

## CultureDale Seeds of Hope Festival

### Project Name: Seeds of Hope Show Gardens

#### Application Guidance

##### Key Details:

As part of CultureDale's 2026 programming, we are launching a brand new community gardening festival called Seeds of Hope which will take place in Shibden Park in August 2026 to celebrate 100 years of Shibden Park. It will run alongside the Stage at the Lake music festival 13-16 August. Both festivals are part of West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Seasons of Culture programme which is nature themed in 2026.

CultureDale are looking for applications from community groups and organisations for the creation of a series of unique micro show gardens, that will form the Seeds of Hope trail around Shibden Park. The gardening festival will be free to attend and will also include family trails/talks/activities. After the festival the gardens would return to the groups who made them for everyone in the local community to enjoy.

By taking part in the project, groups will be able to develop new gardening areas, increase opportunities for local people to volunteer and to connect gardening groups to the schools we will be working with as part of the wider engagement project.

Partnering with us for this event is UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). The UNESCO "Seeds of Hope" initiative promotes creativity, peace, and sustainability among young people through global competitions and projects that encourage artistic expression and community engagement. Community groups successful in their applications for the festival will be partnered with one of our UNESCO project schools, facilitated by the CultureDale team.

##### Budget:

Groups can apply for up to £5,000 to create a show garden for the Seeds of Hope festival (from a total of £40,000 available). This funding is from WYCA Seasons of Culture.

Budget breakdown should take into consideration: plants, materials, resources, staff time, volunteer costs, design costs, activities, etc.

### Match Funding:

We would encourage applicants to source match funding where available to support the development of the show gardens.

The following are possible sources of match funding for the project:

#### Neighbourhood Ward Forum Budgets

Calderdale Council has Ward forum grants available each year for constituted groups to apply for up to £500 for activity that will benefit people in each ward. Ward forum funding supports projects and activities that bring people together, improve wellbeing and improve the environment.

You can find out more about these grants if your area by speaking to our team or reaching out to your local neighbourhood team:

[Ward Forum Priorities | Calderdale Council](#)

#### Kew Gardens Grow wild Youth fund

Are you aged 16–25 and live in the UK? Apply for a £500 Grow Wild grant to bring your nature project to life this summer!

Kew Gardens are calling on young individuals to come up with a project idea to champion UK native plants and/or fungi.

Whether you're into sowing or sewing, photography or video making, science or cooking... if you've got an idea, we want to hear from you.

Please see link below to webinar on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 12.30 pm

[Youth Grants | Grow Wild | Kew](#)

Groundwork Grassroot Grants eligible areas in Calderdale could apply for:

[Grassroots Grants - Groundwork](#)

CFFC Connect Fund launching in February for projects that focus on social cohesion

[Current Grants | Community Foundation For Calderdale](#)

Business Sponsorship

### Timeframe:

The fund will be launched and open for applications on **12 February 2026**

Application deadline Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

Panel decisions will be made by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Successful applicants will be notified by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Creation of the micro show gardens will take place from March to August 2026

Installation of the show gardens at Shibden Park will commence 10<sup>th</sup> August 2026

The show garden trail will be open to the public from **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

De install and transportation of the show gardens back into communities will commence Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2026

#### Aims & Objectives:

The aim of the show gardens is that they will form an interactive family-friendly Seeds of Hope trail around Shibden Park in Summer 2026. The trail will be free to access by visitors.

#### Community Engagement:

Successful applicants will work in collaboration with a Seeds of Hope partner school to develop themes and ideas for the show garden. It is anticipated that the community group or organisation will create opportunities for people to volunteer and also work in partnership with a local artist and a business.

#### Considerations:

Each show garden will have a maximum 5m x 3m plot to display and showcase their design and theme.

Thought should be given to the types of seasonal plants to be grown and displayed that will be appropriate for the time of year of the Seeds of Hope festival (August 2026).

The gardens will utilise and demonstrate sustainable, recycled and upcycled materials.

Themes and designs for the final show gardens should be non-political; no advertising, no religious agendas etc.

#### Applications will be appraised on the following criteria:

Demonstrating a clear understanding of the project brief as outlined in their proposal

Previous experience creating a community garden and involving volunteers

Ability to collaborate with a local artist and involve schools through the 'Lights Camera Score' project.

Ability to deliver the project on budget and on time

The applications will be scored by a panel including representatives from the local community, CMBC Parks team, CMBC Museums.

#### Insurances:

Community groups must provide evidence of Public Liability Insurance

#### Sustainability:

Award recipients will be required to adopt a sustainable approach to the final show garden design with environmental impact considerations given. Sourcing materials, equipment and resources locally. Considering options to use recycled or recyclable and reusable materials.

#### Ownership:

Once the Seeds of Hope Festival has finished the show gardens will be transported back into the communities whereby the show gardens will be owned by the community group awarded the funding for the project.

#### How to Apply:

This is an open call to community groups and organisations experienced in running community garden projects. Applicants must be based in Calderdale.

To apply please submit the following using the application form:

- A short proposal for your show garden including initial ideas, how the garden will engage visitors and who will be involved with the project e.g volunteers, staff, service users. (500 words max)
- A budget breakdown of costs
- A project timeline for how you will manage the creation of the show garden
- An example of running a previous project to a similar scale of budget
- A copy of your Public Liability Insurance

Please complete the application form no later than 12 noon on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.

Applications can be made in written, video or audio format. We would encourage applicants to include a short video to show their current growing space. If you require support or have any requirements which need to be met to complete an application, please contact us.

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