

*“We’re here to enable funders from all sectors to be effective. We’re focused on **collaboration** – **convening** funders to **connect, contribute** and **cooperate** together, to help people across London’s communities to live better lives”*

[www.londonfunders.org.uk](http://www.londonfunders.org.uk)

**@LondonFunders**



# Where we've come from...

- Started as a group in 1996, charity in 2005
- Our Strategy 2018-22:
  - **Convene:** creating the space for productive conversations and collaborations
  - **Connect:** bringing people/organisations together with ideas and tools they need to be effective
  - **Contribute:** shaping policies that affect Londoners through our informed voice
  - **Cooperate:** enabling funders to work together to tackle issues facing London

# Emerging from the pandemic?

- What we did in the last 18 months and what we learned
- The challenges facing communities now
- What this means for the organisations and funders that support them

# #WeStandWithTheSector

- Over 400 signatories
  - [www.covid19funders.org.uk](http://www.covid19funders.org.uk)
- Shared commitments to:
  - adapting activities, discussing dates and financial flexibility
- Sister statement in Europe with DAFNE and EFC



# London Community Response

- Building on **learning from previous crisis events**
  - Grenfell Tower fire
  - Discussions on planning for no-deal Brexit
- 67 funders from **across sectors and localities**, multiple opportunities to be involved
- First wave launched **four days** after lockdown
- Fastest decision **two days** from application

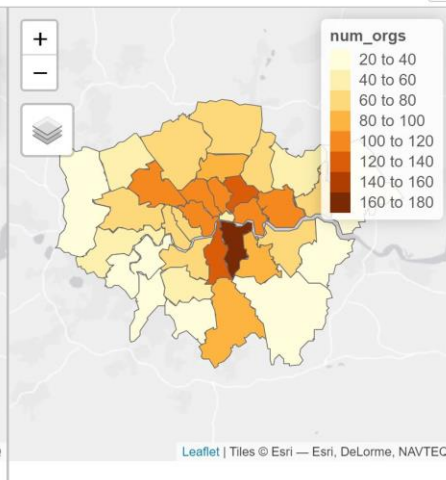
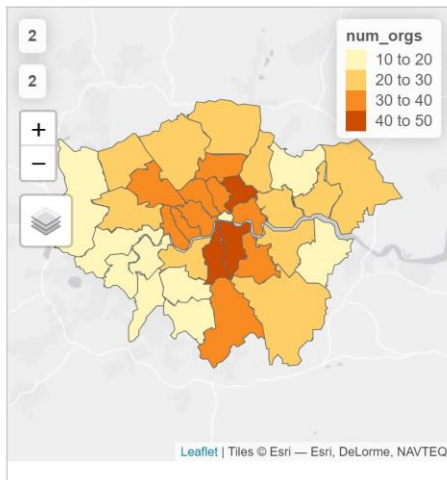
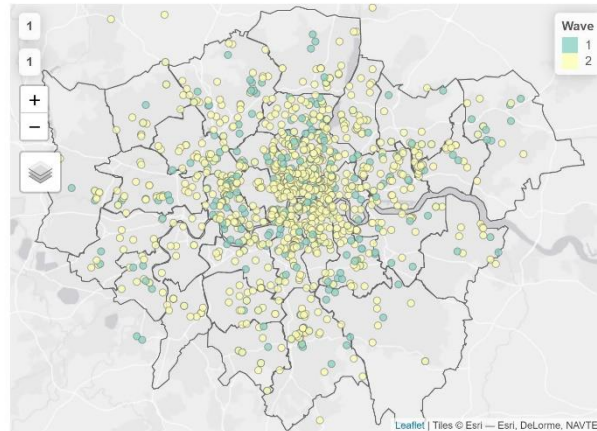
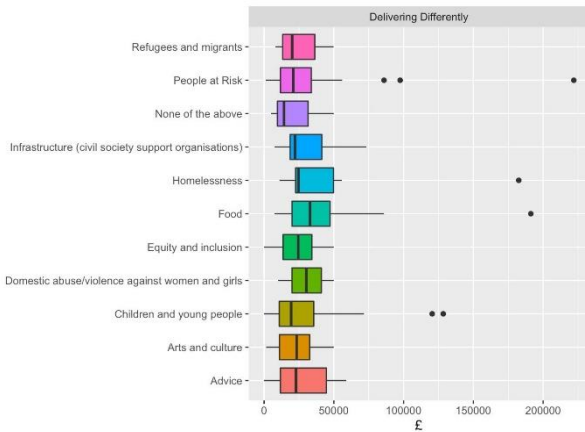
# The numbers

- **5** waves of funding
- **10,605** applications received
- **£225m+** asked for
- Over **3,600** grants awarded
- Over **£57.5m** distributed
- Reaching groups led by the communities most impacted by covid:
  - Over 75% of grants to Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic groups; Deaf & Disabled; LGBT+; Women

# What made it work?

- Shared **principles**
- Needs analysis informed by **insight**
- **Research** on our covid-19 resource hub
- Investing in **equity and inclusion** experts
- **Option to pool or align** funding
- Single **application form**
- **Funder only portal** for assessment and decisions
- Shared **due diligence**
- **Data** analysis
- Common **monitoring and evaluation**
- **Learning** partners

# Shaping wider responses





# Now and next...

- **Available now:**
  - **Learning** reports focused on:
    - Processes behind funder collaboration
    - Equity-centred grant making
    - What civil society did differently
    - Scenarios for London's civil society in 2023
- **Coming soon:**
  - **Data** – interactive grants data
  - **Monitoring** – shared data on impact
  - **Future** – what next for collaboration?

# Scenarios for 2023

Working with Reos Partners

*“Transformative scenarios aren’t about predicting the future, they’re about creating it”.*



# The scenarios

- **Building Back the Same** - rebuilding the economy but not our society.
- **Building Back Better** – mobilising for connection and regeneration.
- **Building Back Differently** – the opportunities that arise when systems collapse.
- **Not Building Back** – economic downturn, rampant inequality, mental health in crisis.

# Implications for funder investment

Avoid the harmful elements and maximise the positive opportunities by investing in:

- Grass roots, hyperlocal, led by and for organisations, mutual aid
- Social infrastructure and spaces
- Democratic engagement
- Digital, tech, data
- Collaborations and networks
- Advocacy and campaigning

# Implications for funder behaviour

- Have shared goals with civil society and collaborate to deliver them
- Build trusting relationships
- Hear and act on marginalised voices
- Enable participation, share power
- Hold and share data and intelligence
- Amplify the work of civil society
- Make decisions faster and more flexibly
- Get serious about longer term funding

# What next for collaboration?

- Local and hyperlocal
  - Place-based giving schemes
  - Cold spots & civic strength
- Regional
  - Collaborating for Recovery: bold, systemic, equitable, long term.
- Partners in collaboration
  - Civil society around the table as equals
  - Business, public sector, government

<https://londonfunders.org.uk/resources-funders/london-funders-publications/our-blog/london-community-response-learning-reports>

