**Imagine Fund 2024**

**Seed Fund Application Guidelines**

**About the Fund**

Our Seed Fund aims to support our community to kickstart a new idea or to have a go at something they’ve always wanted to try. We’re offering ten micro-grants (£500 each) to local people to develop new projects that will benefit the area and the lives of the people in it. By local people, we mean those who live, work, study, volunteer, or have a strong community connection to the City of London

We’re open to all and any projects – community gardening, workspace, food events, creative workshops, arts projects, local radio – anything you’d like to have a go at with your friends & neighbours.

**Criteria for selection:**

Ideas will be selected by the Imagine Fund Panel, a group of people with a strong local interest and community connections. We want to support projects that:

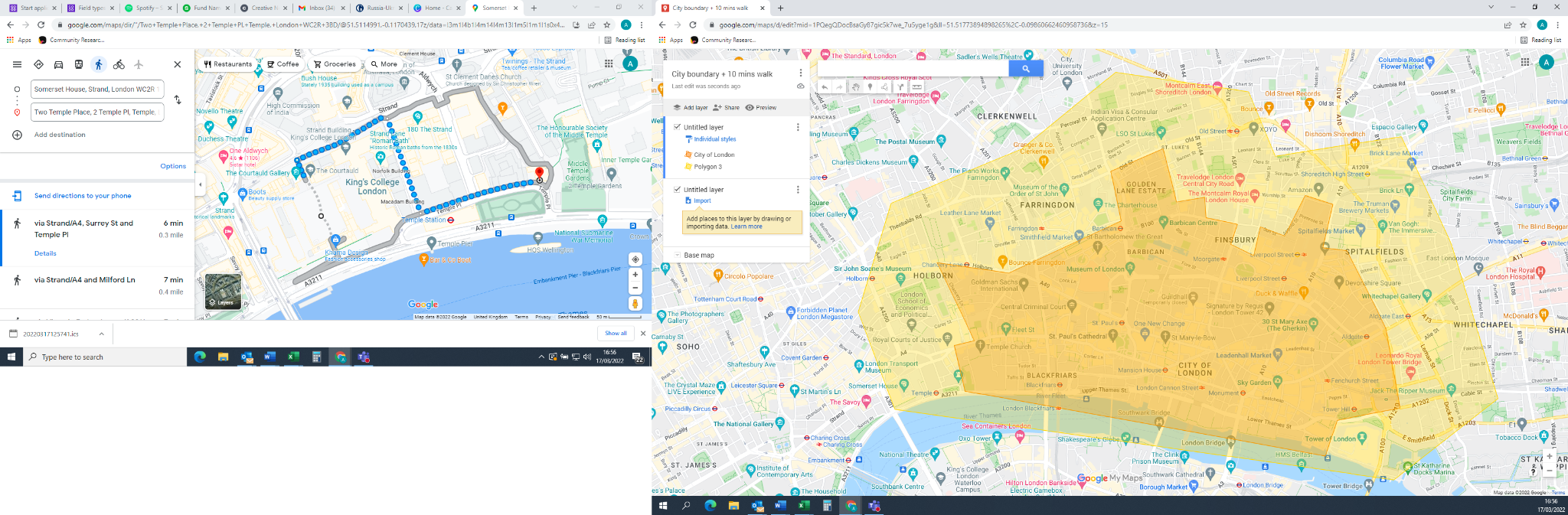
* Will benefit local people in the City of London, especially marginalised communities
* Aim to be responsive to the needs of local people in the City of London
* Are for and by people who face barriers to opportunities and are underrepresented. We encourage those who experience mental health conditions, physical health/disability, sensory impairment, learning disabilities, neurodivergence, those who are in recovery, survivors, those from working-class backgrounds, as well as those of marginalised genders, LGBTQIA+, people of global majority, migrants and traveler communities to apply.
* Are delivered by people who are applying for funding for the first time, or have only received small amount of funding before.

**Who can apply?**

This fund is open to individuals only. Charitable organisations, social enterprises, for-profit establishments and educational organisations are not eligible for this fund.

In order to apply, you have to live, work, study, volunteer, or have a strong community connection to the City of London. Please see the map below- the City of London boundary is represented in orange, but we will fund projects within a wider geographical remit to include the area of the map highlighted in yellow. Please note that the project you propose must take place within the same boundary.

Please also note that when we say City of London, we are referring to the City of London borough, not to the entire capital. So for example, if you live in Southwark or Finsbury Park, you are not eligible for this fund.



**How to apply?**

To apply, please go to [imagine.grantplatform.com](https://imagine.grantplatform.com/). Applications open on 31st January 2024. For those who need to send an application through in an alternative format (video, voice note etc), please email [community@barbican.org.uk](mailto:community@barbican.org.uk?subject=Imagine%20Fund%20application%20query) to discuss the best option for you.

The application deadline is 12th April 2024 at 5pm

**What will we fund?**

Here are some suggestions of activities you can apply to do but you are welcome to come up with your own ideas:

A knitting group for neighbours, plant projects, creative workspace, community events, film screenings, talks series, listening parties, oral history project, mural painting, creating an archive, recording a podcast, photography, dancing, poetry, performances, training & skills development, cooking classes, languages, art walks, family events, storytelling, research about the area, training, courses, personal development – anything you’re interested in!

We are looking for projects by local people, for local people. We especially encourage applications from people who have never applied for funding before, or have only received a small amount of funding in the past. We would also like to fund projects that foster collaboration & connection in the area.

We particularly encourage applications from people who face barriers to opportunities and are underrepresented We would love to hear from people of those who experience mental health conditions, physical health/disability, sensory impairment, learning disabilities, neurodivergence, those who are in recovery, survivors, those from working-class backgrounds, as well as those of marginalised genders, LGBTQIA+, people of global majority, migrants and traveler communities. We are also keen to hear from applicants of all ages 18+, including older people.

Please note that we will fund both project costs and your time (if necessary).

**What we will not fund**

* Registered charities, CICs, CIOs, Businesses, Trusts, Unincorporated Associations, schools.
* Large scale projects that already have funding
* Projects taking place outside of the yellow City of London boundary, as shown in the map above
* General appeals for funding
* Activities that promote a political party or religion, or groups seeking to alter decisions made by political parties
* Retrospectively, or to reimburse expenditure already made or committed, or to clear debts or loans

**What we can offer**

We can offer all successful applicants:

* A grant of up to £500
* Regular check ins with the team and your fellow grantees
* Support with ideas development

**Your commitments**

Successful applicants can spend the grant on what your idea needs to develop. We ask that you:

* Stay in regular communication with us about your project
* Commit to sharing your ideas and how they have developed at a sharing event alongside the other successful applicants (TBC October 2024) This could be in person or through a written update. Whatever format you feel comfortable with
* Deliver the project within one year of receiving the funds
* Take part in our story-telling evaluation
* Let us know if your project timeline or budget change at any time during the project delivery phase- we are very flexible in how we fund.

**Our top tips for a good application**

* The most successful grant applications are those that ensure it is clear why the proposed project is needed by their communities and clear about how local people will benefit from the project
* Be clear about your project structure. If you can, please include a description of the activities that will be run and a brief timeframe of the activities. We understand some of these may change during the course of the project.
* Keep your application short and concise, stay within the suggested word count and check your spelling
* Avoid using jargon
* It may be a good idea to ask someone who does not know much about your project to read your application and give you feedback. Ask them if the application makes sense to them and whether they can remember the key points.
* Ask for help. If you need help with your application or further clarification on certain questions/requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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