Welcome

The challenges and events in London over the last year have demonstrated once again the importance of community organisations. The trust they hold and their deep connections into London’s diverse neighbourhoods are evident, and I know it’s these strengths our donors and supporters increasingly value. From groups providing a local lifeline to refugees landing in the capital to those using arts to engage children at risk, the value is clear.

This last year we invested a record £8.3 million into projects across every London borough working with individual philanthropists, corporate supporters and local authority and housing association partners. What they share with us, is a belief that local response is key to tackling some of society’s most difficult issues.

Last year, the Grenfell Tower fire brought into the spotlight a community whose voice is now a powerful symbol of community spirit. We will continue to support children and young people affected by the fire, working with the local community on how funds should be spent.

In London the needs of community organisations – and those they serve – are complex. With the funding system changing and the characteristics of disadvantage in London ever more intricate, community organisations are facing a perfect storm of cuts in funding and rising demand. Yet the resilience we witness daily from the organisations we support is matched by the commitment and generosity of our donors.

So with a new Chief Executive at the helm of the organisation we look to the future, confident in the value of community spirit in London. Enabling more community support in London, right on our doorsteps, helps all of us feel connected.

Francis Salway, Chair
**Our impact themes**

**Arts & culture**

Investing in community-based organisations who support people to achieve their potential is at the heart of our work. A constantly changing environment, it is key that people are equipped with employability and life skills to meet the challenges of everyday life.

Through our funding, 142 projects supported people under this theme. From helping for positive engagement to performing arts opportunities in filming and acting, we want individuals to flourish with confidence in their abilities to succeed.

This project epitomises the importance of the journey, not just in reaching aspirations. I was amazed by the music videos and adverts they produced and felt inspired by the passion of everyone involved in the project.

Joy Randles

**Environment**

It’s not just the people of London we aim to support — it’s also the city itself. Recognising the importance of bringing together different communities, we are proud to be part of the creative, but changing environment as diverse as the people who live in it.

Last year, we invested in a range of environmental projects. Orchards and green spaces were supported in Lambeth, trees were planted in Tower Hamlets and over 2,100 volunteers took part to stop public parks lapsing. Yet the impact of these projects is felt far beyond the physical changes. Environment-related work teaches skills, improves well-being and brings communities together.

I saw this first-hand when I visited Myatts Field Park Project, a green space in Camberwell. Learners, the participants, used their new skills to transform disused plots around the community into flourishing gardens. Not only encouraging healthy eating, it was a chance for the community to come together and celebrate their local environment, winning in a big harvest festival.

Lauren Palmer

**Wellbeing**

The past 12 months have brought a number of challenges to the mental and physical wellbeing of many Londoners. This has led to increased demand for support and greater pressure on mental health and physical wellbeing services.

In 2017 we visited community-based organisations working in this space to hear how they are creating positive, engaging and non-clinical environments in which to respond to complex mental health needs. We found that the strength of these organisations is in their ability to tailor support towards a specific community and context, reducing the risk of disengagement and relapse, which we highlighted in our report ‘Keeping it Together’.

Organisations like Streets of Growth and Iconic Steps, who support hard to reach young people prepare for employment through media training, was amazed by the music videos and adverts they produced and felt inspired by the passion of everyone involved in the project.

These are just some examples of local communities taking action to build stronger communities from within.

Tanice Sloo
Igniting conversation with EdenTree

We strive to create new partnerships that can address the changing needs of London’s grassroots. So we were thrilled when EdenTree, an environmental investment management firm, approached us in 2017 wanting to do things differently.

Eager to focus on hard-hitting issues that often get overlooked, it was also important for EdenTree to make a multi-year commitment to improve capacity and sustainability.

As part of the application process EdenTree visited the applicants and offer a slot vote, made a five-year commitment to Futures Theatre.

This long-term support enabled Futures Theatre, an organisation that promotes a fairer society for women and girls through theatre, to tour ‘Underwear Love’, a production raising awareness of the negative consequences of sharing sexual imagery and helping young people to identify abusive behaviour.

Developing each production in consultation with young people from local schools and youth groups to ensure the content is relatable and engaging, Futures Theatre has worked with more than 100,000 young people across London to date.

Our response to the Grenfell Tower fire

The Grenfell Tower fire started in the early hours on the 14th June 2017, eventually claiming 72 lives. On the day of the devastating fire, the Evening Standard newspaper and LCF launched a fundraising appeal to raise funds for those affected. Funds were also received from the Wellcome/Grenfell football match, the Artists for Grenfell fundraising single, and the FA Community Shield football match. The generosity from individuals and businesses across the world was overwhelming and in total, nearly £7.6 million was raised from 64,000 donations.

The Grenfell Children and Young People’s Fund will be overseen by a panel of local representatives, including former residents of the tower and young people and will help support the community in the long term.

View our digital annual review at www.lcf2018.com
The London Community Foundation
Unit 1.04, Piano House, 9 Brighton Terrace, London, SW9 8DJ

londoncf.org.uk
info@londoncf.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7582 5117
@London_cf

Design: Prospectus
Photography: Oliver Goodrich, Tom Donald
Cover photo: The Healthy Living Club, Tom Donald

Registered charity number 1091263 and company limited by guarantee number 4383269