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Asset purchase and Grants for the Arts

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# 1 Grants for the Arts

Grants for the Arts (GFTA) is our Lottery-funded grant programme for individuals, arts organisations and other people who use the arts in their work. Grants are available for activities carried out over a set period and which engage people in England in arts activities and help artists and arts organisations in England carry out their work.

Activities we support must be clearly related to the arts and must be project-based, up to a maximum of three years in length. Grants normally range from £1,000 to £100,000 and we can fund up to 90 per cent of the cost of an activity.

All applicants must also read the ‘[How to apply guidance](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/2016/how-to-apply)’. Download it from our website or contact us for a copy.

# 2 Asset purchase and Grants for the Arts

By ‘asset purchase’ we mean buying technical and artistic equipment, which will have an economic life beyond the project. For example, a laptop that you will use to deliver your activity will have a potential cash value and use to you (or others) after the activity has finished.

Our main consideration is the extent to which these new or improved assets will contribute to the development of artistic activity, broaden engagement and raise the quality of work produced. In assessing value for money, we will take account of the useful lifetime of the asset.

Applicants applying to Grants for the Arts to purchase assets must get quotes from more than one business or supplier. You do not have to send quotes with your application, but you should reference these quotes in the written part of the budget section and we may ask for them at a later stage.

You must tell us:

* how the equipment is appropriate for your needs
* why buying equipment is more appropriate than hiring it, where applicable
* how your future running costs for any maintenance, insurance and replacement will be met

There is additional guidance for applicants wishing to purchase:

**Second-hand equipment** - you must read the information in section 3

**Musical Instruments** - you must read the information in section 4

**Musical recording equipment** - you must read the information in section 5

**Vehicles** – you must read the ‘[Vehicles and Grants for the Arts](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/2016/information-sheets)’ information sheet

**Capital / Building equipment** – you must read the ‘[Capital (Buildings) and Grants for the Arts](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/2016/information-sheets)’ information sheet

# 3 Second-hand equipment and Grants for the Arts

Grants for the Arts funding is not normally available for the purchase of second-hand equipment. In assessing value for money, we will take account of the useful lifetime of the asset. We wish to use our funds to ensure that the arts are supported by high quality, reliable equipment. In most cases, we will recommend the purchase of new equipment.

Exceptions might include:

* restoration of pianos where the cost of purchase of a new instrument against restoration is outweighed in terms of value for money
* restoration of period instruments
* printing presses
* kilns
* moving image film cameras and projection equipment
* non-mechanical or non-electrical equipment, e.g. an amateur theatre purchasing seating that has become available following the refurbishment of another theatre

We will require that any second-hand equipment to be purchased with Arts Council funds is satisfactorily guaranteed by the vendor and complies with current health and safety legislation.

# 4 Musical Instruments and Grants for the Arts

Grants for the Arts can support the purchase of musical instruments. We will normally only support the purchase of a single instrument where it is likely to be used by a large number of people.

Within your application you should tell us about:

* your commitment to high standards of performance, an innovative repertoire and high quality educational activity
* the quality and appropriateness of the instruments or equipment to be purchased
* your plans for continued use of the instruments or equipment you want to replace e.g. passing onto a junior section
* your plans for maintenance, storage and insurance and any additional ongoing costs

As part of our monitoring of awards we may require copies of your insurance certification, evidence of suitable storage facilities and confirmation of regular maintenance.

Organisations that purchased instruments as part of a Grants for the Arts activity must record them as capital items in their annual accounts; listed by make, date of purchase and serial number.

**Take it Away**

Applicants should consider whether the Take it Away scheme would be more appropriate than applying to Grants for the Arts. The Take it Away scheme allows individuals to apply for a loan of up to £5,000 for the purchase of any kind of musical instrument, and pay it back in nine monthly instalments, completely interest free. For further details of the scheme visit [www.takeitaway.org.uk](http://www.takeitaway.org.uk/)

## 4.1 Pianos

Grants for the Arts will accept applications from venues and performing arts organisations that can demonstrate regular public performance and an artistic programme that will be enhanced by the ownership of a piano.

If you propose to purchase a new piano, you must tell us why any existing instrument used for the same purpose cannot be adequately restored. If you propose to restore an existing piano, you should describe and value it, provide a quotation for its restoration and an estimated post-restoration valuation from a reputable piano restorer. If the instrument is to be kept in a building likely to be used by a variety of groups of people, you should tell us how you plan to ensure that the risk of damage will be minimised.

## 4.2 Organs

The Heritage Lottery Fund may consider funding organs of heritage importance but the Arts Council does not expect to do this. If you can demonstrate that other funds are not available we may consider funds toward the cost of a new instrument, refurbishing an old organ with musical potential or the cost of relocating an existing organ. You should be able to demonstrate regular use of the instrument and in the case of church organs, evidence of a track record and future plans for non-liturgical performances open to the general public.

## 4.3 Steel bands, brass bands and pipe/flute bands

You should be able to demonstrate a track record of at least 20 public performances a year. In the case of newly established bands, you should provide evidence of demand for at least 20 public performances a year. You should be able to demonstrate a commitment to performing new work and arrangements and a repertoire that extends beyond competition test pieces. We are particularly interested in applicants who provide a training programme for new players.

You should be aware that applications for band uniforms would be considered a low priority. For existing groups, uniforms, banners and sheet music are considered to be part of ongoing running costs and as such are ineligible.

## 4.4 Reconditioned brass instruments

We will only consider applications for reconditioning instruments when these have previously been purchased as new by the applicant, i.e. have been owned by the band for some time. We will not fund the purchase of second-hand brass instruments. If you propose to restore an instrument, you should describe and value it, provide a quotation for its restoration and an estimated post-restoration valuation from a reputable instrument restorer.

## 4.5 Instrument banks

We will consider applications from independent trusts that operate an instrumental loan scheme. Beneficiaries could include young players undertaking instrumental tuition, players of any age involved in community based music making, or young professionals at the outset of a career. The instrument bank would be responsible for purchasing and maintaining a pool of instruments to lend for extended periods to musicians unable to afford an instrument of their own. Applications for a pool of instruments must be submitted with a clearly defined policy and details of how the instrument bank proposes to manage the loans.

# 5 Musical recording equipment and Grants for the Arts

Grants for the arts can support the purchase of recording equipment; however applications for recording equipment for the use of one musician or band alone are likely to be a low priority for the scheme.

# 6 Contact us

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