

**BCC Cultural Development Service commissioning**

**Cultural Connections: Shared Prosperity Fund 2023 – 2024**

**Expression of Interest form for £5,000**

**DEADLINE: Thursday 1st June 2023 at 5pm**

**PLEASE RETURN TO** [**Art.Grants@birmingham.gov.uk**](mailto:Art.Grants@birmingham.gov.uk)

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is a central pillar of the UK government’s Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. For more information, [visit the government’s website](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/).

Birmingham City Council has been allocated a proportion of funding from the SPF. We have chosen to invest in support for local arts, cultural, and creative activities within the city to align with SPF Objective E6, under our heading ‘Cultural Connections’.

This Expression of Interest (EoI) form should be completed by cultural organisations looking to either:

* Strengthen their connections to their local communities, or
* Build new connections in areas with little or no cultural activity.

**Please note that the initial feasibility stage is not about delivering an event or activity but to prepare the groundwork for those activities to take place.**

By completing this form, you are entering into a competitive process to access SPF money. Successful EoI applicants will be awarded an initial £5,000 feasibility funding to develop and refine their cultural connections proposal with an anticipated full project cost of between £20,000 to £30,000.

Through this commissioning, £396k SPF funding is available in 2023/24 with the potential for another £396k in 2024/25. We are looking for projects that have the scope to apply for investment in both financial years, with the aim of creating a long-term relationship within the chosen locality beyond SPF funding.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete the EoI below and return it to Art.Grants [art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk) by 5pm on 1st June 2023.

**Cultural Connections Expression of Interest form**

**Your organisation or group**

| **Name of group/organisation**  If applying as a consortium, please insert the name of the accountable organisation here |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Address** |  |
| **Ward(s)/areas in Birmingham you will be working in** |  |
| **Lead contact name** |  |
| **Lead contact number** |  |
| **Lead contact email address** |  |
| **Type of organisation** |  |

# **Your proposal**

Please provide a summary of the project you would like to develop with this £5,000 feasibility funding.

| **Proposal title** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Proposal summary (no more than 150 words)** |  |
| **Where will your activity take place**  [Find your ward | Birmingham City Council](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/wardlookup) | Constituency  Ward |

|  |
| --- |
| **If applying as a consortium, please list your consortium partners here, or potential partners if not yet confirmed.** |
|  |
| **Tell us what you would like to do, where, with whom and why.**  At this stage include the partners and communities you would like to work with even if not confirmed as well as your cultural connections proposal idea. |
|  |
| **Why is this investment important to you, this location and/or community?**  What difference will it make in the long term and to whom? |
|  |
| **Tell us about your organisation or consortium, particularly in relation to any previous project management of a similar scale.** |
|  |

# **Feasibility key activities**

Please provide a list of key activities that will assist you in developing your proposal. These activities are solely in relation to the feasibility stage of your project development and not for the delivery of your final project. You may add more rows to the table, if needed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Activity** |
| Feasibility start date 1st July 2023 |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 1st September 2023 | Full cultural connectivity projects to be submitted by organisation / consortium  BCC to review against SPF criteria and work with organisations / consortiums as required |
| Feasibility development deadline and full project start date  1st October 2023 | Funding payment release for phase 1 delivery |

# **Feasibility costs**

Please provide an indicative breakdown of how the £5,000 feasibility funding may be spent. You may add more rows to the table, if needed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Budget heading** | **Amount** |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
| **Total amount requested** | £5,000 |

| **Total feasibility cost** | £ |
| --- | --- |

|  |
| --- |
| **If the total cost of the feasibility stage is higher than the amount requested, please detail where the remaining funds will come from and if this has already been secured.** |
|  |

# **Aims of the Fund**

This fund is designed to develop the potential for cultural activities to take place in areas where nothing exists and/or to strengthen cultural infrastructure and activities where something already exists. Please tick which of the following best describes your proposed activity **(you can tick both if applicable):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Aim** | **Applies to my organisation** |
| Support/create local facilities (where activities take place / access to places and spaces / sharing of resources etc.) | ☐ |
| Create/enhance cultural assets (organisations / individuals / audiences / collaborative networks / training / sharing knowledge etc.) | ☐ |

|  |
| --- |
| **Any other information you think would be useful to support your EoI.** Provide any further information you feel is relevant to support the proposal at this stage. |
|  |

**---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**For information only at this stage**

**If successful,** your project will need to meet one or more of the following outcomes and have the tools in place to measure them. This will be developed as part of your feasibility stage and is **for awareness only at EoI** stage.

* Jobs created (numerical value)
* Jobs safeguarded (numerical value)
* Increased footfall (% increase)
* Increased visitor numbers (% increase)
* Improved perception of facilities/amenities (% increase)
* Improved engagement numbers (% increase)
* Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support (numerical value)

# **Supporting documentation**

If you are successful in securing funding, you will be required to provide supporting documentation. The main supporting documentation we check is listed below, please tick which documents you currently have in place.

Please note, if you do not have the following documents, this will not stop you from securing funding. We can signpost to support to develop the documents listed.

| Governing document |  | Group bank account |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Health and Safety policy |  | Safeguarding policy |  |
| Relevant insurance in place |  |  |  |

**---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Declaration**

Birmingham City Council is committed to being open and transparent about decisions which affect Birmingham Citizens. Details of grant payments to voluntary and community sector organisations are published on the Council’s website. By submitting this EoI, you are agreeing that your details may be published.

# **EoI form Declaration**

I confirm that:

* The information provided in this Expression of Interest is correct and complete.
* If the EoI is approved, I will complete a full application to develop the proposal as described in this EoI.
* I am authorised to sign and submit this application for grant funding on behalf of the organisation.

This section must be signed by the person who completed this form, on behalf of the organisation applying.

**Form completed by:**

| **Name** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role** |  |
| **Signature** |  |
| **Date** |  |