Civic Catalyst Funding
Grant callout and application form

Overview

Civic Catalysts is a new programme of activity designed to help link Goldsmiths research to the needs of the diverse communities within the London Borough of Lewisham. Linked to the Goldsmiths Civic University Agreement (CUA), the aim of this programme is to bring researchers together with local partners and support them in developing partnerships, piloting ideas, and undertaking projects that will make a positive impact locally.

Civic Catalysts aims to initiate projects that relate to at least one of the priority areas set out in the Goldsmiths Civic University Agreement (2021).

1 – Educational opportunities and learning aspirations.
2 – Economic prosperity, jobs and growth
3 – Culture, health and wellbeing
4 – Environmental sustainability

More detail on our ambitions under each of these areas can be found here.

Funding available

Supported by funding from Research England, in 2022/2023 grants of up to £4,000 are available as part of this scheme. We anticipate making 3-4 grants.

This funding is intended to support collaborative projects that use participatory research methodologies to address local issues related to the priority areas outlined above. Examples of activity might include (but are not limited to):

- Research or evaluation exercises focused on improving a local public / community service;
- Scoping activities or pilot schemes for larger projects (e.g. trying out a small-scale training programme);
- Developing a new resource, analysing a data-set, providing practical assistance to address an identified issue (e.g. developing digital or other infrastructure);
- Net zero or environmentally focused projects – e.g. climate education or outreach initiatives, projects exploring air pollution or work with local parks, green spaces, waterways.
Co-produced, problem-solving or action research related to any of our CUA priorities.

Projects are welcomed which respond directly to specific actions outlined within the Civic University Agreement, or which cut across more than one priority /action area to respond to complex societal issues such as the cost-of-living crisis.

Project requirements

- Projects can be led either by a Goldsmiths researcher or a local partner, but must involve participants from both Goldsmiths and at least one other organisation (there is no restriction on sector or research discipline, etc.).
- The proposal should state the issue that the partners are aiming to address, and how their idea has the potential to make a positive difference (even if quite small) to those living, working, studying or creating in Lewisham.
- The project should deliver something tangible partners can share with their stakeholders and audiences, for example a short toolkit or blog post, news story on website, photographs, physical or creative output.
- Partners should articulate what additional support they are able to bring to the initial process (financial or otherwise)
- Partners should also give a sense of what they envisage the next steps for their collaboration will be, and how these might be resourced.
- The activity outlined in the proposal should be completed by 30 June 2023.

What we will fund (indicative list)

- Academic staff costs (e.g. a few hours of consultancy time)
- Staff time from partner organisation(s)
- Student time
- Costs to develop resources, materials, toolkits, etc.
- Event costs
- Equipment
- Professional fees (e.g. facilitator fees, performer fees)

The above is just an indicative list and doesn’t cover all eligible costs. If in doubt about eligibility, please ask.

We would welcome the inclusion of match funding or other support ‘in kind’ in your application, in order to make the most of these small grants.

Assessment criteria

Funding allocation will be guided by the following considerations:

- Clarity of project scope and alignment with at least one of the core actions/ action areas outlined in the Goldsmiths Civic University Agreement.
• Clarity of project aims and intended outputs. Are these achievable within the scope of the grant? Are they likely to be meaningful, impactful and beneficial to all parties?
• Evidence of mutually beneficial involvement of both a Goldsmiths researcher/researchers and a local organisation with a mandate to serve the communities of Lewisham and clear sense of what their project roles will be.
• Potential for impact and potential for making a real change locally, including a clear sense of precisely who will benefit from the project and potential for legacy.

Across the application as a whole, the panel will be looking for evidence that projects have been well thought through, will advance College and departmental priorities, and clearly articulate benefits and beneficiaries from the outset.

**Project delivery and evaluation**

Project delivery will be the responsibility of the grant holder. Please note that, other than the funding, we will not be able to offer significant additional support in project delivery, so it will be important to think about whether you have capacity to take this on in addition to other commitments.

You will also be asked to complete a short evaluation survey at the end of the project so that we can think about what went well and what we might improve in the future for this or similar funding calls. We may also be interested in developing some case studies based around funded projects.

Please note that any funding provided as part of the 2022-23 round will have to be spent in year, i.e. by the end of July 2023 and it will not be possible to carry unspent funds forward to next financial year.

**How to apply**

Complete the application form and submit it to community@gold.ac.uk by Monday 12 December 2022. Please contact community@gold.ac.uk if you have any questions about your application.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from Goldsmiths and relevant partner organisations.
Application form

Expand the boxes below as necessary. Please note that the word counts are maximums. You can be briefer than this if you like.

1. Tell us about your idea (200 words max)

Please give a brief overview of your project. What is the idea that you are looking to pilot/ get off the ground?

2. Who is involved? (200 words max)

Tell us who is involved in the project, and what they will be doing. Remember that at least one Lewisham-based organisation external to Goldsmiths, plus at least one Goldsmiths member of staff or research student must be involved.
3. What positive impact will the project have? (200 words max)

How will your idea help to make Lewisham a better place? This can be in a small way and remember that the positive impact can extend beyond the duration of your grant. Give a sense of anticipated next steps.

4. How will your project make use of ‘participatory research’ (broadly defined) as a part of its process? (200 words max)
5. How does this relate to one of the four priority areas in the Civic University Agreement? (100 words max)

6. Timeline

Outline the broad timeline for the project.

7. Budget

Please outline the budget for your project.
8. Match support (100 words)
Outline any match funding or ‘support in kind’ that may will be available. This can include anything from staff time, a free space, equipment, or anything else.

9. Project lead contact details (name, organisation, work address, email, phone)
If the application is successful, we will need to know which organisation is ‘lead’ on this project (i.e. who will the grant be paid to).

Please send your completed form to community@gold.ac.uk by Monday 12 December, 5pm. Please contact Michael if you would like any support with your application.