



CONNECTING PEOPLE & PLACES 2022 OPEN FOR PROPOSALS: COLLABORATIVE COMMISSIONS

[Foundation for Future London](#) believes that arts, creativity and place offer unique opportunities to expand creative learning, connect communities and create positive social, economic and environmental change. Extending the focus for our [Connecting People & Places Fund](#), we are launching a new call for proposals to support the development of collaborative culture-led creative learning projects.

We want to work with creatives as artists, practitioners, producers, educators, curators, innovators and community connectors to support the development of new audiences, ideas and collaborations, building on the strong work produced by our partners and the wider London arts and cultural sector.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to equality, diversity and sustainability. It's with this in mind that we are inviting proposals from creatives who are driven by these principles to co-develop and create work collaboratively.

About Foundation for Future London

Foundation for Future London is an independent charity created to connect communities, the new East Bank and its globally renowned arts, innovation and cultural partners to ensure new East London Stratford Waterfront and culture quarter - specifically the public realm where most East Bank partners will be situated is London's must-visit destination and becomes a resilient, thriving, world-class neighbourhood of local and global significance.

We're fundraising to expand grant-making opportunities for East Bank communities and partners and facilitating creative placemaking, to support local places, learning, training and employment through arts, education, culture and innovation.

Our vision is for a vibrant and inclusive creative East Bank, creating authentic engagement with local people in the boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.



Green Forest Gate by Loop Labs and Forest Gate Community Garden

Background

Funding provided by City of London Corporation has supported the development of programming with the communities of East Bank and Culture Mile. This four-year partnership (2019-2023) seeks to utilize creativity to support the development of new models of practice and collaboration around education, life-long learning, employment opportunities, health & wellbeing and inclusive public realm.

Our aim has been to re-engage with local audiences, demonstrate our commitment to funding local cultural infrastructure, support diverse new creative talent and to develop longer term synergies and shared learnings between the two emerging cultural districts of East Bank and Culture Mile and the wider value they bring to London.

The [Foundations Programme](#) was the first phase of work co-funded via this four-year partnership with City of London. As part of this programme the Foundation has co-commissioned a range of activities which have sought to listen and test new collaborative approaches to amplify local individual, organisation and community ambitions and ideas such as [Connecting People & Places](#) (41 place-based grants), [Fusion Prize](#), [Fusion Futures](#), [Creative Schools](#), [STEP into the Smithsonian](#) alongside a number of creative partnership development projects ([V&A East Storehouse Co-Production](#), [East Summer School](#), [The People's Pavilion](#), [UCL's New Curators](#), Great Get Together Young Co-Producers, [STEP Scrap Events](#)).

The Commission

Foundation for Future London would like to commission the development of a cohort of collaboratively focused creative learning projects that will contribute to further understanding the role creativity can play to deliver arts, education, employment programming that provides creative learning opportunities, employment and leadership roles, training & fusion skills



development for residents and young people across Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

We are looking to support proposals for a range of events and activities to be delivered between June and October 2022. Whilst we have left the focus of this brief open, we are particularly interested to hear from different approaches to developing equity and by that we mean supporting underrepresented people's ideas and visibility.



Ruff Sqwad Arts Foundation – You Can't Touch the Booth

Expressions of interest for this commission could be for a new project or extension of a current programme/platform, either way the role of collaboration, partnership and shared learnings should be key to your submission and its impact.

Successful applicants will work collaboratively with the Foundation and other funded organisations to maximize their projects' legacy and opportunities for shared learning and knowledge with wider partners.

Proposals should demonstrate the following:

- Engagement in arts and culture that develop creative learning, fusion skills and education activities for children and young people, their families and schools.
- Work in partnership with local arts organisations, artist/creative freelancers, community groups and/or schools with a focus on sustainable networked growth.
- Alignment with other pan-London initiatives and funded work being delivered by the Foundation. Particularly interested in proposals that build on our commitment to both the Fusion Prize and Fusion Futures programmes - amplifying conversation around skills development, social mobility, the value of creativity and innovation.

Target Audience and Accessibility

Proposals should have the following essential attributes:



- Work with the local communities and residents across Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.
- An engagement plan that supports commitment to equity, inclusion and diversity including outreach with new audiences (arts and non-arts) and participants, who may not be regular users or members to your organisation.
- Delivery across a range of local spaces to ensure projects reach a wide community audience e.g. Black, Asian and ethnically diverse, disabled, unemployed and/or low waged, vulnerably housed, LGBTQ+, children and young people, older people and people with mental health issues or long-term health issues.
- Programme recruitment and content delivery should be developed in a way that is inclusive and accessible to a wide and diverse audience.

Budget

This fund has allocated up to £60k to commission innovative & collaborative culture-led creative learning projects.

We expect to fund six or eight projects.

Your proposed projects total cost can be up to a total of £10,000.

Your production and delivery budget should be inclusive of all expenses and must cover all fees, travel, materials, de-installation, taxes and other project-related expenses.

Your budget will need to cover the following items:

- Project management and fees
- Engagement and programme development
- Production and delivery costs
- Project monitoring and reporting

Additionally, successful organisations will be required to join approximately six two-hour knowledge sharing/networking workshops which will be delivered by the Foundation to support your project's development (see below). There will be some additional access costs provision but please ensure to budget for this process as relevant.

Who can submit an Expression of Interest?

We are seeking to appoint creative organisations and/or arts or community-led collaborations with an innovative response to the brief.



Applicants should:

- Be a small not-for-profit organisation with less than £250k annual turnover (priority will be given to grassroot organisations)
- Have a proposal that is strongly collaborative, participatory and socially engaged
- Have a capability to produce work that engages, involves and can be co-designed with local communities, removing barriers to participation in the arts.
- Demonstrate a strong understanding and commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, sustainability and the environment
- Be connected with and meet the needs of the local communities in the London Boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest
- Have a commitment to, or are working towards, London Living Wage

Equality, diversity, and inclusion are at the forefront of the Foundation's grant giving. We actively encourage applications from all communities including Black, Asian and ethnically diverse, disabled, learning disabled, unemployed and/or low waged, people without qualifications, vulnerably housed, Gypsies and Travellers, LGBTQ+, children and young people, older people and people with mental health issues or health issues.

Register Your Interest

To register your interest in submitting a proposal for this commission we ask that you email a short outline (250 words) of your project to grants@future.london by **Friday 22 April 2022**.

We aim to shortlist approximately 20-25 applications, who will be invited to apply to the commission. Further information about the commission, collaborative workshop programme and how to apply will be provided to shortlisted applicants.

We expect to fund six to eight projects.

For more information and updates, see:
<https://future.london/grant/connecting-people-and-places-2022-collaborative-commissions>

Further Info:

Collaborative Cohort Development (post award)



Commissioned organisations will receive ongoing support, advocacy and advice from the Foundation post award to ensure project delivery is aligned with work of all grantees who may be funded via this programme and that we are collectively building relevant synergies and shared learnings across wider cross-district and Borough initiatives.

Delivery of your project will include working with us (staff, communities, local networks, partners and other grantees) to co-develop an accessible and relevant programme of work. To support this the Foundation will co-ordinate a series of co-design sessions (e.g. workshops, learning resources, skills sharing), 1:1 support and bespoke resources

Commissioned projects will be required to attend six sessions (lasting one to two hours) to discuss their ideas further, gain an understanding of the context, constraints and expectations in advance of project delivery.

We will also use this as a chance to explore potential for commissioned projects to network and collaborate to reach wider audiences, share resources (e.g. venues, recruitment platforms, marketing), share skills and expand impact work and partnerships both in short term and longer term.

Where relevant, additional funding will be available to support your organisation engage in the above process. The Foundation will also be providing additional support to the grantee cohort to support a collaborative approach to project reporting & evaluation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Priority will be given to small local grass root organisations based In Hackney, Newham, Waltham Forest and Tower Hamlets with less than £250k annual turnover.

As the lead organisation submitting the proposal you should be a not-for-profit organisation that is formally constituted i.e. has a signed governing document in the group's name. This includes unincorporated associations and community groups, registered charities, social enterprises (including those run as a sole trader), schools, Community Interest Companies (CIC), Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO), companies limited by guarantee and faith groups where the project clearly does not promote a particular religious or political view

If you are unsure as to whether you are eligible to apply please email grants@future.london



How much can I apply for?

Your proposed projects total costs can be up to a total of £10,000.

How will the funding be paid?

The winning submissions will be subcontracted to Foundation for Future London and will work alongside the Foundation and other successful applicants to develop their programme of work collaboratively.

A project delivery plan with milestones will be set out for the commission in consultation and agreement with Foundation for Future London and any relevant partners. All agreed terms and targets (artistic, audience, financial) will be incorporated into the contract at the point of acceptance of proposal.

How many projects are you going to fund?

We have kept the brief open but looking to fund between six to eight projects. Successful applicants will be selected to ensure we have a diverse grantee cohort.

What do we mean Fusion Skills?

Fusion is a person-centric approach towards the skills necessary to succeed and flourish now and into the future.

Fusion skills combine education, arts, design, technology and business, reflecting how life is transformed by the fusion of these disciplines, generating opportunities for new learning, businesses, products and services.

Fusion Skills are the combination of skills that businesses, cultural organisations and education providers know help young people prepare for and thrive in the workplace. They include communication, thinking, organisation, collaboration, resilience, and creativity skills.

Can I submit multiple Expressions of Interests?

You can only make a single expression of interest as a lead applicant but you are able to support another project(s) as a collaborator.

Can I apply if I am already receiving funding, training, or any other support from Foundation for Future London?

You can still apply if you are either already receiving funding from Foundation for Future London programme. However, you must be clear if this application is for a new project or an extension to the already funded project. Need for the new project or additional funding must be evidenced by provision of an impact report from the previous project.



Do I need matched funding?

We encourage applicants to explore other avenues of funding to match our funding and enhance the project outputs and outcomes, but it is not essential for our funding scheme.

We do encourage applications for joint collaborations and those that demonstrate leverage potential and good prospects for sustainability.