

28 May 2021

## Derwent London announces successful applications for its Spring 2021 Community Fund

Derwent London is pleased to announce the successful applicants for its Community Fund (spring 2021 round) from local community groups and residents in Fitzrovia & West End and Tech Belt\*.



*Literacy Pirates – Young authors' book project*



*The Spitz Charitable Trust – music & deep healing 2020*

Almost £80,000 is being awarded to the following projects for spring 2021:

Fitzrovia & West End:

**Mousetrap Theatre Projects** – After school drama club

**All Souls Serve the City** – Senior care

**Doorstep Library** – children's literacy project

**Holcroft Court** – greening of Carburton Street

**The Soup Kitchen** – ongoing support of the running of the kitchen and welcomer role

**Fitzrovia Youth in Action** – core support

Tech Belt spring round:

**St Hilda's East Boundary Women's Project** – core funding

**Society Links** - educational support for children whose education suffered during lockdown

**Shadow Heroes** – creating inclusive classrooms by supporting students who have English as an additional language rather than primary language

**PEER** – enhancing two community gardens

**Migrateful** – chef training programme supporting refugees, migrants and asylum seekers

**Soapbox** – VR programme for young people. Creating an immersive and virtual 3D audio visual space and virtual youth worker

**The Spitz** – musical and artistic activities for both care home residents and their carers

The projects chosen were from a large number of applications which were submitted as part of the process. In both areas, community panels were convened with officers from the local authorities and staff from Derwent London, to contribute to the decision-making process. There was an impressive range of applications and the winning entries have been selected on the basis that they will offer positive benefits – from employment to environmental, social, cultural, arts and health.

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

*“Now eight years into our Fund, we are glad we can help these much-needed projects which aid community support and cohesion and which provide benefits to those in need. It has never been so important to ensure these organisations can thrive.”*

*\*The Tech Belt is defined here as the area extending from King's Cross to Whitechapel, largely covering EC1 & E1.*

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**Notes to editors****Derwent London plc**

Derwent London plc owns 83 buildings in a commercial real estate portfolio predominantly in central London valued at £5.4 billion (including joint ventures) as at 31 December 2020, making it 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 central London 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.

As part of our commitment to lead the industry in mitigating climate change, Derwent London has committed to becoming a net zero carbon business by 2030, publishing its pathway to achieving this goal in July 2020. In 2019 the Group became the first UK REIT to sign a Revolving Credit Facility with a “green” tranche. At the same time, we also launched our Green Finance Framework and signed the Better Buildings Partnership’s climate change commitment. The Group is a member of the ‘RE100’ which recognises Derwent London as an influential company, committed to 100% renewable power by purchasing renewable energy, a key step in becoming a net zero carbon business. Derwent London is one of only a few property companies worldwide to have science-based carbon targets validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

Landmark schemes in our 5.6 million sq ft portfolio include 80 Charlotte Street W1, Brunel Building W2, White Collar Factory EC1, Angel Building EC1, 1-2 Stephen Street W1, Horseferry House SW1 and Tea Building E1.

In January 2021, Derwent London came top of the Property Sector and 10th position overall in Management Today’s Britain’s Most Admired Companies awards 2020. In the year the Group has won several awards for Brunel Building with the most prominent being the BCO Best Commercial Workplace award. In 2019 the Group won EG Offices Company of the Year, the CoStar West End Deal of the Year for Brunel Building and Westminster Business Council’s Best Achievement in Sustainability award. In 2013 the Company launched a voluntary Community Fund and has to date supported well over 100 community projects in the West End and the Tech Belt.

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

**Background to the Derwent London Community Fund**

Derwent London’s Community Fund forms part of the Group’s on-going sustainability programme and commitment to developing community engagement. Creating Value in the Community is a key priority and, to deliver on this principle, the Group has evolved a voluntary Community Fund to support local projects in the key areas in which it operates. Funds are designed to support projects with a focus on community events, environmental improvements, health & well-being activities, music & culture and ongoing help for disadvantaged/isolated groups. Starting with Fitzrovia in 2013, the Group offered a £250,000 Community Fund and supported 17 local projects from 2013 – 2015. Notable projects have included resurfacing a multi-use games area, music workshops for people with mental health problems, art project for homeless people and lunch club for the elderly. In 2016, Derwent London announced an extension to the fund of £300,000 to be shared equally in Fitzrovia and now in the Tech Belt, to be spread over three years and a further £300,000 commitment was made to continue the Fund from January 2019 for three years, with the Fitzrovia scope being widened to include the West End.

**Community Fund in Fitzrovia & West End**

The Fitzrovia & West End fund runs once a year and registered charities can apply for £10,000 maximum; non-registered groups, businesses and individuals can apply for £2,000 maximum.

### **Community Fund in Tech Belt**

The Tech Belt Community Fund runs twice a year (spring and autumn) offering c.£25,000 each time. The context, background and issues around the considerably larger Tech Belt area are somewhat different and more diverse than Fitzrovia and so the scope has been extended to support: young people, training & upskilling, increasing employment/apprenticeship opportunities for disadvantaged people in the area and in particular for access into tech/startup businesses; health & well-being activities for all generations; worthwhile community events, music, culture & arts; small improvements to public space. Registered charities can apply for £5,000 maximum; non-registered groups, businesses and individuals can apply for £2,000 maximum.

Applications are considered by representatives from Derwent London and the local community. For further information and how to apply, please visit: [www.derwentlondon.com/community-fund](http://www.derwentlondon.com/community-fund) or contact Derwent London, Tel: 020 7659 3000 or email [community@derwentlondon.com](mailto:community@derwentlondon.com)

### **Broader community/employment initiatives**

Building on its long-term sustainability principles, the Group are evolving wider support opportunities with individuals and organisations in the area. Initiatives include work placements, mentoring and volunteering opportunities for our staff.

For a list of past recipients of the Derwent London Community Fund, please visit our website: [www.derwentlondon.com/community-fund](http://www.derwentlondon.com/community-fund)