

Press release
10 June 2020

Derwent London Spring 2020 Community Fund

Derwent London plc (“Derwent London” / “the Group”) is pleased to announce the successful applications for its Spring 2020 Community Fund– covering Fitzrovia & West End and the Tech Belt*. In response to the current COVID-19 crisis, Derwent has increased the Community Fund to support a broader number of local organisations who are dealing with challenges facing communities in this crisis. The Community Fund is part of the Group’s broader commitment to nurturing the communities we are part of.



Coney – We Are Shadows storytelling & digital programming 2019



Library bus for St Mary Magdalene School 2019

Fitzrovia & West End:

Soup Kitchen at the International Church – Core costs to maintain the service

Fitzrovia Youth in Action – Young person’s better choices project

Mission Remission – Online support group for cancer patients and survivors

Foodcycle Marylebone – Tackling food poverty

Holcroft Court Residents Association –Greening project on Carburton Street

All Souls Clubhouse – Core funding to maintain elderly lunch club service during Covid-19

Mousetrap Theatre Projects – Projects for core funding during Covid-19

Tech Belt:

Literacy Pirates – Young authors’ book project

Foundation for Change – Women’s support group

Coney Ltd– Digital upskilling programme for young people

Soapbox – Multi-media project co-produced by local young people

The Spitz Charitable Trust – Music and deep healing post-Covid for care home residents

The projects were chosen from a large number of applications. For both areas, online 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 successful entries were selected on the basis that they will offer positive benefits for employment, the environment, society, culture, arts and health. Some projects have a focus on individuals and groups directly impacted by Covid-19.

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

“Since Covid-19 struck the need for our Community Fund has never been more pressing. In response we increased our funds for the year, as announced in April, and relaxed the parameters for applications so organisations could adapt their proposals to meet the current challenges. With the Fund now in its 7th year we remain committed to the long-term support of our local communities.”

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

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Notes to editors

Derwent London

Derwent London plc owns 82 buildings in a commercial real estate portfolio predominantly in central London valued at £5.5 billion (including joint ventures) as at 31 December 2019, 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.

As part of our commitment to lead the industry in mitigating climate change, in October 2019, Derwent London became the first UK REIT to sign a Green Revolving Credit Facility. At the same time, we also launched our Green Finance Framework and signed the Better Buildings Partnership's climate change commitment. The Group is a member of the 'RE100' which recognises Derwent London as an influential company, committed to 100% renewable power by purchasing renewable energy, a key step in becoming a net zero carbon business. Derwent London is one of only a few property companies worldwide to have science-based carbon targets validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

Landmark schemes in our 5.6 million sq ft portfolio include Brunel Building W2, White Collar Factory EC1, Angel Building EC1, 1-2 Stephen Street W1, Horseferry House SW1 and Tea Building E1.

In 2019, the Group has won several awards including EG Offices Company of the Year, the CoStar West End Deal of the Year for Brunel Building, Westminster Business Council's Best Achievement in Sustainability award and topped the real estate sector and was placed ninth overall in the Management Today 2019 awards for 'Britain's Most Admired Companies'. In 2013 the Company launched a voluntary Community Fund and has supported over 100 community projects in the West End 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. In April 2020, in response to the Covid-19 crisis, the Group allocated a further £186,000 to charitable donations and sponsorships by waiving 20% of Directors' base salaries for three months, including £50,000 towards community projects.

For a list of past recipients of the Derwent London Community Fund, please visit our website: www.derwentlondon.com/community-fund

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