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The Botanic Gardens Education Network (bgen) are delighted to announce that funding has been made available to support attendance at our 2019 Annual Conference at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, 12-15 November 2019.

The RHS Coke Trust Bursary Fund has kindly supported us to award 10 bursaries of £200 for this Conference. We also have an additional 2 bursaries of £200 available, supported by proceeds from the Silent Auction at the bgen Annual Conference last year.

Safeguarding Our Future Conference

This year's conference theme ‘Securing Our Future’ is based around the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

*‘The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.’*

Delegates will get the opportunity to consider how they are already doing to deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals on their own sites and gain confidence to further incorporate sustainable development messages and goals in their work.

You can find the full programme and information on the [bgen website](https://bgen.org.uk/wp-content/cache/all/training-events/events-calendar/index.html#!event/2019/11/12/securing-our-future).

Funding available

By providing a bursary fund we hope to provide support for early career plant educators, plant educators and horticulturalists working in small teams or as sole educators and those who have limited access to support and training. We hope this will:

* Build capacity, improve current practice within these gardens and enhance the public engagement activities offered. In turn, this will support the sector to deliver vital messages related to horticulture, sustainability and the environment.
* Encourage inclusivity and diversity in the plant education field.
* Raise standards of plant education through skills development and resource sharing, and specifically to encourage consideration of sustainability issues and goals within the work of plant education.
* Increase awareness of the training and support available within bgen.
* Provide a stronger ‘voice’ for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDGs 3 (Health and wellbeing) ,4 (Quality education) 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 15 (Life on land) where horticulture has a huge role.

The bursary will be paid direct to the successful applicants or their employers and can be used for the Conference fee, accommodation or transport as appropriate. The bursary will be paid directly after the Conference and once a short evaluation form has been completed. We will consider individual cases for payment prior to the Conference to support travel and accommodation.

Applications will be assessed by a Panel of bgen Board members.

If you have any queries, please contact the bgen Coordinator info@bgen.org.uk or 0734 113 1965.

How to apply

We welcome applications from:

* Early career plant educators
* Early career horticulturalists who are interested in exploring education in the work
* Plant educators and horticulturalists working in small teams or as sole educators
* Plant educators and horticulturalists who have limited access to support and training

Bursaries are available to any organisation that can demonstrate that it has a formal plant education programme or meets the criteria above - it is not restricted to botanic gardens.

If you would like to be considered for a bursary, please complete the attached application form and return it the bgen Coordinator info@bgen.org.uk **by 6pm on Monday 16th September 2019.**

We will inform all applicants on the outcome of their application by Friday 20th September 2019 and the Earlybird rate is available until Friday 27th September.



Bursary Application Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Organisation |  |
| Job title |  |
| Email address |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Address |  |
| City |  |
| Email |  |
| Country |  |
| Personal statement (300 words) please include: why you would like to attend the Conference, how it will benefit your work and how you fit the target audience for this bursary as outlined above. |  |

**Please return to bgen Coordinator** **info@bgen.org.uk** **by Monday 16th September 2019.**