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**YouthLink
Scotland**

Guidance for Applicants Youth Arts Open Fund

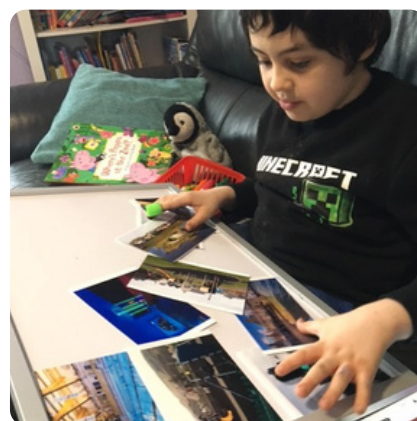
Overview:

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 youth-led arts activity for children and young people, who would benefit most from activity, particularly those who face barriers to participation.

Proposals should 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. Projects should be youth-led and therefore applicants are expected to have involved children and young people in the development of the proposal prior to applying.

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.

We are committed to equality of opportunity and will prioritise applications from organisations with specific equalities remits and diverse led organisations, for more information on diverse-led organisations, visit pg. 6-7 of [Creative Scotland's EDI Funding Criteria](#).



Fund criteria:

Proposals must:

1. Be youth-led through incorporating the ideas of children and young people and empowering them in the development, management and running of your project. This is a core criterion as a panel of young people will assess the extent to which your project is youth-led. The youth panel will make final award decisions.

2. 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 cannot fund music projects via this fund. Music could make up part of a wider arts offer, but it cannot be the prominent or sole focus of your proposal.

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3. 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 who:

- Reside in areas of social and economic deprivation, for more information on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), visit the [Scottish Government website](#).
- Are experiencing or at risk of experiencing harm and neglect.
- Are care experienced, for more information visit [The Promise Scotland](#).
- Are in the early years (0-5) of their life.
- Are of the global majority and/or ethnic minorities.
- Children and young people with disabilities/learning disabilities.
- Are neurodivergent including autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Tourette's syndrome.
- Are experiencing mental health illnesses such as depression, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, bipolar, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), eating disorders and addictive behaviours.
- Have experience of the criminal justice system.
- Are young carers (as defined by the [Carers \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#)) and/or young parents.
- Are experiencing homelessness or who have been homeless.

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

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

5. Involve qualified and experienced tutors in the delivery of the art activities. (CVs 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.

Creative Scotland RFO's (Regularly Funded Organisations) are not eligible to apply to this fund due to the limited funding available and the aim to increase capacity for organisations working at a smaller scale.

Fair Work First:

Fair Work First is the Scottish Government's flagship policy for driving high quality and fair work across the labour market in Scotland. There is an expectation that grantees will pay the Living Wage to directly employed staff members.

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).

Funding period:

All funded activity must be delivered between November 2024- November 2025
All project reports must be submitted one month after project completion.

Timeline:

- Fund opens 6th August 2024.
- Deadline for applications – 5th September 2024.
- Assessment period – 9th September – 6th of October 2024.
- Young person panel and funding decisions end November.
- Projects starting beginning of December 2024.
- Project delivery – December 2024 – December 2025.
- Project reports due one month after project finish date.

The assessment process:

Applications will initially be checked for eligibility by YouthLink Scotland and scored against the fund criteria by a team of assessors at Creative Scotland. Short-listed applications will then be passed to a panel of young people who will make final award decisions.

Young person assessment panel:

The young people involved in the assessment panel will be recruited from the current cohort of #IWill Ambassadors in Scotland. You can [find out more about the #IWill programme here](#).

#IWill Ambassadors are young people who are actively engaged in societal change and include representation from young people who have self-identified the following characteristics:

#IWill Ambassadors are young people who are actively engaged in societal change and include representation from young people who have self-identified the following characteristics:

- Living in poverty /or from low-income households.
- Neurodivergent.
- Health needs including young people who describe themselves as disabled, use wheelchairs, have visual impairments and hearing impairments as well as young people who are affected by arthritis and Type 1 diabetes and other health conditions.
- LGBTQ+.
- Experience of homelessness.
- Experience of domestic abuse and violence.
- Multiple heritage, black and Asian.
- Multiple religious beliefs including Muslim, Christian and Hindu.
- Young Carers.
- Living rurally.

Young assessors will look specifically at the extent to which short-listed applications demonstrate a youth-led approach:

- To what extent is the proposal informed by the expressed needs/interests of children and young people.
- To what extent will the proposed activity empower and give voice to children and young people and support them to express themselves.
- To what extent will children and young people be involved in the development and running of the project.

**Note: You should therefore ensure that your application is written in as accessible a way as possible.*

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

8th August - 10.30am – 11.30 am

13th August – 11.30am – 12.30 pm

15th August – 2pm – 3pm

Closing date for applications:

All applications must be submitted by no later than 5pm on the 5th of September
Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application within 10 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.
- CVs of freelance/delivery artists.

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



UNCRC:

The fund outcomes are informed by the following articles of the UNCRC:

- Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.
- Article 13 (freedom of expression) Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.
- Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.
- Article 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups) Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.
- Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.





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Achieved. Valid Until January 2024

