

Grants for the Arts

Grants are available to support arts activities that benefit people in England or that help artists and arts organisations to carry out their work. Programme details have been updated to reflect changes brought in by Arts Council England as of 2016.

Fund Information

Funding body: Arts Council England

Maximum value: £ 100,000

Application deadline: None specified

Background

Arts Council England is the national development agency for the arts. With effect from 1 April 2002, the Arts Council of England and the ten Regional Arts Boards merged to form a single development organisation for the arts in England. The new body - Arts Council England - has nine regional offices matching the Government's regional boundaries, and a national office. Each region has a council with increased decision-making powers, and the 15-strong national council includes the chair of each of the regional councils.

Objectives of Fund

Arts Council England grants are for individuals, arts organisations and other people who use the arts in their work. They are for activities carried out over a set period and which:

- Engage people in England in arts activities.
- Help artists and arts organisations in England carry out their work.

Grants for individuals

Individuals can apply for grants for arts-related activities which might include:

- Projects and events.
- Commissions and productions.
- Research and development.
- Capital items (such as equipment).
- Professional development and training, including travel grants.
- Bursaries.
- Fellowships.
- Residencies.
- Touring.

Grants for organisations

Arts organisations and other people who use the arts as part of their work can apply for grants for arts-related activities. This might include:

- Projects and events.
- Activities for people to take part in.
- Education activities.

- Research and development.
- Commissions and productions.
- Marketing activities.
- 'Audience development' (activity carried out specifically to meet the needs of audiences and to help arts organisations develop ongoing relationships with audiences).
- Capital items (such as equipment and improvements to facilities and buildings).
- Professional development and training.
- Organisational development to improve the long-term stability of arts organisations.
- Touring.

Grants for national activities

The following national activities are eligible to receive funding:

- National touring projects (where the same work is presented in three or more Arts Council England regions).
- Activities that are of 'national significance.'
- Presentations and exhibitions of work by internationally renowned artists and organisations.
- Activities that are the result of joint working between artists and arts organisations from across England.

Further Information

In July 2013, Arts Council England made changes to the application and assessment process for the Grants for the Arts scheme. Details of the scheme reported here have been changed in order to reflect this.

For those who submitted applications to the Grants for the Arts scheme before 1 July 2013, further information is available here: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-for-funding/grants-for-the-arts-pre-1-july-2013/>

Value Notes

Grants for individuals range from £1,000 to £30,000, for up to three years.

Grants to organisations range between £1,000 and £100,000, for up to three years.

Grants for national activities range from between £1,000 to £100,000.

At least 10% of the total cost of an applicant's activity must come from other sources of income.

Applications for grants over £100,000 can sometimes be accepted in special circumstances; please contact the programme provider for further details.

Match Funding Restrictions

Applicants will be expected to provide at least 10% of the total project costs from other sources. Alternative sources can include:

- Earned income from the activity.
- Funding from public organisations such as local authorities.
- Grants from trusts and foundations.

- A contribution from the applicant or the applicant's organisation.

In exceptional circumstances, grants may be provided for the total cost of an activity, i.e. situations where there are few opportunities for raising money from other sources.

On average, applicants who have been successful in getting funding from Grants for the Arts raised 65% of their income from other sources.

Who Can Apply

The following can apply:

- Artists, performers, promoters, presenters, curators, producers and other individuals working in the arts.
- Arts organisations.
- Local authorities and other public organisations.
- Partnerships, collectives, and regional and national organisations.
- Organisations whose normal activity is not arts-related, including voluntary and community groups.
- Groups of organisations or individuals.

Applications must be arts-related and take place mainly in England. There are some exceptions, such as artists involved in professional development activities in other countries.

Location

England

Terms and Conditions

Eligible applications will be assessed and scored against four assessment criteria, which are as follows:

1. The quality of the activity, or its ongoing effect on artistic practice (or both) and the quality of experience for audiences and those taking part.
2. How the activity increases opportunities for the public to engage in arts activities.
3. How the activity will be managed and its ongoing effect.
4. How realistic the activity is financially, and its future effect.

Arts Council England will also take into account a range of other factors, including innovation, risk, public engagement and artistic quality.

Everyone who receives a grant must accept standard conditions for grants. A copy of these will be sent when an offer is made.

Alternatively, they may be downloaded from: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/grantconditions>

Restrictions

The Arts Council will not fund:

- Activities that are not arts-related.
- Individual film makers, film production companies, film education and film exhibition (these are the responsibility of the Film Council).
- Film activity, apart from artists' film and video (made to be shown in a gallery or any other public space).
- Activities that provide no potential benefit to the public, either in the short or long term.
- Goods or services that have been bought or ordered before receiving an offer letter.
- Activities that have already taken place.
- Activities, equipment or events that duplicate what already exists.
- Costs that are already covered by other funding.
- Ongoing overheads, (including overheads related to equipment or buildings, such as insurance and maintenance costs).
- Fundraising events, such as charity galas, that do not benefit the arts.
- Second-hand equipment (apart from certain musical instruments and specialist equipment).
- Organisations that are able to share out profits to members or shareholders, unless the activity they are applying for is a self-contained project and has a clear benefit to the public.
- Students in full-time education, or their tuition fees.
- Organisations in regular receipt of Arts Council funding that do not have the permission of their lead officer to bid for further funding.
- Individuals or organisations living outside the EU.
- Individual educational establishments where the activity will not benefit the wider artistic community.
- Events taking place outside of England (unless in exceptional circumstances).
- Activities that would usually be the responsibility of statutory providers.
- Trustees of Arts Council England.
- Training or education activities, or activities where members of the public take part, where the main or only art form being used is film or video, unless it is in support of artists' work in the moving image.
- Buying equipment and instruments which do not benefit the public, either immediately or in the long term, or where the applicant does not have an artistic track record.
- Activities in a formal education setting for educational purposes necessary by law.
- Self-promotional activities which do not provide public benefit.

Eligible Expenditure

Grants for the Arts has been designed to encourage applicants to develop ideas linked to artistic needs and future plans. It aims to be flexible and to encourage new ideas. It also supports activities that engage people in England in arts activities or that help artists and arts organisations in England to carry out their work. Activity must take place mainly in England.

Applicants can apply for grants for time-limited arts-related activities which might include the following (Note: applications may cover more than one type of activity):

- Projects and events.
- Commissions and productions.
- Research and development.
- Activities for people to take part in.
- Audience development (activities aimed specifically at meeting the needs of audiences and helping arts organisations to develop long-term relationships with audiences - for example, activities that increase the number of people attending or taking part in the arts).
- Marketing activities (these could be, for example, activities that improve understanding of who takes part in, or attends, arts events, or activities that increase the number and range of people taking part in the arts).
- Education activities.
- Buying assets such as equipment, instruments and vehicles.
- Professional development and training, including travel grants over £1,000.
- Bursaries.
- Fellowships.
- Organisational development to improve the long-term stability of arts organisations.
- Residencies.
- Touring.

Grants *for National Activities* can also be funded (ranging from £1,000 to £200,000). Examples might include the following:

- National touring projects (including all those where the same work is presented in three or more Arts Council England regions, or is presented in two Arts Council England regions and at least one other place outside England).
- Activities that are of 'national significance', which means they must meet at least one of the requirements listed below:
 1. The activity must demonstrate that it significantly develops an art form or a sector, or that it develops the arts in underdeveloped areas (or both).
 2. The activity must be able to engage, stimulate and influence audiences outside an applicant's region. Examples include activity that:
 - Is of a high quality and is relevant throughout England.
 - Shows creativity that can influence activities beyond the artist's own work.
 - Demonstrates an appropriate and effective way of involving as many people as possible throughout England. In the case of festivals, carnivals and so on, Art Council England would expect to see evidence that the activity was measurably increasing the involvement of people outside the region.

How To Apply

As of January 2016, a new grant management system was introduced. This system will allow applicants to manage their projects online. Therefore, all applications, decision letters, payment requests as well as

communications about applications are now managed through this online system. In order to begin an application, interested parties should have a validated applicant profile. Profile validation may take up to five working days and so interested parties should consider this when thinking about applying.

Applications can be made online at any time.

Six working weeks are needed to process applications for £10,000 or less, and 12 working weeks for applications for more than £10,000.

Payment Procedure

Successful organisations will usually receive their grants in a number of instalments.

Useful documents & links

Scheme - Guidance Document

-  [How to apply - Grants over £15,000](#)
-  [How to apply - Grants under £15,000](#)

Useful Links

-  [Arts Council Funding](#)
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Addresses and contacts

For further information on how to obtain this grant locally, please contact the following:

1. **Enquiries**

Arts Council England

PO Box 4353

Manchester

M61 0DQ

Tel: 0845 300 6200

Email: enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk