



Kent Culture & Creative Economy: Arts Investment Fund

Guidance for Applicants

Applications will open in February 2023 using our online form. This guidance provides:

- Eligibility
- Assessment criteria
- Information you will need to complete the application

Overview

The 2023/24 Arts Investment Fund is open for applications for grants of up to £2,500 to help creative organisations respond to immediate challenges and work towards the development of plans for a sustainable future.

Successful applications will demonstrate high artistic quality and meet the ambitions of the Kent Cultural Strategy. The fund supports high quality projects by creative practitioners and arts organisations working in Kent that will engage audiences, attract further investment and contribute to the region's creative infrastructure by working in collaboration with others.

This year we do not require match funding.

Deadline for receipt of completed applications is midday Tuesday 28 February 2023. We aim to notify applicants of the outcome by 31 March 2023.

Submitting your application

- We can only accept applications on the online form.
- If you need technical support to complete your application, please email arts@kent.gov.uk.
- We check your application to ensure it is complete and eligible.
- If eligible it will be assessed using the assessment criteria.
- We aim to let you know the outcome of your application by the end of March 2023.

Eligibility criteria

- Your organisation must be located in Kent or intend to deliver the funded activity within Kent.
- The applicant must be a non-profit distributing organisation (NPDO). Proposals from individual artists and freelance practitioners are accepted provided there is clear public benefit.
A non-profit distributing organisation (NPDO) is a form of business structure where, although profit is still sought, any profit is reinvested in services or business growth rather than being distributed to shareholders.
- Your project should be completed by 31 March 2024.

What the fund cannot support

- Activity organised for party political, religious or charity fund-raising purposes.
- Higher education courses or the costs of attending training courses.
- Projects where the activity takes place in schools and is not open to the public.
- Capital schemes, though we may fund equipment purchase as part of a wider project.
- Applicants who previously failed to comply with Kent Arts Investment Fund grant conditions.
- Activity which has already taken place.
- We will not accept anything which conflicts with Kent County Council's policies.

Assessment criteria

1. Ideas and projects which will contribute to the sustainability of your organisation or practice by either helping adapt to your current situation or planning for the future. You may apply for R&D.
2. Ideas and projects that are led by a creative practitioner, artist, creative-led organisation or business and show a creative process.
3. Ideas and projects that help us to meet our ambition to champion diversity in how we consult, support and invest in the sector.
4. How your work delivers public benefit now or in the longer term.
5. The extent to which your project meets the ambitions of the [Kent Cultural Strategy](#)

Information we will look for in your application form

1. Tell us about your project. (Max 250 words)

- Please describe your project concisely.
- What are you hoping it will achieve?
- Does your project support increasing diversity across the sector?
- What is the public benefit either now or in the longer term?

2. Why is this grant important to you or your organisation? (Max 250 words)

- How will it help you to reset and adapt to the current environment?
- How will it help you to forward plan and develop your work to enable you to become more resilient?

Your proposal may address just one of the above, or both.

3. Tell us about your creative practice (Max 250 words)

- How will creatives lead your project or idea?
- Tell us about your creative process.
- How will the idea or project enable you to develop your own practice or that of your organisation?

4. How will people engage with your project? (Max 250 words)

- If your project engages people or has an audience, how will you make sure that you are inclusive and safe?

5. How will your project meet the aims of the Cultural Strategy? (Max 150 words)

- Be specific about which of the high level aims, create, innovate and sustain your project will deliver and how it will do this. You don't have to deliver all three.

6. Budget

Match funding is not required. We will look for evidence that the budget is realistic in relation to your proposals. Grants will be a maximum of £2,500.