

Untold Stories Grant Prospectus

Key information

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1. Introduction

How do you feel when you're in London's streets, parks, waterways and squares?

Are you, your community, your faith or culture represented?

What would you like to be represented in London's public spaces?

What would you change if you could?

What extra stories could you share?

These are just some of the questions we have been asking Londoners over the last year.

London's diversity and rich heritage are one of its most valuable assets. Londoners from all nationalities, faiths and backgrounds call this city 'home' and have contributed to making it the greatest city in the world.

However, many of the histories, stories and experiences of Londoners from diverse backgrounds have gone untold and are not represented within our public realm.

The Mayor of London is offering funding and support for communities to make a change in our public spaces. Whether this is creating something new, highlighting something missing or hidden, or presenting a different story to what already exists – the Mayor wants to hear from you.

Untold Stories is part of the Mayor's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm programme, which will celebrate and improve diversity across London's public realm to ensure the capital reflects London's achievements and diversity. [Read more about the Commission.](#)

2. What types of projects will you support?

All projects must be community-led and have involved your community in planning, shaping and deciding on the ideas presented.

All projects must be inclusive and offer opportunities for Londoners from all backgrounds to take part.

All projects should take place in or focus on London's public spaces – streets, parks, markets, waterways and squares. Space must be freely accessible and welcoming to all Londoners.

We expect projects will mainly fall into two categories:

- creating new objects (murals, artworks, plaques, benches, memorials, gardens, play areas, etc.) that increase diversity and representation in London's public spaces
- projects that provide context, insight or draw attention to invisible, contested or missing heritage in London's public spaces.

This could include (but not limited to):

- holding community consultations or workshops to jointly decide what your public spaces should look like
- working with an artist, archivist, local historian or heritage group to increase understanding of diverse heritage or history
- developing trails, audio/British Sign Language tours or tour guides that highlight missing, contested or hidden heritage

- making and installing new objects that celebrate your community, culture, important events, everyday Londoners or historical figures
- place based virtual or augmented reality projects
- oral histories
- commissioning an artist to run workshops to develop a project or idea together.

You should consider how you are making your project accessible for people with a range of abilities. This includes consulting with and involving people as participants and audiences. [Shape has some helpful resources here.](#)

If you're offering paid work as part of your project, we will prioritise applications that work with artists, freelancers and contractors who are Black, Asian or minority ethnic, women, LGBTQ+, Deaf or disabled, or from lower social and economic background.

3. How much funding is available?

We have a grant pot of £1m to support community grants. There will be two rounds of funding with deadlines on:

- 12 January 2022 (now closed)
 - Autumn 2022.
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4. How much can we apply for?

Two strands of funding are available for community groups.

4.1 Test and Nurture

Up to £5,000 is available for projects to develop a concept, run small-scale projects or test a new idea.

These small grants are aimed at groups who have an idea for an activity that will improve diverse representation for their community in public spaces but need a small amount of funding to develop it into full project. Alternatively, groups could use funding to run a complete small-scale project.

For example, is there a local figure, group or event that you would like to be celebrated or commemorated on the streets where you live? Do you need to speak to local people about how they feel about it? Would you like to work with an artist/historian to run workshops and develop your idea? Then this fund could be for you.

Often applying for project funds means that you must have done a lot of work before you apply. The Test and Nurture grants are there to support you to get to that stage. All you need is an idea, some good will behind it and a sense of what you need to do to get where you're going.

4.2 Grow and Make Happen

£4,000-£25,000 is available for projects that have been developed or tested on the small-scale and now need some funds to make them happen.

These larger grants are aimed at groups who have a clear idea of how they want to improve representation and the steps to get it done. It could be a completely new project or something that's working well, which needs funding to continue or grow .

For example, have you been working with your community and local artists to develop a piece of public art? Do you have a clear idea of what the costs are to complete the project? Do you know what activities will happen? Then this fund could be for you.

The application process for Grow and Make Happen grants is a bit more complex than Test and Nurture as we need to know that you've considered any planning, legal or maintenance issues. We also need to know what work you've already done, how you've involved your community in planning and shaping this project and how it will be inclusive to all Londoners.

4.3 Access Costs

If you or your participants require additional support to run or be part of the project (BSL interpreters, translators, personal assistants, etc.), you can apply for an additional £1,000 (for Test and Nurture) or £2,000 (for Grow and Make Happen) over the fund thresholds to cover these costs. You will be asked about these costs separately in the application form.

5. Do we need to raise any other funds before we apply?

We recognise that raising funds is challenging, particularly for new ideas or for groups who face barriers to funding.

Match funding is **not** a requirement of these grants, but we'd like to know what other support you have for your project – particularly for Grow and Make Happen grants. This could be donations, sponsorship or other grants. It could also be support-in-kind. These are things you need for your project, but you don't have to pay for, such as: volunteer time or an organisation providing a service or space for free or a heavily reduced rate.

We are working closely with Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund and may suggest that your project could be eligible for their funding and encourage you apply to them as well.

6. Who can apply?

We want to encourage local communities to make, plan and deliver their ideas and projects for more diverse public spaces in London. So, this funding is targeted at community groups and grassroots organisations who are active within their community. To be eligible to apply, you must:

- be a constituted community group or not-for-profit organisation
- have a registered address anywhere in Greater London
- have a turnover of less than £500k per year.

Unconstituted community or mutual aid groups can apply, but you must work with a constituted sponsor organisation to support your application

Priority will go to:

- organisations or groups that are majority led by Black, Asian and minority ethnic Londoners, Deaf and disabled Londoners, LGBTQ+ Londoners, women or people from a lower social economic background (majority led means at least 50% of your management and staff)
- typically, we would expect that recipients of Test and Nurture grants will have a turnover of less than £100k per year.

Smaller organisations are welcome to seek support and expertise from larger organisations, if they need it, but we want to see communities leading projects and telling us what change they want to see.

7. Who can't apply?

- individuals
- businesses and 'for profit' organisations (including Company Limited by Shares)
- local offices of larger regional or national organisations/charities
- local authorities
- individual schools or education providers (including 'Friends of' groups)
- organisations with a turnover in excess of £500k.

If you are an individual with an idea that you want to make happen, we would recommend partnering with a community group, local charity or historical society.

8. What support is available before we apply?

We know that applying for funding can be a bit daunting if you haven't done it before or if you weren't successful when you have.

We have put in place the following support that is open to anyone who is considering applying for funding:

Funding workshops

We will be offering some sessions where you can hear more about the fund, what we're hoping to fund and what we'd like you to tell us about your project. These will be a mixture of online and in person sessions. [Find an up-to-date list here](#)

Knowledge and learning sessions

Do you have a great idea but you're not sure where to start, what the next steps are or what is best practice? We know the feeling. That's why we're offering some sessions that will offer some training and advice on planning your project. [Find an up-to-date list here](#)

Enquiry form

Before you go to the effort of filling out a full application form, we'd like you to give us a few key details about your organisation and your project. This is so we can let you know if your project is a good fit for our funding, offer advice on which type of application to complete, and find out what more support we might be able to offer you in developing your project or application.

You can also contact us on:

Email: untoldstories@rocketsciencelab.co.uk

Phone: 02032913026

9. How can we apply?

We expect most applications will be submitted using our online application form.

However, we know that sometimes a written application form is a real barrier to applying for funds or explaining what you want to do.

If you need support to apply, please contact us. If you have additional access requirements, we have a small budget to get you the right support to apply.

Email: untoldstories@rocketsciencelab.co.uk

Phone: 02032913026

Or complete this [short form](#) to tell us more about the support you need.

9.1 Enquiry form

We strongly recommend that you complete our enquiry form before you apply. We'll ask you a few short questions about your project or idea.

We'll review the form and may share it with our colleagues at Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund. We can then let you know:

- if we think your project is a good fit for the fund
- which strand of funding might be best for you
- if your project is suitable for another funder
- advice and guidance on what to include in your full application.

You don't have to complete it, but it's a great way of getting some advice before you complete the full application form and should save you time.

9.2 Application

- we will ask you some questions about your organisation, project and the people involved
- use your own words and style to clearly describe what you want to do or achieve
- sometimes it can be difficult to describe your idea in words, so you can upload three additional pieces of information with your application. These could be images, plans, videos or drawings – anything that you think will bring your story to life for us.

As the grants come from public money, we'll need to carry out a few 'due diligence' checks. These are tests to check that you are who you say you are and that you've got all the relevant policies and insurance in place when you start your project. To help us do this, you should:

- provide your organisation's UK bank account details or attach a confirmation letter from your sponsor organisation to confirm they can hold and ringfence the funds on your behalf alongside a reference statement
- provide your or your sponsor organisation's governance documents that include a suitable 'dissolution' or 'winding up' clause
- provide a copy of your or your sponsor organisation's most recent audited accounts or accounts signed by an independent and qualified accountant
- you will be responsible for all financial and legal aspects of your project.

By time you start your project, you must have relevant insurance, risk assessments, public liability insurance, employer's liability, data protection policy and an up-to-date Safeguarding Policy in place.

If successful, you will be asked for copies of these documents before we can make any payments to you. We can let you know which documents you'll need and signpost you to some helpful resources.

10. When can we apply?

There will be two opportunities to apply:

Round One

21 October to 12 January 2022 (now closed)

Round Two

Opens Spring 2022

We recommend that you complete an [Enquiry Form](#) as soon as possible so that we can guide you on which fund would be best for you. We expect to see interest increase as we approach the deadline, which could affect how much support we are able to offer you.

We also recommend attending our information sessions to hear more about the funds and how you can apply.

11. How many applications can we submit?

We will only assess **one** application at a time from any organisation or project. Using your initial enquiry form, we will advise you on the best fund for you.

If you are unsuccessful in Round One, we will provide you with feedback and let you know any areas for development. If we think your idea is strong and can be developed, we may encourage you to reapply in Round Two.

12. What costs will the grant cover?

We will fund a broad range of activities and the costs associated with running them.

If you are working with any artists or freelancers, you must ensure that you are paying them fairly. [There is guidance on paying artists here.](#)

It is best practice to offer expenses for people volunteering on your project.

Your grant can cover the costs of project management, including contributing to core staff costs for their time spent working on the project.

Access costs

If you or your participants require additional support to run or be part of the project (BSL interpreters, translators, personal assistants, etc.), you can apply for an additional £1,000 (for Test and Nurture) or £2,000 (for Grow and Make Happen) over the fund thresholds to cover these costs. You will be asked about these costs separately in the application form.

Costs could include (but are not limited to):

- **professional fees:** the cost of hiring in people to help with your project – artists, consultants, professional advice
 - **venue hire costs:** for example, what it costs you to rent a hall or other type of space for your project
 - **equipment and resources:** the hire or purchase of any items of equipment you may need to run your project and other resources costs such as arts equipment, printing costs
 - **staff costs:** and other costs directly related to the running of your project. This could include sessional coaches or instructors which have been created specifically for your project
 - **volunteer costs:** expenses to support volunteer's participation in the project including refreshments
 - **digital costs:** such as digital subscriptions, platforms and hosting. It may include software and hardware directly related to the delivery of the project
 - **transport:** to help you, your staff and volunteers or participants get to your project and back
 - **overheads:** such as administrative and office costs up to 10% of your total grant amount.
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13. What costs will the grant not cover?

- activities that have already happened or take place before we have reached a decision on your application
 - general overheads not related to the delivery of your project
 - activities outside London
 - profit-making activities or projects
 - overseas travel (in or out bound).
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14. How will you decide what to fund?

We'll provide some separate guidance notes for each funding strand to let you know what information you need to give us in each question.

We will assess your application against a few key criteria:

1. **Story and Vision**

- how well you've explained what you want to do and why
- why this project is important to your community and how you have involved them in making decisions
- how the project is being developed with expert support and/or people with lived experience (such as artists, consultants, local people).

2. **Diversity and Inclusion**

- how you are inviting people to be part of the project
- how you have considered who will be able to take part or experience the project either when it is happening or once it is complete
- how you will make your project accessible to Deaf and disabled people.

3. **Making it Happen**

- how clear you are on the steps to make your project happen
- is your budget clear and have you considered all costs involved in running the project?
- how aware you are of the financial, legal and planning aspects of getting your project done
- the strength of support for your project – including any organisations that are supporting you.

A panel will review all applications to make funding recommendations to [Justine Simons OBE](#), Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, and [Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard](#), Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, who co-chair the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. When making recommendations, the panel will consider additional 'balancing criteria'.

These include:

- where your project takes place – we want to fund activity across London, so we may decide to support some projects in areas where we know there isn't much else happening
 - who you are working with and representing – we want these grants to represent diverse stories and voices from people and communities from a range of backgrounds, so we may decide to prioritise a projects that represent a communities that are not represented elsewhere in the funding programme
 - type of project or activity – we've made what you can apply for open. This could be a new artwork, a garden, bench or playground. Other projects may want to run activities that highlight existing heritage such as walking tours or audio trails. We will make sure that we are funding as broad a range of activity as possible.
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Audio version

Title

Introduction

What type of projects will you support?

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How many applications can we submit?

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How will you decide what to fund?

British Sign Language version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDNjvvHAVnM>

Easy Read version

[Untold Stories Easy Read Grant Prospectus - Round two](#)

15. Ready to apply?

If you're ready to apply or complete the Enquiry Form, please use the links below:

- [Untold Stories: Test and Nurture Application for Constituted Groups](#)
- [Untold Stories: Test and Nurture Application for Unconstituted Groups](#)
- [Untold Stories: Grow and Make Happen Application for Constituted Groups](#)
- [Untold Stories: Grow and Make Happen Application for Unconstituted Groups](#)

15.1 Application Questions: Accessible Formats

British Sign Language:

- [Untold Stories: Test and Nurture \(BSL\)](#)
- [Untold Stories: Grow and Make Happen \(BSL\)](#)

Audio:

- [Untold Stories: Test and Nurture \(audio\)](#)
 - [Untold Stories: Grow and Make Happen \(audio\)](#)
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