



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



## Guidance for Applicants Youth Arts Open Fund

### Overview

The Youth Arts Open Fund is administered by YouthLink Scotland (the national agency for youth work in Scotland) and is part of Creative Scotland's wider support for children and young people, funded by the Scottish Government. The purpose of the Youth Arts Open Fund is to support freelance artists or organisations seeking small amounts of funding so that they can deliver arts activity for children and young people, **prioritising those who have traditionally found it hardest to access such opportunities.**

Funded projects are expected to engage children and young people in high-quality and accessible arts activity that empowers them through self-expression, enhances their health, wellbeing and personal development, and builds their confidence and skills.

Freelance artists can apply for funding up to **£8k** and organisations can apply for funding of up to **£15k**, to deliver up to 12 months of arts activity, and there is a total of **£460k** available.

### Fund criteria

Proposals must:

1. Offer free, high-quality activities, which encourage children and young people's access and participation in one or more art forms.

NB// As the Youth Arts Open Fund is part of the Scottish Government's commitment to expand the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) to other art forms we are likely to prioritise projects delivering in art forms wider than music. The YMI Access to Music Making Fund provides opportunity for music-based projects ([Youth Music Initiative Funding | Creative Scotland](#)). We will however welcome music-based applications to the Youth Arts Open Fund where the level or scope of the fund may be more suitable than YMI Access to Music Making.

2. Take a proactive approach to addressing inequalities and ensuring the activities are accessible to all. We know that some children and young people have traditionally found it harder to access youth arts activities. These inequalities can be intersectional and can include:
  - Children and young people at risk of child poverty
  - Children and young people experiencing or at risk of experiencing harm and neglect
  - Care experienced children and young people
  - Children and young people in the early years (0-5) of their life
  - Children and young people affected by discrimination and/or racism
  - Disabled children and young people
  - Children and young people with additional support needs
  - Children and young people with experience of the criminal justice system

- Young carers and/or young parents
- Children and young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, or who have been homeless

3. Achieve at least four of the following outcomes for the children and young people (CYP) participating:

1. CYP facing additional barriers have equal opportunities to access artistic and creative activities.
2. CYP develop wider transferable skills through involvement in youth arts provision.
3. CYP are empowered through their involvement in youth-led activities and their voices are amplified.
4. The mental health & wellbeing of CYP is improved through their participation in artistic and creative activities.
5. CYP feel better able to express themselves through involvement in arts activities.
6. CYP feel better connected to their peers and communities.
7. Partnerships between youth work and youth arts partners are strengthened
8. Youth workers are more confident in embedding creative and artistic projects in their delivery

4. Incorporate the ideas of children and young people and empower them in the development, management and running of the project.

5. Involve qualified and experienced tutors in the delivery of the art activities. (CV's of delivery staff must be provided). Creative Scotland is committed, through any activities they support, to ensure that artists and those professionals working in the creative community are paid fairly and appropriately for their time and effort. Guidance on rates of pay for artists which is available on the Creative Scotland website: [Rates of Pay Guidance | Creative Scotland](#)

## Who can apply

Awards from the fund will be made to freelance artists or to creative, third sector or youth work organisations. Applicants must be based in Scotland, experienced in working with children and young people and supporting the delivery of FREE community-based arts activities for children and young people living in Scotland. Organisations currently in receipt of Creative Scotland funding for projects with and for children and young people must demonstrate how the proposed activity is additional to your existing funding agreement and how the activity enhances current and future plans. This fund is not open to private/commercial businesses.

## What we do not fund

The Youth Arts Open Fund does not support the following;

- Proposals that do not fit the fund criteria
- Applications from schools and/or their associated organisations, such as Parent Teacher Associations
- Competitions, or participation in competitions
- Events and activities that take place out with the period of the fund
- Training courses for staff and volunteers
- Capital costs in excess of 15% of the total amount requested. (*Capital = property, property upgrades, vehicles, equipment, and clothing etc*)
- Proposals that do not offer good value for money
- Excessive management overheads and core cost recovery
- Activity that has already been supported by Creative Scotland / Screen Scotland funding (for example, from the Youth Music Initiative, National Lottery Open Fund for Organisations, the National Lottery Extended Programme Fund, National Lottery Awards for All Scotland or any other Creative Scotland / Screen Scotland funding programme) and is seeking match funding for this activity.

## Funding period

All proposed activities must be delivered between 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024  
All project reports must be submitted one month after project completion.

## Timeline

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 - Fund opens for applicants  
5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Deadline to submit applications  
6<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 July - Assessments  
10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – National panel meets  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Outcome of panel decision emailed to applicants  
1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 – All proposed activities must take place  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 – Deadline for final reports

## The assessment process

Applications will initially be sifted for eligibility and scored against the fund criteria by a team of assessors at Creative Scotland. Short-listed applications will then be passed to a national panel of assessors (including representatives from the arts; voluntary and local authority youth work sector and young people) who will make final award decisions (based on their own assessment scores and scores and comments of previous Creative Scotland assessors)

## Applicant information sessions

Online applicant support sessions are available on the dates below.

To book a place, please contact: Donna Tobin, Grants Administrator, YouthLink Scotland  
[dtobin@youthlink.scot](mailto:dtobin@youthlink.scot)

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of May 11am – 11.30 am
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2pm – 2.30pm

## Closing date for applications

All applications must be submitted by no later than 5pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application within 8 weeks of the deadline.

## Information you will need to complete your application

To complete the form, you will require the following information at hand:

- Bank account details
- Programme budget with breakdown of costs

You will also be asked to upload electronic copies of the following documents

- Annual accounts / Receipts and Payment Statement
- Bank statements (for organisations who have been operating for less than one year)
- Public Liability Insurance Certificate
- CV's of freelance/delivery artists

In order to complete the form, the questions we ask will broadly cover the following areas:

**You:** Tell us about you or your organisation.

**The Project:** Tell us about your project. What are you hoping to achieve? Who will be involved? How will you achieve the outcomes you have selected? What evidence you have of need?

**The Participants:** Tell us how your project will reach and support children and young people facing additional challenges in their lives, and the numbers of children and young people that you hope to reach,

**Budget Information:** What is the overall budget? Tell us about your costs, and any partnership funding or in-kind support you have.

## Information on completing the online application

We use an online application process. Once you have logged into the system you can choose to save and return to the application at any point prior to submission. Please take the time to complete every question, the programme does not allow you to submit the application form otherwise.

Once you have completed the form you must select the SUBMIT option, you will then receive email confirmation that your application has been received. If you do not select the SUBMIT option, your application cannot be processed or considered by the assessment panel.

Should you experience any difficulties with the application process please contact:

Donna Tobin, National Grants Administrator, YouthLink Scotland

[dtobin@youthlink.scot](mailto:dtobin@youthlink.scot)