

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Interested in taking part in a groundbreaking social venture which will transform the way we communicate and collaborate globally?

The Dialogue Café Association is looking for dynamic, entrepreneurial and creative partners to host and manage a Dialogue Café in London. This is an amazing opportunity to take part in a groundbreaking social venture and to represent London in the global Dialogue Café network. The deadline for submissions is 27th September 2010.

Dialogue Café is a non-profit initiative, which uses state of the art video conferencing technology to enable face-to-face conversations between diverse groups of people from around the world so that they can share experiences, learn from each other and work together to make the world a better place.

The first two Dialogue Cafés in Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro are already open. We're working with schools, museums, foundations, community hubs, local governments and others to bring Dialogue Café to Sao Paulo, Toronto, New York, Mexico City, Ramallah, Tel Aviv, Florence, Amsterdam and Istanbul over the next few months. By the end of 2011, we will have between 15 and 20 Dialogue Cafés open all around the world. Now we're looking for partners to host a Dialogue Café in London.



Students talking about sustainability and climate change in Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro.

What is Dialogue Café?

Dialogue Café results from the radical but simple idea that people have many things in common and given the opportunity, they will explore their common interests, sparking collaborations and stimulating ideas that address the major issues of today. Dialogue Café believes that these kinds of conversations and collaborations can lead

to new ways of thinking and doing: they can empower individuals and communities, break down prejudice and misconceptions and promote greater understanding and co-operation across cultures.

With support from the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Cisco, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Anna Lindh Foundation and others, the Dialogue Café Association is creating a global network of physical spaces – Dialogue Cafés – which will provide access to state of the art video conferencing technology. These Dialogue Cafés will be connected through a global exchange that links cafés across the world to enable informal conversations as well as more structured multi-city activities such as workshops, seminars, conferences, concerts and lectures.

Who is Dialogue Café for?

Dialogue Café is for individuals and organizations with a social, environmental, educational or cultural mission – including foundations, civil society organizations, community groups, universities, schools, social enterprises, public sector bodies and agencies. The following examples illustrate the range and variety of activities that will be enabled by Dialogue Café as the network grows and develops around the world.

- Young people in Istanbul, London and Toronto sharing stories about their heritage.
- Women from Cairo, Doha and Amsterdam discussing the role of education and employment in empowering women.
- Multi-city conferences and events on topics such as climate change, creativity and innovation, ageing and social exclusion connecting London, New York, Amsterdam, Florence, Doha and Ramallah.
- Joint projects linking schools in Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro, and Seoul and San Francisco.
- Social entrepreneurs from Cairo, Tel Aviv and Toronto talking about potential commercial collaborations.
- Simultaneous theatre workshops run in Rio de Janeiro, New York and San Francisco.
- Concerts from Rio de Janeiro live to London, Lisbon, Amsterdam, Florence and New York.
- Health practitioners in Ramallah, London and Toronto carrying out joint consultations and training.

We hope that those hosting the London Dialogue Café would have many other ideas of how to use the Dialogue Café in the spirit of the values and goals of the project.



A transatlantic jam session (left) and students discussing the role of e-learning (right).

What is the role of the local Dialogue Café host?

Each Dialogue Café is managed by a local partner – we call this a host. The role of the Dialogue Café host is to create a space for innovation and creativity, drawing in a wide variety of users and facilitating a wide range of collaborations and conversations. Hosts therefore are ambassadors for their cities, with the opportunity to showcase the very best their city has to offer in the social, educational and cultural fields.

We're very much in the early phase of the project – we call it the Beta Phase – so Dialogue Café hosts will play a fundamental role in the development of the Dialogue Café Network. These local partners will oversee the day to day management of the Dialogue Café. This involves:

- Programming of activities and events with other Dialogue Cafés to draw in a wide range of users to discuss and collaborate on a wide range of projects, including booking sessions on behalf of users.
- Outreach to target audiences including schools, universities, social purpose organisations (e.g. community based organisations, youth led organisations, social enterprises, foundations, public sector agencies etc), cultural organisations and artists.
- Local communications and marketing - including updating the shared website.
- Cover costs associated with managing the Dialogue Café and ensure the sustainability of the Dialogue Café.

The Dialogue Café Association will support the local partners in hosting the Dialogue Café by maintaining the global technology platform, supporting local partners in installing the Dialogue Café, expanding the global network and developing shared resources such as the online platform – including the development of the online booking facilities. The Dialogue Café Association also works closely with local partners to fundraise.

Who can host a Dialogue Café?

Partners need three things: a) a space (60-80m²) which is open, accessible and easy to get to; b) creative, entrepreneurial people to manage the Dialogue Café; c) links to networks who would be interested in taking part in and using Dialogue Café. We would welcome expressions of interest and proposals from any group or organization that could provide one, two or all of the above.

The ideal size for the Dialogue Café pod is between 60-80m². The pod is a self-contained unit. The TelePresence screen, microphones, speakers, cameras and cables are integrated into the design of the pod. The pod includes the floor (under which are placed the cables), the table (into which the microphones and plug points are placed), the back walls (which can be removed) and the front wall (which supports the frame for the TelePresence screen and the speakers). The rest of the technical equipment is hidden between the screen and the back wall. The pods have been designed to provide flexibility – from small, intimate conversations to larger group activities. The back wall can be removed in order to allow for large group activities (i.e. with schools, lectures and so on). The larger the room, the greater the flexibility to have different kinds of activities and events.

Hosts need to cover start up costs and operational costs, but as far as possible, the Dialogue Café Association will work with local partners to identify and secure funding from third parties. Start up costs in London are roughly £80K and ongoing costs include the cost of overheads (staff, rent etc) and connectivity (roughly £300-£500 per month). This contribution goes towards the cost of developing shared resources (e.g. website, global technology platform, booking platform, global communications and marketing) and supporting the installation of Dialogue Cafés in priority areas such as West and East Africa.

Here's a short checklist to see if you're eligible:

- Does your organisation share the aims and values of the Dialogue Café Association?
- Does your organisation have experience which is relevant to hosting a Dialogue Café?
- Do you have great links with other organisations in London in the fields of education, art and culture, and the third sector?
- Do you have a team in place that could work on Dialogue Café to develop the programme of activities as well as doing outreach to develop the network of users locally?
- Do you have international links and an international component to your work?

- Do you have a space which is at least 60m² that could be used exclusively for the Dialogue Café?
- Is this space open to the general public, accessible and easy to get to?
- Can you provide space for Dialogue Café Association staff?
- Do you have a proposal for making the Dialogue Café you manage financially sustainable?

If you've answered yes to most of the questions then we would like to hear from you!

Next steps

If you would like more information visit www.dialoguecafe.org or contact Julie Caulier-Grice at Julie@dialoguecafe.org.

How to apply?

If you would like to host a Dialogue Café please send us a proposal providing information on the following:

- Why you would like to host a Dialogue Café, together with information on what your organisation could bring to the Dialogue Café Network.
- Information about your organisation, including aims and objectives, current projects and previous projects which are relevant to hosting a Dialogue Café.
- Information on the kinds of projects and activities you would like to deliver as part of your engagement in the Dialogue Café project.
- Information on the team that would manage the Dialogue Cafe, including short biographies outlining experience, qualification and past and current projects.
- Information on the physical space you suggest using for the Dialogue Café (including dimensions, floor plans and images).
- Information on how you propose to make the Dialogue Café financially sustainable as well as a suggested budget for operating and managing costs.

Criteria

Below are the criteria for the assessment of applications.

Space	45%	Hosting Organisation	55%
Location <i>Physical location of building, transport links, central and accessible part of the city.</i>	10%	People <i>Experience of team proposing to manage Dialogue Cafe London, entrepreneurialism, dynamism and creativity.</i>	20%
Size <i>The ideal space for the Dialogue Cafe pods is >70m².</i>	10%	Network <i>Links to other organisations and networks, diversity and strength of networks.</i>	15%
Accessibility <i>Location for the pod in the building, open to the general public and opening hours.</i>	10%	Experience <i>Current and past projects, organisational aims and values, relevance to DC objectives.</i>	10%
Space for DCA staff <i>DCA requires 2 desks for its staff.</i>	5%	International experience/network <i>Experience of working internationally as well as international links and networks.</i>	5%
Technical Requirements*	10%	Sustainability <i>Proposal for the sustainability of the Dialogue Cafe, as well as a proposed budget for managing the Dialogue Cafe and budgetary information about the hosting organisation.</i>	5%

*Note: Technical requirements will vary from location to location and can only be determined after a site visit.

Please send applications electronically to Julie Caulier-Grice, Programme Manager at julie@dialoguecafe.org.

A final round will be selected from these applications and invited to pitch their proposal to the Dialogue Café Association in the week commencing 4th October.

The deadline for submissions is 27th September.