



Funding Available to Arts and Heritage Organisations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This document details key emergency funding opportunities that have been announced to help arts and heritage organisations to respond to the impact of COVID-19 and ensure delivery of services to their beneficiaries. Information on changes that have been made to existing funding programmes by some important funders are also noted. All the funds here are either directed at the art and heritage sectors or will consider supporting organisations as part of a broader voluntary sector investment.

In addition to financial support, funders have announced several other support measures to help organisations during this time. This includes flexibility on grant conditions for existing grant-holders, accelerating and advancing grant payments and advice and mentorship. Information on this further support can be found by following the provided weblinks.

Arts Council England (ACE)

ACE has announced three funding programmes with a **COVID-19 Emergency Response** package to provide £160 million in financial support to help individuals and organisations in the cultural sector through the crisis. They have also changed the funding requirements for individuals and organisations currently in receipt of our funding. <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19>

Those wishing to apply to one of the available funding programmes will need to register with [ACE's Grantium application portal](#) asap:

- **National Portfolio Organisations** - £90 million will be made available to NPOs, geared towards supporting organisations to reboot their creative work, but also helping to alleviate financial pressures on NPOs. More details will be announced shortly.
- **Organisations outside of the National Portfolio** - £50 million will be made available to organisations that are not in receipt of regular funding from the Arts Council. Organisations with a track record in publicly funded culture will be able to apply for up to £35,000. [Two funding rounds in April 2020](#):
 - **Round 1:** Applications open on **9 April**. Applicants will need to register on Grantium by **13 April** in order to make an application before the deadline of **12pm (midday) 16 April**.
 - **Round 2:** Applications open on **16 April 2020**. Applicants will need to register on Grantium by **27 April** in order to make an application before the deadline of **30 April**.
- **Artists, creative practitioners and freelancers** - £20 million is being made available to individuals working in the cultural sector. Grants of up to £2,500 will be made to artists, creative practitioners and freelancers who have a track record in publicly funded culture. [Two funding rounds in April 2020](#)

Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland has launched three funding programmes designed to provide further support to sustain the country's creative community during the COVID-19 outbreak. For artists and organisations in Scotland. <https://www.creativescotland.com/what-we-do/latest-news/archive/2020/03/covid-19-impact-funds>

- A [Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund](#) will help sustain creative practice by freelance creative professionals who have lost earnings due to the cancelation of work as a result of COVID-19.
- A parallel [Screen Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund](#) will provide similar one-off bursary support to self-employed screen sector workers.
- The [Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#) will provide support for individuals and organisations to sustain their creative development in the coming months.

Arts Council of Wales

The Arts Council of Wales have announced the launch of a **Resilience Fund** to help the arts in Wales to protect themselves against the impact of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 crisis. This will include funding for individuals and organisations. **Further details on the fund's three programmes will be announced during April.** <https://arts.wales/funding/coronavirus>

- [Urgent Response Fund for Individuals](#) - For freelance artists and creative practitioners experiencing immediate financial difficulty due to Coronavirus. Grants of up to £2,500 are available. There are two rounds for applications. Application details **will be available on Thursday 9 April**. The fund opens for applications from:
 - **Tuesday 14 April until Monday 20 April 2020**
 - **Tuesday 28 April until Wednesday 6 May 2020**
- [Stabilisation Fund for Individuals](#) - For freelance artists and creative practitioners trying to survive the threat to their livelihoods caused by Coronavirus. **Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 are available.** The fund opens for applications from **29 May until 15 June 2020**.
- [Stabilisation Fund for Organisations](#) - For arts organisations working in the not-for-profit sector in Wales who are experiencing immediate financial difficulty due to Coronavirus. **Arts Portfolio Wales organisations and organisations outside the Portfolio will be able to apply for support.** The fund opens for applications from **21 April until 8 May 2020**.

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

A COVID-19 Creative Support Fund is in the planning stage, with a £1million commitment from Northern Ireland's government. Details will be announced soon. <http://artscouncil-ni.org/news/coronavirus-covid-19-advice>

National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)

The NLHF **Heritage Emergency Fund** has [grants of £3,000-£50,000 for heritage organisations](#) including historic sites, industrial and maritime heritage, museums, libraries and archives, parks and gardens, landscapes and nature. Past grantees of the NLHF can still apply and priority is given to organisations at risk of severe financial crisis due to COVID-19. <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/coronavirus-update>

NLHF have halted decisions on all £3,000 - £5million grants applications to their main grant programmes until at least Oct 2020. Existing Heritage Horizon Awards (£5million+) projects have been deferred until 2021/22, and there will be no further rounds.

Details of how to apply for the following funding opportunities will be released in the coming days:

- £50m [Heritage Emergency Fund](#) – short-term grants of £3,000-£50,000 over the next 3-6 month grants to help organisations stabilise operations, manage unforeseen risks and continue to deliver work. Applicants need to meet the following three criteria:
 - received funding in the past or are either a current grantee, or still under contract following a previous grant
 - limited or no access to other emergency initiatives from other funding bodies/Lottery Distributors
 - limited scope to repurpose existing funding for a project
- A select number of key strategic investments where heritage is identified as at greatest risk. It is expected that these interventions will be identified by the NLHF themselves.
- Acceleration of the £1.2m [Digital Skills for Heritage](#) initiative. The programme, launched in Feb as a digital skills and leadership initiative, is now stated to include support for organisations to run activities, reach audiences, engage volunteers, share content and fundraise online.
- **Enterprise Development Programme and Business Support Programme**, totalling £4million, to help heritage leaders with longer-term recovery. Further information to be published.

National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF)

The NLCF has up to £300m of National Lottery funding available for grants towards activities specifically geared to supporting communities through the crisis, as well as helping organisations overcome liquidity issues caused by COVID-19. <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/about/coronavirus-updates>

Applications should be made through their main grant programmes and priority will be given to organisations supporting people who are at high risk from COVID-19, those supporting communities most likely to face increased demand and challenges as a direct result of COVID-19, and organisations with high potential to support communities with the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19. Information on how to apply can be found here:

- [Grants under £10,000](#) – National Lottery Awards for All
- [Grants over £10,000](#) - various focused programmes specific to England, Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland

Community Foundations / National Emergencies Trust

Regional Community Foundations are already distributing funds raised through the National Emergencies Trust's Coronavirus Appeal, already standing at a combined £14million. Grants are going to charities and grassroots organisations. You can find your local Community Foundations here:

<https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-network>

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)

CAF has launched a rapid response fund to provide grants to help smaller charitable organisations (turnover under £1 million) affected by COVID-19. Grants of up to £10,000 will be provided to support day to day activities in the current crisis. <https://www.cafonline.org/charities/grantmaking/caf-coronavirus-emergency-fund>

Priority will be given to:

- Charities, and other organisations, whose established charitable activities are at risk of being severely reduced to the detriment of vulnerable groups
- Organisations that are having to deliver core services in fundamentally different or unusual ways in order to respond to the crisis and still reach their beneficiaries
- Organisations that are deeply embedded with communities and have established networks to deliver their charitable activities
- Organisations experiencing current cashflow problems, rather than concerns that future income will be reduced.

London Community Response Fund

A new fund created through significant donations from key city funders including the Greater London Authority, City Bridge Trust, John Lyon's Charity and Bloomberg, totalling £8million so far. Grants will be provided for legally charitable work that benefit Londoners in direct response to COVID-19. The first wave of funding will focus on urgent needs, though later funding will support organisations to deliver services in new ways to support communities, and to ensure that their longer-term needs are considered by the funding community. <https://londoncommunityresponsefund.org.uk>

- **Wave 1 Small Grants** is now open for applications. Grants of up to £5,000 will be made for urgent needs so that organisations can cover costs that they are incurring right now to support communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and the move to social distancing, with a focus on food and essentials. There is a rolling deadline and decisions are made on a weekly basis.
- **Wave 2** will be announced shortly.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Paul Hamlyn Foundation have announced a £20million Emergency Fund in addition to funding already granted through their main programmes for 2020/21. They will be focusing all their effort and resource from April to Autumn 2020 to ensure their current grantees and the communities they work with can survive the impact of COVID-19. Organisations that are awaiting a decision on applications will have those considered. All new applications will be paused until Autumn. <https://www.phf.org.uk/covid-19-support/>

Other General Voluntary Sector Support

Scotland's government has created a £20m Third Sector Resilience Fund, with both grants and interest free loans available. The fund is now open for applications [here](#).

Social Investment Scotland has launched a £2m [Credit Union Resilience Fund](#) to support credit unions with their working capital and liquidity.

The **Welsh government** has announced an initial fund of [£24m to support Wales' voluntary sector](#). There's also £18m to support the creative industries, culture and sport sectors, including a [£750k Emergency Relief Fund](#) to support small and vulnerable independent organisations.

The **Community Foundation Northern Ireland** is offering [grants of up to £2,500](#) to organisations in Northern Ireland supporting isolated older people.

M&S, Lidl, Aldi, Danone and Coca-Cola European Partners have partnered with **Neighbourly** to create the [Neighbourly Community Fund](#) to channel microgrants directly to community organisations helping those most at risk. For existing members of Neighbourly in UK and Ireland only.

The **John Lewis Partnership** has [announced a £1m Community Support Fund](#) to help communities across the UK to help those in need.

Grant Programmes on Hold / Diverting Funds to COVID-19 Relief

National Lottery Heritage Fund have halted decisions on all £3,000 - £5million grants applications to their main grant programmes until at least Oct 2020. Existing Heritage Horizon Awards (£5million+) projects have been deferred until 2021/22, and there will be no further rounds.

National Lottery Community Fund - all the funding decisions they make for the next six months (up to £300m of National Lottery funding) will be devoted to addressing the current crisis.

City Bridge Trust has diverted some of its funds and resource to COVID-19 response initiatives (see London Community Response Fund) and consequently have temporarily decided to close some of their grant programmes to new applicants. It is still accepting applications:

- For continuation funding of existing CBT grants
- To its **Small Grants** programme for grants of up to £10,000 to organisations with annual turnover of less than £100,000
- To its Stepping Stones social investment readiness programme

Bloomberg Philanthropies - the \$40 million Bloomberg Philanthropies Coronavirus Global Response Initiative will have a strong focus on African nations. <https://www.bloomberg.org/program/public-health/coronavirus-response/#coronavirus-global-response-initiative>

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch) - Grant programmes have been closed for some time as they prepare to refocus their giving on arts and mental health projects, with the new grants programme due to open later this year. They have recently issued visual guidance for cultural spaces to respond to their local homeless community and those facing food poverty. <https://gulbenkian.pt/uk-branch/cultural-spaces-responses-to-homeless-communities-during-covid-19/>

Paul Hamlyn Foundation - All new applications will be paused until Autumn.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - has closed to funding applications from organisations who are not already in their system. They are currently working to develop a set of emergency funding responses.

The Goldsmiths' Company Charity - Have temporarily closed both large and small grant applications as a result of an unprecedented level of applications in the last six months.

Counterculture can provide your organisation with a range of consultancy support to access emergency grant funding, and to develop and deliver post-COVID 19 fundraising plans. Information on our full range of services can be found here: <https://www.counterculturellp.com/services/fundraising/>. If you would like to discuss fundraising options that are tailored your current circumstances, please contact:

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