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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’, download it from our website or contact us for a copy.

2 Children, young people and learning, and GFTA

Through Grants for the Arts, we want to fund activities that involve Children, young people and learning. We want more children and young people have the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries.

2.1 What you can apply for

We are interested in supporting artistic and cultural activity which takes place in formal and informal settings for children and young people.

By setting we mean the place in which the children and young people are based, or the environment in which the activity is taking place, for example:

- early years settings, e.g. nursery schools
- primary, secondary or special schools, pupil referral units
- further education colleges (FE) and higher education (HE/universities)
- youth settings e.g. a youth club or a youth service-led activity
- an arts or community venue
- an open space
Activities in formal education settings
If you are applying for activities mainly taking place within a formal education setting
- the activity must clearly benefit the wider public, rather than just the pupils and teachers of one school
- you must explain what this benefit to members of the public and/or artists will be
- you must demonstrate that activity is complementary to the core taught curriculum
- and you should tell us about the outcomes for children and young people

2.2 What you cannot apply for

National curriculum delivery
Grants for the Arts cannot be used to fund work that could reasonably be expected to be delivered by other statutory education funding (e.g. national curriculum delivery/education up to 16 years) or youth sector bodies. This means that we will not replace the funding for the activities that other statutory bodies would be expected to fund.

Where activity takes place within a formal education setting for children and young people up to the age of 16, we cannot fund supply teacher fees or any other costs which are directly related to the delivery of the national curriculum. This should be paid for through the school budget.

Single formal education settings
We cannot fund applications from (or to take place in) a single formal education setting (e.g. one school/college/Primary Referral Unit (PRU)) where the activity does not provide benefits to the wider community or artists.

Accreditation
We cannot fund activities relating to the accreditation of courses. This is because we are not the appropriate funding body to do so. The Sector Skills Councils lead on qualification reform and accreditation, and the Higher Education Funding Council funds Higher Education provision.
Students and Fees
We cannot fund students (directly or indirectly) in statutory education, further education or higher education (undergraduate or postgraduate) for:

- activities directly linked to their formal course of study
- activities which contribute towards their course assessment
- their tuition fees or living costs.

For complete details of the eligibility requirements for Grants for the Arts please read the ‘How to apply’ guidance.

3 Key things to remember

You may wish to consider these top tips or best practice indicators when developing an activity for work that is either for, by or with children and young people.

Partnerships
Partnerships are developed between the setting(s), local authority, artists/arts organisations, other public/private sector contacts to ensure effective delivery and longevity. Demand for the activity is well articulated and evidenced. Applications are encouraged from groups of settings and/or consortia of artists and organisations, working collaboratively towards shared objectives.

Match funding
We expect at least 10 per cent of the total cost of the activity to come from other sources. Financial income from other sources helps to demonstrate partnership support for the activity, and shows that the activity is making the most of our investment. On average, those who were successful in getting funding from us received about 51 per cent of their income from other sources.

Experience
The artists and practitioners involved are experienced in providing high quality activities for children and young people and can demonstrate this track record.

Designing the activity
Children and young people are involved in developing the programme of work, in direct collaboration with artists and practitioners.
Outcomes
The activity will provide clear outcomes for children and young people, their families, the wider community, and/or artists, and there are plans to ensure that these benefits can be sustained long term.

Transferable skills
The activity provides opportunities for children and young people to gain new skills and identify progression routes into the creative industries. This could be via participatory activity, training, education, work-based learning or employment. In addition, the activity supports the professional development of the teachers, artists and other adults working with the children and young people.

Safe guarding children
A safeguarding policy is in place to protect participants. Find more information from the NSPCC at http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/information-funded-organisations/safeguarding-and-child-protection/

4 Our wider approach to supporting children, young people and learning

Our mission at the Arts Council is ‘Great art and culture for everyone’. We have a 10-year strategic framework, running from 2010-2020; and at the heart of this we have five goals, all there to help us meet our mission. Goal 5 focuses on children, young people and learning:

‘Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries’.

Achieving this goal will see:

- More children and young people have the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries
- More children and young people receive a high-quality cultural education in and out of school
- Arts organisations, museums and libraries are delivering high-quality arts and cultural experiences for children and young people

To help us achieve goal 5, Arts Council England invested in a network of 10 Bridge Organisations. As well as the Bridge Organisations, arts organisations within our
National Portfolio, our In Harmony programme and Music Education Hubs play a significant role in the delivery of great art and culture for children and young people.

Arts Council England has also been working with the arts and cultural sector to integrate Quality Principles and a set of metrics which allows us to measure the value and impact of our investments in goal 5.

We hope that through Grants for the Arts, we can invest further in activity which engages children and young people in high quality arts and cultural experiences, complementing our existing investment.

4.1 Bridge Organisations

Bridge Organisations will build long term relationships between the arts, cultural and education sectors, acting as a first point of contact for schools, responding to their needs and securing their commitment to supporting arts organisations and artists. The Bridge Organisations will also ensure that Arts Award and Artsmark are maximised as key tools with schools, arts organisations, local authorities and other partners.

Bridge Organisations will play a key role in identifying commissioning opportunities from local authorities, local businesses, trusts and foundations on behalf of National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) and other arts organisations, to enhance the arts offer for children and young people and families.

They will also support the Arts Council to work across the sector to raise the quality of arts experiences for with and by children and young people, supporting the Quality Principles and values that underpin the quality of work for children and young people and benchmark the quality of artists working with children and young people.

We actively encourage Grants for the Arts applicants to discuss their proposed activity with their regional Bridge Organisation to glean local intelligence, key contacts and general guidance. As Bridge Organisations are funded via Arts Council England’s National Portfolio, Grants for the Arts applications cannot include cash-matched funding from Bridge Organisations.
There is one Bridge Organisation in each region of England (plus four associate organisations in London). Find your regional Bridge Organisation here: http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-funding/funding-programmes/national-portfolio-funding-programme/

4.2 Music Education Hubs

On behalf of the Department for Education, we are investing more than £171 million of funding between August 2012 and March 2015 in a network of Music Education Hubs across England.

Music Education Hubs will ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to sing and learn a musical instrument, and to perform as part of an ensemble or choir. It will also allow young people to take their talent further - this might be through local ensembles, partnerships with nationally funded music organisations, including NPOs, or through involvement in the Music and Dance Scheme.

Music Education Hubs will build on existing music services. A Hub will be a collection of organisations working in a local area, to create joined up music education provision for children and young people, both in and out of school.

Grants for the Arts applications must not include activity which is already funded through Music Education Hubs programmes. The information sheet ‘Music Education Hubs and Grants for the Arts’ explains why. Download it from our Grants for the Arts information sheets page, or contact us for a copy.

Find out more about Music Education Hubs at http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-funding/funding-programmes/music-education-hubs/

4.3 In Harmony

Running since the summer of 2008, In Harmony is a national programme that aims to inspire and transform the lives of children in deprived communities, using the power and disciplines of community-based orchestral music-making.
Since April 2012 In Harmony has been funded jointly by the Department for Education and Arts Council England. The Arts Council has also taken on a central coordinating and development role, and will be accountable for its delivery to the monitoring board established to oversee the delivery of the National Plan for Music Education.

Find out more about In Harmony at http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-funding/funding-programmes/harmony/

4.4 Arts Award

Arts Award is a national qualification for 5-25 year olds which supports creativity and leadership. If Arts Award is part of your activity for children and young people, it is a good quality indicator for the overall project. Arts Award is run by Trinity College London at five levels – find out more at www.artsaward.org.uk.

We believe that Arts Award offers an effective framework for arts activities with young people, providing quality assurance, support and a qualification for participants. We therefore welcome applications to Grants for the Arts which use Arts Award as an accreditation framework where it brings additional value to the activity.

Arts Council England funds Trinity College London to run Arts Award, so, although your grant application can include the costs of creating your portfolio or undertaking artistic experiences, we cannot provide Grants for the Arts funding towards the qualification costs (e.g. adviser training, information packs, moderations). You should fund these from alternative sources and demonstrate this in your budget.

4.5 Artsmark

Artsmark is Arts Council England's flagship award for children and young people’s settings, recognised nationally as demonstrating excellence in arts and cultural provision. It enables schools, further education colleges and youth justice settings to evaluate, celebrate and strengthen a quality arts offer, and supports formal education institutions to deliver rich and high quality provision. Find out more at www.artsmark.org.uk
Artsmark is delivered by Trinity College London on behalf of Arts Council England and the Bridge Organisations drive up Artsmark participation through advice surgeries and events.

4.6 Quality principles for working with children and young people

Understanding and articulating the quality of the work that organisations deliver by, with and for children and young people is core to our remit and so with the sector we have developed seven principles for organisations to embed into their work:

1. Striving for excellence
2. Being authentic
3. Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
4. Ensuring a positive, child-centred experience
5. Actively involving children and young people
6. Providing a sense of personal progression
7. Developing a sense of ownership and belonging

Following a period of pilot testing with sector representatives, we hope that from April 2015 these will help us to become better investors, help arts and culture organisations to strategically plan for future challenges and help us all tell a richer story about the value of arts and culture.

Find out about the pilot work undertaken to date at http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/our-priorities-2011-15/quality-metrics/

5 Further information

The following organisations also provide development opportunities for children and young people and may be able to offer additional support or advice:

Teaching resources for Creative & Cultural Education http://www.nfer.ac.uk/CulturalEducationResources/

National Skills Academy Creative and Cultural Skills www.ccskills.org.uk/
Creative Choices
www.creative-choices.co.uk

NSPCC
www.nspcc.org.uk

Youth Dance England
www.yde.org.uk

National Youth Theatre
www.nyt.org.uk

Youth Music
www.youthmusic.org.uk

National Youth Agency
www.nya.org.uk

The Cultural Learning Alliance
www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/

6 Contact us

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