

BUILDING COMMUNITIES FUND

INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Updated January 2026

Grant awards of up to £3,000 for April 2026 - Mar 2027

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1) ABOUT TEAM LONDON BRIDGE

Team London Bridge (TLB) is one of the 70+ Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in London and over 330 around the country. We work with our partners and 350+ business members. Our vision is: *to make London Bridge one of the most safe, sustainable and engaging places for business and tourism in the world.*

Our activities can be broadly grouped under several service headings:

- Safety and Resilience
- Streets and Spaces
- Sustainability
- Promotion and Communication
- Social Impact
- Arts and Events

Our work with the community and voluntary sector

We recognise that the voluntary and community sector (VCS) plays an essential role in the London Bridge community and its surrounding areas. We work with the sector to help build a more equal and supportive society, to connect and support groups of people in places they live and work and to help build the thriving, lively culture that we believe is so important to the area. This work is particularly centred around our [Responsible Business Plan](#), which seeks to:

- Focus on people and the planet
- Embrace creativity and collaboration
- Keep London Bridge at the heart of everything we do.

2) OUR SOCIAL IMPACT WORK

Team London Bridge's Social Impact programme drives local, responsible business activity by aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and focusing on creating a great place to work, a sustainable business district, and a thriving community.

Through initiatives such as the annual *Gift Back* appeal, targeted grant-giving via the Building Communities and Building Bridges funds, and fostering partnerships with local charities, the programme supports businesses to invest in and connect with the Southwark community. Alongside these efforts, TLB delivers workshops, resources and networking opportunities to help organisations embed responsible and inclusive practices that benefit both employees and the wider neighbourhood.

You can view our projects by clicking this [LINK](#) to our website

3) OUR APPROACH TO GRANT FUNDING

Team London Bridge follows the principles of Open and Trusting Grant-making, developed by IVAR (the Institute for Voluntary Action Research). This includes being flexible, open about our processes, streamlined in how we work, and trusting grantees to make decisions about how best to deliver their work. You can find out more about these here:

<https://www.ivar.org.uk/flexible-funders/>

We provide more than financial support and offer the opportunity for local VCS organisations to be part of our business network, with access to upskilling, training and events. Where we can, we also connect organisations with opportunities from available resources and skilled volunteers to other funding and support in kind.

In return, we ask that you make a commitment during the life of the grant to ongoing communication with TLB, openness to forging long term relationships with businesses, and a once-a-year meeting with one or two representatives of the TLB Grants Committee.

4) BUILDING COMMUNITIES FUND

We know that local not-for-profit groups often need financial support to run activities that can contribute to realise our shared vision, and our members want to ensure they can contribute to these vital areas of local support.

The Building Communities Fund is a small grants fund dedicated to supporting community-focused projects in our local area (see maps at the end of this document). It offers grants of between £500 - £3,000 for projects that must take place between April 2026 and March 2027. This fund supports a range of community projects and services for Southwark residents of all ages.

5) APPLICATION INFORMATION

Deadline for applications: 12pm (midday) on Friday 6th March 2026

Funding Themes

All funded activities must strengthen shared local community ties among residents and stakeholders, while also fostering a sense of belonging for businesses and their employees.

Within this, we are particularly interested in activities which:

- Provide opportunities to take part in **creative or art activities, or activities for physical wellbeing**
- Provide opportunities for communities to **enjoy nature, enhance their natural environment, or address sustainability needs**

- Improve access to **employment opportunities and/ or develop new skills.**

Requirements

In addition, your project/ activities must

- Have a positive impact on Southwark residents (minimum 70% of participants must live in the borough).
- Takes place in April 2026 / March 2027 financial year

Priority will be given to activities which:

- Target communities or groups with high levels of deprivation and need
- Takes place closest to London Bridge. We are less likely to fund activities taking place in the South of the Borough.
- Can demonstrate clear and substantial impact
- Offer good value for money
- Most closely match our funding themes

Priority will be given to organisations which:

- Can demonstrate a track record of quality delivery of activities in the area of focus, or a clear ability to do so
- Are embedded in the community they serve
- Take an active and demonstrable approach to equality, diversity and inclusion. For example, the London Living Wage accreditation or other relevant platforms
- Would be less likely to source funding from larger charitable or statutory sources.

We encourage applications from organisations with a turnover less than £300,000 per annum, although in some cases we may fund larger organisations.

We particularly **welcome applications from majority black and minority ethnic groups, including BAME-led organisations.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

The grant application process is now split into two stages:

- **Phase 1. Expression of Interest (EOI) & Eligibility Check.**
- **Phase 2. Application form**

All applicants must first complete an **Expression of Interest form (preferably online)**. Applicants who pass the eligibility check will then be invited to submit a full application.

How to apply

- **Online (preferred):**
Complete the Expression of Interest form via our website.
- **Accessible Word version:**
If you require a Word version of the form, please email **deborah@teamlondonbridge.co.uk** to request one. Completed forms should be returned by email along with your constitution and latest accounts.

- **Paper copy (if needed):**

If you are unable to complete the form online or by email, you can request a paper copy by calling **020 7407 4701**. You may then complete the form by hand and return it by post or in person to our office address below.

You will receive email confirmation within one week of submitting your Expression of Interest. If you do not hear from us within this time, please contact the office.

Team London Bridge
8 Holyrood Street
London
SE1 2EL

You are welcome to call our office to ask for anything to be clarified before you submit the application, ask for Deborah (Interim Responsible Business Manager)

We encourage all applicants to approach Community Southwark, the local infrastructure support organisation for the voluntary and community sector, for advice and support on completing applications for grants.

Please ensure you give us accurate contact details, it's the only way we can let you know whether your application has been successful.

6) TIMELINE

Activity	Details	Date
Phase 1: Expression of Interest and Eligibility		
	Expression of Interest and Eligibility form application window opens	23rd January
	Expression of Interest window closes	6th Feb
	All applicants notified the outcome of their EOI	10th Feb
Phase 2: Application		
	Building Communities Fund info session for Eligible Applicants Only	16th February
	Application forms sent to Eligible applicants	16th February
	Deadline for submission of completed application	6 th March
	Grant outcome notification	3rd April

7) SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS / FUNDHOLDERS

If you don't have the right level of governance, or your members are under 18, you can still apply, with the support of another organisation to hold the funds and take final responsibility for the project. For example, you may want to apply via your local TRA if you are a small informal group. This organisation will:

- Receive and disburse the small grant on behalf of the applicant group
- Seek all necessary legal and other approvals (health and safety, safeguarding, insurance and so on) which may be required to complete the project
- Undertake informal monitoring and support of the project from beginning to end
- Communicate any project problems to Team London Bridge
- Keep proper financial records and accounting (including receipts, invoices, etc)

If you think you need to apply by this route, please get in touch before you apply.

8) DECISION MAKING

The Building Communities Fund Grants Committee will consider all applications and confirm whether applications have been successful by 3rd April 2026

The Building Communities Fund Grants Committee's decision is final. We will offer to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

The Building Communities Fund Grants Committee is responsible for overseeing all Team London Bridge grant funding, making the final decision on applications. Committee members are representatives from TLB member businesses, as well as local community stakeholders:

PwC	Impact on Urban Health
London Bridge City	Jacobs
Anthony Gold	Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
Southwark Council	Team London Bridge
REM	Local resident

9) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We recognise that extended monitoring and evaluation requirements take organisations away from their day-to-day work of delivering activities and support. We therefore ask only that you complete a brief evaluation form at the end of your project, setting out to what extent you were able to deliver the work as planned, and any evidence of success. We also ask that you send us pictures of your activities to help us publicise the work and its impact.

A member of Team London Bridge staff and where possible members of the Grants Committee will aim to visit each project at least once. This is an opportunity for us to meet you and understand a bit more about what you do, beyond what's in an application form.

10) GRANTS AND SPENDING

If you are successful, we will ask you when you need the grant. We will usually pay the grant at the start of the quarter in which the activity begins. The grant must be used exclusively for the purpose for which it was awarded. We are open to discussions about changes to the use of the grant within reason, but please contact us in advance before making any significant changes.

In extraordinary circumstances or should there appear to be a breach of our agreement, we reserve the right to ask for evidence of expenditure in the form of copies of all relevant receipts and invoices. We will request funds are returned if we believe funding has not been spent appropriately.

11) ACCEPTANCE PACK

Team London Bridge will send each successful applicant an acceptance pack, which includes:

- An acceptance form
- Team London Bridge logo for use on your promotional materials
- Details of how to claim the grant

The acceptance form will ask you to:

- Confirm the amount of grant requested and your bank account details
- Agree to keep evidence of spend
- Agree to fill in a project evaluation form when the project is completed

Groups working with a support organisation will require signatures from both groups.

Applicants (and their support groups) will be asked to contact Team London Bridge on completion of their project. Team London Bridge will then send out project evaluation forms (which will include a section for support organisations).

12) FAQS

When is the deadline for applications?

Deadline for applications: 12 noon on 6th March 2026.

How are the grants funded?

All Team London Bridge grant funding is made up of contributions from BID levies paid by [most businesses based in London Bridge](#). Without them, this fund would not be possible.

How much can I apply for?

Your group can apply for any amount from £500 to a maximum of £3,000. This grant cannot usually be more than 50% of your organisation's annual income, based on the most recent set of accounts.

How many applications can an organisation submit?

Only one application may be made per organisation per year.

What can the money be used for?

Grants can be used for direct project costs, equipment, salaries, and contributions towards core costs.

We will not fund the following:

- Academic research
- Individuals (e.g. individual hardship grants)
- Projects that assist religious or political activities
- Projects run for individual or commercial benefit
- Contributions towards large-scale capital improvements
- One-off conferences or workshops

Who is eligible?

The Building Communities Fund is open to:

- Registered charities
- Tenants and Residents' Associations (TRAs)
- Other types of community group with an asset-lock

See the application form for a full list of applicable groups, and please contact us before applying if your type of organisation is not listed. We are unable to fund private enterprises.

As a minimum, your group must have a management committee, some form of written constitution and a dual signatory bank/building society account. (Please note that you will need to send us your constitution and latest accounts together with the completed application form.)

We may ask you to provide us with up-to-date health and safety, safeguarding, public liability insurance or equal opportunities policies. You may be asked to confirm that people working with children, young people or vulnerable adults have undergone an enhanced DBS check.

If you have any further questions about the application process, please contact Deborah Millington, Interim Responsible Business Manager, deborah@teamlondonbridge.co.uk

13) TEAM LONDON BRIDGE BOUNDARY, MAPS AND DEPRIVATION STATS



Figure 1: Team London Bridge BID area



Figure 2: Local to Team London Bridge BID's area

The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England, encompassing a wide range of indicators assessing living conditions.

Southwark's relative deprivation levels have improved since 2015, but it remains one of the most deprived areas in England.

Table 1: Indices of Deprivation – Southwark ranking in 2015 & 2019
Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Measure	Ranking out of 317 local authorities	
	IoD 2015	IoD 2019
Rank of average rank	23 rd	43 rd
Rank of average score	40 th	72 nd

It is important to acknowledge that the Indices of Deprivation measures relative deprivation. While the ranking of Southwark has improved relative to other local authorities, this does not necessarily indicate that there has been a reduction in absolute levels of deprivation.

Approximately 21% of Southwark's population live in communities ranked within the most deprived fifth nationally. This increases to 23% among those aged under 18.

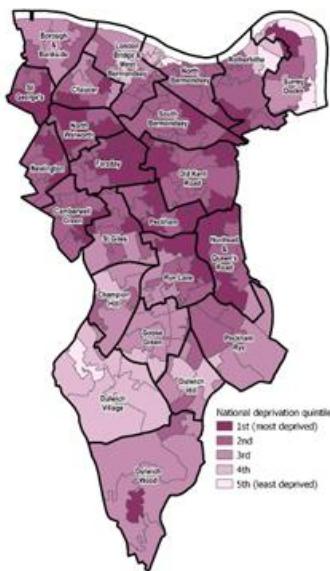


Figure 13: 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles for Southwark LSOAs.
Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019.
English Indices of Deprivation. © OS crown copyright and database rights 2024.
Ordnance Survey (0)100019252.

Figure 3: Indices of Deprivation for Southwark, 2024, [access full document here](#).