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**Carnival arts 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 Carnival arts and Grants for the Arts

Carnival is characterised by participatory public celebration, including a parade or street party, involving music, dance, costumes and masks. Carnival exists in various forms, associated with different cultural and ethnic traditions. Carnival usually involves planning and participatory activities and live performance.

## 2.1 What you can apply for

Grants for the Arts welcomes applications from individuals and groups to fund the creative content of carnival events and activity.

We are keen to support the carnival sector to professionalise its artistic offer and to add value to voluntary and amateur activity.

Types of carnival activity that Grants for the Arts could fund include:

* participatory work and related creative workshops delivered before the event, such as Mas camp workshops, master classes and residencies by high quality artists or organisations
* high quality design and creation of original costumes, artistic title banners and props for carnival parades. We are keen to support innovative use of materials and design in costume work and we encourage carnival artists to develop their practice and work
* dance and choreography, such as developing skills and styles or creating new work for the season
* musical activities, such as individuals or bands creating new pieces - exploring instrumental arrangements, lyrics, marches or anthems for the season (including calypso, samba, soca, steel pan, street music and sounds systems)
* artistic collaborations and CPD for carnival artists to create new and innovative work and skills via residencies to develop their practice e.g. mentoring, training, apprenticeships etc
* parades, carnival floats, carts and tableaux installations (including masquerade and parade skills)
* stage programmes in various art forms, such as music, theatre, dance, spoken word, animated costumes. This can include a mixture of professional artists’ work or emerging and established artists, performers and community groups, troupes or bands
* visiting international artists and work, as long as there are clear benefits to audiences or participants in England. We encourage a balance of programming with UK artists to support emerging and established talent to help create a sustainable and thriving carnival sector in England
* workshop activity on the day, demonstrations, have a go activities, and participatory workshops in arts and crafts
* touring activity – such as troupes, float and carts that are presented in parades touring to other events and carnivals regionally or nationally, or , stage work, performances and commissioned artistic work (such as new music or dance pieces) touring to other, similar events

## 2.2 What you cannot apply for

Grants for the Arts cannot support:

* non-original costume work – Through Grants for the Arts we can support the design and creation of original costumes. Funds cannot be used to purchase ready-made clothing and accessories from high street fashion stores or commercial fancy dress costumes. In addition we cannot support uniformed group costumes such as band uniforms, cadet clothing or cheerleading outfits
* advertising banners- commercial sponsor banners
* beauty pageants

For complete details of the eligibility requirements for Grants for the Arts please read the ‘[How to apply](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/2016/how-to-apply)’ guidance.

## 2.3 Celebratory activities

There are some carnival activities that we cannot normally fund through Grants for the Arts. These include:

* J’ouvert - smearing paint, mud, chocolate or oil on the bodies of participants
* Dabbers and Pyrotechnics – unless there is clear artistic content such as design input from a lighting artist or visual artist
* Indigenous Folk art activity: Souling, Soulcaking and Mumming (by Mummers and "guisers")
* Liming, T-shirt bands, party bands, dutty mas and troupes

Whilst we recognise that these traditional, amateur, voluntary and spontaneous celebratory activities form an important part of carnival and folk traditions, we would not expect to fund this type of activity unless it had clear artist focus and content.

# 3 Completing your application

This section provides advice for people applying to Grants for the Arts for carnival activities. It explains the key things you will need to think about for the main sections of the application form.

## 3.1 Artistic quality

You must clearly describe the aims of your activity and tell us what you want to achieve through this project. It is important to tell us about the proposed theme of the costumes, music or choreography, how the theme will be selected or how the theme will inform the design.

We will need information about your artistic or creative track record, and those of any other artists that are involved in the activity. Workshop facilitators should have clear track records of delivering carnival arts workshops in community settings. This will give us confidence that there will be a high quality of experience for workshop participants and that the resulting costumes, choreography, performances or music will be of a high quality.

**Repeat activity**

If you regularly apply to Grants for the Arts for a carnival activity or this is repeat activity you should also tell us how your activity will build on previous work, and how the quality will be developed. You can find out more in the information sheet ‘Repeat activities, ongoing overheads and salaries, and Grants for the Arts’. Download it from our [Grants for the Arts information sheets](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/2016/information-sheets) page, or contact us for a copy.

## 3.2 Public engagement

In this section of the application form we want you to tell us about who will engage with your activity. We want to know about the audiences and/or participants, who they are and how you will reach them. Think about whether you want to increase the size or type of your audience, and how to make your activity accessible to a wide range of people.

**Touring**

If you want to apply for touring carnival activity please read the information sheet ‘Touring and Grants for the Arts’. Download it from our [Grants for the Arts information sheets](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/2016/information-sheets) page, or contact us for a copy.

**Participatory workshops**

Participatory workshops in the months prior to carnival events often include mas making, dance, choreography, music composition and performance rehearsals. This may include activity that encourages the passing on of traditional mas making skills such as wire-bending, costume construction, calypso and spoken word skills, steel pan or other crafts and techniques.

If you regularly run participatory workshops, you can apply to Grants for the Arts for support to develop the quality of your regular work. For example, you may wish to employ a professional carnival artist, choreographer or musician in a residency.

You must tell us who the target participants are for your workshops and how you will attract them. If you are working with children and vulnerable adults, make sure you have appropriate safeguards in place to protect them. For example, if workshop facilitators are working with young people or vulnerable adults, they must have the relevant CRB checks in place.

Tell us how the activity will benefit the people taking part in the workshop. Think about how you can involve participants in the activity and allow them to help plan the project, and shape the themes or designs.

For workshops in community and/or education settings, we would need to know details of the specific school and community groups you have spoken to regarding the project. You should tell us if your venues and partners have confirmed their involvement in your activity, or their offer of support is conditional based on the outcome of your application to us or other funders.

Think about how the workshop outcomes will be showcased. Tell us if participants will showcase their skills and costumes at a carnival or outdoor celebratory event. Showcasing the work at more than one carnival event could increase the public benefit of your activity.

## 3.3 Finance

The Finance section will ask you to complete a budget for your activity, and to answer some questions about how you will manage your budget.

Types of income and expenditure for carnival activities may include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Income**   * ticket sales * workshop or troupe membership fees * selling refreshments * donations * match funds from local authorities and sponsors * fundraising events * charitable trusts and foundations grants | **Expenditure**   * artists’ fees * materials * workshop leaders’ fees * rehearsal space * storage * vehicle hire * insurance * marketing activities |
| **Support in Kind**   * Support in kind from local authorities and sponsors | |

**Volunteers**

We know that many amateur mas makers and carnival participants have years of experience creating good quality, community-based work. Carnival is reliant on such volunteers to create work and share skills and traditions and you should include them in the ‘support in kind’ section of your budget. Include support in kind from volunteers who will give their time for free or any other goods and services that you would otherwise have to pay for (such as equipment, space, and services). You will need to tell us who is giving the support in kind, what it is and an estimate of its value.

You can find out more about fees for artists in the information sheet ‘How to pay artists, and Grants for the Arts’, Download it from our [Grants for the Arts information sheets](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/2016/information-sheets) page, or contact us for a copy.

You may also find the following organisations helpful:

**Voluntary Arts**

<http://www.voluntaryarts.org/>

**The National Council for Voluntary Organisations**

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support>

**Funding Central**

<http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/Default.aspx>

## 3.4 Managing your activity

You must tell us about any other partners involved in the activity, for example are you working with community or education groups, sponsors, or carnival organisers. Partnerships and professional advice from carnival arts sector organisations, peers, professionals or experienced volunteers may help you develop your application or ideas. Consider speaking to others artists or carnival groups about their success in delivering Grants for the Arts funded projects. Hearing about others’ experiences can be helpful; could they could be a critical friend to share practice or collaborate with? You will be asked to complete a timeline of activity, and tell us who is doing what and when.

We recommend giving plenty of time to apply for any seasonal carnival activity, and suggest submitting your application at least 3-4 months before the start of any participatory activity; Mas camps, workshops or parade activity.

It may be useful to speak to your local authority when planning your activity – they may be able to offer advice or support.

We encourage the activities we fund to be environmental sustainable. Within carnival arts this can include reductions in the use of vehicles in parades, or encouraging audiences and participants to use public transport. Further information is available online at Julie’s Bicycle <http://www.juliesbicycle.com/resources>.

# 4 Carnival GFTA case studies

## 4.1 Applications for £15,000 and under

**Artist Led:**

**Cabasa carnival Arts Ltd- CCA Artistic & Organisational Development Project, £13,925**

Cabasa Carnival Arts were commissioned to create a carnival presentation called ‘The Great Garden Carnival’ for The Royal Horticultural Society’s Flower Show at Tatton Park in July 2014. The project provided a unique opportunity for a linked process of artistic development for Cabasa and other regional carnival artists, with focused organisational development project for Cabasa and artist Emily Wood.

**Preston - North Music Cacophony Arkestra, £11,100**

Established carnival artists working with Preston Caribbean Carnival.

This project is a step change for the artist to focus on presenting his own carnival work as an individual through collaborating with other artists to present the work as part of PCC 40th anniversary celebrations.

**Chester Watch - Carnival parade Celebratory arts training opportunity, £9,000**

Training opportunity for three young artists attached to the Chester Midsummer Watch parades 2012 through a mentoring scheme with artistic director.

**Troupe/organisation led:**

**Flamboyan Community Association - Mas Pandemic - Worldwide Masquerading, £15,000**

A longstanding carnival arts organisation based in Paddington receiving Grants for the Arts support since 2006 towards delivering a programme of workshops and showcasing of work at Notting Hill.

**Hyson Green Youth Club - Mardi Gras - Bigger than life! £14,950**

Funding for Zodiac All Stars’ to bring puppetry and theatre to the Caribbean Carnivals. Working with nationally and internationally renowned artists such as Festive Road ‘walking with giants’, the troupe will create a ‘Mardi Gras’ Carnival spectacle.

**Luton South East - Carnival Unplugged, £9,677**

Carnival Unplugged showcased the specialised design and fabrication techniques used to construct large scale Carnival costume/structure, developed over the course of a single day in a static public environment. Audience members had hands-on opportunities to experience Carnival Arts first hand.

**Carnival Organisation led:**

**Leeds Carnival – ELEVATE, £14,920**

Organisational development funding to support the artistic and strategic planning of Leeds carnival. Underpinning artistic ambitions by developing robust, fit for purpose artistic policies and principles.

**Liverpool School of Samba - Brazilica, £14,700**

Production of Brazilica 2015, a free festival celebrating Brazilian music, arts and culture. The festival attracts huge audiences and participation from groups across the UK, Europe and locally. The main event is a Rio style carnival parade throughout the city centre and a host of fringe events that include film, exhibitions, and workshops to produce carnival costumes and floats and live music in venues and outdoors across the city.

**Middlesborough – Mela, £9577**

The Mela requested funding to bring together eight community groups from diverse ethnic backgrounds with low engagement in the arts. The groups will work alongside professional artists to design and create structures, costumes and dances which will culminate in a public performance.

**The Kemp Town Carnival Association - Maracatu Folklorico, £9,900**

Funding for a new North East Brazilian styled street and stage performance involving local and guest artists. The work was developed from elements of the Maracatu Folklorico funded in 2013 and showcased at the 2013 Kemp Town Carnival.

**Mangrove Steel Band & Mas Band - Mexicana mahem, £15,000**

Mangrove Steel Band are a music band and masquerade group who have participated in Notting Hill for over 37 years. 2015 activities included: learning sessions about the history and legacies of Carnivals (with a youth focus), sharing of skills and knowledge in Carnival Arts (such as opportunities to acquire expertise in costume making), and music with performance and presentation at Notting Hill Carnival.

**CSI Steelband Trust - Pan fever 2015, £15,000**

Working with young people aged 10-30 of all ethnicity and backgrounds to support and encourage them to enhance their own creative musical abilities. The young people participated in workshops with professional pannists to develop their skills and abilities and performed at a showcase event.

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## 4.2 Applications for Over £15,000

**Artist led:**

**Kinetika Bloco Ltd - Play on, £52,000**

Engaging 500 young people aged 14-25 in diverse music, dance and carnival activity, creating large-scale celebratory public performances. The project enabled Kinetika Bloco to develop their artistic process and create a collective of professional and emerging artists who will work together to drive artistic quality higher and develop company resilience, Creating a new live show, developing young leaders and contributing to diversification of the arts sector workforce in 2015.

**Passando a Chama - Sharing the Fire, £44,950**

Afro-Brazilian carnival production developed collaboratively by a team of expert artists, involving up to 250 participants and thousands of audience members. Working with key partners this production will be toured to at least six carnival events within London and the East of England.

**Organisation, troupe led:**

**Carnival future leaders course -** **Global Grooves 2015-17, £99,700**

Funding was provided for the development of Global Groove's Future Leaders and Breakthrough Artists Development Programmes. Project outcomes included: Providing mentoring and skills for young practitioners, emerging artists and creative producers, culminating in a high profile Carnival regional tour in 2016; and, Digital R&D for the creation and testing of an innovative worldwide collaboration web-space and digital tools for Carnival practitioners to effectively engage with national/international peer groups, develop their practice, and share expertise and resources.

**Tropical Isles - ‘It’s a London Thing’, £50,000**

Outreach project targeting up to 220 at risk young people, across East London’s most deprived housing estates.

**Carnaval del Pueblo - Continuous Professional development project, £40,000**

Building on previous CPD work this 2014 project delivered an international outdoor event; family day out featuring cultural stalls, park enclosed parade and live stages plus work on their 5 year Business Plan. The project was aimed at London audiences; the main stage was headlined by Puerto Rican international artist, Elvis Crespo a Grammy award winning Merengue singer, emerging London based Latino bands and community groups.

**Carnival organisation led:**

**Bridgwater Carnival Artistic programme - £28,951**

Development support of the arts through the inclusion of schools, college, community groups, street entertainers, musicians, artistes, bands and carnival groups in an extended programme of entertainment.

**Devizes Outdoor Celebratory Arts - Growing and Sustaining Outdoor Arts in Devizes, £65,000**

A major development and consolidation project to secure the future and sustain a high profile for carnival and street arts in the region.

**Inspiration Arts and Discover, £34,796**

Funding for organisation and partner development. The project involves members of the community including youth, families and minority groups and has focused on artistic, social and communication skills, giving participants the opportunity to lead independent activities and projects.

**London School of Samba - 2015 carnival ‘Voodoo Samba: The Dark Cabaret’, £45,000**

A 6 month programme of Brazilian carnival arts including drum and dance activities along with costume design and production leading to a tour; widening provision of high quality carnival arts championing artistic excellence in carnival arts, developing partnerships with other organisations and individuals as well as reach new communities and audience through participatory practice.

## 4.3 Applications for touring Carnival activities

**Regional touring:**

**Leeds City Council - Dancing in the Streets, £10,000**

The ‘Dancing in the Street’ exhibition for Leeds Museums and Galleries, engaging a number of key community groups, workshop series that enabled direct community engagement.

**Ruff Diamond Entertainment - United in Culture, £33,910**

Project developing an elite Soca dance troupe and provide carnival arts workshops to local and wider communities.

**Huddersfield Sound systems culture - Let’s Go Yorkshire, £17,480**

Sound systems art installation piece working in collaboration with Carnival.

**National Touring:**

**Amazona spectacular - Arte Latino Cultural project, £81,517**

Arte Latino Cultural project received funding to introduce the UK to the finest carnival traditions embedded in the ambitious production Amazonas Spectacular, a multidisciplinary contemporary carnival extravaganza.

**Artaha Productions Ltd - Great British Carnival Tour 2014, £100,000**

Great British Carnival Tour 2014, which includes one brand new, high profile, carnival event in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London, including a parade and a high quality spectacle - the Great British Carnival, and three other Great British Carnival interventions; Sandown, Margate and Bridgwater. Creating maximum impact on audience awareness of the strength of the British carnival offer, its diversity and excellence.

**Artreach Events Ltd- Night of Festivals 2014, £145,000**

Touring an established and innovative, culturally diverse, combined arts event for two days to four locations (Nottingham, Boston, Slough, Leicester) where it will embed audience development and engagement, create new dialogue and collaboration and provide a vehicle for intensive involvement of young people.

# 5 Further information

The following organisations may be able to offer additional support or advice:

UK Centre for Carnival Arts (UKCCA)

<http://www.carnivalarts.org.uk/>

Carnival Village Trust, London

<http://www.tabernaclew11.com/>

The New Carnival Company- Isle of Wight

<http://www.thenewcarnivalcompany.com/>

East Midlands Caribbean Carnival Arts Network

[http:/www.emccan.org](http://www.emccan.org)

Brouhaha International- Liverpool

<http://www.brouhaha.uk.com/>

Mahogany Carnival

http://www.mahoganycarnival.com

# 6 Contact us

**Phone:** 0845 300 6200, 0161 934 4317

**Textphone:** 0161 934 4428

**Email:** [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

**Post:**  Arts Council England - Grants for the Arts,

The Hive, 49 Lever Street, Manchester, M1 1FN

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