

Press release  
18 February 2022

## Derwent London launches its expanded 2022 Community Fund

- Applications are now open for local community groups, business owners and residents to apply for funding for community projects in Fitzrovia & West End
- Increased sum of £120,000 available to local communities this year
- The Group has now awarded a total of over £850,000 to date to the Community Fund since it was launched in 2013

Derwent London plc (“Derwent London” / “the Group”) is pleased to announce its Community Fund 2022 – covering Fitzrovia & West End. This forms part of the Group’s ongoing sustainability programme and commitment to nurturing community engagement.



Mousetrap Theatre Projects – after school drama 2021



Fitzrovia Youth in Action – core funding 2021

Derwent London continues to develop this programme to enable the delivery of worthwhile projects. Support from its Community Fund is in addition to the Group’s required community contributions from planning agreements. Most projects funded are either completed or under way and are providing much needed improvements, community facilities and new opportunities.

To ensure wider accessibility, diversity and inclusion, Derwent London consulted with one of its charity partners, Chickenshed, the inclusive theatre group, in the scope and processes of the fund, and have adapted the application process to reflect their valued input.

Derwent London invites local community groups, residents and local business owners to apply for funding for community projects. For 2022, funds will be available as follows:

- Fitzrovia & West End – £60,000 – spring 2022
- Tech Belt\* – £60,000 – autumn 2022

Deadline for receipt of spring 2022 applications for Fitzrovia: 25 March 2022.

As in previous years, applications will be considered by representatives from Derwent London, the authorities and an independent consultant. For further information and how to apply, please visit [www.derwentlondon.com/community-fund](http://www.derwentlondon.com/community-fund) or contact the Communities team at Derwent London – Tel. 020 7659 3000 or email [community@derwentlondon.com](mailto:community@derwentlondon.com)

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

*“We are very pleased to continue our fund, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year and we look forward to supporting a range of local projects. Since 2013, we have supported over 120 projects in Fitzrovia & West End and the Tech Belt. We are really glad we have been able to increase the fund as well as broadened the scope and opportunity of it following our workshop with Chickenshed.”*

Louise Perry, Managing Director of Chickenshed, said:

*“We are extremely proud to work with Derwent London on this process. Our youth-led partnership and consultancy celebrate the employment of diverse, lived experience as a tool to mentor and empower others, inform inclusive practice and inspire social change.”*

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

**For further information, please contact:**

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

Derwent London plc owns 81 buildings in a commercial real estate portfolio predominantly in central London valued at £5.4 billion as at 30 June 2021, 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 5.4 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 2022 we were proud to announce that we had achieved the National Equality Standard – the UK's highest benchmark for equality, diversity and inclusion. In October 2021 Derwent London won EG's UK Company of the Year award and in January 2021 came top of the Property Sector and 10th position overall in Management Today's Britain's Most Admired Companies awards 2020. In 2020 the Group won several awards for Brunel Building with the most prominent being the BCO Best Commercial Workplace 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 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.

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)

### **Community Fund in Fitzrovia & West End**

For 2022, £60,000 will be allocated to community projects in Fitzrovia & West End.

For registered charities there is no set application maximum however we typically fund in the region of £10,000. Please bear in mind the total available fund is £60,000 and we generally don't fund applications where our funding represents less than 20% of the overall cost of the project.

Non-registered groups, businesses and individual applicants can apply for a maximum of **£2,000 only**.

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

The Tech Belt Community Fund will now be available in autumn, also offering £60,000 annually. The context, background and issues around the considerably larger Tech Belt area are somewhat different and more diverse than Fitzrovia and so the scope is broader to support: young people, training & upskilling, increasing employment/apprenticeship opportunities for 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.

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