



CAMFERENCE

2020

20-22 OCTOBER

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our purpose:

We're here to strengthen civil society and create a better London, through enabling funders from all sectors to be effective. We're focused on collaboration – convening funders to connect, contribute and cooperate together, to help people across London's communities to live better lives.

convene

We create the space for productive conversations and collaborations. Our aim is to use the space we create for cross-sector dialogue as a vehicle for: sharing information, approaches and ideas; developing a shared understanding of need; collaboration; and trust-building.

connect

We bring people and organisations together with the ideas and tools they need to be effective. Our aim is to develop and showcase practical ways for doing things differently and in such a way as to strengthen civil society and create a better London.

contribute

We shape policies that affect Londoners through our informed voice. Our aim is to play a constructive role in policy development and to ensure that the combined intelligence, experience and views of our members are represented to strengthen civil society in London.

cooperate

We enable funders to work together to tackle the issues facing London. Our aim is to strengthen practice, increase the impact of assets and resources through aligning these effectively across funders, and create the mechanisms that enable collaboration to work.

welcome

We'd like to warmly welcome attendees to London Funders' first ever online conference - **#Camference20**. Over 200 of us are coming together (from our homes) with a fantastic group of speakers to think about how covid-19 has impacted the capital's communities, to share hopes for the future, and to discuss the role that funders need to play in supporting civil society and our communities through this.

To help you navigate the Camference this guide has:

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Future on pages 16 to 21

More than six months on from lockdown, it has become clear that the virus (and its wide-ranging consequences) are not disappearing any time soon. As we brace ourselves for the long winter months ahead, now is the time to reflect on what has worked, what hasn't, and what the future holds.

The pandemic has provided a stark reminder that there is no 'level playing field' for our communities. Race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, and socioeconomic status are all factors that have affected not only mortality rates but also job security, mental health, access to services and housing conditions. Now we must ask - how do we as funders need to change to ensure we're working with communities to address these long-entrenched inequalities? Looking specifically at race - the intersection between the Black Lives Matter movement and the pandemic have reminded us that we are facing two emergencies. Put simply: we cannot tackle the long-term effects of covid-19 without acknowledging the impact of structural and institutional racism.

It has been a privilege for London Funders to work alongside 65 funders contributing to the London Community Response since the covid-19 crisis hit our communities back in March, seeking to address both the current crisis and build towards a more equal future. So far over £40m in funding has been distributed to groups in all 33 boroughs, supporting civil society groups across the capital to navigate the complex current situation.

We couldn't have done this without the support of our friends. We've been working with six equality-led organisations (Ubele, Council of Somali Organisations, London Gypsy and Travellers, Inclusion London, Women's Resource Centre and Consortium) to ensure that BAME, Deaf and Disabled, Women's and LGBTQ+ led organisations are reached and supported.

This year has really shown the value of the great partnerships we have across London's funding, civil society and faith communities, with colleagues from the public, private and social sectors. You will get to hear from these many perspectives on each of our expert panels in the coming days. Building on London Funders' Towards Renewal blog series of the summer, we are looking forward to picking up conversations about how we can collectively work together beyond the Camference.

Although things remain uncertain, it is our job as funders to remain hopeful and ambitious about the future, whilst being mindful of how the past has shaped us. As we navigate many unknowns, we do so with a strong track record of collaboration, and a shared commitment to strengthening London's civil society, knowing that by working together we can help London's communities to thrive beyond covid-19.

David Farnsworth, Chair; Monica Needs, Vice-Chair; and Sally Dickinson, Vice-Chair



20 Oct 10-11.30am: **past**

On day one, we will be taking stock of what has happened so far, what we have learned over the last six months and what we need to hold on to for the future. Our speakers will be sharing their initial reactions to the crisis, their approach to organisational changes, and personal reflections about how the response of sectors and communities can inform our next steps.

Panel Chair **John Griffiths** (Founding Director, Rocket Science) will be joined by: **Kim Smith** (Chief Executive, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham); **Moirá Sinclair** (Chief Executive, Paul Hamlyn Foundation); **Rosie Ferguson** (Chief Executive, House of St Barnabas and Chair of ACEVO); and **Yvonne Field** (Founder and Chief Executive, Ubele).

21 Oct 10-11.30am: **present**

On day two, we will explore what is needed in the immediate term, look at how London's communities are faring, and consider what we need to think about for the coming months. Our speakers will be sharing how they're going to put learning into practice over the next six months, and look ahead to what may happen over the winter and into 2021.

Panel Chair **David Farnsworth** (Chief Grants Officer, City Bridge Trust) will be joined by: **James Smith** (Research Director, Resolution Foundation); **Adeela Warley** (Chief Executive, Charity Comms); **Xia Lin** (Head of Research and Policy, Toynbee Hall); and **Tracey Lazard** (Chief Executive, Inclusion London).

22 Oct 10-11.30am: **future**

On the final day, we will be looking ahead to the long-term beyond the crisis, and discussing what opportunities and challenges our city and communities will encounter in the years to come. Our speakers will elaborate on their hopes and aspirations about what we can achieve when we emerge from the crisis.

Panel Chair **Yolande Burgess** (Strategy Director, London Councils) will be joined by: **Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard** (Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement); **Ben Rogers** (Director, Centre for London); **Cassie Robinson** (Senior Head of UK Portfolio, National Lottery Community Fund); and **Miatta Fahnbulleh** (Chief Executive, New Economics Foundation).

This blog was first published on the London Funders website in summer 2020 - go to the online version at www.londonfunders.org.uk for all the hyperlinks to other resources...

Ubele, Women's Resource Centre, Consortium and Inclusion London have been working on developing a London specific funding framework detailing the principles and practice they believe are most effective at reducing structural inequality within and beyond the London Community Response – here they share their thoughts on how we can move towards justice.

Structural inequality goes beyond recognising that certain groups are treated badly or less favourably and providing a range of 'equality of opportunity' approaches in response; it is about understanding that our society is built on and actively depends upon the systematic oppression and discrimination of women, BAME communities, Disabled people, LGBT+ people and people locked in poverty.

Violence, othering, prejudice, marginalisation, exclusion and poorer health and life opportunities and outcomes, and the intersections of these experiences, are all causes and consequences of society run in this way. To address this effectively we need whole system change that goes beyond trying to ensure equality of opportunity.

It is crucial to explicitly acknowledge that inequity is built in to the system, by being honest about this you can design your interventions in the context of this challenging reality, not despite it. This acknowledgement is part of a growing call to ensure responses to covid-19 approach funding from this structural understanding. Charity So White and Equally Ours are developing funding principles and practice which reflect this approach which we support and that we will be basing our framework and our more immediate proposals on.

Key to these principles and our approach is the primary importance of supporting the self organisation of our marginalised and discriminated against communities. All progressive social change has been brought about by communities themselves resisting oppression, providing peer support, developing understanding and taking and demanding action.

We believe it is vital to actively address and reduce structural inequality by prioritising the support of, and investment in, equalities organisations that are run by and for the discriminated against communities they represent and serve both at a frontline and infrastructure level. Our user-led community organisations are complex ecosystems that make a huge contribution to our communities and wider society. We are creative, innovative and resilient but also extremely fragile and under threat. Urgent and targeted action is needed.

Funding Design priorities: We have highlighted the following three funding design priorities that we believe will be key in enabling the London Community Response to begin to address the deep structural inequalities that covid-19 has revealed so starkly. We hope, in collaboration with funders, to develop and build upon these three areas of work so we can together create a longer term funding vision and framework that will bring help bring about the tangible change and the transfer of power and resources needed to counter the enormous weight of structural inequality.

Our three funding design priorities we are proposing for the London Community Response and beyond are:

continued...

towards reflection

1 To prioritise funding to community organisations led by and for marginalised communities and those most affected by covid-19 crisis.

2 To provide core non-project based funding that enables organisations to respond flexibly and innovatively to emerging need. Full core costs and costs to meet access needs to be fully funded. In addition to the core grant, a capacity building ring fenced ‘top up grant’ needs to be provided to enable each organisation to carry out organisational and/or policy or voice service development work.

3 To build on the good work already being undertaken to make the funding programme more accessible and work to practically open up the application and assessment process so equalities user-led organisations see this fund as being a ‘key fund for them’. This may involve for example, building in longer term outreach work, delivered by infrastructure organisations, to support user-led organisations to apply; it may involve the re-designing the application process so organisations can make video applications instead of written applications; it may also involve challenging current concepts of what an effective fundable organisation looks like and how we measure value and success.

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The past is constantly being reviewed and reinterpreted through the lens of the present. John Griffiths, the author of last year's Review of Reviews looks back to see what we can still draw on from several pre-Covid strategies to inform our future planning for civil society's recovery...

Recent weeks have seen our country's history re-purposed as we search for lessons from historical precedent to explain our current predicament, selecting what moments to reference, or whom we choose to venerate or denigrate. As the government's borrowing surpassed levels last seen during the Second World War, the Prime Minister needed little prompting to resort to Churchillian war-time rhetoric, speaking of the virus as the “hidden enemy” and summoning the “Blitz spirit” to foster social unity and community action in the face of the pandemic.

Whilst some question the appropriateness of these particular analogies, parallels with the social impact and legacy of the War are pertinent. Perversely, they also offer hope to those who see the 2020s, like the 1940s, as an opportunity to effect lasting and transformative social change.

Referring to how the First World War hurried on the Russian revolution, Leon Trotsky observed that “war is the locomotive of history.” Another 20th Century Goliath, J.M. Keynes, argued similarly that it is “politically impossible for a capitalistic democracy to organise expenditure on the scale necessary to make the grand experiments [economic transformation] — except in war conditions.” Indeed, recent histories of the last century provide considerable evidence that “the reduction in inequality that took place in most developed countries between 1910 and 1950

was above all a consequence of war and of policies adopted to cope with the shocks of war.”[1]

It is these war-like conditions, brought on by our response to the coronavirus, which provide a window of opportunity to capture the zeitgeist, define a new form of social contract and rethink relationships between government, civil society and business. And yet, as we begin to look for pointers and lessons from the pandemic, and find some succour from the community endeavour and social ingenuity born of the crisis, it is easy to overlook that many of the UK's sociological failings had been laid bare well before Covid-19 shone an unflinching light on them.

It would be a mistake, therefore, not to go back to some of the detailed pre-covid analyses of c21st civil society, and of how we already needed to change. As another blog in this series has reflected, the UK's social evils and levels of inequality in particular, which were in plain sight before the pandemic, are now accelerating. Whilst the Age of Coronavirus may prove to be the “tipping point,” confirming our commitment to resource and enable a healthy civil society, we could also tip the other way. The stakes have never been higher.

It is barely eighteen months since the wide-ranging Civil Society Futures' Inquiry reported its findings. The underpinning research report, Civil Society in England: Its current state and future opportunity was far from alone in failing to foresee a global pandemic, but it still presented a daunting analysis of other forces shaping our future, ranging from the fracturing of society and irreversible environmental damage, to transformational political and economic restructuring; from growing personal precarity, to increasing geo-political uncertainty and rising nationalism.

The Inquiry recommended a shared PACT, a set of principles for underpinning civil society's future, which stemmed from its extensive consultations.

The magnitude of the impact of covid-19 may be such that we need to co-design “a different kind of conversation than the ones we have been involved in before.” Nevertheless, as we potentially frame a new set of guiding principles for “building back better,” the PACT merits revisiting if only to learn whether we could indeed do better:

Power: significantly shifting power, sharing more decision-making and control, being a model for the rest of society and doing whatever is needed so that everyone can play a full part in the things which matter to them.

Accountability: holding each of us and our different organisations accountable first and foremost to the communities and people we exist to serve, changing our approach so that we become more accountable to each other and to future generations.

Connectedness: broadening and deepening connections with people and communities which is a key purpose of civil society and critical to healing a fractured society; bridging economic, social and geographic divides and investing in a new social infrastructure for civil society.

Trust: (re)building trust – what the Inquiry refers to as civil society's “core currency” and foundation; earning this by staying true to our values, standing up for them and trusting others with vital decisions that affect them.

continued...

Four themes which connect the reviews also remain as relevant to our recovery from Covid-19 as to our healing of the UK's entrenched social divisions, which Brexit initially exposed and the pandemic has now exacerbated:

1 Today's adversity is breeding ingenuity, particularly in the form of individuals' and communities' social action; elective democracy's apparent crisis may be participative democracy's opportunity, yet this is not a zero-sum game. Ensuring a healthy future for civil society is both an individual and collective responsibility, not a requirement of others. The Covid-19 mutual aid website records as many as 740 groups having formed within the M25 alone. Feedback from a GLA survey suggests groups' memberships average around 400-450 with over a quarter defined as active. Engaged and responsible citizens are the bedrock of a modern civil society; the 20th century may have marked the hegemony of state-funded support, the c21st "needs 'people power' more than ever." [2]

2 The parameters of what constitutes civil society in the third decade of the c21st are much broader than was thought previously. Neither defined by organisational form, nor as a specific "third" sector, but in terms of objective (what it is for) and control (who is in charge), a modern civil society "refers to all individuals and organisations, when undertaking activities with the primary purpose of delivering social value, independent of state control." [3] The new Recovery Board for London, has a twin focus on the economic and social aspects of recovery. Our having agreed aspirations and expectations of the future role for civil society in this endeavour will be one way of ensuring that these strands of work do not become siloed or, worse still, operate at odds with one another.

3 The potency and importance of place in galvanizing social action, and as a focus for philanthropy (defined as the giving of "time, talent and treasure"). In part

this reflects and complements the direction of public policy over the last two decades, which has seen successive governments committed to devolving power to the nations, regions and communities of the UK, recognising that "people best placed to drive forward local and sustainable economies are those who live, work and do business in them." [4] Place-based giving schemes in London which, pre-Covid, seemed to be tapping into a popular urge to re-establish feelings of community in an increasingly fractured society, could well be further boosted by the long-term effects of lockdown as people commute less and give more as a way of reaffirming their sense of place and belonging. The 13 active schemes have provided much-needed support to places during the pandemic, from United in Hammersmith and Fulham's dissemination of micro-grants to local organisations; the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation's match-giving approach to fundraising, to Haringey Giving's collaboration with local SMEs, and Camden Giving's participatory grant-making.

4 Changed expectations of the role and responsibilities of the business community – coming from both inside and outside companies – were interpreted by the reviews as indicative of how boundaries between the private, public and voluntary sectors have become increasingly porous; how so many of today's social challenges demand not just partnership working, but cross-sector solutions. There is an entire section of the government's Civil Society Strategy devoted to the private sector, one of five foundations deemed necessary to build (back) thriving communities. However, Centre for London's extensive survey of giving in the capital cautioned that while London's businesses give around £330m per annum – about 6 per cent of the total across the capital - corporate philanthropy is not having the impact it could, as employers fail to apply the rigour they bring to their business to their charitable activities. Centre for London called for a "whole city" approach to "giving more, giving better and giving together" – based on a shared understanding of the capital's philanthropic priorities.

Two years previously, just prior to the last Mayoral Election, London's Fairness Commission argued for "the start of a new philanthropic age . . . an exemplary social philanthropic effort at a city level to focus on the challenges facing London's poorest citizens." Four years on, as we try to recover from the biggest disruption to civil society since the War, the time is surely now for London's leaders to crystallize that "Peabody Moment."

[1] Thomas Piketty *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (2014) p.20; See also: Peter Clarke *The Locomotive of War: Money, Empire, Power and Guilt* (2017).

[2] This statement from the Cabinet Office's Civil Society Strategy (2018) has echoes in New Local Government Network's (2019) thesis expounding the "community paradigm" of empowering and resourcing communities to create a non-hierarchical culture of cross-sector collaboration.

[3] *Civil Society Strategy: Building a Future that Works for Everyone*, 2018, p.19

[4] *Civil Society Strategy: Building a Future that Works for Everyone*, 2018, p.20



The original "Review of reviews" report was commissioned by London Funders and published in May 2019 - it's available for download at www.londonfunders.org.uk

speaker biographies: day one

John Griffiths

John is a Founder Director of Rocket Science. He heads the London team providing a range of research, consultancy and programme management services to clients across government, business and the voluntary sector, including grants management for a range of statutory and independent funders. As a Trustee of London Funders, John has worked on The Way Ahead looking at the future of civil society support in London, and the development of London's Giving. A former Councillor in Tower Hamlets, John remains a non-executive Director of the award-winning social enterprise, Bikeworks CIC in Bethnal Green, where he is also a primary school governor.



Kim Smith

Kim has worked in local government for over 30 years and was appointed Chief Executive of Hammersmith & Fulham Council in 2017. She's previously worked as the Director of Delivery & Value and held senior positions in Economic Development, Adult Learning, Regeneration and Community Liaison at H&F Council. Before joining H&F, Kim ran her own management development business and worked as a community and youth work consultant. Kim is passionate about people and communities and is motivated by a keenness to promote shared economic prosperity and opportunity for all. Kim holds BA honours degree in Social Science (Geography) and an IPD Diploma in Training Management.



Rosie Ferguson

Rosie is the Chief Executive of the House of St Barnabas – a social enterprise members' club and Employment Academy which exists to break the cycle of homelessness. She was most recently Chief Executive at Gingerbread. Rosie began her career with UNA Exchange and The British Council, and went on to be Chief Executive of London Youth from 2012 to 2016, where she grew the organisation significantly in terms of both income and impact. Rosie is a Trustee of the Nursery Theatre and was a Commissioner on the London Fairness Commission.



Yvonne Field

Yvonne is the Founder and Chief Executive of Ubele. She has more than 35 years of professional experience working with a wide range of organisations and stakeholders ranging from professional front line staff through to senior management, policy makers and planners in local, national and international government, civil society organisations and the corporate sector. She has spent substantial periods working in organisational learning and development, change management, informal education with youth, social care, health systems. Yvonne has an MA in Community and Social Work, a MSc in Change Agents Skills and Strategies, and professional qualifications in community and youth work, teaching and social work. She has also been on the board of a number of charitable trusts and is a Fellow of the Institute for Learning (FifL) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).



Moira Sinclair

Moira is Chief Executive of Paul Hamlyn Foundation, which she joined in February 2015 from Arts Council England where she was Executive Director for London and the South East. Moira is Chair of Clore Leadership. She is also Chair of East London Dance, the leading producer of creative dance experiences for the people of east London and beyond, and Vice-Chair of the London Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board. She is a member of the European Foundation Centre's Governing Council, the British Library Advisory Council and of the Arts Impact Fund's Investment Committee. Before joining Arts Council in 2005, Moira was Director of Vital Arts, an arts and health charity. She has also worked in local government, and in theatre and production management. A graduate of Manchester University where she studied drama, Moira became a Clore Fellow in 2004/05.



When it became apparent that the covid-19 crisis was becoming a national emergency, we knew we needed to immediately communicate with funders and encourage them to think about where they could achieve more through collaboration.

The London Funders team spoke with Londoners, our members, and civil society organisations of all shapes and sizes. More than anything, we heard how imperative it was for funders to reassure grantees of their continued support during this crisis, and ensure that future funding rounds would be informed by the experiences of communities affected by covid-19.

To this end we drafted our funder statement: We stand with the sector. Signatories to the statement have pledged to show an understanding that there will be times when staff and volunteers will not be available, when beneficiaries may require services to be provided in different ways, or when systems must be flexible to ensure that needs are met.



Although London Funders is a regional body, we reached out to funders from across all four nations to sign up to the statement, and show solidarity with their grantees. We were absolutely blown away by the take-up and momentum of the statement, and as

we begin to look back, we will be examining how it has been practically used by funders nationally.



- Over 400 signatories from Ballycastle to Berkshire, Stirling to Swansea, and even a foundation in Germany have signed up.
- The European Foundation Centre and Donor and Foundation Network in Europe have created a sister statement based on this pledge.



We're now working with IVAR and a steering group of funders and charities to shape both future emergency approaches and general grant-making practice (e.g. stripping back application processes; reaching new groups or speeding up decision-making). More from us soon!

You can see the statement in full, together with the list of signatories and links to news stories about how the statement has been used at the dedicated site www.covid19funders.org.uk

This blog was first published on the London Funders website in summer 2020 - go to the online version at www.londonfunders.org.uk for all the hyperlinks to other resources...

We've faced crises before, but the learning doesn't always "stick" when we get back to business as usual. This blog from London Funders asks: could trust, relationships and ambition be the difference this time?

We've been involved in large-scale funder collaborations before, at times when it felt the world was changing so much that we couldn't go back to previous ways of working, and excellent learning reports showed us a better future beyond the crisis. But we've often underestimated the "pull" of business-as-usual, or the complexities of the situations we're navigating, and struggled to put this learning into practice – what makes us more optimistic about the potential to learn from our response to covid-19? Trust, relationships and ambition...

Trust: Before the crisis one of our members reflected that the ways we act in our professional lives can be in sharp contrast to how we would behave in our personal ones. If a friend asks us for sponsorship money for a charity they have selected, or a loved one asks us for financial help to get through a crisis, we don't ask them to fill in an application, conduct due diligence on the charity or the need, and then ask them to report back on the impact of the money we gave – we work on trust. But stepping into our professional lives, we often put our trust in paperwork and process over people – a theme that was explored at the Big Network Day back in February. But now the boundaries between professional and personal are blurred like never before – we are talking to each other from our homes; meeting people's partners, children, pets; seeing the contrast between cramped conditions and living in a library. Working through the pandemic has brought a new meaning to "bringing

your whole self to work", and potentially opened up new opportunities for us to engage as equals, and to better match our personal values and approaches with the way we approach our work. We've had to trust each other more – through really listening to the voices of communities shaping emergency funding programmes, to trusting the due diligence and networks of other funders we've worked alongside, to trusting ourselves and our capacity to do the right thing – and this trust needs to be at the heart of how we think about working together beyond crisis. We need to hold on to these feelings, so that when we do eventually go back to our offices we don't leave this learning at home.

Relationships: At times of crisis, the importance of relationships is always clear – personally, in terms of who we support and who supports us; and professionally, through being able to work with colleagues to tackle issues that are bigger than any of our organisations can face alone. For London Funders we've seen this through being able to bring together over 60 funders to work on the London Community Response, which builds on many years of developing relationships across the funding community. We've also seen how a relationship-based funding approach is core to a crisis response. Through the outreach and community-focused approach of funders after the Grenfell Tower fire, funding flowed to the groups best-placed to respond, not just those who were already well-resourced – 55% of the grants (representing 58% of the money) went to groups who were BAME-led, in contrast to previous patterns of funding. We've adapted that approach now for the virtual world, working with the equity and inclusion partners who wrote yesterday's "towards justice" blog, strengthening relationships so that we focus on underlying causes of structural inequality, not just for the crisis but for thinking of the future. We also know that the relationships beyond funders and civil society are critical too – we've been working with agencies across London as part of the strategic coordination group for covid-19, and hope that these relationships

continued...

Spotlight on the London Community Response

will continue for the long-term too, recognising that “resilience” isn’t just about responding to a crisis, but is about rebuilding and recovering over many years – something reflected in our “towards renewal” blog on Monday. Through the crisis we’ve all developed new relationships, and strengthened existing ones – and because of the scale of the response this time these relationships are across more sectors, areas and themes than before. It’s hard, therefore, to conceive that we won’t sustain these for the long term, ensuring we can work together to implement learning and change the system beyond crisis.

Ambition: Whilst the current crisis has brought loss, distress and uncertainty, it has also been a time of coming together – from the surge of neighbourliness, volunteering and clapping for key workers, to the shared commitments of the funding community seen in the 350+ funders who signed up to our covid-19 funder statement to say that #WeStandWithTheSector. It feels that our ambitions to work together, to take responsibility for sharing learning, to understand the complexity of problems and solutions, and to act, are palpable in the conversations we’re having across sectors. We’re also connected to places where that ambition can be realised – our Chair, David Farnsworth, and one of our Trustees, Bharat Mehta, are on the London Transition and Recovery Boards – and are committed to engaging diverse voices in shaping the future. Many of these are not new ambitions – before the crisis we were working on issues of power, equity, and voice – but the crisis has perhaps given new energy and impetus for change. It’s hard now to go to a meeting where someone doesn’t talk about “bouncing back better” – maybe now, with greater trust, stronger relationships, and clear ambitions, we can take the learning from crisis and build our civil society so that it is truly responsive to, reflective of, and a champion for people and communities in London. We look forward to playing our part in making that happen.

Our #WeStandWithTheSector statement was only the beginning. In the capital, we have been coordinating 65 funders from across sectors through the London Community Response. So far, the partnership has distributed over £42m through three waves of funding since opening for applications four days after lockdown started.

The first wave of grants were for emergency provisions, such as food. In wave two, we launched ‘delivering differently’ grants designed to enable charities to change how they work – such as switching to digital channels or redeploying staff. The recently-closed third wave of grants provided grants of up to six months to give groups confidence to deliver through the months ahead, with a further emphasis on enabling people to get the holistic support that they needed through advice, mental health and domestic violence services.

Intelligence, needs analysis and real time data gathering have shaped all three funding rounds, and will continue to do so. We are working with infrastructure organisations, regional and local government and other funders to ensure that good practice is disseminated and that we all have a shared knowledge of local and thematic issues facing our communities. The London Community Response funders are taking a multi-wave approach, so whilst we’re currently responding to crisis and development, we’re also talking about plans for rebuilding and renewal when we come out on the other side.

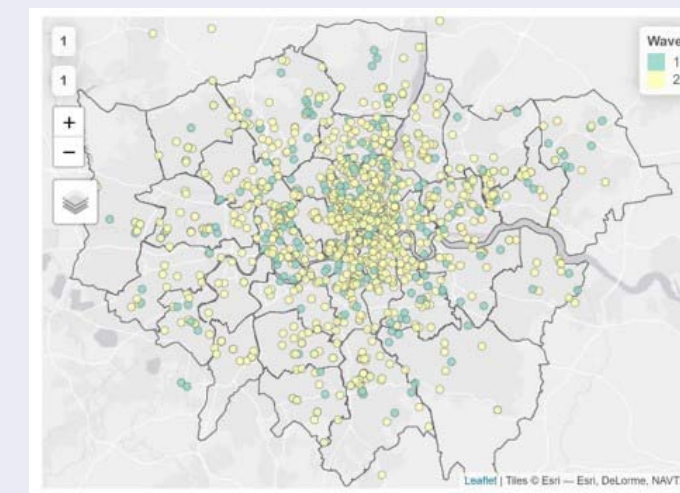
What next?

We’re presenting updated needs analysis and data on wave three grants later in the month, and wave four funds will be launched in November. The London Funders team and London Community Response funders have also commissioned Learning Partners (Reos and TSIC) to look at how we can build on the successes of the fund, and examine ‘what next’ for civil society.

We’ve received 6,527 applications and £133.3m has been asked for so far.

Over 2,600 grants have been awarded worth over £42m.

Shared intelligence and a common application form has allowed for decisions to be made quickly, supporting communities most at need. The fastest decision by a funder took two days from application to grant agreement.



We’re reaching groups led by communities. Here’s the grants distribution picture so far:

- 48.9% of grants have gone to Black, Asian and/or Minority Ethnic organisations;
- 11.1% of grants have gone to Deaf & Disabled organisations; and
- 5.8% of grants have gone to LGBT+ organisations

Behind the scenes it has been a real team effort to make this happen:

- 3.5 fte staff at London Funders;
- Over 120 people shared insights;
- Over 90 did initial due diligence checks;
- Over 50 people did comms, ops, strategy; and
- Many, many more have been involved in assessing and making grants.



speaker biographies: day two

David Farnsworth

David joined City Bridge Trust in June 2013 as Chief Grants Officer. Prior to this, David trained in the City as a lawyer, and practised as a solicitor. He then spent 12 years leading teams in the voluntary sector, including heading up the central London office of the Immigration Advisory Service and being CEO of Welsh Refugee Council. David spent 5 years directing the Refugee Programme at the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and also ran a consultancy working with leading charitable trusts and foundations committed to social justice. David is the Chair of London Funders.



Xia Lin

Xia is Head of Research and Policy at Toynbee Hall, and has worked there for 11 years. Coming from an academic background, Dr Lin works with a team of participatory researchers and innovators focused on understanding people's lived experience of exclusion, poverty and inequality, with the aim of co-designing solutions which support better, more sustainable outcomes for people and their communities. Examples of their work include improving access to fee-free ATMs in areas of multiple deprivation, improving community safety, and co-designing advice and health services.



Tracey Lazard

Tracey is a Disabled person with 28 years of experience working in a variety of Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs), where she has promoted disability equality, user involvement and the Social Model of Disability and the Cultural Model of Deafness. She has been in CEO positions for the last 16 years and joined the Inclusion London team as Chief Executive in 2011. Tracey is passionate about the value and contribution DDPOs make to both equality and inclusion but also to delivering effective, accessible and holistic services that make a real difference to Deaf and Disabled people's lives.



Adeela Warley

Adeela has been CEO of CharityComms since 2017. She is passionate about the strategic role of communications in driving social change and helping support a thriving community of communications professionals to share and learn together. Adeela is currently helping to coordinate the #NeverMoreNeeded campaign to promote the essential role of Charities in crisis and how they shape our society in the long term. Adeela has over 20 years' experience in charity communications across multiple skills and functions: strategic planning, market research, media, PR, events, brand, publishing and digital. Before joining CharityComms, she led the development of organisational communications, brand, and audience strategies for Friends of the Earth, putting them at the heart of the charity's campaigning success and supporter engagement.



James Smith

James joined the Resolution Foundation as Research Director in October 2018. Prior to this he worked in a range of roles at the Bank of England and in the civil service, leading analysis of macroeconomic issues for policy. His work focuses on wealth, debt and housing as well as leading the Foundation's work on macro policy.



towards renewal

This blog was first published on the London Funders website in summer 2020 - go to the online version at www.londonfunders.org.uk for all the hyperlinks to other resources...

Thinking beyond covid-19: how do we build our civil society so that it is truly responsive to, reflective of, and a champion for people and communities in London?

“Whatever you might be thinking about the long-term impacts of the coronavirus epidemic, you’re probably not thinking big enough.”

“But, in the same way that covid-19 is spreading at an exponential rate, we also need to think exponentially about its long-term impact on our culture and society. A year or two from now, the virus itself will likely have become a manageable part of our lives—effective treatments will have emerged; a vaccine will be available. But the impact of coronavirus on our global civilization will only just be unfolding. The massive disruptions we’re already seeing in our lives are just the first heralds of a historic transformation in political and societal norms”. Jeremy Lent

No-one knows what the long term outcomes of this pandemic will be but, as we are already experiencing, a crisis of this magnitude will create deep and unexpected shifts. Whatever the world looks like as we move from the immediate crisis, to the transitional period to the emergence of a changed landscape we are beginning to see that many of the previous systems, structures, norms and jobs could disappear and not return.

There is no doubt that this will have significant impacts on the most vulnerable: income inequality exacerbated; increasing physical and mental health issues and a potential rise in food prices caused by supply chain disruption. At the same time different approaches and tools such as Universal Basic Income are gathering mainstream support. New

ways of organising our cities transport systems are being trialled all over the world. The possibilities of progressive forms of social support are being explored and amplified.

The deeply shocking and visible inequality of the crisis – the care workers, security guards, supermarket staff and nurses continuing to work on the frontline whilst many on higher pay work from home; the evidence that those living in the poorest parts of England and Wales are dying at twice the rate of those in the richest areas – creates a particular moral context that may result in a shift in our collective mindset centring on justice and equality as we move forwards.

Nowhere has this been clearer than in the seismic response to the murder of George Floyd in America and the power of Black Lives Matter. The disproportionately high rate of black people in the UK dying of covid-19 starkly exposes the systemic racism and white hegemony of British society. This in turn has created the glimmerings of hope that by working collectively we could create a turning point for racial justice in the UK with many organisations explicitly acknowledging their failings on tackling racism and their need to do much more and much better. But time will tell whether these are performative acts or real, systemic shifts in thought and practice.

What came before

“In civil society a thousand flowers really are blooming. In every village, town, city, neighbourhood, community and sector new organisations are popping up and older ones are transforming themselves. If people are helping the people, this is bound to be where change starts first and fastest. Go on any local bulletin board or test out some hash tags, and the world of deep and rich innovation and collaboration will be revealed.”

45 Degree Change, Compass, February 2019

In August 2019 a blog highlighting racist training materials sparked the #CharitySoWhite movement, highlighting widespread institutional racism in civil society. In April of the same year London Funders published ‘To Begin at the Beginning’ underlining the systemic issues underpinning serious youth violence and advocating for a collaborative and long-term response from funders. In February the Losing Control network convened its biggest gathering of charities, policy makers, funders and individuals to explore inclusive ways of working, advocating for lived experience to be at the heart of decision making and promoting genuine diversity. And all of these approaches were built upon years of work by progressive change makers campaigning for new and collective ways of doing things with equity and accountability at their heart.

This is to say that many of the things that this crisis is bringing to the surface we knew about already. We knew that we were an increasingly unequal society and that groups within it were routinely and systemically penalised for, amongst other things, their race, their gender, their disability and/or their sexual orientation. We knew that power was held within increasingly homogenised circles and that decisions about peoples’ lives were made by those often furthest away from the challenges. We knew that institutions were hierarchical and siloed and that collective decision making and collaborative practice was culturally alien to many. We also knew that many within civil society were fighting back; finding new ways of working and thinking to create alternative models.

What’s happening now

“Pressure is on to assume a rapid emergency response, which has the virtue of addressing the basic needs of those most directly vulnerable to the impacts of the coronavirus....Another, more farsighted school of thought would advocate for taking on a renewal focus, with a keen eye towards the future...

It is not an either/or decision, this situation requires professionals to pivot between both emergency response and future renewal strategies.” Cormac Russell

What is clear right now is that many people and organisations are still operating in survival mode working out how to best get through what remains an emergency. But whilst desperately trying to make sense of an ever changing present there is also a transitioning into something else, a stage Donna Hall describes as “the liminal space: the critically important space between one form of existence and the next.”

London Funders have been bringing organisations and people from across the sector together to learn in real time since the beginning of this crisis (as well as long before). Our ‘immediate’ response was the funder statement from which the London Community Response has emerged. At the same time we recognise that this will not be a seamless progression - waves one, two, three - more a buffeting between future waves of the virus, pushing us back and forth.

But beyond the push and pull of these waves is a shoreline that we must keep in sight. How do we task ourselves to prepare for reaching that shore and getting safe purchase; maintaining vigilance whilst staying open to the unknown?

Reimagine

“Who gets to imagine the future defines what the future looks like.” Lyn Gardner

continued...

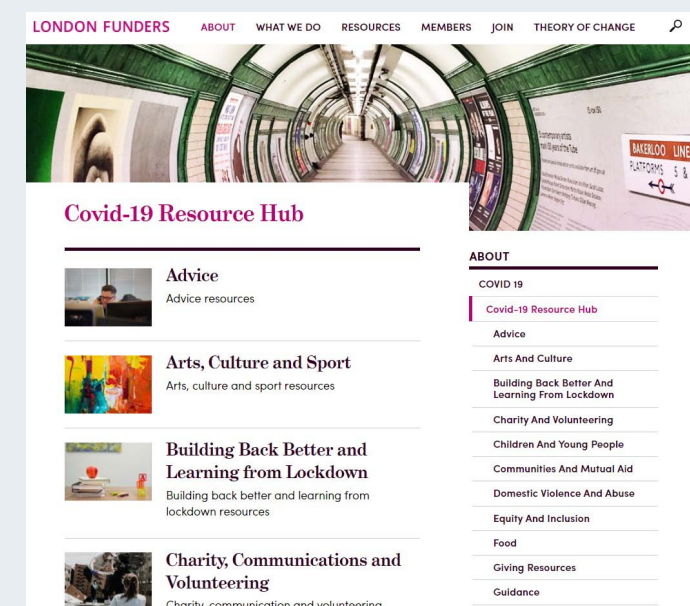
No-one knows the extent of the challenges being experienced right now or those that will reveal themselves as this new territory emerges. The potential for progressive change is “far from guaranteed” and end gaming with quick solutions is a high risk venture. As Grant Oliphant describes in the Chronicle of Philanthropy, “our job is to look deeper and further.” We need to give time to the reimagining.

A key strength of London Funders is our role as a connector and convenor across many sectors and actors in the capital. But looking deeper and further requires us to design a different kind of conversation than the ones we have been involved in before. We want to utilise our position to create an environment where we can start taking the steps needed to reimagine our collective purpose and place.

Success will be dependent “on our collective capacity to deal with facts, share values, and identify common solutions”. But there is a danger that that ‘collective’ falls in to the same siloed, cognitively homogenous groupings that are part of the problem. The same disparity between those on the frontline and those at home repeats again when examining who has the luxury of time to think and reflect and whose voices are missing from the conversations around ‘the new normal’.

So with all this at the forefront of our minds want to hear from you: how should we work together to explore the shoreline, the ‘what if’, thinking with us not for us? Please do drop us a line with your thoughts.

From advice to volunteering, via culture, food, mental health and refugees, the London Funders Resource Hub has been set up to ensure you have access to all the latest reports, research and data on how covid-19 is impacting our communities and civil society. Hundreds of resources have been checked and collated across the sections of the hub, which is being constantly updated as new insights become available.



You can find all the resources at:

<https://londonfunders.org.uk/about/covid-19-0/covid-19-resource-hub>

Yolande Burgess

Yolande is the Strategy Director at London Councils and leads on Young People’s Education and Skills, and Grants and Community Services. With over 25 years in the public sector, Yolande’s responsibilities have included partnership working and delivery, most notably the implementation of the New Deal programme across north London. She has substantial experience of developing and implementing post-16 education policy and strategy - guiding work in areas such as special educational needs and careers guidance - planning and commissioning learning provision locally and regionally, and managing portfolios of large and complex education contracts. Yolande actively contributes to national policymaking and local implementation.



Miatta Fahnbulleh

Miatta is Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation, and has a wealth of experience in developing and delivering policy to empower communities and change people’s lives. She has been at the forefront of generating new ideas on reshaping our economy inside government and out. Prior to joining NEF she was Director of Policy & Research at the Institute of Public Policy Research. Before this, she has worked at senior levels for the Leader of the Opposition, the Cabinet Office, and the Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit. Her work has included the development of policies from devolution to local economic growth, housing, energy and climate change and transport, driving forward the Government’s economic devolution agenda in England, and localism and local economic growth. Miatta has a Masters and PhD in economic development from the LSE and a BA in PPE from Oxford.



continued...

Ben Rogers

Ben is an urbanist, researcher, writer and speaker, with a particular interest in urban life, citizenship, public service reform and the built environment. He founded Centre for London in 2011 and has written reports on charitable giving, delivering London's large sites and the challenges facing the West End.

Previously Ben was an Associate Director of IPPR for five years and subsequently led strategy teams at Haringey Council, the Department for Local Government and Communities and the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, where he wrote the government's strategy on 'Quality of Place'. Ben is the author of several acclaimed books on philosophy, history and democracy, and an experienced journalist and broadcaster. He has been a Contributing Editor to Prospect Magazine, a visiting fellow at the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the London Finance Commission, chaired by Professor Tony Travers. Ben is also a trustee of The Yard Theatre.



Debbie Weekes-Bernard

Debbie became Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement in November 2018. Debbie works to improve Londoners' life chances and to boost social integration and community voice across the Mayor's programmes. She leads the promotion of equalities and active citizenship across London and makes sure City Hall actively seeks to tackle poverty for Londoners across all groups.



Debbie joined the mayoral team from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation where she led the organisation's work on poverty and ethnicity with additional areas of expertise on labour markets, education, lone parents, young people and society. Prior to this Debbie worked at the Runnymede Trust as Head of Research, running their work on inclusive curriculum development, education attainment gaps and school exclusion as well as work on community cohesion, race and criminal justice and youth transitions. She also worked as a lecturer on social psychology and criminology, teaching students in both the further education and higher education sector.

Alongside professional work, Debbie has a longstanding professional and personal interest in social justice, social mobility and community engagement. Debbie is a trustee of the Equality and Diversity Forum and has sat on a number of other influential panels and working parties including the Poverty Commissions for both the National Union of Students and the London borough of Lewisham and is a member of the British Journal of Sociology of Education Editorial Board. She has also served locally as a chair of governors for two federated primary schools in East London.

Cassie Robinson

Cassie is Senior Head of the UK Portfolio for the National Lottery Community Fund and her portfolio includes the Emerging Futures Fund, the Climate Action Fund, the Digital Fund and Exploring New Approaches. She's also a Co-founder of the Point People, a Fellow at The Institute of Innovation and Public Purpose at UCL and a Fellow at The Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence at Cambridge University. Previously she was Strategic Design Director at Doteveryone, the tech policy think tank, where she led the Stronger Society programme, navigating the intersections of social justice and technology. Alongside 15 years of building the field of Social Innovation in the UK and Internationally, she has worked in the Cabinet Office at Government Digital Service, is Founder of the Civic Shop, and Co-founder of Tech For Good Global. She sits on the Board of Organise HQ, and the Advisory Board of Participatory City Foundation. She was awarded as a Nesta Creative Pioneer, a Democracy Fellow at Civic Hall in New York, and named as a Leader in Philanthropy by the European Foundation Centre.



Become a member

London Funders is a unique network. Our 170 members invest in every aspect of London's life, from the arts through to welfare, and they fund across all 32 boroughs and the City of London.

London Funders provides a safe place to think and talk in order to facilitate collaboration and action, supporting our members to achieve their varied and diverse missions. Membership to London Funders allows for the following benefits:

- Regular member seminars on topical funding issues, featuring senior-level speakers, with challenging debates and opportunities to share opinion and good practice with funders;
- Project group and specialist thematic meetings enabling members to work together on specific issues in smaller groups;
- Access to policy briefing meetings, member updates and focused joint events with key agencies on current issues;
- Weekly e-bulletins focusing on key funding issues, relevant news and highlighting members' programme updates to the wider membership;
- Opportunities to network with a wide spectrum of funders including statutory, corporate and foundation funders across London; and
- Opportunities to raise your own issues and disseminate and discuss your programme outcomes or research with funder colleagues from all sectors across London through our programme of events or in a tailor-made gathering.

If you would like to discuss membership then please contact the London Funders team and we would be happy to talk to you further about your organisation and how we could best support you to achieve your aims.

Funding distributed in London last year	Membership fee 2020/21
Under £500,000	£540
£500,001 to £1,000,000	£850
£1,000,001 to £3,000,000	£1,160
£3,000,001 to £5,000,000	£1,470
£5,000,001 to £7,000,000	£1,780
£7,000,001 to £9,000,000	£2,090
£9,000,001 to £11,000,000	£2,395
£11,000,001 to £15,000,000	£2,705
£15,000,001 to £20,000,000	£3,015
Over £20,000,000	£3,325



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