
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Grants for the Arts

Scattered by Motionhouse
Photo © Chris Nash / Motionhouse

Arts Council England

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections.

Between 2015 and 2018, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create arts and culture experiences for everyone, everywhere.

Our funding

We offer a range of different funding programmes including:

- National Portfolio funding
- MPMs and Music Education Hubs
- Strategic funding aligned to certain priorities or sectors
- Grants for the arts

You can find out more about these on the funding pages of our website – www.artscouncil.org.uk

What is Grants for the Arts?

A key feature of how Arts Council England delivers our mission, 'Great art and culture for everyone'



The basics

Grants for the Arts distributes awards of between £1000 and usually £100,000 from the National Lottery to:

- individuals
- arts organisations
- people who use the arts in their work

For time limited arts-related activities that:

- benefit people in England
 - help artists and arts organisations in England carry out their work
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What kind of activity do we fund?

productions / exhibitions / participatory projects /
events / festivals / carnivals / workshops / digital
projects / artistic research and development /
commissions/ participation / asset purchase / building
renovation / making work / touring / residencies /
professional development / international partnerships
/ organisation and business development / audience
development

Who can apply?

arts organisations / artists / researchers / local authorities / commissioners / festivals writers / musicians / museums / libraries / performers / directors/ promoters presenters / curators / designer makers / producers / universities / voluntary groups consortiums of schools / choreographers / community groups / composers / experimental artists /

What kind of activity do we not fund?

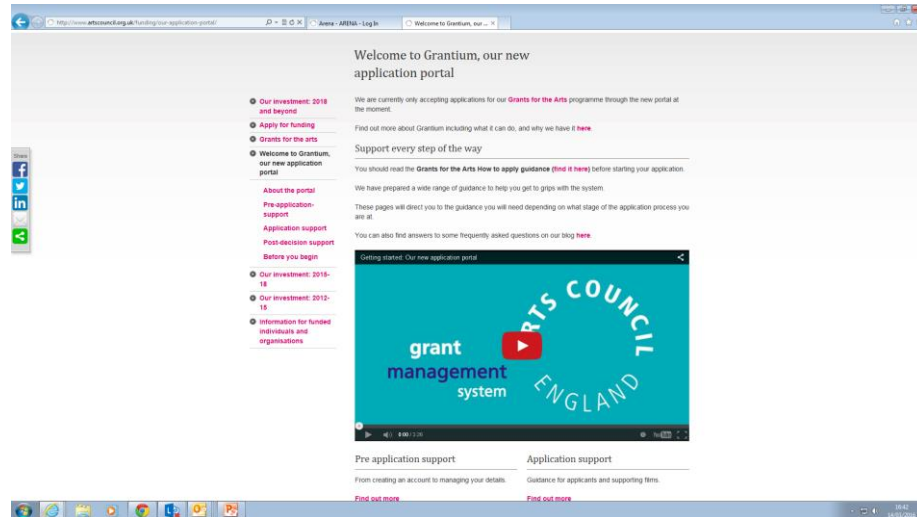
- activities that are not arts-related and/or that provide no potential benefit to the public
 - activities, including buying goods or services, which take place or start before we would be able to decide on your application
 - general running costs and overheads that are paid for by other income, including your own funds
 - activities or events mainly taking place outside England (some exceptions)
 - film or video production, training or assets unless it is in support of artists' work in the moving image
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Before you apply

- Are you ready to apply? Is the timing right, is your activity well planned, do you have finance and partners in place?
 - Read our [How to apply guidance](#)
 - Use the [information sheets](#) on our website
 - Contact us to discuss eligibility - Customer Services can be contacted on either **0845 300 6200** or **0161 934 4317** between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday
 - Guidance on making an application and our application form are available in accessible formats
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Our Grant management system

- Applications to Grants for the Arts are made through Grantium. Once you've created an account, you will manage everything online.
- Lots of help and guidance about the system is available on our website



Applying for funding: the key steps

Step 1: Create a user account

Top tip:

Make a note of your user name and password. Use the password reminder tool if you forget but please do not create more than one user account.



Step 2: Create your applicant profile

Top tip:

The 'applicant' is the person or organisation we will make a grant to if your application is successful, and an 'applicant profile' is where their contact information is held.



Step 3: Validation period

We normally validate profiles within five working days. You will receive an email notification once your profile has been validated.

Top tip:

Read the programme guidance while you wait for your profile to be validated.



Step 4: Take the eligibility questionnaire

Top tip:

If you need a permission to apply letter, you will need to upload it before you can complete this step.



Step 5: Start your application

Top tip:

Avoid common mistakes by reading the programme guidance in full before you start, it will help you in the long run.



The application form

- The application form asks focused, directive questions relating to our four criteria:
 - **Artistic Quality**
 - **Public Engagement**
 - **Management**
 - **Finance**
 - The number of questions, and depth of information requested will increase in line with the value of the application
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Artistic Quality

The quality of the activity and its ongoing affect on artistic practice

- Tell us about your artistic work
 - Some more detail about the activity
 - How this activity will help you or your organisation develop
 - Is it high quality?
 - Is there partnership work or potential?
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Public Engagement

How the activity increases opportunities for the public to engage in arts activities

- Who is it for?
 - How many people?
 - How does the local area benefit?
 - How does it engage people new to culture?
 - What is its legacy?
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What is Public Engagement?

Any of, or all of the following:

- attending an arts event
 - taking part in an arts activity
 - volunteering to work at or with an arts organisation
 - working with an artist or group of artists to design or create an artwork
 - helping to make decisions about arts activity in a local community or helping an arts organisation to make decisions about its work
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Finance

How realistic the activity is financially?

- Is there enough money to do the project?
 - Is the income and expenditure appropriate?
 - Where else are funds coming from?
 - Does the budget balance?
 - the budget should cover the whole activity
 - should have **at least 10%** match funding from other sources
 - can** include support **in kind as match funding**
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Management

How the activity will be managed?

Consider the principles of good project management:

- Capability - do you have the skills and experience or do your partners
 - Capacity
 - Resources - Time, Money, People, Equipment
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The appraisal process

Eligibility check

Risk Check

Appraisal against
criteria
Over £15k only

Decision meeting

Decision letter

Decisions

- Six weeks for applications for £15k or under
 - 12 weeks for applications over £15k
 - If you are unsuccessful your letter will explain the main weaknesses of the application
 - Any reapplication must address the reason(s) it was unsuccessful
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The competition

- Last year, we received nearly 10,000 applications
 - We made just over 4000 awards

 - We will always receive more good applications than we can fund so advise you to consider other sources of funding while applying to us
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Grants for the Arts Website

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts>

Questions?
