Additional Information

How many years has your organisation been operating?

1

How many people are in your organisation? Please indicate the number of volunteers and number of employees.

Volunteers	4
Employees	
Total	4

Project Details

What is the name of your project?

Chelmsford Makerspace

Are you submitting this application with partners?

No

What is your ideal funding start date?   01/04/2013   00:00

Costs

What budget do you require to realise your plans?

£50,000

Please provide an outline of how you propose to spend this budget.

At this stage we do not need a detailed itemised budget, but please include any resources (in kind, financial, including match funding) that you or partners will contribute to the project.

Max 150 words

We're looking at somewhere around £20,000 for the building to rent and kit it out with furniture, networking, etc.
£10,000 for more advanced equipment at the space, such as a Laser Cutter and CNC Milling Machine.
An additional £10,000 for Development Kits and Electronic Components, such as Arduino boards and Raspberry Pi's for our members to develop on and any related materials.
£5,000 to develop a starter kit to send out and get outsiders involved.
£5,000 for putting on events, hackdays, etc.

Explaining your idea

The Digital Makers Fund aims to invest in, support and grow initiatives that invite mass participation and use young people's interests and passions to drive demand from new audiences to become <u>creators, not just consumers</u> of digital technologies. We want to work with organisations who will shout loudly about this work, championing and engaging thousands of young people in digital making activities.

Summary

Provide a brief summary of your idea.

What is your idea? Who is it for? How would you deliver it? Where would it take place? Why is this the best approach?

Max 150 words

Video

Please post the link to your video submission which should be uploaded to Vimeo. Ensure you apply the search tag '**Digital Makers**' when you upload it to Vimeo. You can read more about what's expected from your video submission and why we ask for one in the Fund's FAQs here.

For instructions on how to upload to Vimeo you'll find a step-by-step guide here.

Innovation

Please demonstrate how your proposal is innovative. This might mean applying an existing idea to a new context, a disruptive or new application of technology, a new way of doing things, or a wholly new idea.

What **need** is your innovation trying to address?

Max 50 words

Chelmsford City has a need for a local space where people who have an enthusiasm for technology and engineering can come and meet people who are likeminded so we set up a space in the city where people can come and share their ideas and start or join a project.

What have you **learnt** from other organisations attempting similar things to you, or other innovations? What makes your idea distinct from existing solutions?

Max 150 words

Taking inspiration from other hackerspaces in Europe and the USA, Chelmsford Makerspace tried to replicate a space where people could come and work, socialise and have fun whilst learning skills from others at the space.
We looked at places like London Hackerspace who have been rather successful in that they have their own building and 500+ members.
We hope to have our own building that paying members can have access too.
The Makerspace will also host 'Open Hack Tuesdays' when anyone can come along as well as workshops and larger events.
We are a rather distinct group due to us being the only hackerspace in Essex and the surrounding area.

Impact

Please demonstrate how you have established demand for your initiative and the potential your initiative has to produce significant increases in digital making participation (i.e. the potential to engage thousands of people over time). Applicants should be clear and realistic about the ambition and the trajectory for achieving impact at scale.

Explain what potential **impact** your idea has for increasing participation in digital making? What social outcomes and public benefit will be achieved? What evidence do you have to support these assertions?

Max 150 words

By starting a Makerspace in a central location, we are able to attract an estimated hundreds of people each month to use our space. By running workshop we are able to bring in people who have little or no prior knowledge of digital technologies and help to make software, games, apps, websites, electronics projects, etc.

So far we have been running a weekly meet-up group where people can come together to work on projects, in a matter of months we already have roughly 30 members attending each week and on Workshops we have had around 50 people, something achieve purely through word of mouth.

By looking at similar groups around the UK, we can see that Makerspaces are in demand, regularly being visited by hundreds of people each month and getting members of the public involved in becoming creators of technology, not just consumers.

Sustainability

The Digital Makers Fund aims to support initiatives that have the potential to grow and thrive beyond this fund's initial investment. We want to understand how the initiative will achieve sustainability and your assumptions about how the initiative will grow. We are open to different models of sustainability.

Describe the **risks and challenges** associated with developing and scaling your work, and achieving sustainability. What steps are you taking to help overcome these?

Max 150 words

At the Makerspace each member will contribute a small membership fee to keep the space running, in return they shall recieve unlimited access to the space and its resources. This model is already in use in the UK by a number of other Hackerspaces and makes up most of the income of these spaces.
In addition to membership fees we intend to produce and sell the product outlined in this proposal as well as charging non-members and small fee to attend any Workshops put on by the space.

Capacity

Tell us about the capacity of your team to deliver your initiative. If there are resource gaps, please indicate what they are and how you propose to fill these.

Please list the key individuals in the team responsible for the development and delivery of your initiative. What relevant experiences do they bring? What resources or skills are not yet in place?

150 words

Richard Raybould and Ben Orrin started the group and continue to run it.
Our members all pitch in and help us as it's a community space.
Tom Stacey has helped out a lot with advice on workshops and assisted with running them.

The gaps we have in terms of skills are things like building and running an open space like this, the finances at that level and

How much money has already been invested in developing your initiative?

50 words

Between me (Richard) and Ben, we put just under £100 of our own extremally limited money in to getting the group going, from there it's all been funded by membership fees and outside equipment donations.

Submit

You must read a hard copy of your application prior to submission. Please print a pdf, read the document, and then tick the box below to indicate that you have read it. Once you have done this you will be able to submit the form.

I have printed and read ☐
through my application