

**GUILD OF ST GEORGE ANNIVERSARY COMPANION GRANTS**

**TO CELEBRATE THE GUILD’S 150th ANNIVERSARY IN 2021**

**To celebrate the forthcoming 150th anniversary of the founding of the St George’s Company in 1871 (which became the Guild of St George in 1878) the Guild is offering all Companions the opportunity to apply for a set of new Companion Grants.**

**We invite proposals that make lives better, according to one or more of Ruskin’s ideas as upheld by the Guild in its current formulation as a registered education charity:**

* **No wealth but life - fair and equal enjoyment of the world around us**
* **The rural economy - craft, good livelihoods & care of land**
* **Not for present use alone – create and conserve for future generations**
* **Go to nature - nature as a primary source of beauty, inspiration, education and artistic practice**

The Guild’s active education and cultural programmes have focused in recent years on revitalising the social legacies of its key assets, the Ruskin Collection in Sheffield, and Ruskin Land in the Wyre Forest. The Companion Grants are an invitation to respond to local needs and opportunities to make lives better where they work or live.

There are many pressing issues facing individuals and communities, many exacerbated or exposed by the current COVID-19 crisis; the unsustainable division of wealth, our planet’s damaged climate, a lack of rewarding, sustainable work, poor physical and mental health, disconnection from nature and our own creativity.

Inspired by Ruskin’s concerns for these and related matters, and to celebrate the wide range of skills and interests among Companions, the Board intends to award £5000 worth of Companion Grants to support new work or activity that responds to these issues; these will either be five to the value of £1000 each, or - depending on the nature of the applications (and at the discretion of the Board), three of £1000 and four Research & Development grants of £500 each.

**The deadline for applications, via email to Simon Seligman (****communications@guildofstgeorge.org.uk****) is Friday 19th June 2020**, and the successful applicants will be informed by the end of July. We will invite (and support financially where needed\*) successful applicants to attend (in person or virtually) the November 2020 Guild AGM to talk briefly about what they intend to do over the following 12 months. Support and advice for each successful applicant, where and when needed, will also be available from another nominated member of the Guild throughout the year. Activity funded by the Companion Grant would be expected to be completed before November 2021.

PLEASE NOTE: *One Companion Grant will be reserved for a Companion under the age of 30 on 19th June 2020. If this is relevant to you, please include your DOB in your application.*

**Output:**

* We will expect all Companion Grant holders to attend (in person or online) and report on their work or project, at the November 2021 Guild AGM, date and venue tbc. The Guild will make a contribution to travel and accommodation costs where needed.\*
* We will require a reflection from you of what the grant achieved and who it benefitted, and a documentation of your work for the Guild to disseminate. This would include you sharing the outcome of your research, your making or your activity, in whatever form is most accessible - words, art, craft, film/video, events.

**Criteria:**

In response to one or more of the ideas above, applications should indicate how the grant would enable you to do at least two of the following:

* Respond to a social need.
* Benefit the people you engage with.
* Engage new audiences for the subject matter, skill or area of activity.
* Empower and develop your practice and creativity, through a Ruskinian lens.
* Deepen our understanding of the resources and resilience needed in the face of the challenges facing people and planet..

The Board will also be looking for proposals that:

* Foster stronger engagement with the Guild and its activities.
* Generate creative documentation and reflection for future dissemination to Companions and beyond.
* Develop connections for potential future collaborations.

In your application (using the form provided below), please tell us:

* What activity you would like to undertake with the grant.
* About your current work or study relevant to this application.
* Why this grant would be particularly useful at this point in your life and work, and what it would enable you to do that would otherwise not be possible. *(Please note that the Bursary should not be a ‘top-up’ to augment other recent funding, but should form the principal financial support for your proposal.)*
* How the grant would help you to become more involved in Guild endeavours?
* How you would reflect, document and share the experience, as an act of active education? We will be asking you to share your work with other Companions and a wider Guild audience.

**Timeline:**

**The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 19th June, by email to** **communications@guildofstgeorge.org.uk** **(or by mail to Simon Seligman, 8 Derwent Close, Grindleford, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 2HD).**

Applications will be assessed by the Board in early July, and all applicants informed of the awards by the end of July.

At the AGM on 21 November, the successful applicants will be introduced to the wider Guild and each bursary holder invited to introduce their proposal in person or online.

**Further notes:**

1. Please note that in line with the Guild’s grants policies:

* The Guild will not make grants to individuals in order to enable them to provide their own services to a third party
* The Guild will not support other individuals or charities holding comparable levels of assets
* The Guild will not support any solely or predominantly commercial venture
* The Guild will not support any purely political or religious venture

2. Applications from outside the UK

Applications from all Companions are welcome. Payment of grants will be made by international bank transfer into whatever currency applies, at an exchange rate pertaining at the time.

3.\* Expenses

The Guild will pay a maximum sum of £250 for travel and accommodation, per grant holder, per AGM. Any other expenses incurred in delivering the project will need to be met out of the grant or from the grant-holder’s own resources. In the spirit of Companionship and to protect the Guild’s resources, if you would have planned to attend the AGM anyway, we would invite you to absorb these costs personally.

We would like all successful applicants to have a presence at the 2020 and 2021 AGMs whether in person, via the internet or by a pre-recorded video message. With our growing commitment to climate action and energy use reduction, we are mindful of the environmental impact of international travel; we will do all that we can to ensure the facilities are in place to make virtual attendance possible.

**Issued by the Board of the Guild of St George, 23 April 2020.**

**GUILD OF ST GEORGE ANNIVERSARY COMPANION GRANTS 2020-21**

**APPLICATION FORM**

Your name, postal and email addresses and telephone number(s):

(and date of birth if you will be under 30 on 19th June 2020)

What activity would you undertake with the grant? *Max 200 words*

Tell us briefly about your current work or study relevant to this application. *Max 150 words*

Why would this grant be particularly useful at this point in your life and work, and what it would enable you to do that would otherwise not be possible? *Max 150 words*

How would the grant help you to become more involved in Guild endeavours? *Max 150 words*

How you would reflect, document and share the experience, as an act of active education? *Max 150 words*

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In **no more than 100 words for each**, please also tell us how your work would achieve ***at least two*** of the following:

* Respond to a social need:
* Benefit the people you engage with:
* Engage new audiences for the subject matter, skill or area of activity:
* Empower and develop your practice and creativity, through a Ruskinian lens:
* Deepen our understanding of the resources and resilience needed in the face of the challenges facing people and planet:

Finally, in no more than 100 words, please add any other information that you consider relevant in assessing your application:

**Please email your completed form to Simon Seligman at** **communications@guildofstgeorge.org.uk** **by 19/6/2020.**