From Playground to Payslip – supporting Fitzrovia parents to combine work and family life

ARTfitzrovia – Taking the next steps – expanding the platform for this art collective for homeless adults

2015 – Fitzrovia:

All Souls Clubhouse – After school football club & Clubkicks

Fitzrovia Community Centre – Arts programme

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association – Fitzrovia Positive Health

Fitzrovia Youth in Action – Community events programme

Upbeat Music & Mental Health – Streets of London music workshop and showcase

2016 – Fitzrovia

All Souls Clubhouse – Wednesday Lunch Club

FitzFest – Classical music festival and education programme 2016/17

Fitzrovia Centre – Project Feel Well Fitzrovia

Fitzrovia Trust – Playground improvements

Holcroft Residents Association – Greening Carburton Street

Soup Kitchen – Kitchen costs

Table Tennis Fight Club – Community programme

2016 summer – Tech Belt:

All Change Arts – Meaning to Say creative project for people with mental health problems and Word Festival event June 2017

The Parent House – Parent to Parent Outreach training programme for parent volunteers to encourage use of drop-in services offering mentoring, work placements, crèche

Theatre Centre – Our Place community drama programme for young people, with performance at Shoreditch Town Hall

St Luke's Parochial – 3 community events: Older people celebration October; Christmas Fayre & Lunch

St Hilda's East, Boundary Women's Project – 'ABC' confidence building network events for socially excluded women

Finsbury & Clerkenwell Volunteers – Lunch & Telephone Club befriending and support for older people around Old Street

2016 winter – Tech Belt:

Centre 404 – EC1 family support and drop-in services

Quaker Court TMO – Intergenerational story and drama project

St Hilda's East Community Centre – Older people's healthy living group

Inspire/ St Monica's Primary School – iDiscover project promoting STEM subjects

Inspire/Central Foundation Boys School – Connecting Silicon Hack

St Luke's Parochial Trust – EC1 collaborative public art project

Islington Play Association – This is real and it's yours! Toffee Park Playground redesign

2017 – Fitzrovia

All Souls Clubhouse – Wednesday Lunch Club
Fitzrovia Centre – Camels in the Community school art project
Fitzrovia Chapel – Community engagement and events
Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association – Positive Health project
Fitzrovia Youth in Action – Active Fitzrovia intergenerational exercise programme
Holcroft Court Residents Association – Greening of Carburton Street
Whitefield Charity Soup Kitchen – Welcomer funding

2017 spring – Tech Belt

Urban MBA – Starting it up! Project
The Spitz Charitable Trust – Music for well-being workshops
Ministry of Stories – children’s writing programme
Islington Play Association – Acting Freely drama workshop
Cardboard Citizens – Peer to Peer homeless mentoring
St Hilda’s East Community Centre – Active Ants nature play

2017 autumn – Tech Belt

Centre 404 – EC1 family support and drop-in services
Society Links Tower Hamlets – Digital Explorers for Beginners
Spitz Charitable Trust – Wellbeing exchange through cross-generational music-making
St Hilda’s East Community Centre – Surajumuki creates headlines
The Garden Classroom – The Secret Garden shared
Young Actors Theatre – Stage Door

2018 spring – Fitzrovia

All Souls Clubhouse – Wednesday Lunch Club
All Souls Primary School – Blue Plaque Walk project
Fitzrovia Centre – Heroes’ journey intergenerational arts project
Fitzrovia Chapel – Autumn exhibition
Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association – Positive Health project
Fitzrovia Youth in Action – Community Christmas lunch
Whitefield Charity Soup Kitchen – Soup kitchen costs

2018 spring – Tech Belt

Foundation for Change – The NEXT psychology project for the homeless
Inspire for Central Foundation School for boys – Leadership academy
Islington Boat Club - Summersiversity
Islington Play Association – Sunny Saturdays
The Peel – Clerkenwell Coding Club for children
St Hilda’s East Community Centre – Community food co-op outreach
The Parent House – Outreach in the community

2018 autumn - Tech Belt

Access to Sports – Holiday programme
Holborn Community Association – Creative arts for young people
Providence Row – Breakfast service
Society Links – Digital Explorer
Soapbox – Digital Talent Pipeline
Urban MBA – The Untold Truth