



Horniman Museum and Gardens

## NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

# Museums and Collections Projects

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our funding programme  
For arts, museums and libraries projects.

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Awarding funds from  
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®**

# What's Inside

This Information Sheet provides **additional information** for your Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants application.

Make sure that you have also read the main **Guidance for Applicants**. See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

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

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# Museums and Collections

We welcome applications to Project Grants from museums or individuals and organisations working with and supporting museums, for projects focused on museum and collections practice.

We also welcome museums to apply for projects which focus on any of our other supported disciplines.

## **People and organisations that could apply for museums and collections projects include:**

- individual museums or museum services
- a network or support organisation whose role focuses on developing museums' work
- a key funder of a museum(s)
- an organisation with a research relationship with a museum or group of museums
- individuals who are self-employed applying for museum and collections projects working with museums

Museums that are National Portfolio Organisations or members of a consortium and Investment Principles Support Organisations (IPSOs) should also read the [Funded Organisations information sheet](#).

# What you can apply for

We can generally support:

- public programming, including displays and exhibitions
  - this could include the hire or purchase costs of appropriate equipment or assets, for example display cases. See our Buying equipment and assets information sheet under the Types of projects section of the [Guidance Library](#).
  - the **Government Indemnity Scheme** is an alternative to commercial insurance for object loans to museums. You can explore this scheme, before submitting your application, via the following link: [Government Indemnity Scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- building projects
  - see our **Building projects** information sheet under the Types of projects section of the [Guidance Library](#).
- commemorative projects around the museum's core collections and objectives
- digital and creative media projects that encourage the public to interact with collections
- projects focusing on the conservation of objects, as long as the project engages people
- projects focused on the touring or loans of objects or collections
- projects that engage the public in consultation on collecting or other museum activity, for example community or youth panels, participatory practice or co-design
- projects that deliver Subject Specialist Networks (SSN) activity:
  - either from existing Subject Specialist Networks or that aim to set up new Subject Specialist Networks
  - see the Subject Specialist Networks section of this sheet for more details

- projects that increase use of a museum's Designated collection
- outreach activity or community engagement projects linked to the museum's core objectives
- projects involving children, young people and learning in a museum context, including [Arts Award](#)
  - See our Children, young people and learning information sheet under the Types of projects section of the [Guidance Library](#).
- organisational resilience projects, such as:
  - business planning
  - consulting on new approaches to fundraising or commercial development, where these will have a longer-term benefit for a museum's ability to reach people and communities and to develop the quality of the programme of work
- projects involving professional development for the museum workforce, boards, and or volunteers
  - where these will have a longer-term benefit for a museum's ability to reach people and communities and develop the quality of the programme of work. See [Character Matters 2016](#).

## Unlocking Collections

As part of Arts Council England's commitment to funding museums and their collections, we have created an Unlocking Collections campaign. This is a **Time Limited Priority** within Project Grants. It is aimed at enabling museums to develop their collections-based work and increase public engagement with, and use of, their collections.

You can find out more about our Time Limited Priorities in that section of our [Guidance Library](#).

# What you cannot apply for

- funding the purchase of collections/collection items, except new artistic commissions where the commission is part of the project

## Subject Specialist Networks

Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs) support the development, use and wider understanding of collections by sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources with people working with collections.

Organisations can apply to Project Grants for activity that involves Subject Specialist Network activity.

### **Subject Specialist Networks and National Portfolio Organisations**

Some Subject Specialist Networks are hosted by National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs). An NPO can apply specifically for Subject Specialist Network activity on behalf of its wider Network. NPOs applying in this way can apply for any amount, and any application for SSN activity does not count towards Project Grants NPO restrictions.

The host NPO should contact us in the first instance to confirm their eligibility to apply for SSN activity.

### **Subject Specialist Networks and National Museums**

Some SSNs are hosted by National Museums (those that are governed by national legislation and directly receive funding from central Government or from UK devolved Governments).

A national museum can apply specifically for SSN activity on behalf of its wider Network. National Museums applying in this way can apply for any amount. For restrictions on National Museums applying to Project Grants please see the National Museums section of this information sheet.

# National Museums

National Museums are eligible to apply to Project Grants for:

- £30,001 and over **Touring projects**
- £100,001 and over **Major projects**
- £100,001 and over **Place Partnership projects**

For more details, see our [information sheets](#) on each strand.

National Museums may also apply to Project Grants for Subject Specialist Network activity.

## Key things to remember about museum and collections projects

- All applications, regardless of the type of activity, must engage people and communities, either in the short term or the longer term.
- Support in kind can be included in your application budget and can count towards the percentage of funding you need to provide from other sources if you can. Support in kind means any materials or services that you would otherwise have to pay for but are being provided free of charge or at a reduced rate. This can include volunteers' time, where appropriate.

## Accreditation

We continue to advocate for the value of Accreditation for museums as the UK industry standard for museums and galleries. However, you do not need to be Accredited to apply to Project Grants.

If your museum is Accredited, you may choose to use your award as supporting evidence for your application. There may be aspects of your approach to organisational health, managing collections and users and their experiences which are relevant to your application. For example, referring to your award as evidence that you have an organisation-wide approach to

planning, budgeting, and risk management.

In meeting the Accreditation Standard, you will have already demonstrated how you understand and develop your audiences. This feedback from users and your plans for developing your range of users may be helpful in telling us how you'll respond to the Inclusivity & Relevance principle. You may have already provided an audience development or marketing plan as part of your Accreditation application or return.

If you would like more information on Accreditation, please visit our [website](#).

## Museums and our other supported disciplines

Museums are eligible to apply for (and be part of wider projects focusing on) creative and cultural activity in any of the disciplines we support. We continue to encourage arts and cultural organisations to collaborate.

Project Grants can support a range of activity associated with museums, such as artists' and creatives' residencies. This includes exhibitions (including touring), workshops, international exchanges and projects that interpret collections.

We can also support Arts Award-related activity in a museum context. Please see the Children, young people and learning information sheet under the Types of projects section of our [Guidance library](#).



# Resources

The following organisations support people working in museums and provide access to a range of advice, guidance, standards, toolkits and other resources supporting museums practice:

[The Association of Independent Museums](#) is a membership network for independent museums, galleries and heritage organisations across the UK.

[The Collections Trust](#) helps museums capture and share the information that gives their objects meaning.

[The Museum Development Network](#) support diverse, inclusive and innovative museums to create a thriving museum sector.

[The Museums Association](#) is a membership organisation for museum professionals, inspiring museums to change lives with a vision of inclusive, participatory and socially engaged museums at the heart of their communities.

# Contact us

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You can also Live Chat with our customer services team by clicking the icon on our Project Grants page on our website.