



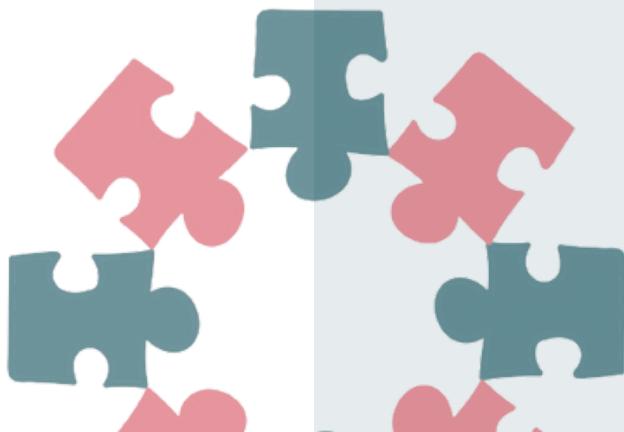
2025

Meet The Funders

TOOLKIT

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About Meet The Funders

At Arts Lancashire, we believe that culture - in all its forms - has a transformative power. A power that will help to unlock the potential of the people and places across our county and help them to thrive.

Meet The Funders is open to people, groups and organisations who create contemporary or community arts and culture programmes and activities in Lancashire, who want to:

- create great art and high quality cultural experiences in Lancashire
- build a sense of pride, belonging and resilience in Lancashire communities
- help create distinctive places and experiences in the county
- encourage people to visit Lancashire.

This toolkit has been created as an extra resource to help you identify the right funder for your project ideas and determine how your project can connect with the vision for Lancashire. We hope you find it useful.

Get in touch!

Arts Lancashire. C/O Burnley
📍 Mechanics Theatre, Manchester
Road, Burnley, BB11 1BH

✉️ artslancashire@gmail.com

👉 artslancashire.org.uk

LinkedIn icon [@Arts-Lancashire](#)



Support For The Arts in Lancashire

Below is a list of the key organisations, networks and services who work across Lancashire to support the sector and the development of arts and culture across Lancashire.



1

Arts Lancashire

Arts Lancashire is the strategic voice for the county's independent arts and culture sector; a sector of 1,255 experienced arts professionals across 255 businesses, including eighteen National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs), two Creative People and Places Projects (CPPs), a Regional Music Hub, a Rural Touring Network, and thousands of freelance artists and producers.

> artslancashire.org.uk

2

Lancashire Music Association

The Lancashire Music Association (LMA) is an independent, not-for-profit, democratically run association created to connect, support and represent the interests of Lancashire's music people, businesses, and scenes.

The LMA is for any, and all music stakeholders in, or from the county, including those working on public domain music and related activities, professionals, semi-professionals, anyone intending to develop a sustainable career in the music industry, and people operating within our music eco systems, including educators, and other trade associations.

> lancashiremusic.org



3

Creative Lancashire

Creative Lancashire is dedicated to helping raise the profile of Lancashire's creative talent and to harnessing the economic potential in companies and organisations working in the creative sector.

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Creative Lancashire is here to strengthen existing businesses, support new enterprises and to raise the competitiveness and profile of the creative and digital sector in Lancashire. The team have the expertise, contacts and drive to help you achieve your potential.

They do this by:

- Advocating for creativity & design
- Building collaborations & networking opportunities
- Offering creative & digital business advice
- Providing information on finance, funding & growth

> [Read Lancashire Cultural Investment Strategy](#)

> [creativelancashire.org](#)

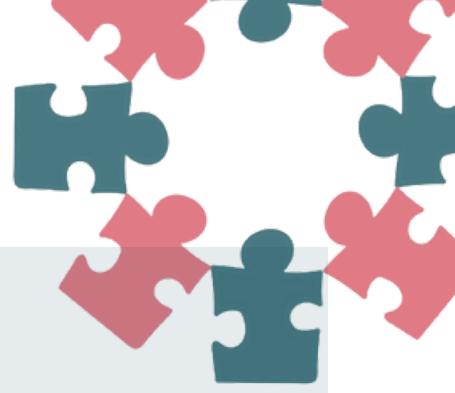
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Lancashire Music Hub

Lancashire Music Hub is a network of people and organisations, working together to champion music education and make sure that all children and young people in the County get access to music making and learning that's right for them.

It's led by [Lancashire Music Service](#), the County Councils music education service working with core partners [More Music](#), a leading community music organisation based in Morecambe, and [Charanga](#), award-winning developers of online music education resources.

> [lancashiremusichub.co.uk](#)



5

Lancashire Museums

Lancashire County Council Museum Service is currently responsible for 8 sites which are listed buildings, 2 reserve collection stores and workshops and one site which is used for educational purposes. Two further sites contain museum collections of significance to Lancashire's heritage and its in-house **Lancashire Conservation Studios & Collections** service provides specialist conservation, technical and design services which supports both the County Council's museums and other museums, heritage bodies, and private individuals through the provision of practical, preventative conservation as well as workforce development and training for staff and volunteers.

> lancashire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums

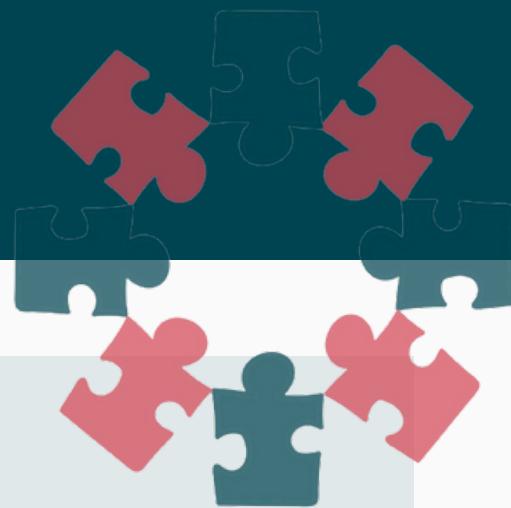
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CVAN North By North West

North by NorthWest (NbyNW) is a consortium of organisations in Lancashire and Cumbria who are passionate about the contemporary visual arts. Through the work of the member organisations, NbyNW engages with the Contemporary Visual Arts Network at a national level to help deliver the mission, vision and values of the wider network.

> cvan.org.uk/north-by-north-west

National Funders



Arts Council England

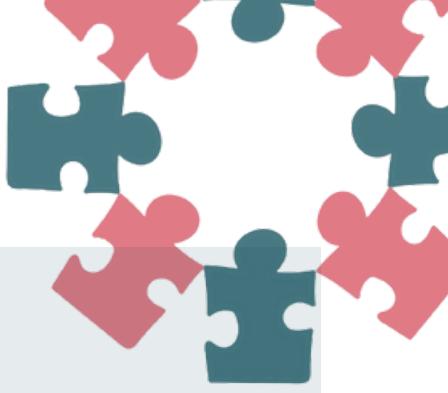
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Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. They distribute funding to individuals, arts organisations, libraries, and museums through Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants up to £100,000 and for individual artists through Arts Council England Research & Development For Individuals Fund up to £30,000.

The ACE Project Grant programme is open all year round. The Research & Development For Individuals Fund is a time-limited priority. This opportunity will close at midday, Thursday 26 February 2026. Their Developing Your Creative Practice Grant Fund is currently paused until April 2026.

These funding programmes set out to achieve ACE's mission, 'great art and culture for everyone'.

- > [Read about Project Grants](#)
- > [Read about Research & Development For Individuals Grants](#)
- > [Read about Developing Your Creative Practice Grants](#)
- > [Read Let's Create](#)
- > arts council.org.uk



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- > [Read about Developing Your Creative Practice Grants](#)
- > [Read Let's Create](#)
- > arts council.org.uk

The National Lottery Heritage Fund



The Heritage Fund wants to encourage community and voluntary organisations to develop their own heritage projects. Exploring heritage can provide opportunities to unlock wider benefits for individuals and communities, such as improved wellbeing, providing skill development opportunities and creating great places to live and work.

With this in mind, the Heritage Fund is currently prioritising heritage projects that meet at least one or more of the following outcomes:

- A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (This is a mandatory outcome - every project we fund must achieve our mandatory outcome as a minimum.)
- people will have greater wellbeing
- people will have developed skills
- the local area will be a better place to live, work or visit
- the local economy will be boosted
- the funded organisation will be more resilient

National Lottery Grants for Heritage is their open programme for all types of heritage projects in the UK and awards range from £3k - £5 Million. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations.

Organisations can access advice and support from the Heritage Fund's Engagement Team in the North dependant on the level of funding they wish to apply for.

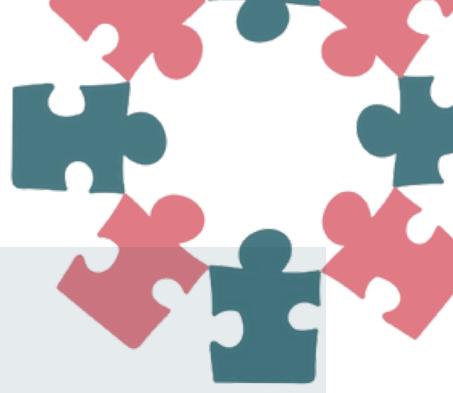
For grants of between £3k - £250k book onto a 'Helping you apply' webinar here.

These free online sessions will include the following:

- How heritage can be used to transform places and change lives.
- What a well-planned project looks like.
- How to write a strong funding application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- The opportunity to share your project ideas and ask any questions you may have.

For medium grants of between £10k - £250k submit a Project Enquiry via their application portal. You will be contacted within 10 days by an Engagement Manager who can offer bespoke advice and guidance. This does not form part of the formal application process.

For large grants of between £250k - £5m you must submit an Expression of Interest via their application portal. This is a compulsory competitive step, so make sure your project is well thought through, evidences need and demand, particularly from a wider range of people and meets one or more of our priority outcomes.



3

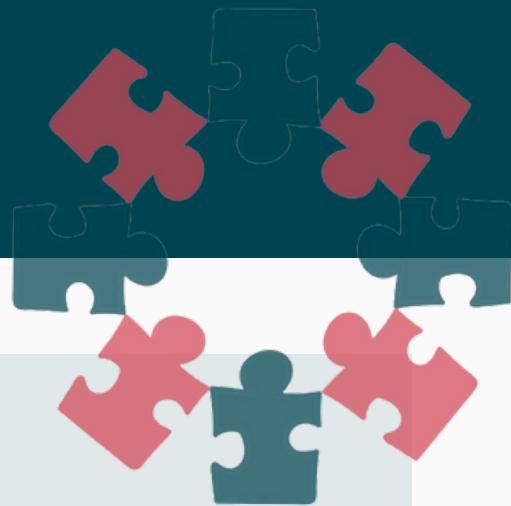
The National Lottery Community Fund

The National Lottery Community Fund gives grants to organisations in the UK to help improve their communities. They're the largest single source of funding for community activities in the UK. National Lottery players contribute around £30 million to good causes every week.

The National Lottery Community Fund distributes around £600m a year to communities across the UK for projects that support communities to come together, to be environmentally sustainable, to help children and young people thrive and to enable people to live healthier lives. Grant programmes are open all year round.

- > [View the presentation](#)
 - > tnlcommunityfund.org.uk
 - > Northwestteam@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

National Funders



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Comic Relief and Sport Relief

Comic Relief and Sport Relief helps projects throughout the UK and the rest of the world by supporting intermediary organisations

comicrelief.com

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Children In Need

Grants available for: projects supporting disadvantaged children and young people
Size of grants: Up to £40,000 per year over 1-3 years (overall maximum £120,000) and core costs to support the organisations running and operational costs. Burnley and Pendle in Lancashire are listed as areas of geographic interest to Children In Need.
Next deadline: no deadlines.

bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants

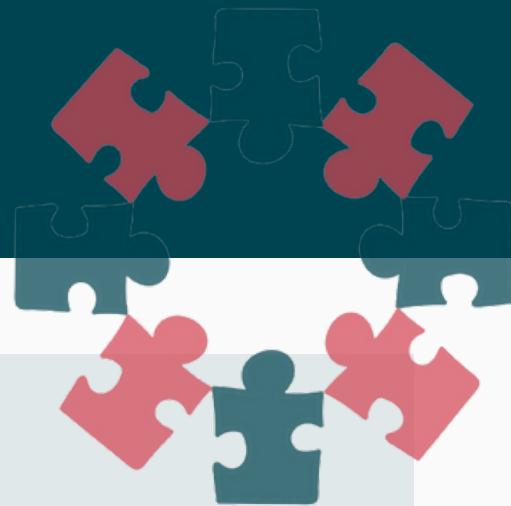
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Community Ownership Fund

Capital grants up to £250k; revenue grants up to £50k for community organisations to take sustainable ownership of community assets e.g. community buildings, community shops, parks at risk of being lost.

gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fundprospectus/community-ownership-fund-prospectus

Regional Funders



Crowdfund Lancashire

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Crowdfund Lancashire gives local communities a chance to create and support the projects which matter most to them. It enables everyone to contribute towards their community – chipping in as little as £2 to help bring ideas to life. Crowdfund Lancashire is working in partnership with Spacehive, the UK's leading community crowdfunding platform, to create, fund and deliver your project idea through the annual Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund. Organisations could get up to £20,000 to boost projects towards their funding target. Parish and Town Councils can take part too, with up to £5,000 available. Individuals with ideas and businesses who want to benefit their community could get £1,500 towards their live crowdfunding campaigns. Round 2 of Crowdfund Lancashire is now open and will close on Tuesday 18 July 2023.

- > [View the presentation](#)
- > [View the guidance notes](#)
- > [View the round 2 eligibility criteria](#)
- > [Visit Crowdfund Lancashire](#)



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Community Foundation For Lancashire

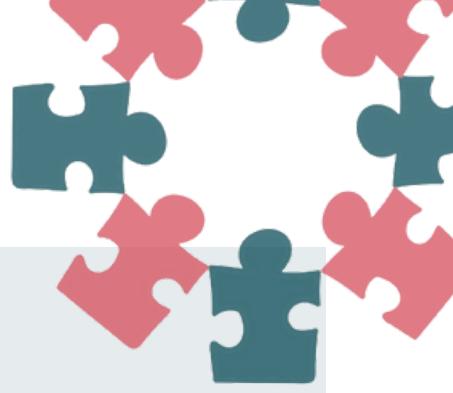
An independent charity that promotes local giving to address local disadvantage through range of different funds.

Since 2007, they have distributed in excess of £16 million to charities and community groups in Lancashire, including lesser-known charities operating at a grassroots level; ensuring charitable awards create lasting change.

lancsfoundation.org.uk

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Lancashire County Council Local Member Grants Scheme



Lancashire County Council's Local Member Grants Scheme helps Lancashire county councillors to support the vital work of voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) groups.

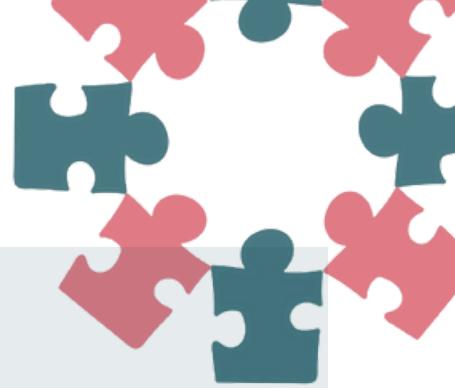
The grants can be used to fund projects that will directly benefit the community, from gardening workshops and knit and natter sessions, to football activities to help young people stay active.

Groups can apply for a grant, and their local county councillor will decide which applications are accepted and award a grant from their own budget.

The annual Local Member Grant budget for each county councillor will be £2,000 for each financial year. For the 2023/2024 financial year, an additional £500 has been given to each councillor in celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Please note that this extra funding is not restricted to funding events or activities directly related to the coronation.

lancashire.gov.uk/council/grants/local-member-grants-scheme

The Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund



The Fund is a Registered Charity established in 1993 with The late Queen's consent to benefit a wide range of causes throughout the County Palatine of Lancaster – in effect, the three counties of Lancashire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside.

In Lancashire, the Fund is administered from the Lieutenancy Office in County Hall, Preston to which **all applications should be made by letter on the letterhead of the organisation**. Generally, applications are considered at the end of the month in which they are received.

The Fund's current practice in Lancashire is to make one-off grants to help with specific needs of individuals, organisations and voluntary groups throughout the community for purposes for which statutory funding is not available. For example grants to groups and organisations may be made for the provision of equipment or the refurbishment of premises but are not normally given to support running costs. Repeat grants will not be given to the same organisation for at least three years. Normally, grants are of modest amounts, typically, less than £500.

Grants are not available for the following:

- i) *Uniformed Youth Groups (eg Scouts/Guides/Cadets)
- ii) Schools
- iii) Animal Welfare Charities
- iv) Hardship
- v) General Appeals
- vi) For work under the Disability Discrimination Act (or for similar purposes)
- vii) For Further or Higher Education
- viii) *Sports Clubs
- ix) Theatre Arts Training

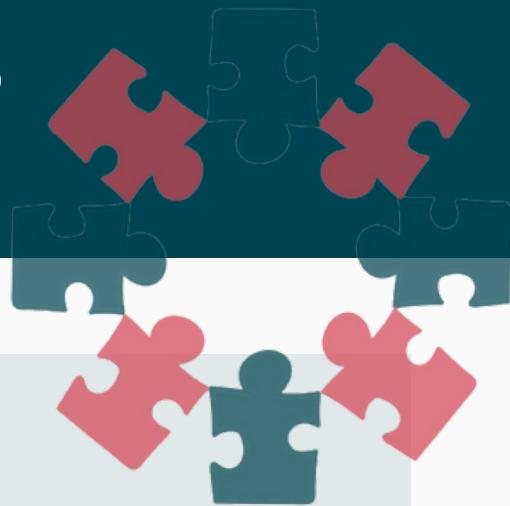
*To be determined on a case-by-case basis - would be considered more favourably that if a grant was awarded, it would also provide a strong community benefit.

All decisions on applications are entirely at the discretion of the Fund and the Fund is unable to enter into any correspondence in connection with an unsuccessful application.

Apply To: The Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund, Lancashire Lieutenancy Office, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire. PR1 8XJ

duchyoflancaster.co.uk | lieutenancy@lancashire.gov.uk

Trusts & Foundations



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The Wolfson Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation want to contribute to the health, resilience and variety of our society. Most of their grants are for capital infrastructure — buildings (new build and refurbishments) and equipment. They also provide education and research grants for individuals. These programmes are administered and/or co-funded by partner organisations with the fundamental aim of improving the civic health of society, mainly through education and research, and supporting excellence in the fields of education, science and medicine, health and disability, humanities and the arts.

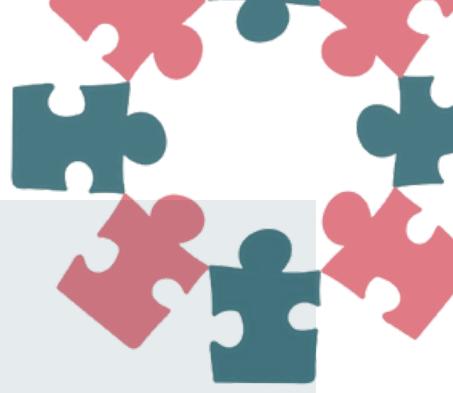
They often make grants to act as a catalyst to generate more support and help to attract funding to areas that may otherwise be under-resourced. They are keen to encourage applications from parts of the UK where we have traditionally received fewer applications or where there are few other sources of funding.

Their decision-making is rigorous and grants are awarded based on expert peer review. However, they run a relatively light-touch application process which allows you to present ideas in a way that brings your project to life. You don't need to be a large or well-known organisation to apply. They are always happy to discuss questions during the application process. All applications receive a formal response.

Before you apply for funding, please [check the types of places The Wolfson Foundation funds](#) and their specific funding criteria.

Get in touch to check if your organisation is eligible for funding.

wolffson.org.uk/ | grants@wolffson.org.uk



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The Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded, charitable grant-making foundation, which supports a wide range of causes across the UK, donating over £80 million annually. It was established in 1958 by the Weston family and is one of the largest and most respected charitable institutions in the UK which has donated over £1 billion in total.

garfieldweston.org

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The Bernard Sunley Foundation

The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation is an independent grant-making charity. Funds are given to charities registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. They can help fund new buildings, new minibuses, church projects, hospices, museums, galleries. Grants are awarded to those specifically applying for assistance towards capital projects. Grants are from £1,000 upwards and the majority of grants awarded are under £5,000.

bernardsunley.org

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The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. It aims to build an inclusive, creative and sustainable society through supporting work that focuses on the Arts, Children and Young People, the Environment, Food and Social Change through grants and social investments.

esmefairbairn.org.uk

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The Yapp Charitable Trust

The Yapp Charitable Trust offers grants to small registered charities with a total annual expenditure of less than £40,000 for running costs and salaries. Grants are at a maximum of £3,000 per year, for up to three years.

yappcharitabletrust.org.uk



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Salamander Charitable Trust

Salamander Charitable Trust

Salamander Charitable Trust aims to protect, promote and enhance the health and rights of people marginalised by societies worldwide as a result of their gender, HIV status or sexual and reproductive health issues.

salamandertrust.net

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The Fort Foundation

Menibus tortor sed odio labore et volutpat. Aenean nibh lectus, fermentum eget nisl a, laoreet mattis nulla. Maecenas volutpat vitae tortor pharetra venenatis. Suspendisse quis est a enim vehicula commodo. Grants of variable sizes to registered charities in England and Wales working in the areas of amateur sport, arts and culture, citizenship, community, education, environment, health and religion. Applications may be made at any time in writing.

Contact: The Donating Charity Limited, 121 Princes Park Avenue, London, NW11 0JS

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The Eric Charles Charitable Trust

Interests: grants averaging £4,000 for UK registered charities working in the UK and overseas in the areas of arts, community, culture, education, healthcare, overseas aid and religion.

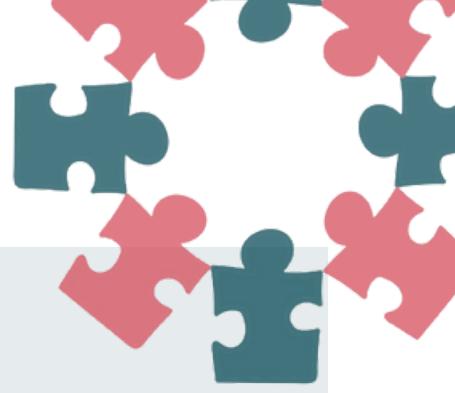
Contact: Henry Charles, The Eric Charles Charitable Trust, 38 Chester Close, North London, NW1 4JE. Tel: 0207 304 2000 Email: henry.charles@citroenwells.co.uk

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Trust House Charitable Foundation

Grants available for: Small charities and not-for-profit organisations with incomes under £250,000, working in rural areas or areas of urban deprivation to fund community support work which addresses the challenges of local communities in areas of extreme deprivation. They have a preference for front line organisations working directly with people in need. Size of grants given: £2,000-£10,000 for one year.

trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk/our-grants



6

My Funding Central

My Funding Central from Idox helps charities, voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises identify funding opportunities through their affordable online search tool. It provides intuitive search functionality and easy access to thousands of grants and social investment opportunities from local, national and international funding sources – all in one place. Verifying and reporting daily on thousands of funding sources including charitable trusts, societies, research councils, national government, the EU and corporate sponsors. My Funding Central has strong relationships with funding administrators and policy managers to share advanced knowledge of new funding policies and opportunities.

> [View an overview of My Funding Central](#)

> [View the presentation](#)

> [myfundingcentral.co.uk](#)

6

Arts Funded

Arts Funded is a custom-built ai system, designed from the ground up only for arts funding, not a general chatbot. It turns your project ideas, notes, and plans, into a full, funder-ready draft in around 10 minutes, including:

- A smart questionnaire that captures your project in your own voice
- A built-in review tool that checks your answers and flags what funders look for
- Automated research reports using verified, peer-reviewed, open-source data (ONS, DCMS, and more – all linked so you can check sources yourself)
- Funder-specific models, trained on real successful applications and official guidance – not the public internet
- Closed-loop encryption – your data is private, never reused, and automatically deleted after 30 days

Think of it as having a professional fundraiser in your pocket – reviewing, researching, and writing with you.

> [artsgrantguru.com](#)

Top Tips

Check for fit and eligibility

Always check that you are eligible for the funds you want to apply for and that the key themes and priorities of the funding programme align with the objectives and themes of your proposed project before you write a bid application. This will ensure you focus your time and efforts on funds/funders where there is the best chance of success.

Do your research

It's wise to research what your preferred funders have invested in previously and who they have invested in, in your area. If funders have already invested a considerable sum in supporting those you currently work with, or in the locations where you deliver, they may not want to invest any more.

Access free help and advice on making a funding application

Potential grant funding opportunities and help and advice on making a funding application can now be accessed on the new, free-to-use Lancashire County Council 4 Community online search tool. To register and find out more, please visit [Lancashire County Council 4 Community](#).

Evaluation criteria

Before you begin writing your application, make sure you read the evaluation criteria set out by the funder. What criteria will they be assessing your application against? What do they want to hear? To maximise your chance of success, make sure your application speaks to this criteria directly.

Provide context and evidence

Including relevant statistics to help evidence the need for your project will strengthen your application. This might also mean consulting the people who will benefit from your project before you apply and involving them in the planning stage of your project. For additional information on local statistics to support your application visit [Lancashire Insight](#).

Start with your budget

When writing your application, it can be helpful to start with your budget first. This will help you to determine whether the grant amount you are requesting will realistically enable you to deliver the project in the way that you want, or whether you need to ask for more. Don't underestimate. List everything that you will need

(continued on next page)

Top Tips

Start with your budget

(continued from previous page)

to do (labour time) and need to purchase (physical resources). Remember the hidden costs - insurance, travel, volunteer expenses, stationery etc. What other money might you need to fundraise and where will this come from? Think about whether you can generate income from your activity - you need to build this into your budget too. Do you have any 'in kind' contributions?

Project ownership and management

It's important to determine the role and responsibilities of your group or organization in managing your project's delivery and finances. Does the person managing the finances have experience of managing money and / or managing grant funding? Who will issue contracts for any freelance support you bring in to help deliver your project?

Measuring your success

Funders often want to know how you will collect information to show your project is a success, so it's important to consider how you will do this at the application stage. This could include counting the number of people who take part, asking people to complete a survey about how they have benefited from the activities and discussing the project at your

committee meeting to identify ways it went well and things that could have been improved. Larger projects may need to attach professional evaluators to the project and their costs will need to be included in your budget.

Documentation

Most funders will want to see evidence that your group has:

- A committee
- A bank account
- A statement of your accounts for the last financial year (unless you are a new group)
- A governing document (e.g. constitution, trust deed, memos and articles).

Before you apply, make sure you have all the documents you need.

Test your draft application

Before you submit your funding application, consider sharing a draft with a trusted colleague or a critical friend who has not been part of the bid writing process. A fresh pair of eyes can help to sense check your work, ensure consistency and that your message can be conveyed to non-specialists and identify any weaknesses, errors or omissions in your response to the questions posed by the funder.

Key Contacts

Blackburn

Rebecca Johnson | Arts & Heritage Manager, Blackburn with Darwen Council | rebecca.johnson@blackburn.gov.uk

Blackpool

Carolyn Primett | Head of Arts, Blackpool Council | carolyn.primett@blackpool.gov.uk

Burnley

Charlotte Steels | Cultural Strategy Manager, Burnley Leisure & Culture | csteels@blcgroup.co.uk

Chorley

Claire Bigley | Shared Service Arts & Heritage Manager, Chorley Borough Council | claire.bigley@chorley.gov.uk

Fylde

Tim Dixon | Tourism & Cultural Services Manager, Fylde Borough Council | tim.dixon@fylde.gov.uk

Hyndburn

Kirsten Burnett | Head of Culture and Heritage, Hyndburn Council | lucy.dusgate@hyndburnleisure.co.uk

Lancaster & Morecambe

Tom Fitton | Arts & Events Development Officer, Lancaster City Council | tfitton@lancaster.gov.uk

Pendle

Sandra Farnell | Head of Culture, Pendle Borough Council | sandra.farnell@pendle.gov.uk

Preston

Catherine Jackman | Programme and Collections Manager, The Harris, Preston City Council | C.Jackman@preston.gov.uk

South Ribble

Claire Bigley | Shared Service Arts & Heritage Manager, South Ribble Borough Council | claire.bigley@chorley.gov.uk

Ribble Valley

Katherine Rodgers | Arts Development Officer, Ribble Valley Borough Council | katherine.rodgers@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Rossendale

Mhorag Saxon | Heritage Regeneration Project Manager, Rossendale Borough Council | MhoragSaxon@rossendalebc.gov.uk

West Lancashire

Phil Rigby, Community & Wellbeing Development Manager, West Lancashire Borough Council | Phil.Rigby@westlancs.gov.uk

Wyre

Chris Wyatt | Senior Events Officer, Wyre Council | chris.wyatt@wyre.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

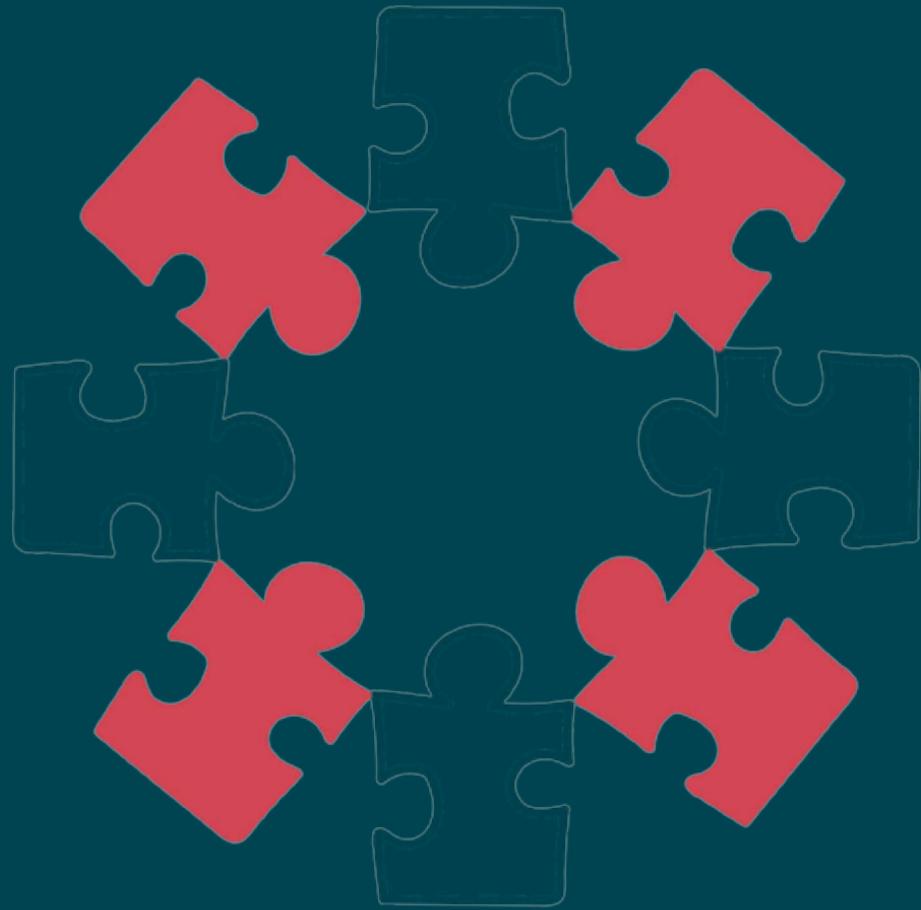
Disclaimer

The purpose of this toolkit is to provide additional information to support Lancashire artists, cultural and community organisations and voluntary groups to find, apply and secure funding and investment. It is not intended to replicate or duplicate resources, but to complement and signpost to existing helpful information. All information in this toolkit is correct at the time of publication.

Arts Lancashire is proudly supported by Lancashire County Council.

Images

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