

Agenda - Oxford Gives

6.00 - 7.30pm, 20 October 2021

[Register](#)

6.00: Welcome

6.10: Impact Report

6.15: Pitches

6.50: Pledging

7.30: Thank you and Close

With thanks to Rathbone Greenbank Investments for supporting this event

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Ark-T Centre

Registered Charity: 1079495

2019-20 income: £436,719

Year founded: 1999

Website: www.ark-t.org

What does Ark-T Centre do?

Ark-T is an arts centre where people, art and powerful ideas come together. Ark-T uses the powers of creativity and human connection to change lives and inspire community driven social change. They work to improve wellbeing and quality of life, cultivate diverse leadership in disadvantaged groups, champion inclusion and develop outstanding community art. This project will bring people and communities together for a day of workshops and drop in sessions tailored by and for all members of families residing and living in deprivation in OX4.

What problem(s) will this work address?

This project will provide support for the whole family which is responsive to the needs of the communities who access Ark-T's spaces and services. They will tackle social isolation and uncertainty through community-focused groups. Identified needs such as financial security and IT skills will also be addressed.

What is the solution to this problem?

It will bring the community together, providing a regular day where anyone can join Ark-T's spaces and have access to high quality, creative, therapeutic, engaging workshops and services. By celebrating creativity, community and cooking, alongside services that offer practical advice and support, Ark-T will build resilience and confidence within the community, as well as providing skills in areas that have been highlighted through regular community development surveys. This pilot will be adaptable to ensure it offers support for multiple needs in a family on a dedicated day.

What social change will this work achieve?

This project aims to achieve a stronger, healthier community through social integration. Skills workshops for adults will deliver economic social change and accessible creative opportunities for young people will build confidence and mental wellbeing. We hope to work with at least 250 people, including but not limited to, parents/carers, those in debt/financial insecurity or food poverty, young people aged 0-18, young women, diverse scouts group.

What will Ark-T Centre do with this funding?

Funding from Oxford Gives would help Ark-T to launch a pilot project for 5 months (5 sessions) between February and June 2022. The contribution would cover core costs and outreach work.

People, Place and Participation, on behalf of OX4 Food Crew Partnership

Registered Charitable Community Benefit Society: 007713

2020-21 income: £759,000

Year founded: 2018

Website: www.flosoxford.org.uk

What does the OX4 Food Crew Partnership do?

The OX4 Food Crew is a partnership between three established organisations and three brand new grassroots enterprises in OX4, coming together to tackle the high levels of food poverty and food inequality in the area. Over 18 months the partnership has delivered over 16,000 home cooked meals and 35,000 food parcels to people experiencing food poverty, alongside cooking courses and pay-as-you-feel community meals. Supporting and working with diversity-led social enterprises, their aim is to build sustainable community owned food businesses.

What problem(s) will this work address?

Both the immediate needs of critical food poverty in the area, as well as systemic food injustices. In parts of OX4, 30% of children are experiencing food poverty exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic through job insecurity and poor physical and mental health. OX4 contains 8 of the top 10-20% most deprived wards in the UK, including Northfield Brook, Blackbird Leys and Rosehill. The OX4 Partnership believes that local organisations working collaboratively is the most efficient way to address these issues. Their primary focus is on improving the availability of healthy, affordable and accessible food for all.

What is the solution to this problem?

The OX4 Food Crew Partnership is seeking funding to support 3 grassroots food enterprises, established over the last year, which have become catalysts for social action:

- Damascus Rose Kitchen CIC
- No Vice Ice
- Oxford Community Action

All three of these social enterprises are in early stages of development but have demonstrated their effectiveness. They are working towards sustainable resilience, creating employment opportunities, offering peer support, skills development and establishing community owned social enterprises which also generate income through trade.

What social change will this work achieve?

It will both support the individual enterprises to become established as well as the wider OX4 Food Crew's mission to tackle the root causes of food insecurity and injustice. It will grow place-based responses to overcome barriers to affordable and healthy food. This will enable organisations to be established that are led by people with lived experience of inequalities and disadvantages. The funding will empower these individuals and very local communities to enable them to be part of AND create the change they want to see.

What will OX4 Food Crew Partnership do with this funding?

The money will be distributed equally to the three social enterprises which are all in early stage development but have demonstrated their energy, enthusiasm and capacity to deliver. They all need further investment, particularly in space hire, equipment and training to grow their capacity and become sustainable long term.

Be Free Young Carers

Registered Charity: 1042708

2020-21 income: £303,370

Year founded: 1994

Website: www.befreeyc.org.uk

What does Be Free Young Carers do?

Be Free Young Carers (BFYC) is an Oxfordshire charity that works with young carers aged 8 to 24 across the South Oxfordshire and Vale area. BFYC is the only specialist organisation supporting young carers in Oxfordshire and receives no statutory funding. For over 25 years, they have been supporting young carers with the emotional and practical advice they need to manage the stresses and responsibilities of being a young carer; balancing their caring role with school and their developmental needs as a child. This project aims to raise awareness of the experience of young carers and the impact this role has on their lives, mental health, school, friendships and relationships.

What problem(s) will this work address?

This project is in collaboration with Oxford Playhouse and Deafinitely theatre and will address the burden of being a young carer, the impact this has on their lives, the increased isolation that they feel and the impact that it has on their childhood and education.

What is the solution to this problem?

The theatre production GETTING THERE is an accessible testimony-based theatre show created with young carers (YCs) by Oxford Playhouse, Deafinitely Theatre and Be Free Young Carers. The YCs will assist Deafinitely Theatre & Oxford Playhouse to co-direct rehearsals with a diverse team of deaf and Hard of Hearing artists. This funding will support 4 weeks of accessible co-creation & rehearsals with 12 YCs to take the show into full production. YCs will workshop the script, devise 12 new visual audio dramas to reflect their lockdown experiences & co-direct the professional show. We will tour the show and a wellbeing workshop, devised in collaboration, to KS2 & KS3 school classes in Oxfordshire. GETTING THERE will enable wider awareness, provide teacher referral support and provoke the self-identification of invisible YCs. It will also impact the young carers that are involved with this project, increase their self esteem, and give them an opportunity that is not usually available to them.

What social change will this work achieve?

This project will raise awareness of young carers in Oxfordshire. It will allow young carers to be part of a project that involves an area that they specialise in and for once being a young carer will be an advantage. It will bring empathy to those children in schools and a greater understanding of the role young carers play in our community. It will serve the wider audience by giving them an insight into the lives and impact of young carers. With wider knowledge and empathy, we will see young carers be a priority in school for support and a better understanding of what they have to contend with.

What will Be Free Young Carers do with this funding?

In collaboration with the two other charities involved, BFYC has secured a significant amount of funding for this project but needs a further £5,000 to use to secure transport for the young carers, props, and the use of a professional project overseer. This will allow the project to go ahead without reducing direct funding from the young carers themselves.