

Chair's Message

Advancing equitable funding for Black-led organisations in Lambeth and Southwark

Peter Minet Trust is a small independent grant giving foundation working alongside communities in the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark. We have been funding local organisations since 1969.

At Peter Minet Trust, we are committed to developing meaningful relationships with our community partners and ensuring that our work reflects fairness, respect, and a genuine drive for positive change.

We recognise the challenges that have historically characterised the power dynamics between trusts and the organisations they support, often creating cycles of mistrust and missed opportunities for collaboration.

We are determined to do things differently. By listening to and learning from our funded partners and communities, acknowledging our mistakes, and striving for continuous improvement, we aim to build relationships that are stronger, more equitable, and rooted in mutual understanding.

Beyond our grant-making, we also seek to use our voice to advocate for a more balanced and transparent funding sector, sharing our learning to inspire change.

In recent years, our reflections, combined with the sobering realities brought to light by events such as the murder of George Floyd, the disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 on racially minoritised groups, and the global calls for racial justice, have further sharpened our focus.

After careful consideration, learning and strategic planning, we have made the deliberate and important decision to direct our funding to Black-led organisations in Lambeth and Southwark.

As a relatively small trust, allocating around £250,000 annually we want to ensure that our resources are used to tackle racial injustice. By centering our efforts on racial equity, we aim to support the organisations driving change at the heart of our communities.



Tracey Fletcher, Chair, Peter Minet Trust

We are proud to share this new strategic direction and remain committed to building stronger, more inclusive communities in Lambeth and Southwark. We look forward to continuing this journey alongside our partners, with humility and hope.

Tracey Fletcher, Chair, March 2025

Board of Trustees

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Anne Young (Strategy Lead)

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Background

This is Peter Minet Trust's first strategy since introducing our fresh approach to funding in 2019, when we changed from awarding small one-off grants to around 40 charities a year to awarding large, unrestricted multi-year grants to a smaller number of local, community-based charities in Lambeth and Southwark.

Since 2019 we have run two open funding rounds, working alongside 13 multi-year funded partners. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, we worked with other local funders for the first time, leveraging additional funding for the Southwark and Lambeth Community Response Funds. As a result of learning, Peter Minet prioritised Black-led charities in its second Open Fund round in 2022.

Steps forward

We have learnt about the positive impact of our 'open and trusting' approach to funding. We have also implemented a values-based investment strategy, diversified our Board and strengthened our governance. We share our journey with the funding sector and learn about emerging funder practice through our engagement with IVAR's Open and Trusting campaign as well as London Funders, Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF), Community Southwark and local funder networks in Lambeth and Southwark.

What we've learnt from funded partners since 2020

During this time, we have learnt much more about the inequitable and hostile funding environment experienced by Black-led organisations in Lambeth and Southwark from our funded partners and other local groups. As our Chair sets out in her **Chair's message (/about/strategy-2025-2028/chairs-message)**, this is time to refresh our strategy, our values, our model and take account of changes in the external environment and the urgent need for change.

Our new strategy - grantmaking, investments, local ecosystem



Peter Minet Trust Board



Funded partner CEF Lyncx - founder, Christian Johnson, partners and the Mayor of London

Our new strategy has considered all our assets – our grantmaking, our investments, our funded partners, the local ecosystem, other local funders and friends, and our people – and set out **our three strategic aims** (</about/strategy-2025-2028/summary>).

The strategy has been developed by our Board, chaired by Tracey Fletcher, and our Director, Rachel Oglethorpe, with Board facilitation and consultancy from Kate Chester at **Animo Leadership** (<https://animoleadership.co.uk/team/kate-chester/>). The expertise and insights generously shared direct and anonymously by our funded partners have been central and we would like to thank the leaders of our current partners, Felicia Boshorin (**Spring Community Hub** (</spring-community-hub>)), Winston Goode (**Juvenis** (</juvenis>)), Issa Issa (**Bright Centres** (</bright-centres>)), Christian Johnson (**CEF Lyncx** (</cef-lyncx>)), Adrian Jones (Your Story), Pauline Nandoo (**Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers** (</southwark-day-centre-asylum-seekers>)) and Charlotte Prendergast (**Southside Young Leaders Academy** (</southside-young-leaders-academy-syla>)), their teams and their clients.

Rachel Oglethorpe, Director

Summary

Vision, Strategic Aims, Values

Our vision

Black-led community organisations in Lambeth and Southwark have power, agency and funding to drive positive change in their communities

What we do

We offer funding to Black-led organisations, we collaborate to create a more equitable society in Lambeth and Southwark, and we manage our investments responsibly



Leaders and members of funded partner, Bright Centres,

Our strategic aims:

1. **Our grantmaking** - enhance accessibility, fairness and impact of our funding
2. **Our work with others in Lambeth and Southwark** – strengthen the local ecosystem of support
3. **Our investment policy** - strengthen financial stewardship and resilience for sustainable impact

Our strategic aims are underpinned by our people, our governance and our operations, including Board leadership and management, risk management, financial management and training.

You can read more about our strategic aims [here \(/about/strategy-2025-2028/strategic-aims\)](/about/strategy-2025-2028/strategic-aims) and our open fund and how to apply [here \(/grants/open-fund-round-3-who-we-fund-and-grants-available\)](/grants/open-fund-round-3-who-we-fund-and-grants-available).

Our Values:

- **Community** - we take time to listen to the lived experiences of local communities to shape our grantmaking and match the needs of our existing and future partners
- **Learning** - we commit to a culture where we seek better to understand the expertise of our funded partners, share our knowledge creatively, are open to change and challenge ourselves continually to identify and address our biases
- **Trust** - we build trust through active listening, responding compassionately and flexibly, being transparent in our decisions and accessible to our funded partners

- **Social Justice** - we are proactive in challenging systems of oppression that have created and continue to create inequity for our partners

Black-led organisations: by this we mean UK Registered charities or Community Interest Companies (CICs) Limited by Guarantee that are primarily led by Trustees, Directors and staff identifying as Black, African, Caribbean, Black British or Any Other Black, African or Caribbean background (more than half of Trustees or Directors, and more than half of staff)



Service users at CEF Lyncx's GreenHut, a funded partner

**READ ABOUT OUR NEW OPEN FUND ROUND AND ELIGIBILITY
(/GRANTS/OPEN-FUND-ROUND-3-WHO-WE-FUND-AND-GRANTS-
AVAILABLE)**

Strategic aims

Our grantmaking, our work with others, our investment policy

Over the next three years, we are committed to making positive change by working towards our three strategic aims. Our strategic aims are underpinned by our people, our governance and our operations. We will continue to strengthen and work towards embedding equity in all we do.

1. Our grantmaking - enhance accessibility, fairness, and impact of our funding

We will continue to develop an inclusive and transparent grantmaking process that builds trust and meaningful partnerships with Black-led organisations. We will create space for collaboration between our funded partners so learning is shared, partners' voices are amplified and their impact in Lambeth and Southwark is seen.

Over next 3 years we will:

Commit to transparency and equity

- Make our eligibility criteria easy to understand
- Offer support to potential applicants where needed to prepare their applications
- Embed a fair and open process to make funding decisions
- Be clear about funds available and our capacity as a funder
- Invest in better digital tools for grant management, relationship-building and communications

Develop our core funding offer

- Offer unrestricted multi-year funding for CICs Limited by Guarantee as well as charities working predominantly in Lambeth and Southwark through our Open Fund with new funding rounds in 2025 and 2027 - around seven new partnerships in each funding round



Members of Spring Community Hub

- Continue to make time to meet and get to know funded partners in person and to be flexible and responsive
- Continue to adapt our funding model, grounding our approach in the learning and lived experience of Black-led organisations including our funded partners, alumni and other local groups.
- Plan our funding rounds and relationships in five-year cycles from the application stage to the three-year funding stage to the year after our funding, considering what wider support is needed for partners

Expand our offer of support to funded partners

- Facilitate networking opportunities between existing and former funded partners and with local policymakers and funders
- In response to needs of funded partners, signpost to training, opportunities or support that might help build financial resilience on a case-by-case basis
- Celebrate the success and impact of our partners

Centre learning and accountability

- Embed a respectful and safe feedback loop to capture and share learning from our partners
- Review and refresh our learning framework each year to improve how we work and how we share the difference made by the work of our funded partners
- Commit time to understand systems of oppression experienced by our funded partners
- Commit time to learn more about the key causes and solutions of climate change
- Consider how to support our current and future funded partners to face the challenges of climate change including addressing the physical costs of climate events as a result of climate change, and the transition costs if decarbonisation does not happen in a fair and just way.



Member of SYLA (Photo credit: Daniel McNair)

2. Our work with others in Lambeth and Southwark - strengthen the local ecosystem of support

We will work with funders and agencies and local communities to better understand the barriers and challenges faced by Black-led groups in securing funding, support and agency in Lambeth and Southwark. We will instigate ways of responding collaboratively to develop a more equitable and joined-up system of support and opportunity.

Over next 3 years we will:



- Share our knowledge and understanding to CEF Lyncx service users at the GreenHut bring people together
- Create space so the voices, learning and experience of our funded partners and alumni are amplified
- Agree a clear decision-making process for when to contribute time and money to partnerships, ensuring our ambitions match capacity
- Ring-fence a Strategic Fund for collaboration work
- Collaborate with other local funders and agencies to create more equitable and accessible funding and support for Black-led groups and charities; this includes continuing exploratory work with Impact on Urban Health, United St Saviour's Charity and Walcot Foundation to explore a cross-borough collaboration, as well as on-going work with Community Southwark.
- Explore with other local funders and agencies how funded partners can have a seat at decision-making tables in Lambeth and Southwark in the context of influencing and policy engagement
- Explore opportunities for increasing income in the local ecosystem through partnerships or co-funding initiatives in Lambeth and Southwark
- Explore and facilitate mentoring opportunities between funded partners and other local groups
- Advocate for transparency, equity and fairness when working with other funders, agencies and partners

3. Our investment policy - strengthen financial stewardship and resilience for sustainable impact

We will balance responsible investment management and financial control with continuing to support partners effectively whilst exploring opportunities for financial capacity building.

Over the next 3 years we will:

Be more transparent about our investments

- Publish our investment strategy, values and beliefs
- Share information on the difference our investments and engagement are making
- Better understand the origins of the financial assets we hold and invest

Be a responsible investor

- Hold our investment managers to account and monitor the performance of our funds
- Monitor whether our investments take account of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks, in line with our investment policy and beliefs
- Increase our participation in engagement activity with our investment managers
- Ensure our investment managers understand and respect our organisational values
- Maximise our influence as an asset owner in supporting and enabling a just transition to a post carbon society

Keep our funding model and time-horizon under review

- Understand opportunities for increasing our funds including fundraising, asset transfer and grant matching by external funders, and assess their feasibility within the context of the Trust's principles and operations

- Analyse our model used for allocating funds for grants and activities in response to new learning and investment performance, and agree a medium-long term strategy

Who we fund

Current partners and recent funding

Over the last five years we have funded 15 charities embedded in their communities in Lambeth and Southwark, awarding 13 unrestricted, multi-year grants of around £30,000 pa. We reflect on what we learn and turn that learning into action when we can.

The Director and a trustee visit partners at least twice a year, learning about the difference their work is making in their communities, listening to the challenges they are experiencing and understanding more about the difference unrestricted funding is making. Recently we learnt about the impact of inflation and the Cost-of-Living crisis on service users and partners' own organisation's costs. We receive feedback on Peter Minet Trust, listen to what more funders can do to support their work and take responsibility for capturing and documenting learning from our visits.

Learning into action

In response to learning, we awarded retrospective Cost of Living Grants to our Round 1 funded partners and now link multi-year grants to inflation; we awarded an additional year of funding to our current Round 2 partners to address urgent challenges in 2025 - and to reflect leaders' expertise shared that directly contributed to our Strategy; we have prioritised face-to-face visits including with a trustee, understanding their importance to partners in terms of support and respect; we offer references.

Peter Minet Trust is a small funder but we have learnt about what more we could do to support our funded partners and other similar groups if we work more collaboratively with other larger funders and agencies and we have reflected this ambition in our new strategic aims.



Guests at Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers

**READ ABOUT OUR CURRENT FUNDED PARTNERS HERE
(/GRANTS/SHARING-STORIES)**

**READ ABOUT OUR NEW OPEN FUND AND ELIGIBILITY HERE
(/GRANTS/OPEN-FUND-ROUND-3-WHO-WE-FUND-AND-GRANTS-AVAILABLE)**

Case Studies and reflections from Juvenis (/juvenis) and Spring Community Hub (/spring-community-hub)



Juvenis

A grassroots organisation in Lambeth whose vision is a future where all young Londoners have more than one chance to fulfil their potential

CASE STUDY → (/JUVENIS)



Spring Community Hub

Food is a human right. Spring Community Hub exists to make sure no one in our community goes hungry. But we don't just provide food, we work alongside people to help them escape food poverty, build confidence and find community

CASE STUDY → (/SPRING-COMMUNITY-HUB)

Next Steps

Our Board and Director are now focused on delivering Peter Minet Trust's strategy over the next three years, placing our values at the centre of our work.

We will hold ourselves to account by our funded partners and local communities. We will continue to adapt our work in response to the knowledge, experience and stories of Black-led organisations in Lambeth and Southwark. We will monitor the impact of our investments and our financial sustainability. We will share our learning.



Service users at CEF Lyncx, a current funded partner

There will be new Open Rounds in 2025 and 2027 and you can find details of our deadlines [here \(/grants/open-fund-round-3-who-we-fund-and-grants-available\)](#).

Open Fund Round 3: opens 24 July 2025 (information on stages, eligibility and deadlines available now)

Any questions? Email us on info@peterminet.org.uk (<mailto:info@peterminet.org.uk>)

READ ABOUT OUR NEW OPEN FUND AND ELIGIBILITY ([/GRANTS/OPEN-FUND-ROUND-3-WHO-WE-FUND-AND-GRANTS-AVAILABLE](#))