

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND "Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live" WARD PROPOSAL FORM													
WARD Weoley	INNOVATION TITLE Valuing Our Heritage.....												
<p>Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below.</p> <p>(Tick all those that apply)</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>City Core Priorities</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>LIF Priorities</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Children - a Great City to Grow Up In <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Citizens' Independence & Well Being <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Jobs & Skills a great City to succeed in <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• New approaches to investment <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Housing a great City to live in <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Active citizens & communities stepping up <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Health a great City to lead a healthy & active life <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Clean streets <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>• Improving local centres <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>City Core Priorities</u>	<u>LIF Priorities</u>	• Children - a Great City to Grow Up In <input type="checkbox"/>	• Citizens' Independence & Well Being <input type="checkbox"/>	• Jobs & Skills a great City to succeed in <input type="checkbox"/>	• New approaches to investment <input type="checkbox"/>	• Housing a great City to live in <input type="checkbox"/>	• Active citizens & communities stepping up <input type="checkbox"/>	• Health a great City to lead a healthy & active life <input type="checkbox"/>	• Clean streets <input type="checkbox"/>		• Improving local centres <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p>What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?</p> <p>We (Balsall Heath Local History Society) have just moved our Victorian/ World War Two Classroom into the Our Space, Our Place community hub in Price's Square, Northfield. We have been running our classroom for school and family groups for twelve years in the building which was Clifton Junior School, after the school moved to new premises. The building has now been closed as it is in such poor repair and so we looked for a new home for it in the city. The room was originally set up and equipped with the support of a Heritage Lottery grant. It has traditional desks with inkwells, slates, Correction Chair, sets of costumes for different periods, blackboard, and a cane. The sessions we offer include writing with a dip pen, and chanting tables, tailored to the appropriate time frame. We also offer an extended hands-on artefacts and role play session to complement a lesson in the classroom.</p> <p>The sessions are entirely run by 5 older volunteers who are committed to interpreting our heritage for new generations. In addition we have a larger group of about 10 volunteers who are also older people, and who will come to help with family open days, events etc.</p> <p>This valuable educational and community resource allows people of all ages to appreciate and understand important aspects of history through active participation.</p> <p>We need some funding to adapt the room to the new space. Our existing blackboard for example, could not move with us and has to be replaced, as well as some storage space, and chairs. We estimate this would cost approx £600.</p>													

The move to Northfield brings new opportunities for partnership working with other community groups located in the hub as well as local schools. We are now aiming to take a more innovative approach by developing access for a wider range of people. We already run regular family open days. We now also wish to develop reminiscence work with older people, using the room as a trigger for schoolday memories. So we also need some funding for further adaptation of our equipment, especially the seating. This would enable us to provide a more suitable space for use with other creative arts groups in the hub.

We also need funding to support our start in the new setting. We are going to pay £500 a quarter. A sum of £1000 would give us 6 months to build up enough custom to cover the rent on an ongoing basis.

Time Frame – is it:-

One off event/programme

Implement and complete within 6 months (2016)

Implement and complete within 12 months (2017)

/

How will the innovation be implemented?

1. We aim to buy in additional pieces of equipment to supplement what we have, as soon as possible. (£600)

2. We need to produce a whole new range of publicity materials for the new venue and the new range of clientele.

3. Then we are aiming at a launch event in the Autumn, probably the beginning of October, for schools and community groups followed closely by a family event to ensure we reach as widely as possible into the community.

Publicity and launch events we estimate at costing £400

4. Alongside this we intend to have discussions with other local groups to maximise potential use of the resource

What outcomes will the proposal achieve? What will success look like and how will its impact be measured? How will you ensure legacy/ continuation and what learning will the project provide?

Success will be measured in terms of :

- number of visits from schools with positive feedback
- number of family learning sessions achieved with good attendance and positive evaluation.
- establishment of an ongoing programme of sessions for older people.
- Increase of partnerships with other groups with qualitative results.

1. For children we expect the classroom will enrich their educational experience, giving them new insight into their heritage,. We believe this will help improve their attainment levels. We will measure success through evaluations.

Schools that have visited in the past have given us glowing reports, emphasising the value of the session for their pupils. We have a proven track record.

2. For families an important outcome will be the shared learning experience, providing an occasion for enjoying an educational session together and gaining new understanding of heritage.

3. For older people, the visits will contribute to their wellbeing.. Many older people can remember their childhood more strongly than recent events. Recalling memories has a validating effect and the classroom is a reminiscence tool which can be exploited to promote social interaction and break down barriers of loneliness.

4. In terms of partnerships, we aim to develop some interesting new collaborative projects in the future which will enable the best use of the classroom as well as the skills and contacts from other groups.

5. For Northfield, we aim to raise awareness of heritage and stimulate interest in local history and pride in their community. In Balsall Heath we believe this has had a positive impact on community cohesion and resilience and we hope to contribute to the same success in Northfield.

Legacy & continuation. The project is sustainable. We have been running it for 12 years in Balsall Heath and charging a small fee which was sufficient to cover the cost of renting space and the minor associated running costs. We run the sessions with volunteers (retired teachers) but if there were enough bookings we would consider buying in some sessional support to enable enhanced capacity. This would, however, be funded entirely from generated income.

Have you considered other sources of funding and whether the project can be used to leverage further funding from elsewhere (please specify funding sources)?

The project was originally funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This provided the funding for equipping the room and initial publicity. Since then we have not needed to apply for additional funding. We do not anticipate further funding will be needed after we have set up in Northfield although we might seek funding for new developments in partnership with others, next year.

What resources will be required?

	£
- Capital	600
- Running costs	1400
- People power volunteers	

Amount required from LIF £...2000.....

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind?

Yes.

- We have the existing classroom furniture and resources;
- A large collection of artefacts relating to the Victorian and World War Two;
- A committed group of volunteers who are already well experienced in delivering educational , family learning or reminiscence sessions.
- A support group of volunteers who will help on event days for families.
- Support for publicity from NNO. (neighbourhoodnews online.org)
- A website to publicise the resource: balsallheathhistory.co.uk

Contact person for proposal

NameValerie Hart...(Society Secretary).....

Telephone0121 689 2584.....

E-mailvalhart1@googlemail.com.....

Which residents or community groups was the proposal discussed with and when (please give details of any meetings and which councillors attended)?

We have had discussions with the Northfield Community Partnership who have been supportive and agreed to rent us a room in the Our Space, Our Place community hub. They could see the overlap of interest with other groups, including Fourthwall Theatre Company and the Northfield Arts Forum. We have now made contact with these groups. We have also discussed the proposal with the Manager of Northfield Library and the Princes Trust.

Representatives of the Arts 50 Alive project also came to visit us in our Balsall Heath setting and made useful suggestions.

We have nominated a representative to sit on the Our Space, Our Place Management Committee which has a remit to establish shorter & longer-term priorities, goals & direction to ensure that the hub can grow organically & naturally and serve Northfield well. At the meeting on August 3rd the proposal was explained and discussed. Members of the group were encouraging and happy to support us in putting the proposal forward.

We have not attended any Weoley Ward meetings, having only just arrived in Northfield. However, several local Councillors attended the launch of Our Space, Our Place and showed interest in the classroom.

£2000 awarded

Discussed at

Ward meeting *ward forum*

Date *9/9/17*

Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors

Name Julie Johnson Signature [Signature] Date 9/19/17
 Name Steve Boston Signature [Signature] Date 9/19/17
 Name Pat Douglas Osborn Signature [Signature] Date 14.9.17

Internal use only

Received: Date

Go to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for decision: Date

Approved

Yes	
No	