

# Developing Your Creative Practice (DYCP) – what we found out about our funding programme



**Easy read booklet**

# Who we are and what we do



We are **Arts Council England**.

We make sure creativity and culture happens in the UK.

We started the **Developing Your Creative Practice** programme in 2018.



We give grant money for individuals to develop their practice so they can make better work in the future.

We give grant money from £2k to £10k.



We want to find out if our programme works well.

# What we wanted to ask



We asked some key questions about this funding programme. For example we asked

- did the programme meet the aims that we wanted to meet?
- has giving them this money helped them to have a career?
- what can we learn from the programme?

# What we found out

## Knowing about the DYCP programme

We couldn't let everyone know about our programme.



We found out that

- more applications for the grant money came from visual artists and musicians.
- museums and libraries had the least applications but were more likely to be successful
- London applied for more money than other places.



People found out about the DYCP programme from our website or from friends and family.



Some organisations ran workshops and information sessions to help individuals apply.

# Why would someone apply for DYCP?

Individuals who got the DYCP grant money wanted to



- be in control of their work
- try out new ways of being creative
- change their career
- make new partnerships
- buy new equipment
- have more time to be creative
- learn new skills
- cope with the COVID-19 pandemic
- not have to rely on other grant funding.

Most people we spoke to said they understood how to apply and what the DYCP programme was.



Museums and Libraries found it less clear how their work would fit the programme.

# What was it like to apply for DYCP?



We wanted to find out what it was like for people to apply for the DYCP programme.

Most people were happy with the application process.

Some people weren't sure about how to write a good application.



A lot of people found the **Grantium portal** hard to use. This is the place that people go to upload their application online.

We found out that people from different or diverse backgrounds wanted more support to apply.



People who find it harder to write an application need to be supported better.



People who had a successful application had more support than people who didn't get the grant money.

There should be more support to help people write an application for this money.

# Are we accessible?



People who were neurodivergent told us that they

- had issues with the Grantium portal
- didn't know what the DYCP programme was about

These people needed more support with the application.



We could make the offer of support more clear to neurodivergent people so they know how to apply.



Using video or audio ways to apply was a good idea in the future.

If someone did not get the DYCP money then it wasn't always easy to know why.



People wanted more feedback on this and reasons why they did not get the DYCP grant money.

# Projects we fund



Most projects that we funded were for £7.5k to £10k of money.

1 in 9 people got more money than this if they applied for more funding.

Most people got funding to research their idea and find out more.



Less people got money to travel to other countries. But we think this was because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Lots of people made new contacts and had time to develop their art and work.

DYCP money gave people the chance to be more flexible and work in new ways.



People used the money to fund their work so they didn't have to have another job.

Some people paid themselves a wage with the funding but some people did not pay themselves enough to live.



# Outcomes and impacts



People who got the DYCP money said this helped them to

- learn new skills
- meet new people
- find more work
- have better chances to be a leader



People felt more confident and happy about making their work.

Having time to develop was a good thing.



Having this money gave them the time to learn more and build on what they already knew.

It gave them space to try new things and learn about business.



There was more benefit to the public and planning for next steps in the future.

# Good things about funding and timing



Most people said that the funding money came at the right time in their lives.

COVID-19 was a hard time but it was good to get funding and have time to be creative.



Most people said they were happy with the time they had to make work. But some would have liked more time than 12 months for some projects.

We have funded a large group of disabled and d/Deaf individuals. DYCP has given money to other diverse individuals too.



We have made our DYCP fit with our **Let's Create** plan as much as we can.

We have tried to help individuals to

- have new ideas
- travel more
- work with other people
- become leaders in creativity and culture



# What we should think about in the future

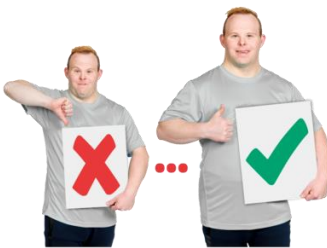


The DYCP programme is a good way to fund individuals.

It helps them to build new contacts and skills.

People were happy with the chance to try out new things.

Being chosen for funding made them feel good about themselves and their work.



But we also know we can do better.

We would like to

- have more applications from Museums and Libraries
- make the application process easier to use and follow
- give more feedback if someone does not get the funding so they can understand why
- do more with the data and information we collect

