

# Arts Council England: More information to read before you apply



**Easy read booklet**

# Who we are and what we do



We are **Arts Council England**. We want England to be a place where art and culture are important and available to the public.

We give money to organisations to help them make art and culture. This is called **investing**.



We give money to organisations called **National Portfolio Organisations** or **NPOs** for short.



We also work with organisations called **Investment Principles Support Organisations** or **IPSOs**.

We wrote a booklet for NPOs and IPSOs to read before they apply for our **2023-26 Investment Programme**.



This new booklet gives extra information about the Programme.

# How we work with the government



Arts Council England works with the government. They have told us how we must use some of our money.



We work with the **Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)**. They want us to help them with their plans called **Levelling Up Priorities**.

These new priorities mean we have added some more information on how we run our investment programme.



You can read what the DCMS told us on our website

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



We will still choose which organisations to give money to.

We will follow our strategy called **Let's Create**. A **strategy** says what we will do to help support arts and culture.

# About the money we have to invest



The **DCMS** has given us more money for 2022-2025.

This means we can invest more money in creativity and culture during the period **1 April 2022** until **31 March 2025**.



We have **£43.5 million pounds** of extra money to spend.



We can use this extra money **only** for organisations outside of London.

There are poorer areas outside London that need more money. These areas are called **Levelling Up for Culture Places**.



You can find a list of these areas and **London Priority Areas** on our website

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

# Changes to the way we invest money



The DCMS told us we must give less money to NPOs in London.

We have to reduce this money by **£24 million pounds by 2024/25**.



We must give the £24 million to organisations who are based outside of London.

We will change how we invest the money in 2 stages



1. £16 million per year from 1 April 2023.

2. £8 million per year from 1 April 2025.



Activity in Levelling up for Culture Places must increase by 15%. This must be done by **31 March 2026**

This applies to all NPOs and IPSO's who get £2 million or more wherever they are based in England.

# How we make decisions



We choose which organisations to invest in.

We use our strategy **Let's Create** to help us make our decision.



We may decide not to give any money to some of the organisations we invest in now. Or we may give them less money.



We will pick the NPO and IPSOs which we think can help us deliver **Let's Create** in the best way.



We want to support a wide range of organisations who can deliver creativity and culture across England.

We call this getting a good **balance**.



# How we will use our additional money



We have to use all of the £43.5 million to support activity and organisations outside London.

**Activities** are things like training or making new types of art



We will look at all the NPO applications and see which ones are the best.

**On 1 April 2023** we will also have an extra **£16 million to invest**.



This is the money we are moving from organisations **inside** London to organisations **outside** London.

We want to give more money to NPOs in Leveling Up for Culture Places. These can be new NPOs or NPOs we work with already.



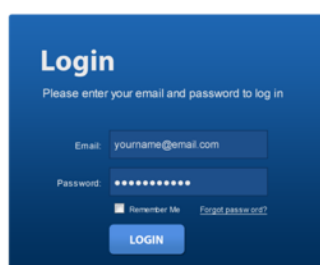
We can give money to NPOs who work **outside** of these Places **if** they work in partnership with others **in** these Places.

# What you need to do when applying



**Grantium** is the name of our online application website.

If you are based in one of the Levelling Up for Culture Places, we will pick this up when you apply on Grantium.



Let us know if you are:

- Based outside one of the Levelling Up for Culture Places **AND**
- If you are planning a new activity in 1 or more Levelling Up for Culture Places.



Tell us about what you are going to do and where you will be working in your **Activities Plan for 2023/24**.



To get help with your plan, you can read some questions people ask on our website.

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



# Telling us about your plans



Let us know if you are planning any activities after 2023/2024.



We want to know what activities you plan to do in the 3 years when we give you money. This is called **the investment period**.



Tell us how your activities will help support the **Let's Create** strategy and its outcomes. **Outcomes** are the good things we want to make happen.

We want to give money for activities where people join together with other organisations to work. This is called a **partnership**.



We want to support partnerships in the **Levelling Up for Culture Places**.

# How we will support NPOs in London with less money

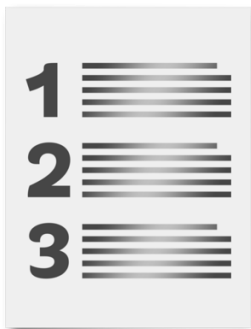


We want to make sure everyone in London can take part in all the different kinds of art and culture.



We want to help new and existing NPOs across all of London. We want to help people in our **London Priority Places**.

There are **3 ways** we will support NPOs after we have taken away **£24 million** for other areas.



1. Help NPOs to find new sources of money. This is for NPOs who we help now but who don't get another grant from us.

2. Give less money to NPOs who we currently give a grant to. We will help them make a new activity plan.

3. Find NPOs willing to move to another area by **31 March 2025**. If we don't find enough NPOs we will have to give out less money.



# What you need to know when applying from London



If you are based in London, there will be lots of competition to get funding.

Your organisation may not get funding.



You should think about how you could move your organisation outside London by **31 March 2025**.



We still want to support London as an important place for arts and culture. We want to represent all London's communities.

We want new NPOs to apply for money.



We also want to give money to our current NPOs to help us with Let's Create. They can also apply for more money.

# Organisations willing to move outside of London



We have added a new question which asks if you are willing to move out of a London location by **31 March 2025**.

This means setting up a main office outside London. This must be registered, and your activities must help local culture and communities.



If you answer **Yes**

- We will send you information about a **new programme**.
- This programme will give you support to provide activities for 2 years. It **will not** give you money to pay for your move.



Let us know if you are interested after you have had more information. We will make it easy for you to apply.



We will let you know at the end of October if you are successful in getting funding.

# Organisations applying for £2 million or over per year



If your organisation is given  
£2 million or more per year then  
you will need to

- ✓ Do **15%** more activity in Levelling  
up for Culture Places.
- ✓ Do this by **31 March 2026**



Your activity will need to be a  
good thing for the public.



You must work with communities  
and other organisations. You can  
do activities like education or  
creating new art.

You must make sure people who  
don't normally have access to arts  
and culture can take part in your  
activities.



You must show how you will work in  
partnership with other  
organisations. These are things like  
training and exchanging skills and  
ideas.

# What you need to know when applying for over £2 million per year



**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

☐ Good

☐ Bad

☒ Not sure

We have added a new question to the application form. This is for organisations who want to apply for an average **of £2 million** or more each year.



We want to know if you agree to do more work in Levelling Up for Culture Places during 2023-26 funding period.



We also want to know if you will agree to good plans and carry out the right amounts of activities if we give you funding.



We will only offer you funding if you answer **yes** to this question.



# More about applying for £2 million or more

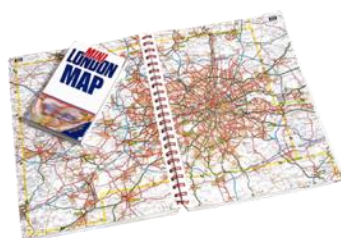


If you answered yes to the new question for **£2 million funding** you must provide more information in **2** places on the form.



1. We will ask you to tell us your plans for the 3 year investment programme. Tell us how you will help us with our Let's Create strategy and outcomes.

2. If you have any activity planned in 2023-24 you should add this to the **Activity Plan** and **Location Form**.



We will agree this activity with you when we talk about how much funding to give you.



We will measure how much activity you do at the start of the funding. We can use this to check if your activity **increases** by **15%**.

# How we will change the way we give out funding



We think we will get more applications than we are able to fund.

We will look at all the applications to see how they help us deliver **Let's Create.**



The way we do this is called **Balancing.**



Balancing will help us to find the NPOs and IPSOs who can work with us in the best way. This will help all our communities.