



# Information sheet



## **Major risk Grants for the arts applications**

### **How we consider risk – applications for £15,000 and under**

After checking an application is eligible, we do a risk check. At the risk check stage we look for potential weaknesses in how the activity has been planned and budgeted – things that could cause problems and make the activity hard to deliver.

As part of the risk check we may consider any or all of the following:

- is the timeline achievable and detailed enough?
- are appropriate partnerships in place to support the activity, and are they confirmed?
- is the activity sufficiently well planned?
- is any tour schedule at an appropriate stage of confirmation?
- are plans to evaluate the activity appropriate?
- is the budget reasonable and appropriate for the proposed activity?
- is there an appropriate level of partnership funding, and is any expected funding likely to be secured?
- are there appropriate measures in place to manage the budget?



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- are any asset purchases justified clearly, and are the costings based on quotes?
- how has any previous funding from us been managed?

If we find a risk, we will give a rating of major, moderate or minor:

**Major risk** means that a particular issue gives us concern that the activity is not likely to be managed successfully and/or there are serious concerns about your budget.

**Moderate risk** means we have noted some risk to the successful delivery of the activity, but this risk can be mitigated using payment conditions.

**Minor risk** means that although we have noted a particular issue we do not think it represents risk to the successful delivery of the activity. We will take no action, but want to register that a risk has been identified (important for audit purposes).

If you have applied for £15,000 or under and we think any parts of your activity's management or finances are major risk, we cannot process it any further. Your decision letter will highlight the main reason that your application was considered 'major risk', followed by a statement explaining how we reached this decision:

**Major risk – management**

It showed weaknesses in relation to your plans to manage the activity.  
*[Personalised statement explaining how we reached this decision]*

**Major risk – finance**

It showed weaknesses in relation to the budget for the activity.  
*[Personalised statement explaining how we reached this decision]*



Remember, if we consider any parts of your activity's management or finances are major risk, this does not necessarily mean that we think your project idea is bad; it simply means we don't think successful delivery is realistic at this stage.

## **Making a new application**

You can apply to Grants for the Arts again, but please think carefully about why we chose not to fund your application.

Remember, we do not appraise the artistic quality and public engagement outcomes of applications for £15,000 or under that have been unsuccessful due to a major risk. You must address the reasons that the original application was not successful, but it is always worth thinking about ways you could strengthen all sections of your application form.

If you do decide to reapply, please ensure that you have read the [How to apply guidance](#) and any other relevant guidance material carefully. Addressing feedback provided will not guarantee that a future application will be successful. Grants for the Arts is competitive and we always receive more good applications than we can fund.

## **Contact us**

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