

19 May 2014

## Derwent London announces Fitzrovia community funding recipients for 2014



Upbeat Music – Songs inspired by Dylan Thomas



ARTfitzrovia – Taking the next steps

Derwent London plc (“Derwent London” / “the Group”) is delighted to announce the second year of projects to receive funding as part of its community funding programme in Fitzrovia. Of 18 applications, the Group can confirm seven successful recipients with a total of £75,000 being shared.

The projects chosen for this year are:

**Fitzrovia Noir:** 140 Characters or less - an art project portraying streetlife in Fitzrovia

**Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association:** Positive Health exercise and massage project for Bangladeshi and elderly women.

**Upbeat Music:** Songs inspired by Dylan Thomas - music project for people with mental health issues.

**All Souls Clubhouse:** supporting the Clubcare project and providing new kitchen facilities

**All Souls Primary School:** Learning together through technology; photography project for children

**Women Like Us:** From Playground to Payslip – supporting Fitzrovia parents to combine work and family life

**ARTfitzrovia:** Taking the next steps – expanding the platform for this art collective for homeless adults

The choices were made from a number of interesting proposals which were submitted as part of the application process. Applicants were invited to attend a workshop in April to present their project proposals, meet other community members and groups and contribute to the decision-making process.

Meanwhile, the larger projects funded in 2013 will be coming to fruition this summer. Fitzrovia Community Centre’s proposal for a community garden and street planting will be launched on 12 July 2014 and Fitzrovia Youth in Action’s project to resurface The Warren multi-use games area and set up a community football league will also be ready during the summer.

Derwent London was delighted with the quality and range of applications this year. It selected the winning entries on the basis that they will offer a range of positive benefits - from social, cultural and employment opportunities to enhancements to the local area.

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

*“We are very pleased to have seen such an increase in applications this year and some really good ideas. We were once again faced with a difficult challenge of allocating the funds. Feedback at the community workshop was again invaluable in terms of informing the final decision and allowing community stakeholders to participate actively.”*

In addition to the funding, staff from Derwent London will be taking up volunteering opportunities with some of the Fitzrovia community organisations, as part of the Group’s volunteering programme which was launched in 2013.

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## **Notes to editors**

### **Derwent London**

Derwent London plc owns a portfolio of commercial real estate predominantly in central London valued at £3.4bn as at 31 December 2013, making us 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 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.

Landmark schemes in our portfolio of 5.7 million sq ft as at 31 December 2013 include Angel Building EC1, The Buckley Building EC1, White Collar Factory EC1, 1-2 Stephen Street W1, Horseferry House SW1 and Tea Building E1. The Group owns over one million sq ft of property in Fitzrovia.

In 2014 to date the Group has won the Property Week 'Developer of the Year' and has been shortlisted for awards by Architects' Journal and RICS. In 2013 Derwent London topped the real estate sector for the fourth year in a row and came tenth overall in the Management Today awards for 'Britain's Most Admired Companies'. During the year the Group was also awarded EPRA Gold for corporate and sustainability reporting, two OAS awards and AJ Retrofit and NLA awards.

For further information see [www.derwentlondon.com](http://www.derwentlondon.com) or follow us on Twitter at @derwentlondon.

**Fitzrovia Noir:** 140 Characters or less - an art project of Fitzrovia faces on the street. The project will enhance Fitzrovia's street environment with artistic decorations to traffic control boxes in the area. Artists will lead workshops to create up to 140 portrait photographs, with best 12-16 voted for by the public made into the painted portraits for the traffic control boxes. Workshops will be set up with artists working with pupils at All Souls Primary School. [www.fitzrovianoir.com](http://www.fitzrovianoir.com)

**Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association:** Positive Health exercise and massage project. The project will provide exercise classes for hard-to-reach Asian/Bangladeshi and elderly women who otherwise have no culturally appropriate place to participate in regular physical activity, along with free massage/reflexology sessions. [www.fitzrovia.org.uk](http://www.fitzrovia.org.uk)

**Upbeat Music:** Songs inspired by Dylan Thomas - music project for people with mental health issues. Upbeat will run a series of summer music sessions for people with mental health issues in the area as part of Fitzrovia Festival. There will be band and song-writing workshops inspired by Dylan Thomas' poetry led by professional musicians and two local public showcase events at the end of the summer. Participants will also record the songs in a professional studio producing a CD and mp3 for the Upbeat website. [www.upbeatmusic.org](http://www.upbeatmusic.org)

**All Souls Clubhouse:** Clubcare project and new kitchen facilities. The Clubhouse runs a diverse and challenging programme. These funds will provide kitchen equipment for the Wednesday Lunch Club for older people as well as home visits for older people through the Clubcare programme. [www.clubhousew1.org](http://www.clubhousew1.org)

**All Souls Primary School:** Learning together through technology; photography project for children. This project includes a number of information communication and technology projects such as computing classes, photography sessions and creating a community blog and will be open to the pupils and their families.

**Women Like Us:** From Playground to Payslip – supporting Fitzrovia parents to combine work and family life. Women Like Us is an award-winning social enterprise that supports parents finding work they can combine with family life. The fund will enable WLU to develop a specific programme in the local area. [www.womenlikeus.org.uk](http://www.womenlikeus.org.uk)

**ARTfitzrovia:** Taking the next steps – expanding the platform for this art collective for homeless adults. ARTfitzrovia is an independent art collective for homeless adults. This funding will consolidate the foundations of the organisation and enable the showcasing of three new exhibitions. It will enable them to continue to support the homeless and encourage integration with other sections of the community. [www.artfitzrovia.org](http://www.artfitzrovia.org)