Community commons programme How it works

The empty park in your area is opening — and the people who live around it get the first chance to own what goes inside it. This explains exactly how that works.

Who is behind this, and who owns what.

This is **the city platform** — the platform you are already on, run in Guyana by a Guyanese company registered in Georgetown, the Council One name does the talking, and it is the one on your phone.

the city platform organises. It finds the site and agrees the terms for it, publishes what every business costs and what it is expected to earn, opens the first chance to the people who live there, keeps the books, and puts every number where anybody can check it.

What the city platform never does is own the businesses. The machines, the kiosks, the stage and the games belong to the people who paid for them — and those people are your neighbours. the city platform takes a published share for the work of organising, set out below, and you will see it written down before you put in a single dollar.

And one thing more, because you would be right to ask it: **the same company that offers these opportunities also runs the app they appear on.** So the rule we hold ourselves to is that every opportunity on the city platform is published on identical terms no matter who is offering it, that nobody inside city approves an opportunity the city platform is itself offering, and that both facts go on a register anybody can read.

What a neighbourhood is here.

A Commons is a piece of ground in your area, opened up and put to work, and it belongs to the streets around it. The people who live walking distance from it are its neighbourhood — and being in the neighbourhood is what puts you at the front of the queue.

The ground can come from two places. A council can put a park it already owns into the programme. Or a private landowner with a good spot in your community can put their land in, on agreed terms, and be paid for it like any other cost of

running the place. **What never changes is everything that follows in this page** – the free mornings, the ladder, the four shares, the vote. Where the land came from makes no difference to any of it.

Your verified resident ID already knows where you live. That is what makes this possible. It is not a promise that residents come first; it is a check the app performs before anybody else is even shown the opportunity.

The ladder – who gets asked, and in what order

Each group gets its window. Only when a window closes without the money being raised does the next group see the opportunity at all.

- **1 · Your neighbourhood.** The people living around that park. 30 days, and nobody else can even see it.
- **2 · Your city.** Anybody living in Georgetown, Linden or New Amsterdam. 21 days.
- **3 · Guyanese anywhere.** Including family abroad, who can put money into the street they grew up on. 21 days.
- **4 · Outside and foreign investors.** Last, capped, no control and no vote – and the neighbourhood keeps a standing right to buy them out.

If your neighbourhood fills it, nobody outside ever gets a look. An outsider only ever sees a business the people who live there could not or chose not to take.

And the share does not change with who ends up holding it. Whether a machine is owned by twenty neighbours on one street or by a company from overseas, the owners take the same 50% and the community keeps the same 50%. The ladder decides *who gets the chance*. It never changes the deal.

How you actually do it.

1. **You say you are interested.**
   In the city app. It is free, it takes a minute, and it commits you to nothing at all. You are not agreeing to buy anything.
2. **Enough neighbours say the same.**
   When a street has enough people interested in the same business, that business goes ahead. Until then nothing happens and nobody has paid anything.

3 **A co-operative is registered for that neighbourhood.**

A real one, under Guyana's co-operative law — the same law your grandparents' credit union and farmers' societies were built on. You become a member of it.

4 **The co-operative buys the business.**

Equipment, shipping, installation, opening stock. Every price is published and the members can demand three competing quotes on anything before it is bought.

5 **It opens, and it trades.**

Your share is paid into your city resident account every three months, for as long as the business is running.

The co-operative — what you are actually joining.

It is yours, by law, not by promise

A registered co-operative society is owned by its members. That is not a courtesy, it is the statute. One member, one vote — the man who put in GYD 20,000 and the man who put in GYD 500,000 have exactly the same vote at the meeting.

Membership follows the address

You are eligible because you live there. That is what makes "residents first" enforceable instead of aspirational.

the city platform administers it. It does not run it.

the city platform does the work the members should not have to do themselves: the purchasing, the books, the accounts, the filings, the audit, the quarterly payouts. It takes a published share for that, disclosed in advance, and **the members can vote to end that arrangement and take it elsewhere.** A manager you cannot dismiss is an owner. Yours you can dismiss.

Nobody can take it over

The smallest membership is GYD 20,000. No single member may hold more than 5% of the raise, so no one person — and no outsider — can end up controlling your neighbourhood's asset.

Nobody holds anybody's money

Not a neighbour, not a committee, not a collector. The money sits in the society's own account and every movement in and out of it is on the ledger.

Where every penny goes.

Somebody buys an ice cream. That money first pays for the ice cream itself, the staff, the electricity, the repairs and the insurance — and for the park around it: the manager, the gate staff, the grounds crew, the security, the lighting, the water, the rubbish, and the payment for the land, whether that goes to the city council or to the private owner who put the site in.

What is left after all of that is divided four ways, and the four shares never change. They are published in the app, they are the same in every park, and they are audited every year.

SHARE	GOES TO	WHAT IT IS
50%	**The investor**	The people who put the money in — your neighbours first, and further up the ladder only if the neighbourhood does not take it. Paid into your city resident account every three months, split by what each member put in.
20%	**Reinvested in the community**	Straight back into the neighbourhood, starting with the free mornings — every school child, every pensioner and every low-income family who walks in free is paid for out of here. **This is why the free window is real and not charity anybody can withdraw** — it is a first call on what the park earns, not a donation somebody can stop giving.
20%	**the city platform**	Finding the sponsors and servicing them, verifying how money is spent, publishing the impact report — and running the whole thing on the platform: your digital ID at the gate, and the rewards you earn and spend inside the park.
10%	**The Wealth Fund**	Your neighbourhood's own money, kept for hard times and invested in projects that earn the community more. Its own section below.

One share of the park's earnings, divided the same way whoever owns the business. There is no second set of numbers for outsiders and no better deal for a bigger cheque.

THE CITY PROMISE

Half of what it earns goes to the people who paid for it. The other half never leaves the neighbourhood that earned it.

That is the whole idea, and it is the reason the city platform exists. The community's half is not a donation and not a gesture — it is built into how the money is divided, before anybody is paid. **It keeps the mornings free. It runs the system that keeps everybody honest. And it builds a fund your neighbourhood owns outright.**

We make this promise the same way in every park, to every person, whether you put in GYD 20,000 or twenty million. **It is not renegotiated for a bigger cheque, and it is not quietly reduced once a park is busy.** Money earned in your neighbourhood stays in your neighbourhood — and you can watch it happen, line by line, in the app.

The Wealth Fund.

Ten cents in every dollar the park earns goes into your neighbourhood's **Wealth Fund**. It is not a budget to be spent down to zero each year. It is meant to grow, and it does two jobs.

It is there for a rainy day

A machine breaks. A season is bad. A storm takes the roof off a kiosk. The Fund is what stands behind the businesses your neighbours own, so one piece of bad luck does not end somebody's livelihood.

And it invests in your community

The rest goes into projects in your own area that **earn a return** — and that return comes back into the Fund, so it gets bigger every year. This is how a neighbourhood builds something it owns outright, instead of waiting for money that comes once and never again.

Who decides — and how they get there

The Fund is directed by a **community board**, and the community elects it. Not appointed, not selected by us, not chosen by a councillor. **Residents vote for the board on the city app**, one verified resident one vote.

The people on it are the people your area already trusts — a businesswoman who knows how a business actually works, a headteacher, a pastor, a nurse, somebody who has run a community group for twenty years. Their job is one thing only: to represent the interest of the neighbourhood that elected them.

That election is the anti-corruption mechanism, and it is the whole point. A board the community chooses can be replaced by the community. Nobody hands the Fund to a friend, nobody quietly favours a cousin, and nobody can sit on it because of who they know — because the seat comes from a vote and it can be taken away by one.

Every decision is a vote, and every vote is on the app.

This is the part to understand best. **There is no room where this gets decided.** No committee you have to know somebody to join, no meeting you were not told about, no envelope. Every decision that belongs to the community is made by the community, through the the city platform voting system, with your ID proving you live there and one verified resident getting one vote.

DECIDED BY YOUR VOTE, ON THE APP	NOT VOTED — BUT PUBLISHED, ALWAYS
Who sits on the community board	The day-to-day running of a business: restocking, repairs, staffing
What the Wealth Fund invests in	Every one of those purchases, on the ledger, for anybody to inspect
Whether the city platform stays on as administrator	The audited accounts, published once a year
The co-operative's own decisions, at the members' meeting	What each of the four shares paid out, park by park, quarter by quarter

A business whose restock order needs a neighbourhood vote cannot trade. So the rule is simple: **the community votes on the community's money, and sees absolutely everything else.**

You can check all of it. That is the point.

Every purchase the co-operative makes is published on the published city ledger — what was bought, from whom, for how much, on what date. Every dollar that comes in, every share of the four that goes out, and every payout to members is on the same ledger. You do not ask anybody for the accounts. You open the app.

And before anything expensive is bought, any member can demand three competing quotes. the city platform earns a margin on equipment it supplies and says so in writing — so the right to go and check that price is written into the rules. We would rather you check than trust us.

How you get paid.

Every three months, your share goes into your city resident account. Not a cheque you have to chase, not cash from somebody's hand — into your own account in the app, with the calculation shown beside it.

An old box hand pays you once and it is finished. **This pays you every quarter, for as long as the business is running** — and the business is an asset the co-operative owns and can sell.

The e-wallet we are working towards

Money on a phone in Guyana is something the government has to approve, and rightly so. **We are going through that approval process now**, with the banks and with the Bank of Guyana, to establish a the city platform e-wallet.

When it is approved, your share will be paid straight into your wallet automatically — every quarter, into your own hands on your own phone, with nothing to collect and nobody to ask.

We are not going to tell you it is here before it is. **We will tell you the day it goes live**, in the app, and until then your rewards work as they do today: earned and spent inside the park.

Real businesses can lose money, and this one can too. Everything published is an estimate based on the park being busy. If the park is quiet, every business in it earns less. Nobody at the city platform and no Mayor can guarantee you anything, and anybody who tells you otherwise is lying to you.

Nothing is being sold today, and nobody will ever ask you for money outside the city app. Not on WhatsApp. Not in cash at your door. Not by transfer to a personal account. When it is time, you will hear it here first.