

The Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

(1a) Organisation/group name:

Rowanbank Environmental Arts & Education CIC

(1b) Project name:

Positive Imaginings - creative climate education

(2) Tell us about your organisation / group (what do you do?) (150 words maximum)

Rowanbank is an Edinburgh based Environmental Arts & Education Community Interest Company (CIC) that creates magical and educational outdoor experiences. From performances in urban woodlands to climate change workshops in schools. We produce innovative family-friendly events, workshops, teacher training and shows that inspire and delight audiences throughout Scotland. We prioritise working with low-income communities, and people without easy access to the arts and green space, inspiring them to use their local environment for outdoor learning, play, creativity and health and wellbeing. Rowanbank Environmental Education was created in 2006, and we became a community interest company in 2020.

(3a) Please select the fund criteria which your project relates to (Select all that apply)

- Create opportunities for community leadership and learning on climate change
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions within communities and contribute to the net-zero target for Edinburgh
- Generate sustainable projects for the benefit of local people to build resilience or adapt to climate change within communities
- Build relationships between neighbourhoods of different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds to work together on just, equitable and accessible climate and resilience activities contributing to the cities net zero agenda, also ensuring that activities work towards reducing or removing barriers for disabled people in the transition to net zero.

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(3b) Tell us about the project you would use the money for. (500 words maximum) Positive Imaginings is a Creative Climate Education Programme, **which artistically presents children's imaginings of a positive future in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss.**

Given the opportunity to explore the twin themes of climate and nature, set in their own neighbourhood, what are your children's ideas for where they live? What future would they choose? What are their positive imaginings?

Positive Imaginings includes: an outdoor promenade performance through urban woodlands; woodland workshops; teacher training for primary school teachers and other educators; and an evolving soundscape of children's climate action ideas that is shared far and wide. The whole programme is delivered by bicycle! We use storytelling, circus, music and theatre to connect children with the natural world; to spark joy, a sense of magic and wonder. We give children the space, time and support to imagine a positive future in the face of climate change, supporting creative outdoor learning, climate science and citizenship, and staff and pupil health and wellbeing. The programme has been co-created by professional theatre makers, environmental consultants, educators and children to address the climate emergency for a young audience in an informative, meaningful, and positive way. We create opportunities for people who encounter barriers to participating in climate action, to get involved, and feel inspired and empowered. Through our programme of carefully developed activities, we take care of children's mental health by addressing climate anxiety and working with children, parents, carers and teachers to find ways they can take effective climate action in their local community. We listen to children, and value their ideas about the future they want to see, and provide a platform for their voices to be heard.

Scotland has ambitious emissions targets. We need to turn this ambition into action. However, we urgently need to do so in a way that takes care of our children's mental health. A recent study of 10,000 children and young people found that 59% are very or extremely worried about climate change and 75% think that the future is frightening (Hickman et al, 2021). Another report by The Children's Parliament concludes that teachers lack the support and knowledge to deliver on pupils' expectations of Learning for Sustainability. Positive Imaginings creates a sense of agency, and a stepping-stone towards taking the action needed to address the climate and nature emergency, addressing the need to involve everyone in an effective community response to climate change. Working creatively with children in a way that builds resilience and hope.

This funding would enable us to continue to bring our Cycling Climate Circus to Edinburgh Primary Schools and local parks and woodlands, collecting children and young people's positive imaginings, and inspiring change and promoting climate justice. Schools and community groups can apply to take part, and we will prioritise working in low income areas, and with communities that have limited access to the arts and green space.

Watch our short film [here](#).

"My Positive Imagining is that all children in Scotland get the opportunity to engage with this incredible work of art. Truly empowering." — Kirsten Mack, Outdoor Learning Development Officer and Teacher

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(4) Describe your project in no more than 30 words (this will be used for publicity)

Positive Imaginings is a creative climate education programme for schools and community groups. It's an outdoor theatre and circus show, woodland workshops and teacher training.

(5a) Who do you hope will benefit from this project?

Edinburgh primary school children, teachers and the wider local community.

(5b) Is your group open to all?

Yes

No

If no, please explain:

Rowanbank Environmental Arts & Education is a community interest company, with four Directors and a team of freelance environmental educators and performers. We also provide regular opportunities for volunteers. All our work is delivered in close partnership with community groups and schools.

(5c) Will the project have a positive impact on any of the following protected characteristics?

Disability

Marriage
or civil
partnership

Pregnancy
and
maternity

Race

Sex

Age

Sexual
orientation

Religion or
belief

Gender
reassignment

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(6) Where will the project be delivered?

In primary school grounds and local parks and woodlands in Edinburgh

(7) **Project start date:** April 2023
Project end date: November 2023

(8) How many people do you hope will benefit from your project?

Approximately 800 people attending performances and workshops; 150 teachers, youth workers and other educators attending teacher training; 4000 children indirectly benefiting via their teachers/educators.
Total = approximately 4950 people.

(9) Is anyone else working with you on the project?

Yes

No

If yes, please tell us about this:

We would like to continue to work with the Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust, the Council and other local organisations to find opportunities for Positive Imaginings participants to take climate action.

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(10) Do you require permission from anyone or any additional insurance to carry out your project?

Yes

No

If yes, please tell us about this:

We will require continued permission from the Council to use local parks and woodlands to deliver the programme. We may also need to seek permission from other land owners if Council land is not suitable in certain areas.



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(11) Please outline a breakdown of the cost of delivering this project (including VAT).		(12) Do you have additional funding or income from charges which will contribute to this project? If yes, please detail below	
Goods/Equipment/Time etc	£	Source	£
Project Management	£500	£475 per school. Optional contribution per school (if school budgets allow). We encourage schools to contribute towards the costs of the Positive Imaginings programme, as this helps to ensure the commitment of the staff leadership team, and also helps our budgets go further. However, we aim to be as inclusive as possible, and therefore try to raise funds so that costs are never a barrier to participation.	£4750
Site visits, preparation time, rigging, materials	£1900	Vegware community fund	£250
On site rehearsals	£1800		
Sound design	£400		
Schools workshops x 10 schools including prep time	£6000		
School performance days x 10 (20 performances)	£9000		
Community performance days x 2 (4 performances)	£1800		
Production management	£2500		
Contingency 5% of total (e.g. unsafe weather, school budgets)	£1100		
Total Expenditure	£25000	Total income	£5000

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