

Community Chest Application Summary 2016/2017

Local Authority	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Organisation	Rojo Art Projects
Amount Requested	£4,724
Total Project Cost	£5,124
Match Funding	£400
Partnerships	Age UK Suffolk
West Suffolk Bid?	No

Key Points

- Rojo Art Projects is a Community Interest Company set up to provide workshops, classes, events and projects led by professional arts practitioners to enable local participation in arts.
- The project will work with members, care workers and volunteers of the Oasis and Links day club at Saxon House and Age UK Suffolk, to facilitate the making of a large scale artwork for the centre.
- The project aims, primarily, through shared art activities to encourage a sense of belonging to the day club group and an improved feeling of self-esteem and confidence helping members to feel healthy and active. The project also looks to challenge attitudes and beliefs about older people by enabling the members to use existing and new skills to make some great art.
- Rojo Arts Projects are applying for funding for the Saxon House project as a discrete project with its own outcomes. However they are seeing this as a pilot project to help inform a longer term aim to provide a weekly, year round, arts drop in club for older people in Bury St Edmunds who live independently and would like to socialise more.

**St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Community Chest Grant Application Form
Part A**



Community Chest funding supports voluntary and community groups who make a contribution to improving the quality of life for people in West Suffolk. The information you provide will help us consider your application. If you have any questions, please give us a call on 01638 719763. Before completing this form, we ask you to please read the guidelines, which are available on:

<http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm>

Please return your completed, signed form and supplementary documents to:

richard.baldwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk

1. Name of your organisation(s):

Rojo Art Projects C.I.C.

2. Organisation address details

Address Ln1	27 Victoria St		
Address Ln2			
Address Ln3			
City/Town	Bury St Edmunds	Postcode	IP333BB
Main phone	01294704481	E-mail	rojoart3@yahoo.co.uk
Website	www.rojoart.co.uk		

Main Contact Person		Second Contact Person	
Title	Mrs	Title	Mrs
Forename	Jacque	Forename	Elizabeth
Surname	Campbell	Surname	Cooke
Role	Director/artist	Role	artist
Daytime Tel No.	01284 704481	Daytime Tel No.	██████████
Mobile No.	██████████	Mobile No.	██████████
Email	rojoart3@yahoo.co.uk	Email	rojoart3@yahoo.co.uk
Address Details (if different from Org address)		Address Details (if different from Org address)	
Ln1		Ln1	██████████
Ln2		Ln2	
Town		Town	██████████
Post Code		Post Code	██████████

About your organisation

3. What local authority area(s) does your organisation work in?

St Edmundsbury

*Community Chest funding is offered by both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils. As the decision making process is different any projects applying for funding across West Suffolk, must apply separately.

4. What is the status of your organisation?

Registered charity		Charity number:
Applying for charitable status		
Company limited by guarantee		Company number:08966303bv
Community Interest Company	x	
Part of a larger regional or national charity (Please state which one)		
Constituted Community Group		
Social Enterprise		
Other (Please specify)		

5. How many people are involved in your organisation?

Management committee	3	Service users	
Full Time staff / workers		Volunteers and helpers (non-management)	
Part Time staff / workers			

6. What is the purpose of your organisation? Please briefly describe why your organisation was set up, its aims and objectives and who primarily benefits from your organisation.

Rojo Art Projects CIC. was formed in March 2014 by combining the skills and experience of Rojo Art (participatory and visual artists, Jacquie Campbell and Heidi McEvoy-Swift) and Lynn Whitehead (theatre practitioner and story-teller). The C.I.C. was set up to provide, workshops, classes, events and projects led by professional arts practitioners to enable local participation in the arts. By forming a CIC we felt we would have the ability to develop arts projects with an insider, grass roots approach that local people really wanted and found relevant.

The community benefits are;

Improved access to arts and culture for members of the community including those who may consider themselves excluded;

Increased social interaction between community members through shared art activities.

Opportunity for people to have fun trying new things and meeting new people;

Opportunity for participants to discover or rediscover the arts as a means of expression and empowerment.

Rojo Art was formed in 2002 and continues to develop and deliver arts projects for the local community and education settings. Lynn Whitehead has worked in theatre education and outreach at

New Wosely Theatre, Ipswich; Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds and currently teaches at West Suffolk College.
Please see Rojo Art website www.rojoart.co.uk

7. What was your organisation's total income for last financial year?
8. What was your organisation's total expenditure for last financial year?
9. Does your organisation have more than six months running costs? No N/A
10. What are your organisation's current unrestricted reserves or savings? None N/A
11. West Suffolk prioritises building resilient families and communities that are healthy and active. Please indicate which of the following areas your project contributes towards:

X	A thriving voluntary sector and active communities who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable.
x	People playing a greater role in determining the future of their communities.
x	Improved wellbeing, physical and mental health.
	Accessible countryside and green spaces.

About your project – why are you applying for this funding?

12. What do you want the funding for? Please be specific. Please note that 'project' is meant to describe the project for which you are seeking funding, and not your organisation.

The funding will allow us to work with members, care workers and volunteers of the Oasis and Links day club at Saxon House, Age UK Suffolk, to facilitate the making of a large scale artwork for the centre.

The members live independently in the community, mostly in their own homes and attend the day club due to social isolation and mental or physical health needs. Over a week 60 people attend both day clubs, they are looking for social interaction, cognitive stimulation and support in maintaining their independence. This project aims, primarily, through shared art activities to encourage a sense of belonging to the day club group and an improved feeling of self-esteem and confidence helping the members to feel healthy and active and more contented living in the community. The project also looks to challenge attitudes and beliefs about older people by enabling the members to use existing and new skills to make some great art.

The sessions will be led by Rojo Art director and artist, Jacquie Campbell and regular Rojo Art freelance artist, Elizabeth Cooke.

The club members have identified a need for an art activity that encourages more social interaction and allows them to work together as a group. Mosaic work has been selected as it has been a favourite for both men and women in our previous work with older people and also provides practical and purposeful tasks with clear outputs as well as the opportunity for creative expression.

The suggested theme for the artwork is the recognition and celebration of existing

creative skills within the club and also those new skills acquired during the project. The artists will start by spending time with the members, sharing the ownership of the project and empowering and encouraging them to make creative decisions about the final artwork and also how they might work together as a group. During these group sessions we will provide fun and thought provoking activities and discussions that encourage the members to share stories and experiences of times when they have been artistic or creative and also to think about skills they might like to learn.

Over the following weeks the artists will facilitate the making of the mosaic, teaching design and making skills to members, care workers and volunteers. The centre is keen to continue with the activity, led by the care workers and volunteers, on the days when the artists are not there.

Although there is a suggested output for the project (the mosaic), sessions will be flexible, adapting to the needs and dynamics of each group. Each session will be evaluated immediately afterwards by informal conversations between the artists participants and staff. The staff will also record how each member participant engages in the session. This information will be used to adapt the process during the project and inform the planning for the project legacy.

At the end of the project the mosaic will be installed in the centre with a celebratory opening for friends, family and local press.

We are applying for funding for the Saxon House project as a discrete project with its own outcomes. However we also view this as an essential pilot project for our longer term aim which is to provide a weekly, year round, arts drop-in club for, mainly but not uniquely, older people in Bury St Edmunds who live independently and would like to socialise more. The club would offer a range of opportunities to engage in creative activities, socialise and relax with a good supply of tea and cakes.

Over the last few years we have developed and delivered unique art projects for older people at Saxon House, St Peter's Residential Home (funded by Suffolk County Council and Grants for the Arts) and a day care centre in Deptford. We have also studied and been in conversation with other organisations in the UK who we feel are developing work that not only makes a difference to the lives of older people but also challenges beliefs and attitudes in the wider community about ageing.

For us, one of the stand out projects in this field is Entelechy Art's, 'Meet Me At the Albany' <http://meetmeatthealbany.org.uk/> . Summarising their words, the programme challenges the way we think about social care for the elderly, offering social interaction that would normally be delivered by day centres, and also recognising the enormous creative potential of the over 60's.

A visit to the Albany on a Tuesday is certainly an uplifting experience: stereotypes are challenged with the older generation taking on activities such as slam poetry, film making and large scale shared paintings. At the monthly '21st Century Tea Dance' we saw a lady in her late 80's stand up and share a funny and moving piece of prose about how people view her in the street to a large totally absorbed audience. We also noticed that many young people attended the event aware that this was a happening place to be on a Tuesday afternoon.

As participatory artists, our long term vision is to establish a drop in club with similar energy and creative ambition in a public venue in the centre of Bury St Edmunds. We recognise that the interests and attitudes of people in Bury St Edmunds may differ

greatly from those of SE London and we see the programme at Saxon House as a pilot project that consults older people, care workers and volunteers through creative activity.

The Saxon House project would be important for the planning and development of a regular arts club in the following ways;

Throughout the project the artists will reflect on the sessions through conversations with members, care workers and volunteers to form an understanding of why some sessions may be more successful than others and more appealing to the participants. Informal discussion during the making sessions will also offer further ideas about how this generation would like to engage with arts and culture;

Throughout the planning and making sessions at Saxon House we intend to invite volunteers from the local community who express an interest in taking the project forward into the town centre location;

As a stepping stone to developing the drop in arts morning we would like to round this project off with a taster arts morning at a venue in the town. The club members from Age UK will be invited to exhibit their art work and demonstrate their new skills. We believe word of mouth is an effective way to recruit participants and we will encourage the Age UK participants to spread the word about what they have been involved in to more isolated people in the community. We will also consult with community based organisations and health care services to discuss the idea and ask them to recommend people who might benefit from the group. Potential volunteers, partner organisations and press will also be invited to the event.

From this pilot project we intend to develop a project plan for the weekly, year round drop-in arts club for older people who live in the community. We have structured the project in this way as we believe the sustainability of the activity is very important and that cancellation of activities can be detrimental to a participant's well-being.

As artists who work in the community we see many projects that are poorly attended because they haven't really been developed from grass roots with the participants. On the other hand we've also been involved in hugely popular projects that have been curtailed because of funding cuts. With this slow build approach we hope to create a sustainable club with robust funding.

13. How has the project been developed out of the community's desire to improve the lives of local people? What evidence do you have that there is a need for this project? Please include sources of evidence, including any public/user/community consultation.

We see the arts as an important way, in a town with an ageing demographic, of getting older isolated people from the margins of society to the mainstream. The arts is an area that people can enjoy and excel in at any age and generally make people feel good about themselves. Within the wider community, seeing older people creating quality and interesting artwork can challenge social stigma about ageing.

Rojo Art are involved in many participatory arts projects within the Bury St Edmunds community and the following experiences have led us to become increasingly convinced that quality participatory arts activity with socialisation as it's heart would be beneficial for the health, well-being and self-esteem of older people living independently around the town.

- Recently, on a voluntary basis, we set up a monthly sketching group that currently has a total membership of 70 people aged 15 to 79. The group has attracted many enquiries and attendance from the people in the over 60 age group many of whom are men. They say they are attracted by the informality and unthreatening nature of a group that has formed outside of public arts institutions. For some, their lack of formal qualifications has deterred them from becoming involved in arts and cultural activities in the past. One of the sketchers has early stage Dementia and his wife contacted the group looking for ways to provide him with creative stimulation.

We see the Bury Sketchers group as one of the networks through which participants and volunteers might be recruited for a regular drop in arts morning in the town. The response to this group that is not advertised apart from a public Facebook page has been overwhelming which leads us to believe that the local community is looking for opportunities to engage in arts in a social and informal way.

- The art/garden project at St Peter's care home was developed in partnership with Bury in Bloom and arose from the many requests the organisation received for creative work in care homes in Bury St Edmunds. Since the project we have been contacted by other care homes and day centres to discuss extending this work with people with various stages of dementia including those still living in the community. Although many care homes and day centres provide art activities they sometimes struggle to identify activities that are appealing to a wide range of people and that engender social interaction.

Both the St Peter's Residential Home project and the Deptford day centre had socialisation placed at the heart of the projects. A club type atmosphere was created and the participants got actively involved in activities that they felt had a purpose. Both projects involved using art to improve their immediate environment. The care workers were surprised to find some residents taking part and saying that they had enjoyed themselves when they had always refused to be involved in any art activity before.

- We worked with Gill Bosely, Occupational Therapist, at St Peter's House and now as Day Services Manager, she would be our main contact in a project with the day club at Age UK. According to the care workers at the centre, the members of the day club have requested more creative activities at the centre that offer the opportunity to work together as a group to make a permanent shared artwork for the centre. The staff and members are planning their own fund-raising event to contribute to the cost of the project.
(see attached letter of support)

- We have been contacted by many older people offering to volunteer in arts projects or asking about opportunities to take part in arts activities in an informal setting. We feel that there are some opportunities in town such as U3A, Bury Arts Society and art

classes at Denny Brothers but these draw from a small sector of the older demographic and are usually people with an arts background. Recently when we were gauging interest in an art/gardening project, an elderly neighbour knocked on the door and asked to be involved in anything similar that we might offer, he said he was looking for something that gave him a sense of purpose. Another lady in her 80's takes a taxi from Mildenhall once a week to take part in a drawing class in Bury St Edmunds. This is often her only social contact during the week and she has no internet access for online socialisation.

To put this evidence into context, these days social interaction is often the priority in participatory work with older people. Most project participants highlight socialising with peers who they share experiences with as a main motivation for taking part in activities. Often this leads to a self-reported improvement in health and well-being and a way of fighting depression and loneliness. A growing number of research projects identify the unique role the arts play within this type of work. The Baring Foundation's report, *Ageing Artfully* (2009), acknowledged that beyond the intrinsic value and joy of self-expression, involvement in the arts has a positive impact on both physical and mental health and relationships.

The current Bangor University research project 'Dementia and Imagination' focusses on the effects of visual arts on quality of life for people living with dementia and their carers. Part of their research asks how we can use the arts to change beliefs, behaviours and attitudes to create dementia and age friendly communities.

As a current MA student in Participatory Arts at Goldsmiths University, artist/director Jacquie has access to the main research in this field and plenty of people to turn to for advice in developing effective and sustainable work.

14. How will the project help local people to support one another?

- .The arts activities will give the club members the opportunity to spend time with new people and do things together leading to stronger friendships and support networks. If they have enjoyed taking part in the project they are also more likely to recommend the day club or another similar opportunity to friends and neighbours who might be living on their own and feeling lonely.
- By taking part in the project and feeling a sense of achievement from their role, the club members will be encouraged to take up other arts and cultural opportunities. The artists, care workers and volunteers will look out for opportunities and support the members to access these.
- Volunteers and care-workers will use new creative skills to facilitate future arts sessions at Saxon House and perhaps in other settings.
- Carers/relatives who experience the project at Saxon House are more likely to try out new activities with the club members at home or seek out other opportunities for them in the wider community.
- Local interest in the initial Saxon House project will lead to increased advocacy for creating a regular arts club for older people in the town.
- The project will provide opportunities for volunteers that may be interested in being involved in the regular arts club to gain practical experience.
- The two artists will learn new skills and gain experience that allows them to progress their participatory arts practice with older people and offer more opportunities for older people to access arts activities in the St Edmundsbury area.

15. Are you working with any other organisations on this project? Yes
If yes, please state the names of these groups and the nature of the relationship.

Suffolk Age UK: project partner

16. When will the project start? 1st April 2016

17. When will the project finish? or is the project ongoing?

If this is an ongoing project, how will it be funded and continue going when the funding ends?

18. Which years funding are you applying for? 2016/17

19. How many people do you expect to benefit directly from the project on either a weekly, monthly or annual basis?

85 per week

20. What results (including targets/numbers) do you expect to see as a result of the funding and how do these relate to the Community Chest funding criteria?

- Club members (60) will have learnt new artistic and technical skills associated with making a large scale mosaic. They will have had some laughs, improved their self-esteem and felt a sense of achievement leading to a self-reported sense of well-being.
- Club members (60), care workers (12) and volunteers (13) will have had a chance to consider the creative skills they bring to the group and that have led them to create a shared permanent mosaic artwork for the centre that recognises and celebrates these skills.
- Saxon House will have a new artwork that reminds the club members of the sense of being part of a group and promotes group identity.

Results;

Greater social interaction takes place between club members (*measured by observations by staff*)

Members involved in project have enjoyed themselves and feel good about themselves after the sessions. (*measured by informal interviews and observations*)

Sense of belonging to a club and considering the centre a home away from home (*measured by informal discussion post session between artists, participants and staff*)

Ongoing regular club attendance by members involved in project.
(*measured by staff-attendance during and 1 months post project*)

The outcomes detailed above mean that older people living independently in the community feel less isolated and have higher self-esteem leading to a general sense of well-being and good health. Recent research also acknowledges that learning new skills appears to slow down the progress of dementia in the early stages of the disease. National organisations such as Arts4Dementia believe this early intervention allows people to live with family carers for longer. Outcomes in this area mean that older people generally can live independently and contentedly in the community for longer and that their sense of improved well-being means they will use public services less.

- Through word of mouth, project sharing events and publicity Age UK will have received an increased interest in attendance at the day centre or more enquiries about other creative opportunities on offer in the area.

Results;

Increased enquiries about Age UK and other activities

(*Measured by keeping record of enquiries for 1 month post project*)

- Through the project sharing events, publicity and the sessions themselves, Rojo Art will have identified community connectors who will provide links to the network of agencies that could enable the development and delivery of the and the next stage of the project.

Result;

Rojo Art will have a data base of individuals and organisations interested in taking project forward to second stage (*measured by Rojo Art*)

Both these outcomes lead to increased advocacy in the community for the ongoing programme at Saxon House, a new regular drop-in art club in Bury and other arts/cultural offerings.

- The care workers (12) and volunteers (13) will have learnt new technical and creative skills to expand the activities on offer in the ongoing programme at the centre. *(Measured by number of times activity is led by care workers or volunteers when artists are not in the building)*

21. What is the total cost of the project?

£5124

Please provide a full breakdown of the total cost of this project, including VAT if applicable along with any in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours.

Item or activity	
April 2016 Pre project planning meeting at Age UK 1 hr x 2 artists @admin rate	£40
April/May 2016 Getting to know participants, discussing skills, artistic ideas and forming group + session evaluation 4 half day sessions x 2 artists @ £100 4 half day sessions x 2 volunteers (in kind)	£800
May 2016 Design/ artwork for mosaics 2 half-day sessions x 2 artists @ £100 2 half day sessions x 2 volunteers (in kind)	£400
May 2016 Preparation of designs for making, preparing backing boards and materials 1 day x artists rate @ £200 and 1 day at admin/ installation rate @ £100	£300
May/June 2016 Making and finishing mosaics with participants + evaluation of each session 10 half day sessions x 2 artists @ £100 10 half day sessions x 2 volunteers (in kind)	£2000
July 2016 Installation of art work at centre 1 half-day session x 2 artists @ £100 + builder x 2 hrs @ £60	£260
July 2016 Celebratory sharing event at Saxon House 2 artists x half day (in kind) 2 x volunteers x half day (in kind)	
Planning and preparation for taster arts morning 1 day x 2 artists (in kind)	
Early September 2016 Taster, sharing morning at town centre venue Half day x 2 artists (in kind) Half day x 2 volunteers (in kind)	
September 2016 Overall project evaluation Half day x 2 artists @£100	£200
Volunteer expenses (travel)	£80
Materials: boards, tiles, adhesives, grout, fixings	£800
Refreshments for project sharing at Saxon House and town centre taster morning (in kind)	
Contingency at 5% Possible items for contingency-hire of venue for taster morning (if we can't obtain in kind), advertising sessions, extra meetings	£244
Total cost of items listed above:	£5124

22. How much funding are you applying to us for? £4724

23. What funds have you raised so far for this project? Expected £400

Source	Amount (£)
Suffolk Age Uk (expected fundraising at the centre)	£400
Total fundraising:	£400

24. What other funders have you applied to for further funding for the project?

Funder	Amount (£)	Timescale for decision
Total:		

25. What other grants and contracts has your organisation received over the past year from either Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council?

Funder	Amount (£)	Reason for funding
Total:		