



Of Earth And Sky by Luke Jerram,
commissioned by Gloucester Culture Trust
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NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Place Partnership Projects strand

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

Updated: March 2024



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:

Place Partnership projects	3
What is a Place Partnership project?.....	3
Place Partnership project examples	4
Restrictions	5
Expression of Interest	6
Timeline	6
Areas of Focus	7
Cultural Communities	7
Creative People	7
Expressions of Interest questions	8
Building related expenditure	9
Match funding for Place Partnership projects.....	9
If we invite you to apply.....	10
If we don't invite you to apply	10
Contact us	11

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 of Project Grants.

These will be projects that seek to transform an aspect of your cultural or creative offer and the strategic cultural development aspirations of the place the activity benefits, in line with Let's Create.

The type of change these projects will make means that partnership working is very important. We are particularly interested in projects that create opportunities for children and young people to experience and engage with cultural and creative activity.

What is a Place Partnership project?

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

It is a strategic placed-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 lead 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. This is because 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 [Guidance for applicants](#) 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.

Restrictions

There are restrictions on applicants applying to **Major Projects, Touring strand (regional, national and international)** 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 **Major Projects, Touring Projects** and **Place Partnerships**
- Can make a maximum of two full applications (funded or not funded) within the period 1 April 2023-31 March 2026, across any combination of these strands (this includes applications to Nationally Significant Projects, which is what Major Projects were before November 2023).
- For Major Projects and Place Partnerships, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) can only be resubmitted once before any full application is made
- For Major Projects and Place Partnerships, if your full application is not funded you can't submit another 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 under the Funded Organisation section of the [Guidance library](#).

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 have eight weeks to submit it. We strongly advise all potential applicants to have a conversation with us before submitting an Expression of Interest.

Expression of Interest

If you want to apply for a Place Partnership project you need make an Expression of Interest (EOI) first.

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 you invest time in developing a full application.

We will also think about whether we have the budget available to consider your full application.

Timeline

From **receiving your EOI**, it usually takes **no longer than eight weeks** for us to respond. If it will take us longer than eight weeks, we will contact you and let you know as soon as possible.

If you are **invited to make a full application**, you will have **eight weeks** to submit it.

It then takes **up to 12 weeks** for us 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.

Applicants to the Place Partnerships strand should also note that we may need to request additional information to allow us to consider Subsidy Control implications. Reviewing this additional information can mean it take us longer than the usual twelve weeks to make a decision on full applications for £100,001 or more. You can help us by responding promptly to requests we make for any additional information.

You can find out more about what Subsidy Control is [here](#).

Areas of Focus

Applications to the Place Partnership strand must meet the standard criteria for Project Grants, and the definition for Place Partnership projects as explained in this sheet.

We also expect to see Place Partnership applications to make a strong contribution to our Strategy. We will only be likely to invite a full application where the Expression of Interest has demonstrated significant potential to meet at least one Element of the [Cultural Communities Outcome](#) and also potentially against the [Creative People Outcome](#) as set out below.

These Elements are:

Cultural Communities

Element K: Working collaboratively through place-based partnerships to impact one or more of the following:

1. Support and involve communities in high quality culture
2. Improve creative and cultural education for children and young people
3. Improve health and wellbeing through creative and cultural activity
4. Build skills and capacity in the cultural sector and grow its economic impact

Creative People

Element A: Supporting people at all stages of their lives to design, develop and increase their participation in high quality creative activities

Element B: Promoting creative opportunities in the local community to people at all stages of their lives

Element C: Providing high quality early years activities that reach families from a wide range of backgrounds

Element D: Widening and improving opportunities for children and young people to take part in creative activities outside schools

Element G: Supporting children and young people to develop their creative skills and potential

Element H: Developing and improving pathways towards careers in the creative industries

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.

Expressions of Interest questions

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 you're requesting from us
- Where any match funding for this project will come 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 we look at your EOI we will think about:

- the information you give us in your EOI and how well it meets the aims of Place Partnerships
- how much budget we have
- the total funding you've had from Arts Council England, thinking about organisational capacity and risk in the context of the project you are proposing
- if you are a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), IPSO, CPP or Music Hub (MH) we may also take your current risk rating into account when deciding whether to invite you to make a full application.

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](#). You can find this in the 'Types of project' section of our Project Grants Guidance library.

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.

If we invite you to apply

You will receive your invite to apply via Grantium. You will have eight weeks to develop and submit your full application, including the mandatory attachments.

Your invitation to apply will tell you the deadline for submitting your full application.

If invited to apply, please read the Guidance for applicants before submitting your application to make sure you're providing everything that we need. The [Guidance for applicants](#) also explains how we make decisions on applications.

If we don't invite you to apply

If we decide not to invite you to apply we will let you know via a letter on Grantium.

Making a full application

Full applications for Place Partnership projects are made using the Project Grants application form on our online application system, Grantium. Your invitation to apply notification will provide access to your application form.

See the [Grantium guidance](#) on our website for more information.

Guidance on completing the application form is set out in our Project Grants [Guidance Library](#).

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)
- A **cashflow** for the project (mandatory)
- A copy of your **financial statements** 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)

- Consortium agreement or partnership agreements between the lead organisation and all key partners involved in the project.
- A copy of any needs analyses that have already taken place
- Copies of local strategies to which this project activity relates

Contact us

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