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www.thefundingnetwork.org.uk



## **The Funding Network Oxford (TFNO) 2016 Guidance for Sponsors and Charities**

The Funding Network brings potential individual donors together to support social change projects. By hearing direct from people involved in the projects, our aim is to make our charitable giving well informed – and fun.

**Oxford Gives** - our next Funding Network event will be held on Thursday 5th May 2016 at 6.15 pm at The Old Fire Station, George Street, Oxford.

Four or five charities/social change organisations will be given the opportunity to make a pitch at the event to raise about £4,000. The audience pledge their donations (minimum £50) to the charity or charities of their choice.

### **What is involved in being a sponsor?**

All projects need to be sponsored by someone who is prepared to come to the event and publicly pledge the first £250. This demonstrates that they personally are confident that the project is sound and the money would be wisely spent. In London the sponsor needs to be a TFN member but this is not the case in Oxford – but the sponsor does need to know you and feel able to vouch for your work. Sponsors must not be in the paid employment of a project that they sponsor. Other kinds of relationship with projects, for example in the form of trustee, mentor, or volunteer, are common. The sponsor is crucial to the application so please work together on the application and make certain that it contains all the information called for in the Project Application Form, and that it is well-argued and clear.

We have a Project Application Form and Guidance Notes on what to include in your application. The charity is asked what they would do with a grant of up to £4,000 (sometimes we raise less for a project, sometimes a bit more, but we ask each project to pitch for the same amount). All applications submitted by the deadline are considered by the selection panel in February. We may ask you for a telephone interview as part of the selection process.

The TFNOxford selection panel is responsible for choosing the projects that will be given the opportunity to present at the Oxford Gives event on May 5th. We select projects against the criteria on page 2 - but also to ensure we have a range likely to appeal to our audience. You will be informed at the beginning of March whether or not your project has been selected to present.

**Applications should be sent to [sue.raikes@appleinter.net](mailto:sue.raikes@appleinter.net) by 5pm on Monday 22nd February 2016.**

If you have never been to a Funding Network event we strongly recommend that you look at the website [www.thefundingnetwork.org.uk](http://www.thefundingnetwork.org.uk) to see what it is all about! If you would like more information about the way in which TFNOxford works or want to talk through your application please contact Sue Raikes at [sue.raikes@appleinter.net](mailto:sue.raikes@appleinter.net) and one of us will get back to you.

## **What kind of charities will be considered?**

TFNO supports projects that aim to achieve social change: in other words, they have the potential to enable lasting positive transformation for individuals, communities and/or society & the environment over the long term. For example they may be projects which:-

- address issues of inequality and disadvantage;
- offer advocacy/campaigning/dissemination with the potential to change society for the better;
- seek to change attitudes, behaviour, laws and/or public policy;
- attempt to find a new/better solution to an underlying problem;
- focus on personal development to widen their opportunities and encourage their participation in society
- pilot solutions with the potential for expansion to support many more people.

Priority is given to small or medium-sized organisations where up to £5K would make a significant contribution. We like to support new, innovative and emerging initiatives and to help ideas get off the ground. We are proud of our record of supporting initiatives at the early stages when funding is tricky – and watching them develop and grow. Charities with a turnover of over £500K or significant reserves are unlikely to be selected, because in our experience, individuals pledging their money at an event want to know that their relatively small contribution combines with others to make a tangible difference.

Whether your charity gets a slot is not just a question of whether your application is 'good enough', but whether it makes a compelling case and whether it contributes to a good overall balance of projects. With more applications than slots available, this is a competitive process.

Most projects at the TFNOxford work in or near Oxfordshire or have their national or international base here - but this is not a requirement. If you are not in Oxfordshire we suggest you check on the TFN website to see if there is a Funding Network in your area.

Charities previously funded by TFN may apply to us after three years (but even then our preference will generally be for new ideas rather than an application to repeat the earlier work). If an application is not successful at the selection panel in one year it may be re-submitted the following year - but only once.

TFNO does not support projects which involve the promotion of a particular religion.

## **If you are selected what happens next?**

About one in four projects get through the selection process to present at the event.

Normally a staff member or volunteer of the project makes the presentation but if this is not possible e.g. for overseas projects the sponsor may also present. Whoever is presenting should be available at the event from 5.30pm-9pm on Thursday 5th May 2016

Presenters are given six minutes to make their presentation, followed by a further six minutes to respond to questions from the audience. Please give careful thought to who is the best person to present your project in a lively and interesting way – remember you are pitching direct to individuals – not to a faceless bureaucracy! We encourage you to participate in a one-to-one training session, in the week or so before the event, designed to help you make the best possible use of the presentation slot. We are very strict on timing and you will not be able to finish your presentation if you run over 6 minutes. We discourage the use of PowerPoint bullet point presentations but you may use photographs or video.

The amount that each of the four or five projects receives will depend on what the attendees at the event pledge towards it, and this in turn depends in great part on how successfully the presenter is able to communicate the project. Successful projects come over as clear, well focussed, and passionate.

You will also have a table in the foyer where you can talk directly to the audience and give out further information. After all the projects have presented there is a short break when people may seek you out to ask further questions.

After the break the audience return to the theatre for the pledging session. Project representatives/presenters are not invited to the confidential pledging session. Sponsors do attend this session to make their pledge.

#### **The format for a typical funding evening:**

5.30: Projects set up their displays

6.15: Reception, with refreshments

7.00: Welcome, and feedback from a previously funded project

7.30: Four or five projects make their presentations - six minutes for each presentation; and six minutes for comments & questions from the floor)

8.40: Stretch & refreshments

8.55: Pledging session – projects are not present in this session

9.20: Announcement of totals raised

9.30: Close

#### **Applying to the Funding Network Oxford**

Please email the application to [sue.raikes@appleinter.net](mailto:sue.raikes@appleinter.net) by 22nd February 2016 using the Project Application Form attached. Please save the document as the name of your project and give this as the subject in the email. The whole application should be not more than three sides of A4, type no less than 11 pt, and must be emailed along with an electronic version the organisation's latest annual report and accounts to [sue.raikes@appleinter.net](mailto:sue.raikes@appleinter.net)

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