

Get Creative Grants 2024

Applicant Information and Guidance

**The deadline for applications is
12 noon on Monday 24 June 2024**

We are delighted to announce that Birmingham City Council's Cultural Development Service has been awarded money as part of the West Midlands Combined Authority's and HM Government's Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund to deliver a grants programme.

This funding will enable us to support a range of creative projects across Birmingham amplifying the positive impact of Birmingham 2022.

If you are a Birmingham arts organisation or group, then we want to hear from you!

Information, Advice and Guidance

Our friendly team will be offering individual advice sessions to give applicants the best possible chance of success.

To register your interest in this grants programme, email us at art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk. Write 'Get Creative Grants' in the subject field.

We will send you the application form (Microsoft word document) along with registration details for the upcoming free one-to-one advice sessions.

Access Support

We want to make sure everyone can apply for our funding.

If you need any of this information in a different format or have any questions, please email art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk

We will be happy to help you.

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ABOUT THE GET CREATIVE GRANTS PROGRAMME

We want to hear from Birmingham arts organisations and groups that could use our **Get Creative** grant funding to deliver creative projects, driven by the passions and interests of the people who live in your community.

A total of £100,000 is available to support **Get Creative** projects during 2024.

We are interested in creative projects which will:

- Tell unheard histories of Birmingham residents
- Celebrate Birmingham's diversity
- Support underrepresented voices (this includes d/Deaf, disability or neurodivergent communities; Asian, Black and minority ethnic communities; LGBTQIA+ communities)
- Actively involve children and young people (under 18 years)
- Help to strengthen the identity of individual neighbourhoods
- Connect different communities, practically or socially

Projects must engage people living in Birmingham in one or more of the following creative disciplines:

- Arts, including performing arts, theatre, music, dance, circus
- Arts, including visual arts, photography, craft, digital art, and any type of artistic creation
- Literature, including spoken word, poetry, creative writing
- Combined arts - including festivals and carnivals
- Creative Health (non-statutory)
- Socially engaged practice, including community and participatory creative activities

We understand that creative projects may span a range of disciplines, and the proposed activity may not clearly fall into just one of the disciplines above.

Grant Amounts

Applicants can apply for small revenue grants between £5,000 and £20,000

In total this programme will distribute £100,000. The programme aims to make between Five and Twenty awards.

This programme can only support projects in locations with a **Birmingham City Council postcode**.

You do not need to have any match funding or in-kind contributions to apply for **Get Creative** Grant Funding.

Projects we can support:

- New creative projects

- A new version of a creative project which has happened before
- Existing creative projects (as long as there is no double funding, the grant can be separately monitored and reported, and the project meets the funding criteria)

The **Get Creative** grant funding can only support revenue project activities.

All projects must:

- Have a start and end date with clear things you want to achieve in that time
- Be created by professional artists (or creative practitioners) working together with local people as active participants
- Be located in places and spaces relevant to the people taking part
- Encourage everyone taking part to express themselves and contribute their own ideas
- Make room for participants to influence and shape the content, responding to everyone's thoughts
- Offer ways for people to experience or take part in creativity
- Share and celebrate the creativity of the people taking part (eg. through a final performance or exhibition)

Professional artists (or creative practitioners) are people who are working (or aspiring to work) independently or freelance in the arts; this can be any artform e.g. visual arts, dance, performance etc.

There are lots of ways local participants might work with professional artists (or creative practitioners) in your project.

Sometimes one artist might bring an overall idea but make space for the participants to get creative by contributing their ideas and skills during the process. Sometimes the participants and professionals will just get together in a creative space without a fixed plan, letting each person's skills and ideas come together to create an artwork with no single author.

It's up to you what will work best in your neighbourhood.

WHO CAN APPLY?

If you are a Birmingham arts organisation or group, then we want to hear from you!

This funding is only open to Birmingham arts organisations and groups. This is because Birmingham City Council's Cultural Development Service wants to support the work of Birmingham arts organisations and groups.

An arts organisation or group is an organisation or group set up to champion, develop and deliver artistic and creative experiences to enrich people's lives; this can be any artform e.g. visual arts, dance, performance etc

Only organisations and groups registered at an address with a Birmingham City Council postcode can apply. [Before applying, please double check that your organisation's registered address has a Birmingham City Council postcode by visiting http://www.gov.uk/find-local-council](http://www.gov.uk/find-local-council)

Your arts organisation or group can be:

- A registered charity
- A Community Interest Company (CIC)
- A charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- A limited company with a not-for-profit constitution
- An unincorporated association with a not-for-profit constitution

Your arts organisation or group must have:

- A signed governing document (Constitution or Articles of Association e.g. set of rules showing the organisation/group is not-for-profit)
- A committee or board with at least three unrelated members
- A bank account in the name of your organisation/group which requires two signatories/dual authorisation
- Experience in engaging Birmingham communities

We will ask you to provide a copy of your most recent annual accounts and balance sheet or a copy of your cashflow statement with your application. New arts organisations and groups constituted in the last 12 months or without a full year's accounts can apply.

The following are not able to apply but could work closely with eligible applicants as part of a project:

- Organisations and groups not specifically set-up to champion, develop and deliver artistic and creative experiences
- National organisations (including those with a Birmingham office or base)
- Organisations focused on making profits and sharing these profits privately
- Individuals or sole traders
- Organisations and groups registered outside the Birmingham City Council's area

If you have any questions about this, please email art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk

Collective Applications

We welcome applications from groups of organisations and/or groups who want to work together as a collective to make the project happen (these are sometimes called Consortia).

Collective applications must be led by one organisation or group which is eligible to apply for the grant funding. Applying as part of a collective of organisations with a

shared purpose might be a way in which a new or small group can grow the ambition of its work.

Applications must show us:

- Your ability to manage budgets
- That you are paying people fairly and valuing your own working time
- That you want to support the wellbeing of the participants and professionals working on your project
- That you have planned your project in a way that makes it possible for lots of different people to take part (so it is “Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive”)
- That you have tried to make your project as environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly as possible

The Professional artists (or creative practitioners) working on your project must be paid fairly. Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. They have a useful [Fair Pay information sheet](#) for Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant applicants.

The people working on your project must not be paid below [the Birmingham Living Wage](#).

You cannot apply for

- Projects that take place outside of the Birmingham City Council area
- Ongoing overheads or running costs outside of your project timeline
- Purchasing capital items – this includes equipment or assets which would have both a cash value and use after the project ends
- Activities or services that have already taken place or will take place before we can make a decision on your application
- Cash prizes and re-granting
- Projects that make a profit - Your project will not be eligible if your project budget includes surplus income that is not being spent within the project.
- Fundraising and donations
- Political or religious activities

DATES

You must send us your application before **12 noon on Monday 24th June 2024**. We will let you know the decision by Friday 19th July 2024.

Project delivery can't start until the grant award agreement is signed; we recommend allowing two weeks for this to happen. **Project delivery can start from Friday 31st July 2024**

All evaluation and reporting must be completed and sent to us **before 31st December 2024**.

HOW WILL WE CHOOSE WHICH PROJECTS WE GIVE GRANTS TO?

Marking

- We will check that your arts organisation or group is eligible to apply.
- We will check that your project activities are eligible for this grant programme
- We will judge how well your project will achieve the programme outcomes and outputs

Discussion

A group of people will then look at all of the marking together, discussing whether it is fair, and challenge it if needed. They will identify helpful connections between projects and agree the final funding recommendations between them.

This process will help us make sure communities are being fairly served and that funding is being granted in a way that benefits the most people.

The recommendations will be scrutinised by the Head of Birmingham City Council's Cultural Development Service.

If we decide not to fund your application, we will write to you to let you know. We will explain our decision and offer you a feedback session with a culture officer.

Award

If you are successful, we will send you an offer letter and the Conditions of Grant Aid. The Conditions of Grant Aid need to be signed by your organisation and Birmingham City Council; we recommend allowing two weeks for this to happen.

Project delivery can't start until the grant award agreement is signed.

Programme Outcomes and Outputs

Outcomes

As a result of this grants programme, we want:

- To support safe cultural spaces and local creative communities across Birmingham
- Birmingham's diversity to be celebrated in the organisations/groups supported and in the creative projects and artworks they produce.
- A wide range of communities, including those where it's often more difficult for local people to access creative activities, to take part in cultural activity that they have influenced, in their local neighbourhood.
- Communities to realise the benefits of culture (wellbeing, quality of life, cohesion)
- People to have even more reason to feel proud of the area where they live

Outputs

As a result of this grants programme, we want:

- More than 150 participants of all ages engaged in creative projects in their local area and realising creative ideas
- More than 12 events, exhibitions and performances as a result of creative projects
- More than 250 attendances of projects as audience members
- More than 60 days of employment for artists and creatives living in Birmingham

HOW TO APPLY

Our friendly team will be offering individual advice sessions to give applicants the best possible chance of success.

To apply for Get Creative grant funding you will need to register your interest by emailing art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk. Write 'Get Creative Grants' in the subject field.

We will send you the application form (Microsoft word document) along with registration details for the upcoming free one-to-one advice sessions.

The application form has four main sections:

1. About Your Arts Organisation or Group
2. About Your Creative Project
3. Supporting Documents and Information
4. Application Declaration

You will need to email your completed application form and supporting documents to art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk before the funding deadline: **12 noon on Monday 24 June 2024**

Access Support

We want to make sure everyone can apply for our funding.

If you need any of this information in a different format or have any questions, please email art.grants@birmingham.gov.uk

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GET CREATIVE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Alongside the **Get Creative** Grants Programme we will be delivering a support programme for creative practitioners, facilitators, managers, project organisers and communicators within arts communities.

Successful **Get Creative** applicants will be asked to identify an individual to benefit from the support programme.

Who is this support programme for?

The programme is for creative practitioners, facilitators, managers, project organisers and communicators within arts communities.

Specifically people managing the development of creative projects from conception to completion, ensuring that they are delivered on time, within budget, and to the highest standards.

Some creative practitioners, facilitators, managers, project organisers and communicators within arts communities stay within one artform or sector, others use their core skills in a range of different artforms or sectors.

This support programme will:

- Engage creative practitioners, facilitators, managers, project organisers and communicators living in Birmingham and at all stages of their career wanting to further develop their producing experience and knowledge
- Focus on engaging creative practitioners, facilitators, managers, project organisers and communicators working on real-time projects funded through the **Get Creative** grants programme
- Provide skills development and support sessions
- Support creative leaders and producers to identify and apply for funding to support their proposals for creative activities, projects and programmes

As a result of this support programme we want to:

- Enable practitioners, facilitators, managers, project organisers and communicators within arts communities to become active and influential within other communities of which they are also members.
- Nurture the aspirations and talents of Birmingham artists and creatives to allow them to reach their full creative potential as part of a vibrant and successful creativity economy in the city.
- Increase capacity and skills at a grassroots level to lead community creative engagement, co-creation and accessing resources for the delivery of creative activities, projects and programmes.