Boost vote 2019-20

What is the boost vote?

In recognition of the fact that minority ethnic groups and projects tended in the past to miss out on funding, due to their minority status, the boost vote (first introduced in 2018-2019) is designed to promote fairness, as illustrated below.

Illustration by Ash Pryce, based on an original idea by Craig Froehle (hat-tip to IISC and Angus Maguire)

At the application stage, all applicants must be informed of this boost vote, how it works, and how projects may qualify. There should be a clear understanding on all sides that co-working with minority ethnic communities should be rooted and long-standing (past/future), rather than just introducing partnership as a quick 'tweak' to meet short term project requirements. £eith Chooses will be happy to discuss individual applications, and to advise applicants, in support sessions.

At the voting event, all voters can choose to cast an extra vote (the 'boost vote') to support a minority ethnic project (as defined overleaf), whether or not they use one of their other votes to support the same project.

Qualifying for boost votes

To qualify for boost votes, project applications must meet the conditions for item 1 or item 2 on the 'Eligibility Criteria for Boost Vote' table overleaf on page 4. Organisations should first 'self-assess' where their project fits on this table. This will then be reviewed by £eith Chooses organisers. Supporting evidence to demonstrate where the project fits on the table should be available. Organisations should bear in mind that £eith Chooses will make the final decision on whether or not the project qualifies for a boost vote.

What is a 'Minority ethnic project'?

Minority ethnic projects are those specifically concerned with groups or individual members of the Leith community with a different or additional original race, nationality, culture or language from the majority.

Eligibility Criteria for Boost vote

To be considered as a 'minority ethnic project', applying organisations need to be able to **demonstrate** that:

ELIGIBLE FOR BOOST VOTE

1. The applying organisation specifically supports in particular one or more minority ethnic communities, and so does the proposed project.
Also:
  i. Management, staff and volunteers are mostly (that is, more than 50%) from minority ethnic communities, and/or project beneficiaries are also mostly from minority ethnic communities.
  ii. If/ when necessary, Information and/or project materials are produced in more than one language, and interpreters/translators are routinely provided, or other cultural supports as required.

2. The applying organisation – or a new and special part of the organisation's existing work (or a new partnership with another organisation) – is specifically dedicated to include and benefit members of minority ethnic communities. Supporting one or more minority ethnic communities is a significant/central aspect of the project.
Also:
  i. Management, staff and volunteers are significantly (that is, more than 33%) from minority ethnic communities, and/or project beneficiaries are also significantly from minority ethnic communities.
  ii. Research /outreach work has been carried out to find out more about the needs and barriers faced by minority ethnic communities, and what is needed to overcome them. Work has already been carried out on encouraging minority ethnic communities to become involved in the project.

'Demonstrating' the conditions of 1 and 2 above should include:

- Providing details of plans or efforts to publicise the project and to distribute project information and materials amongst minority ethnic communities, to actively encourage their participation and to consider any special support issues that they may need.
- Making provision for translation and/or interpretation of project information into two or more languages, and/or other cultural support, as needed.

For partnerships

- Showing that special efforts have been made to extend the inclusivity of the organization and/or the project by arranging dialogue, resulting in **a firm and ongoing** partnership with at least two different minority ethnic groups or communities.
- Documentation (e.g. designated contacts, minuted discussions, records of meetings) is provided to prove the above, and to prove ongoing and active partnership beyond the immediate scope of this project, along with indications as to how it will be maintained (e.g. formal written documents such as signed Memoranda of Understanding or Service Level Agreements).

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR BOOST VOTE
3. The project is inclusive in that it is open to all, including individual members of minority ethnic communities, but no special efforts are planned or made to encourage or develop greater involvement of, or benefit for, minority ethnic communities, specifically.
4. The project will involve or benefit a specific group of people, but none or almost none of them are members of minority ethnic communities.