The Earls Court Development Company has announced this year's recipients of their £180,000 Community Fund



11th September 2025, LONDON – The Earls Court Development Company (ECDC) has today announced the 18 recipients of the 2025 Earls Court Community Fund. Selected charities and organisations will receive grants of up to £15,000 to support projects that enrich and strengthen the Earl's Court community.

Established in 2021, the Fund supports charities and community groups in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham whose work makes an invaluable difference to local people. Since the fund was set up, ECDC has donated £900,000 to 44 local organisations, delivering significant social impact for families and young people across the local area.

Against the backdrop of the ongoing cost-of-living pressures, the funding will help local charities and voluntary groups reach those most in need. This year's recipients include initiatives that support young people with disabilities and their families, projects that improve access to education for primary school children and workshops that promote healthy lifestyles for local people.

Since its creation, the Fund has been an integral part of ECDC's commitment to the local community, long before construction work has begun on the site. These investments are a reflection of the company's determination to ensure the benefits of the development are felt from the outset and continue well into the future.

The 18 organisations receiving funding in 2025 are:

- **Action on Disability** Coordinating a new music project for young disabled people at the Our Place Leslie Hale Music Studio.
- **Bags of Taste Kensington and Chelsea** Funding this year's Food Resilience Programme, teaching people facing multiple challenges to cook healthy, affordable meals.
- **Barons Court Project** Funding a Project Worker to support people who are facing homelessness, poverty or complex needs.
- Children's Book Project Delivering the Discovery Programme in five local primary schools, gifting thousands of books to children.
- Climate Ed Running a Carbon Literacy and Climate Action programme for primary school children.
- Crosslight Expanding existing debt and benefit advice services to meet rising demand in the community.
- **Dads House** Supporting single fathers through shared activities, advice and community engagement.
- **Finborough Theatre** Funding a new six-month season showcasing emerging talent and thought-provoking productions.
- Glass Door Homeless Charity Delivering a weekly winter casework service for homeless women in Fulham.
- **Minds United Sports Club CIC** Running the Earls Court Community Connections programme to promote mental health recovery for young people through sport.
- New Generation Community Steel Orchestra To fund equipment for Windrush Blockorama, a cultural project celebrating the legacy and contribution of the Windrush Generation.
- Opera Holland Park Staging 10 free daytime concerts for the local community, designed to be inclusive and dementia friendly.
- Parentsactive CIC Expanding peer support and advocacy for parents of children with disabilities.
- **People Arise Now** Delivering weekly English writing and language classes to improve skills and confidence among those who have previously experienced barriers to education.

- **Refettorio Felix at St Cuthbert's Centre** Faciliting the position of a Head Chef who prepares meals and provides a welcoming space for socially excluded residents.
- Solidarity Sports Supporting the Under-5's Club to aid child development and parental wellbeing.
- The Earls Court Youth Club Running the "Food is the Foundation" programme of healthy and locally sourced meals for young people.
- **West London Welcome** Maintaining a dedicated community space for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Rebekah Paczek, Director of Public Affairs, Social Impact and Community Relations at The Earls Court Development Company, said: "We are proud to continue the Earls Court Community Fund for a fifth year, supporting organisations that make a real difference to our neighbourhoods. These 18 charities and community initiatives are both inspiring and vital, and through this funding we hope to help them reach even more people."

Louise Wilson, Executive Director at Hammersmith & Fulham Giving, said: "We are so proud to work with The Earls Court Development Company on the Earls Court Community Fund, which is helping local charities and community groups to create lasting change across Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea. Their commitment to investing in people and places is inspiring, and we look forward to seeing this work continue to grow and benefit our communities for many years to come."

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

Media Enquiries

For all media enquiries related to Earls Court, please contact:

Harriet Sutton

Head of Communications, The Earls Court Development Company <u>Harriet.sutton@earlscourtdevco.com</u> 07938 485672

This year <u>Hammersmith & Fulham Giving</u> are managing the grants programme on behalf of The Earls Court Development Company, with support from the <u>Kensington + Chelsea Foundation</u>. Both organisations have deep knowledge of their local communities and are excited to be part of delivering the Earls Court Community Fund to support residents of Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea.

About ECDC

<u>The Earls Court Development Company</u> (ECDC) is an Earls Court-based business responsible for the transformation of the c.40-acre, former Earls Court Exhibition Centre, site on behalf of the Earls Court

Partnership Limited – a joint venture formed in December 2019 between Delancey (on behalf of its client funds), the Dutch pension fund manager APG and Transport for London.

In September 2024, after four years of discussion and engagement with local communities, ECDC submitted the Hybrid Planning Applications (part outline, part detailed) to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. The masterplan will deliver c.4,000 homes, 12,000 jobs, a hub for climate innovation, three cultural venues and retail and leisure, set within 20 acres of open space and public realm. Detailed plans were submitted for the first phase of development which includes a significant proportion of green, open space along with c.1,500 homes, the first office building and a cultural venue. Construction of the first phase is planned to begin in 2026.

The Earls Court development will be a place for everyone, a new piece of city which acts as a blueprint for future generations. With an ambition to be a global exemplar of sustainability, it will be a neighbourhood designed for all stages of life bringing homes, workspace, culture, leisure, open space and community uses within a landscape-led development.

About Community Engagement and Meanwhile Use

The team has gone beyond a traditional consultation approach, from basing ECDC offices at the heart of the site and every member of the Community Hub team living within a short walk away, to investing heavily in the local community through an annual £180,000 Community Fund.

The site has been opened up wherever possible – from partnering with Underbelly to put on large-scale festivals to hosting BBC Earth Experience with Sir David Attenborough and currently 'COME ALIVE!, the Greatest Showman Circus Spectacular' and Padel Social Club. The previously closed off site has welcomed over 900,000 visitors since 2021. With TfL, ECDC has also re-launched The Earls Court Skills Centre, brought back to life shops on Lillie Road including an accelerator space for small business, created 46 artist studios on Empress Place amongst many more site activations. These wider community and meanwhile activations combined have created an estimated £24.8m in social value since 2022 and £51.5m of additional local spend.