



JOURNEY THROUGH MEMORIES. NOW IS IMPORTANT.
WE KNEW. THERE ARE SIMPLE WAYS TO LAUGH.
IN THE PRESENT. THAN CAST GLOOM.
ALL-DOER ON WHAT CAN BE KINDER.
MAYS TO DOME. BE ON MOWER. GLOOM ON LAUGH.
WAYS TO LAUGH. KINDER ON MOWER. GLOOM ON LAUGH.

Of Earth And Sky by Luke Jerram,
commissioned by Gloucester Culture Trust
2020. Photo © Fluxx Films

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Place Partnership projects

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our open-access funding programme for individual practitioners, arts organisations, libraries, and museum projects.

Published: November 2021

Last updated: April 2023



What's Inside

This information sheet relates to Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants. It can be used alongside the Project Grants 'How to Apply' guidance documents to support you to make your application.

See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

In this information sheet, we will talk about the following:

Place Partnership projects	3
Place Partnership project examples	4
Permission to apply	5
Restrictions on applying to Place Partnerships	5
Areas of Focus for Place Partnership projects	6
Cultural Communities	7
Creative People	7
Your project and the Investment Principles	8
Building related expenditure	9
Match funding for Place Partnership projects	10
Expressions of Interest	10
Timeline for consideration of an EOI	11
If we invite you to apply	12
If we don't invite you to apply	12
Making a full application	12
Appraisal	13
Contact us	14

Place Partnership projects

We can support specific types of projects that aim to make a step change in the cultural and creative opportunity in places through the Place Partnership Strand within Project Grants. These will be projects that seek to transform an aspect of cultural or creative provision in line with Let's Create and the strategic cultural development aspirations of the place the activity benefits. The type of change we wish to see these projects make will necessitate partnership working. We are especially interested in projects that create opportunities for children and young people to experience and engage with cultural and creative activity.

We define an application as a Place Partnership project when it is for over £100,000 and:

is a strategic place-based intervention that is intended to make a long-term difference to the cultural and/or creative life of the local community **and**

makes a clear step change in provision in that place **and**

is informed by robust needs analysis and responds to relevant local strategies **and**

is led by a consortium of partners who are relevant to delivering the project

We define place as a specific geographic area of any scale (village, town, local authority, city or city region) where the proposed intervention will take place and where a cultural strategy (or similar) exists that covers the same geography. This could mean that an application might be for activity in a town or village that is covered by a cultural strategy for a wider district.

We can support applications for over £100,000. There is no upper limit but we will only support applications over £1,000,000 in exceptional circumstances as awards of this amount will significantly reduce the number of awards we can make overall. In addition to this information sheet, you must read the [How to Apply guidance](#) if you apply for a Place Partnership project.

Place Partnership project examples

- Music promoters, the local library service and the local Music Education Partnership have come together to establish a music touring circuit across a network of branch libraries including a talent and skills development programme and responds to a need identified and in the local cultural strategy
- A local Cultural Education Partnership has partnered with their local health authority and cultural organisations to develop a suite of cultural and creative interventions to support the mental health of children and young people in their area. The project will include skills exchanges between creative practitioners and children's mental health workers to transform local provision
- A local Cultural Compact has identified festival development as a key tool for cultural development in their city. They have also established a partnership with the tourism destination management organisation to explore ways in which the local festivals can work more closely with the tourism sector to maximise their joint economic impact. They are looking to pilot several related initiatives over two years which will see a step change in the scale and nature of events on offer coupled with event production skills training and outdoor arts sector development
- The new cultural strategy for a rural district has identified the lack of cultural activity in a number of their market towns as a barrier to them retaining and attracting younger residents. The local authority in partnership with a number of key employers in the district want to work with local and regional arts organisations to test, develop and commission a range of new cultural activities alongside a sophisticated audience engagement plan in order to shape their new cultural offer

Permission to apply

You need to ask our permission to apply to us for a Place Partnership project by making an Expression of Interest. This is because we want to make sure that a project has relevant partners involved and has potential to have the scale of impact we would expect before an applicant invests time in developing a full application. We will also think about whether we have the budget available to consider your full application.

The Expression of Interest process can take up to eight weeks and is additional to the twelve weeks we need to make a decision on a full application. When planning your project, make sure that you leave enough time for us to complete this process.

For more information see the section of this sheet on [Expressions of Interest](#)

Restrictions on applying to Place Partnerships

There are restrictions on applicants applying to **Nationally Significant Projects, Touring** and **Place Partnerships** strands of National Lottery Project Grants.

The restrictions below will apply from 1 April 2023-31 March 2026.

We don't count any Expressions of Interest (EOI) or full applications you made before 1 April 2023.

NPOs/IPSOs/Transfer organisations/National museums:

- Can apply to **Nationally Significant Projects, Touring and Place Partnerships**
- Can make a maximum of 2 full applications (successful or unsuccessful) within the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2026, across any combination of these strands
- Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to any strand can only be resubmitted once, revised after feedback, before a full application is made
- If unsuccessful at full application you can't resubmit an EOI for the same project
- We decide which period (22-23 or 23-26) your application falls into based on when you submit your EOI

Please see our [Funded Organisations information sheet](#).

Please think carefully before submitting an EOI, and make sure that you do so at a time that makes the most sense for your project and for your wider work. Once you are invited to make a full application you will only have four weeks to submit it. We strongly advise all potential applicants to have a conversation with us before submitting an Expression of Interest.

Areas of Focus for Place Partnership projects

Applications to the Place Partnership strand of Project Grants must meet the standard criteria for Project Grants, and the definition for Place Partnership projects as given above. We also expect to see Place partnership applications making a strong contribution to our strategic aims.

We would only be likely to invite a full application where the Expression of Interest has demonstrated significant potential for meeting at least one element of **Cultural Communities** and **Creative People** as set out below in our **Areas of focus**.

Cultural Communities

Villages, towns and cities thrive through a collaborative approach to culture.

Over the next three years, we will be looking to support high quality applications that deliver a step-change in the cultural offer that can have a deep and lasting effect on places and the people who live in them. We want to invest in cultural activities, arts organisations, museums and libraries to help improve lives, regenerate neighbourhoods, support local economies, attract visitors and bring people together.

Applications for Place Partnership projects **should** strongly deliver against at least one of the following:

- support and involve communities in high quality culture

- improve creative and cultural education for children and young people
- improve health and wellbeing through creative and cultural activity
- build skills and capacity in the cultural sector and grow its economic impact

Creative People

Everyone can develop and express creativity throughout their life.

In addition we are looking to support high quality applications that address at least one of these key elements:

- Supporting people at all stages of their lives to design, develop and increase their participation in high quality creative activities
- Promoting creative opportunities in the local community to people at all stages of their lives
- Providing high quality early years activities that reach families from a wide range of backgrounds
- Widening and improving opportunities for children and young people to take part in creative activities outside schools
- Supporting children and young people to develop their creative skills and potential
- Developing and improving pathways towards careers in the creative industries

It is likely that all successful applications will deliver strongly against **Cultural Communities** and will also deliver against some **Creative People** elements.

Applications can be for several complementary activities that amount to a step-change in provision and clearly deliver against local long-term cultural development plans.

Your project and the Investment Principles

The Investment Principles are an important part of our strategy and we encourage you to use them to strengthen the planning and delivery of your project.

Our Investment Principles are:

- **Ambition and Quality**
- **Inclusivity and Relevance**
- **Dynamism**
- **Environmental Responsibility**

You can read about our Investment Principles [here](#).

In this section of your application you can use the Investment Principles to build up an in-depth picture of your project. This will give us a stronger understanding of your intentions and plans, and how your project will contribute to delivering our Strategy.

Please refer to the Investment Principles section of the main guidance for more detail.

Building related expenditure

Place Partnership funds can be spent on building related expenditure including assets, feasibility and planning where it relates directly to the aims of the wider project. Building related expenditure for a Place Partnership project must also be in line with the building expenditure allowed within the wider Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants. For more information about Building related expenditure and Project Grants, please read our Building projects information sheet [here](#)

Spending on building assets for Place Partnerships projects cannot exceed 30% of the value of the grant being applied for or £100,000, whichever is the lower amount.

For example: an application for £200,000 could only have a contribution from this fund of £60,000 (30% of £200,000) for building expenditure. An application of £500,000 could only have a contribution of £100,000 for building expenditure.

Match funding for Place Partnership projects

We expect a minimum of 15% cash match funding (sometimes called partnership funding) for applications for a Place Partnership project.

Expressions of Interest

We decide whether to invite a full application for a Place Partnership project by asking potential applicants to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). An EOI is made using our online system, Grantium. It is accessed by working through the Eligibility Questionnaire for Project Grants.

In the Expression of Interest we will ask:

- The total project budget amount
- The amount being requested from Project Grants Place Partnership Fund
- Where will any match or partnership funding for this project be coming from?
 - Tell us about any earned income, fundraising activity, other public sources of funding, other Lottery distributors, and any other sources. Tell us whether they are confirmed or expected at this stage (1000 characters)
- Have you received advice from the Arts Council? If so, who from?
- Which strategy or strategies covering the place for which you are applying does your project deliver against and how will you measure success

- Which **Area(s) of Focus** as set out in the applicant guidance are you responding to?
- Give an outline of the proposed project (2000 characters)
- **If the applicant is an NPO:** Are you applying as part of a place partnership or consortium?

When deciding to invite you to make a full Place Partnership application, we will take into account the Project Grants eligibility criteria, the information you give us in your EOI and considerations about our budget.

If you are a National Portfolio Organisation or Music Education Hub we may also take your current risk rating into account when deciding whether to invite an application. If you are invited to make a full application, we will also take your risk rating into account in our appraisal of your application, and will expect you to include plans to mitigate against current and potential risk in your application.

For all applicants, we will review your total investment to date from the Arts Council to assess organisational capacity and risk in the context of the project you are proposing.

Timeline for consideration of an EOI

We will usually notify you whether we want to invite a full application for your project within eight weeks of the date you submitted your Expression of Interest to us. We will inform you using our online system, Grantium.

If this process will take us longer than eight weeks, we will contact you and let you know as soon as possible.

If we invite you to apply

If you are invited to make an application you will have eight weeks in which to develop and submit your full application and the mandatory supporting documents required, as detailed in the How to Apply guidance. Your invitation to apply will tell you the deadline for submitting your full application to us.

We may contact you with feedback on your Expression of Interest.

If we don't invite you to apply

If we decide not to invite you to apply we will usually provide brief feedback on why.

Remember that where we have decided not to invite a full application on the basis of an EOI, you may revise and resubmit. However, that EOI can only be resubmitted in a revised form once. If you submit an EOI for the same project a third time, we won't be able to accept it.

Making a full application

Full applications for Place Partnership projects are made using the Project Grants application form on our online system, Grantium.

Your invitation to apply notification will provide access to your application form. See our [Grantium guidance](#) for more information.

Guidance on completing the application form is set out in the [How to Apply guidance](#) for Project Grants.

Please be aware that as part of your full application you will need to submit the following as attachments:

- A detailed workplan for the project (mandatory)
- Consortium agreement or partnership agreements between the lead organisation and all key partners involved in the project

- A detailed project budget (mandatory)
- A cashflow for the project (mandatory)
- A copy of your accounts from the last financial year that have been certified by a qualified independent accountant [or that have been prepared to the relevant legal standard for an organisation of your size and status] (mandatory)
- A copy of any needs analyses that have already taken place
- Copies of local strategies to which this project activity relates

Appraisal

Full applications for Place Partnerships projects over £100,000 and above are appraised against the criteria set out in the [How to Apply guidance](#) for Project Grants.

In addition, if you are a National Portfolio Organisation or Music Education Hub we will also take your risk rating into account in our appraisal of your application, and will expect you to include plans to mitigate against current and potential risk in your application.

For all applicants, we will review your total investment to date from the Arts Council to assess organisational capacity and risk in the context of the application you have made.

Please be aware that we may share your application with other organisations who are helping us appraise applications.

Decision making

Decisions on whether to fund full applications we receive are made in the way that is set out in the [How to Apply guidance](#) for Project Grants.

Contact us

Phone: 0161 934 4317
Email: enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk
Website: artscouncil.org.uk
Post: Arts Council England
The Hive, 49 Lever Street
Manchester
M1 1FN

You can also Livechat with our customer services team by clicking the icon on our Project Grants page on our website: artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants