# Arts Council of Wales logo

# Large print

# Creative Communities

# Guidelines

September 2025



## Accessibility

Arts Council of Wales is committed to making information available in large print, easy read, braille, audio and British Sign Language and will endeavour to provide information in languages other than Welsh or English on request. Arts Council of Wales operates an equal opportunities policy.

## Contents

[About “Creative Communities” 4](#_Toc207802589)

[Who can apply 4](#_Toc207802590)

[What can we apply for? 5](#_Toc207802591)

[What we expect from your project 6](#_Toc207802592)

[Our Priorities and your proposal 8](#_Toc207802593)

[How much can I apply for? 10](#_Toc207802594)

[Application deadlines 10](#_Toc207802595)

[What are the criteria that apply to this fund 11](#_Toc207802596)

[What questions will I need to answer? 12](#_Toc207802597)

[Completion report requirements 13](#_Toc207802598)

[What if I need access support? 13](#_Toc207802599)

[Quick links 14](#_Toc207802600)

[What if I have a question? 14](#_Toc207802601)

[FAQS 15](#_Toc207802602)

## About “Creative Communities”

This fund is specifically designed to encourage voluntary and community groups who are embedded in their communities across Wales, to engage in artistic activities, particularly in areas with limited creative opportunities or areas underrepresented in our funding.

The fund will offer grants of up to £1,500 for one-off arts projects, for organisations to deliver activity with a focus on participation.

## Who can apply

Organisations can apply. We advise that you read the eligibility criteria below to find out if you’re eligible to apply for a grant.

Take a look at our [eligibility criteria for organisations](https://arts.wales/eligibility-organisations)

Please note the following organisations cannot apply:

* Company Limited by Shares
* Organisations based outside of Wales

Priority will be given to not-for-profit voluntary and community groups in Wales that haven’t previously received funding.

## What can we apply for?

We want to support projects in our [supported artforms](https://arts.wales/resources/art-form-definitions), that will give people from communities across Wales the opportunity to participate in and enjoy creative activities.

The aim of this programme is to enable community groups to deliver small scale arts projects which contribute to the growth of arts in the community for new and existing audiences and which reflect the diversity of Wales’s society, language and culture. Our priority is the process and engagement rather than the outcome.

You may find the following information helpful: [Participation and Community Engagement](https://arts.wales/participation-and-community-engagement).

If your project is specifically focussed on music making, you may find [Tŷ Cerdd’s funding programmes](https://www.tycerdd.org/lottery-funding) more suitable.

If your project is specifically focussed on literature events, you may find [Literature Wales’ funding programmes](https://www.literaturewales.org/our-projects/inspiring-communities-fund/) more suitable.

## What we expect from your project

Your project must take place in your community in Wales.

* We want to support projects and activities that involve communities in their development.

Your project must complement and enhance your usual programme of activity.

* This means it should not be part of your core activity or include core costs.

Your project must involve an artistic collaborator to deliver the activity. This could be an individual artist, collective or arts organisation.

* The delivery partner must have a clear track record of delivering appropriate activity. Evidence of their previous work / track record must be submitted in some form (weblinks, articles, CVs, etc).

Your project must be time limited

* This means it has a definite start and end date. We’ll expect to see sufficient time built into your project to deliver the work effectively. This is particularly important when it comes to any promotional, audience development or outreach work.

You must allow adequate lead time

* You need to allow a **minimum of eight working weeks** between the date you submit your application and the date you want to start your project. It’s a good idea to allow yourself some extra time in case you need to send us more information following an award being made.

You’ll need to consider the time you’ll need to develop your application as well as the time it takes us to process and make a decision.

## Our Priorities and your proposal

Your proposal will strongly demonstrate how it will support one or more of our principles as set out in our [corporate plan](https://arts.wales/about-us/strategy):

**Creativity**: Creativity is in everything and everyone we support. We want to see a wide variety of creative forms and practices, developed with audiences and communities in mind, encouraging artistic innovation of the highest quality.

**Equalities and engagement**: Reaching underrepresented communities, culturally, geographically, socially and economically. Removing the barriers and challenges faced in experiencing the arts and making sure people from diverse communities are fully represented in the workforce, as leaders, decision-makers, creators, visitors, participants and audience members.

**Welsh language**: Developing creative opportunities that contribute to growth in the use and ownership of the Welsh language and supporting the arts sector to place the Welsh language at the centre of creativity and communities.

**Climate justice**: Supporting the arts sector to develop creativity that inspires people to take action for climate justice, working towards an environmentally sustainable and globally responsible arts sector.

**Developing talent** Making sure there are pathways that allow people from all backgrounds to develop sustainable creative careers, skills, and leadership. Working collaboratively to ensure that the opportunities available for artists are distributed fairly, providing fair work, and improve outcomes for the people of Wales.

**Transform**: Strengthening the capability of the arts to be more dynamic and sustainable. Being agile and confident enough to take risks, build resilience and be responsive to change, whilst remaining relevant to the people and communities of Wales.

Everything supported through this Fund will be expected to demonstrate commitment to the principles of the Welsh Government’s [Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015](https://www.futuregenerations.wales/cy/about-us/future-generations-act/).

## How much can I apply for?

* £500 to £1,500

You can request up to 100% of your project cost. [To find out more about your costings including eligible costs and artist fees please click here.](https://arts.wales/budget-help-notes)

## Application deadlines

There are no deadlines for the Creative Communities fund, but you need to allow a **minimum of eight working weeks** between the date you submit your application and the date you want to start your project.

**Please note**: We can’t fund projects that are already happening. We won’t accept your application if your project’s start date comes before we’ve had the opportunity to assess your application.

Applications must be complete. To find out more about what happens to your application when you submit it, [please click here for the application process](https://arts.wales/application-process).

## What are the criteria that apply to this fund

We aren’t able to fund every proposal that we receive. We receive more applications than we can fund, and we must make difficult decisions on which applications to prioritise.

Applications will be assessed against all the following criteria:

* The quality, strength and innovation of the artistic proposal and make-up of the creative team. We expect to see appropriately paid opportunities for freelance creatives, makers and individual artists: <https://arts.wales/artist-fees>
* The strength of the proposal in supporting us to meet our corporate priorities.
* The potential impact of the project both now and in the future, and its benefit to others, in relation to those underrepresented in our work and our funding.
* The quality of the relationships or partnerships in place or being developed to support the realisation of the project.
* The strength of the project management and financial plans in place to deliver the project and ensure public funds are used appropriately.

Within these criteria we’ll also consider geographical ‘spread’ of proposed activity as part of our decision making.

Unfortunately, due to expected demand we won’t be able to provide tailored feedback on our decision.

## What questions will I need to answer?

You can find a template of the application form in the Key Documents section below. We ask for your costings within the application form, so there is no need to upload a budget.

We will also require a copy of correspondence (email/letter) from the delivery partner confirming their involvement in the project, a link to work and their fee.

## Completion report requirements

If your project is successful, you will be required to submit an end of project completion report, which is in the Key Documents section below. This helps us understand how your project went and how the grant was used. It’s also a chance for you to reflect on what worked well and what you might do differently in the future.

We’re also particularly keen to celebrate the success of projects we fund, and expect you to submit examples of work, images, and any videos you may have.

## What if I need access support?

Arts Council of Wales makes information available in large print, braille, audio, Easy Read and British Sign Language. We’ll also try to provide information in languages other than Welsh or English on request.

[If you need access support, you can find out more about what we can do and how to arrange it here](https://arts.wales/access-support).

## Quick links

[Eligibility for organisations](https://arts.wales/eligibility-organisations)

[Budget help notes](https://arts.wales/budget-help-notes)

[Access support](https://arts.wales/access-support)

[Art form definitions](https://arts.wales/resources/art-form-definitions)

[Application process](https://arts.wales/application-process)

## What if I have a question?

If you’ve read this information and still have a question, first check the FAQs as it might be answered there. If you need further information, then email your query to grants@arts.wales. Or call 03301 242733.

## FAQS

### Can we apply to host a performance?

No. The priority of this fund is the delivery of activities such as workshops. For hosting performances, please look at our Night Out scheme: <https://www.nightout.org.uk/>

### Can we apply for funding towards our usual activities?

No. This grant is intended to support new or additional arts activity in your community, for example bringing in a professional artist you’ve not worked with before to undertake workshops.

### I’m an artist / arts organisation, can I be named as a delivery partner on multiple projects?

Delivery partners can be named on more than one application; we are hoping to see opportunities for a range of artists / arts organisations to work meaningfully with communities across Wales. It's important to us that the communities are the driving force behind the project, and proposals should show the relevance of the chosen delivery partner and how they fit the project and needs of the community.

### **We don’t know who we’d like to work with to deliver the activity yet, can we still apply**?

For the application to be assessed, the delivery partner must be included in the application form. Applications that do not include the delivery partner’s details will be declined.

### Do we have to work with an artist / arts organisation from Wales to deliver the activity?

Yes, the activity or workshop must be delivered by an arts organisation or Creative Practitioner/artist based in Wales.

### Can we apply to the fund more than once?

You can apply more than once as long as your previous grant has finished, and you’ve submitted your completion report requirements.

However, we are hoping to reach many communities across Wales and priority will be given to groups in Wales that haven’t previously received funding.

### I’m part of a group, but we’re not formally constituted, can one of us apply to this fund as an individual?

No. This fund is only open to organisations that can demonstrate that they are eligible based on our [eligibility guidelines for organisations](https://arts.wales/eligibility-organisations).

Please note the following organisations cannot apply:

* Company Limited by Shares
* Organisations based outside of Wales

### Can we apply to create a mural or art installation?

Yes, however, we need to know you have permission to create the work in the space, as well as confirmation of who will maintain it. Our priority is the process and engagement rather than the outcome.