



Build Programme Information Document



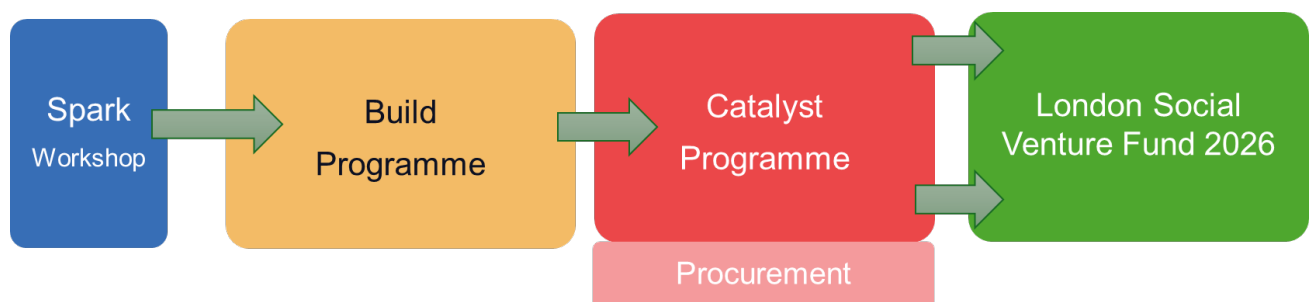
Welcome to London Social Ventures' Build Programme

This 4-6 week programme is designed to turn great ideas into tangible social venture projects, with the potential to have impact in London and beyond. This document gives information about the LSV project, then outlines the Build programme, so you know what to expect.

Background to the London Social Ventures Project

London Social Ventures is a Research England funded project involving a consortium of London's universities. The blend of cutting-edge research, innovation, and diverse talent within London's universities offers a strong foundation for launching impactful social ventures, addressing complex social challenges. However, university social ventures sometimes struggle to leverage their local start-up ecosystem, access early contracts and win funding.

London Social Ventures aims to support university social ventures, help create a cohesive social venture ecosystem and build a robust venture pipeline to attract future investment and scale impact. The project includes partners from across the private, public and third sector, all working together to create a pathway of early-stage social venture support and funding.

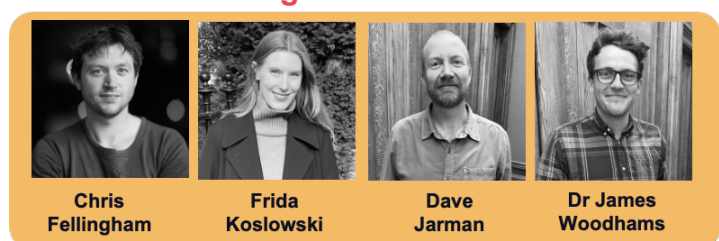


Our venture programmes are at the heart of our mission. We are partnering with Kindling Ventures, a venture support organisation with extensive experience in social venture commercialisation, as our primary delivery partner. Our pathway of programmes designed to guide participants from initial ideation to the creation of sustainable, impactful ventures. Build is the second part of our guided pathway for social ventures. It is followed by the Catalyst programme, providing 6 months + of support for social ventures looking to achieve early market success. There are tentative plans for a social venture fund, which may launch in 2026.

The London Social Ventures Team



The Kindling Ventures Team



The Build Programme: Key Information

Objectives of the Build Programme



Build aims to take early ideas and create the blueprint of what they could be as a social venture.

During the the programme, you will:

- Start refining your social venture idea with the help of our venture-building tools and develop new entrepreneurial skills
- Identify key stakeholders to talk to and begin to have some very early conversations to test your idea
- Explore different business models and understand how your social venture might finance itself
- Learn from other social ventures in London and start building your network

At the end of Build, you will present your social venture idea and get personal feedback on how to improve it and take it forward. We will also support you in designing a pilot as a quick, easy way to test key parts of your idea and get early feedback before deciding whether to continue or if you need to change course.

Programme Structure

Session 1: Creating and Articulating Value (online)

- Creating compelling social venture propositions using the value proposition canvas
- Understanding the importance of empathy and context for building sustainable social ventures
- Learning what and how to prototype, including how to quickly, cheaply and effectively test ideas and iterate them

Session 2: Critical Questions to Evaluate Impact Potential (online)

- Progress Report – reflecting on conversations with key stakeholders so far
- Exploring the criteria for evaluating the desirability, feasibility, viability, adaptability and authenticity of your social venture idea (topics include design thinking, user experience, founder and idea alignment and more)
- Understanding the next steps for building out your social venture

Session 3: Building Business Models for Sustainable Impact (online)

- Progress Report – reflecting on conversations with key stakeholders so far
- Exploring different business models and starting to use the Business Model Canvas; identifying the most likely routes for sustaining your social venture in the long-term
- Understanding how to price your offering
- Preparing for the presentations

Session 4: Presenting Back (in person)



- Presenting your emerging ideas and your next steps towards a first-buyer pilot and validated proof-of-concept
- Receive expert advice and feedback on your progress to-date and the paths ahead

Funding

Upon completion of the programme, if you decide to take your project forward as a social venture and pilot it in the real-world, you can apply for a small grant of £1k to help you execute this pilot. This grant will be managed through Kindling Ventures.

Eligibility for this grant is subject to visa and residency requirements. Unfortunately, we can only award funding to applicants whose visa status permits them to receive grants of this kind.

Expectations and Commitment

Participants are expected to attend all four sessions on the Build programme to qualify for the grant on completion.

Programme Logistics and Resources

Online sessions will happen via Zoom. The Kindling Ventures team will share joining links and session details with you.

Upon starting the programme, you'll also be given access to the Kindling Ventures LMS, a learning platform where you can access relevant training content and resources.

LSV Events and Network

Joining the programme also gives you access to LSV events, partner support and network. LSV aims to connect university social ventures into a supportive ecosystem of fellow social entrepreneurs, mentors, supporters and potential customers and investors.

We'll keep you updated about these opportunities via our Venture Update, which comes out every fortnight.

Data Collection and Data Sharing Policy

You have been sent a pre-programme survey that will allow us to understand a bit more about your venture idea and your current needs. It will also help us to measure and evaluate our programmes.

Please read the accompanying data sharing policy that sets out how we intend to manage your data during the project.

We will send you another feedback form upon your completion of the programme.



Contact Information

For questions about the Build programme, email Frida Koslowski:
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For general questions about London Social Ventures, email Will Russell:
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