



Arts Grants for Organisations

Taking Part strand

Arts Council of Wales | February 2018



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Taking Part

Purpose

To provide more ways for people to take part in high quality arts activity

What we want to achieve

We want the widest possible range of people to take part in and enjoy the arts. That's because we know that real, meaningful community engagement can be transformative. But we also know that there are persistent barriers – social, economic, geographical and financial – that can prevent many people from getting involved.

We want arts organisations to be bold, innovative and imaginative in their delivery of participatory arts programmes that reach out and meaningfully engage people. We want to support a broad range of activity, but we are particularly interested in high quality projects that reach out to people living in areas of acknowledged deprivation.

We also want to focus on projects for children and young people, as we know that an active engagement with the arts can transform the way they learn and explore the world around them, as well as helping them develop life skills and raise aspirations.

We want to support projects to commission or create and deliver exemplary participatory arts programmes that are relevant, fulfilling and inspiring. We will expect the proposed activity to offer meaningful, not tokenistic, opportunities to get involved, helping to nurture creativity and increase confidence.

We are particularly keen to support certain types of projects. This means that when we have to choose between eligible projects of comparable quality, we will prioritise the following:

- Projects that target and reach people living in areas of acknowledged deprivation
- Projects that target people with “protected characteristics”. “Protected characteristics” is a term used by the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief. The Act made it unlawful to discriminate against people on these grounds.

Projects for children, young people and their families

- Projects that commission creative professionals to lead and deliver participatory arts activity for children, young people and their families

- Projects that support the costs of setting up new, sustainable youth arts groups or networks
- Projects that support established youth arts groups to commission creative professionals to lead and deliver participatory projects

Projects for the voluntary cultural sector

- Projects that develop participation by commissioning creative professionals (such as choreographers, directors, musical directors and set designers), to work with voluntary and community organisations to improve the quality of the arts activity they deliver (applications can be made at small grant level only)
- Projects that develop participation through strengthening the capacity and sustainability of the voluntary cultural sector at county, regional or national level

Projects in arts for health and wellbeing settings

- Projects that promote wellbeing among all age groups by facilitating arts participation (which may or may not involve presenting finished work to audiences)
- Projects that promote and strengthen partnership working between the arts sector and other relevant organisations in Wales (e.g. the health and social services sectors and the Third Sector)
- Projects that increase arts opportunities for groups at risk of poor mental wellbeing, particularly among older people and people living in disadvantaged communities

Projects we won't support

We won't support projects that do not satisfactorily demonstrate how you've involved your intended participants in your planning.

What we need from you

We expect all projects to demonstrate the full involvement of the people that you intend to take part in your arts activity. Key to this will be providing evidence that the people you are trying to reach have been involved in planning the project from the outset. In particular, we'll expect to see projects being led by the children and young people at whom they are aimed.

You must be able to show that your project has appropriate plans in place for engagement and inclusion that tell us how you think you can successfully break down the barriers that can isolate groups and communities.

Our [Help Notes for Taking Part](#) applications will tell you more and help you fill in your application form.

Who can apply

We welcome applications from arts organisations and youth arts groups.

You can check that your organisation is eligible to apply by reading our [Getting Started](#) document.

A Note about the Lead Creative Schools Scheme

In November 2015 we announced that 131 schools across the whole of Wales had been selected to be part of the Lead Creative Schools Scheme, one of the key building blocks of *Creative Learning through the Arts – an action plan for Wales*. The scheme aims to promote new ways of working, with innovative and tailored programmes of creative learning designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

Funding for the Lead Creative Schools Scheme comes from a £20 million budget allocated to support the implementation of *Creative Learning through the Arts – an action plan for Wales* between 2015 and 2020. In total £10 million from Welsh Government has been allocated to match £10 million in Lottery from the Arts Council of Wales.

Please note all schools activity will now be supported via the three programmes of activity in Creative Learning through the Arts – Lead Creative Schools, Regional Networks, Experiencing the Arts.

If you'd like to know more about *Creative Learning through the Arts – an action plan for Wales*, click [here](#).

Funding Available

Applications can be made at the following levels:

- Small grants between £250 and up to £5,000
- Large grants between £5,001 and up to £30,000

Partnership Funding

Where the main aim of a project is to promote or deliver health, educational, social or other associated non-arts outcomes, you can apply for up to **50%** of your project's total eligible cost.

All other organisations can apply for a maximum of **75%** of your project's total eligible cost.

When you can apply

Small Grants

There are no deadlines for small grants, but you need to allow a minimum of **six working weeks** between the date you submit your application and the date you want to start your project. **If you're making your first application to us, then you must apply at this level.**

Large Grants

There are four deadlines a year for large grant applications. The next deadlines are:

- 5pm on Wednesday 9th May 2018
- 5pm on Wednesday 15th August 2018
- 5pm on Wednesday 10th October 2018
- 5pm on Wednesday 16th January 2019

You need to allow a minimum of **nine working weeks** between the deadline date and the date you want to start your project. We won't accept your application if your project's start date is too soon.

How often you can apply

You can hold one "live" grant from *Arts Grants for Organisations* in any twelve month period. We use the term "live grant" to mean an application for a project that has received funding from us and is still happening.

Remember that this applies to *Arts Grants for Organisations* as a whole, not to each strand.

We use the start date of your project to work out the twelve month period. For example, if you received funding for a project that started on 1st September 2017 and you want to submit another application, then it must be for activity that will start twelve months later, on or after 1st September 2018. It's important to remember that you can apply before the end of the twelve month period, but you cannot plan for your activity to start until a year has passed.

Please contact our Grants and Information Team if we have given you a grant before and you are unsure whether you are now able to apply again.

How to apply

You will need to discuss your project with us before we send an application form to you. If you have a project that you think might be suitable to apply for under this strand, please email your project ideas to: development@arts.wales

Please include the following details:

- Your organisation's name
- Project title
- Describe your project
- How much funding do you need?
- Location of project

Applications must be made using our online application system.

If you are unable to apply online, for example if you're disabled or do not have access to a computer, please contact our Grants and Information Team. We'll work with you to find other ways for you to apply.

We can also support you if your first language is not English or Welsh.

Need some more advice?

We have Information Sheets and guidance documents to help you with different aspects of the application process or to provide advice on a specific issue. These can be found on our website. You might find the following useful in making an application to the Taking Part strand:

- [Help Notes for Taking Part](#)
- [Arts for Health and Wellbeing Information Sheet](#)