



Arts Grants for Organisations

Festivals



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Festivals

Purpose

To support high quality and distinctive celebrations of the best in the arts in Wales

What we want to achieve

Festivals play a vital role in the cultural make-up of Wales. They have an ability to reach people that might not otherwise go into traditional arts venues. They are also a platform for demonstrating the richness of culture in Wales.

Festivals can provide a much needed focus for a particular artform or area, and can be a shop-window for Wales by attracting visitors from further afield. Their clear artistic vision means they are a meeting point for the best in Welsh culture and the internationally renowned. This unique melting pot of quality and diversity means that our festivals are well placed to reach out to new audiences as well as broaden the horizons of existing attenders.

But the wider impact of these exemplary festivals goes beyond the immediacy of the event itself. Their successes contribute to the wider agendas of regeneration and economic growth and they have a role to play in the ever growing market for cultural tourism. That is why the festivals we support should have a sense of place and, on a more local level, help bring together local communities to engender civic pride and citizenship.

The best festivals can offer something out of the ordinary. We want to support focused, time-limited festivals with vibrant, high quality arts programmes of events and activities which are a celebration of the diversity and uniqueness of Wales. They must have a clear artistic focus and a commitment to programming quality work.

We want to support projects that have well thought out plans to reach out to audiences so that the widest number of people can be part of your event. This should include audience development ambitions, education and outreach activity as well as a longer term vision and a clear legacy for the Festival throughout the year.

We can support festivals that present a single artform or any combination of artforms. We're particularly keen to support festivals that commission or create and present new artistic work. The priority for us is the quality of the programming itself. If a festival claims to be "international" we will expect to see this reflected in a programme of activity that will stand up to critical scrutiny.

Projects we won't support

We will not support programmes of activity that could take place in a theatre or gallery, or where the arts are a minor part of a different type of festival event. Neither will we support year round programmes of work.

Although we are interested in festivals that present all artforms, we don't support film. That's because we delegate funding for film to Ffilm Cymru Wales. Click [here](#) to find out more about Ffilm Cymru Wales.

Funding Available

You can apply for a maximum of **75%** of your project's total eligible cost. Applications can be made at the following levels:

- Small Grants between £250 and up to £5,000
- Large Grants between £5,001 and exceptionally £80,000

Our Festivals strand has been operating since 2012/13. It has been one of our most successful and popular funding schemes, providing support to a wide range of well-established and new Arts Festivals. However, growing pressures on our allocation of Lottery Funds to this area of work continue and in 2018/19 we have to reduce the level of funding that is available to support Festivals in Wales.

We originally launched our Festivals funding with a budget of £1.2m per annum. On average, we receive around 40 applications from large Festivals each year. Recently, in any one of these years, the demand for support tops £2m and consistently exceeds the level of the budget. In previous years, flexibility elsewhere in our Lottery funding has meant that we have been able to increase the amount of available funding, a latitude created by the postponement or delay to other scheduled projects. Unfortunately, this is not something we can rely on every year, and we know that we will not have a similar resource to call on during 2018/19. This means that the budget will need to be reduced from its original level of £1.2m to £1m for Festivals largely scheduled to take place in 2019/20.

As in other areas of our funding, we are actively encouraging organisations to reduce the level of their dependency on Arts Council funding. This means that we will expect to see organisations requesting less from the Arts Council as a proportion of their overall income. Arts Council funding as a proportion of overall turnover remains one of the important value for money indicators that we have to consider when looking at competing applications.

We ask that you bear all of this information in mind as you write your application and specifically request that, unless circumstances have radically shifted, you:

- apply within the banding you were afforded in your last grant application
- reduce your dependence on our funding in the next financial year. This means asking us for less money than you were awarded in your last application, as well as requesting less in terms of this as a percentage of your overall income

To help us to do this fairly and consistently within our comparative assessment process, we will continue testing applications against the specific requirements set out below, sometimes referred to as 'banding'. **From April 2018, the funding 'bands' are as follows for Festival applications: up to £5,000, up to £25,000, up to £40,000, up to £60,000, and up to a maximum of £80,000.**

What we need from you

You must tell us how your programme has been conceived and what holds it together as a festival. This might be a theme, an artform or something more innovative. We'll expect the arts content to be fully integrated with your event, and not an add-on.

We support and value festivals of varying scales. We know it is unrealistic to expect a small community event to consider the same issues as a well-established, flagship festival of international standing. So we have specific requirements depending on the amount for which you are applying per festival. We will expect your application to demonstrate how your festival addresses these.

For small grant applications up to £5,000

Your festival will:

- Have local community involvement
- Bring added value to the local community

We could consider a one off event within a wider / existing festival at this level.

For large grant applications up to £25,000

Your festival addresses both the points above and will also:

- Have been established for at least one year
- Be a significant event within the local authority area
- Be site or place specific (in other words it couldn't be replicated in another venue)
- Be presented for at least two days
- Operate bilingually
- Have an up-to-date business plan

For large grant applications up to £40,000 (only available May and October deadlines)

Your festival addresses all the points above and will also:

- Have been established for over three years
- Have arts as the main focus
- Have an international element
- Be of regional significance
- Nurture Welsh or Wales based artists (through platforms, training, masterclasses etc.)
- Feature some level of new or recent works
- Have a strong local presence that creates a sense of place, or animates your town or locality
- Have strong partnership funding
- Have a strong business model
- Make an impact on the local economy

For large grant applications up to £60,000 (only available May and October deadlines)

Your festival addresses all the points above and will also:

- Have a clear and significant impact on arts development
- Feature new work you have commissioned specially for your festival
- Be of national significance
- Have a dedicated marketing officer
- Have a fully bilingual online presence
- Ensure all printed festival information is bilingual
- Be a breeding ground for new collaboration

For large grant applications up to £80,000 (only available May and October deadlines)

Your festival addresses all the points above and will also:

- Be unique
- Have a track record of at least five years
- Contribute to sector development
- Have an international profile with international performers and audience base
- Be a flagship event for Wales
- Have a year round presence characterised by ongoing development
- Have a wide range of financial support from other sources (demonstrating a reliance of 50% or less on Arts Council of Wales funding)
- Have an education and outreach programme
- Have an impact on cultural tourism.

All large grant applicants must submit a three year artistic development plan as part of their application. We will not be able to assess your application without this information. This artistic development plan should include your approach to:

- Visioning and shaping your programme of work over the three-year period including key milestones
- Achieving your ambitions for sustainability and growth whilst demonstrating financial viability and diversification of income streams
- Evaluating your activity each year and using this intelligence to influence subsequent activity
- Building and sustaining your audiences, volunteers and / or participants
- Demonstrating your legacy and impact on both the economy and the sector in Wales.

Our Help Notes for Festivals applications will tell you more and help you fill in your application form. You can find a template for a Three Year Artistic Development Plan on our [website](#).

Who can apply

You can check that your organisation is eligible to apply by reading our [Getting Started](#) document.

When you can apply

Small Grants

You should always make your application as far ahead as possible.

There are no deadlines for small grants, but you need to allow a minimum of **six working weeks** between the date you submit your application and the date you want to start your project. **If you're making your first application to us, then you must apply at this level.**

Large Grants

There are four deadlines a year for large grant applications. The next deadlines are:

- 5pm on Wednesday 9th May 2018
- 5pm on Wednesday 15th August 2018 (Maximum application is £25,000)
- 5pm on Wednesday 10th October 2018
- 5pm on Wednesday 16th January 2019 (Maximum application is £25,000)

You need to allow a minimum of **nine working weeks** between the deadline date and the date you want to start your project.

How often you can apply

You can hold one “live” grant from *Arts Grants for Organisations* in any twelve month period. We use the term “live grant” to mean an application for a project that has received funding from us and is still happening.

Remember that this applies to *Arts Grants for Organisations* as a whole, not to each strand.

We use the start date of your project to work out the twelve month period. For example, if you received funding for a project that started on 1st September 2017 and you want to submit another application, then it must be for activity that will start twelve months later, on or after 1st September 2018. It’s important to remember that you can apply before the end of the twelve month period, but you cannot plan for your activity to start until a year has passed.

Please contact our Grants and Information Team if we have given you a grant before and you are unsure whether you are now able to apply again.

How to apply

You will need to discuss your project with us before we send an application form to you. If you have a project that you think might be suitable to apply for under this strand, please email your project ideas to: development@arts.wales

Please include the following details:

- Your organisation’s name
- Project title
- Describe your project
- How much funding do you need?
- Location of project

Applications must be made using our online application system.

If you are unable to apply online, for example if you’re disabled or do not have access to a computer, please contact our Grants and Information Team. We’ll work with you to find other ways for you to apply.

We can also support you if your first language is not English or Welsh.

Need some more advice?

We have Information Sheets and guidance documents to help you with different aspects of the application process or to provide advice on a specific issue. These can be found on our website. You might find the following useful in making an application to the Festivals strand:

- [Help Notes for Festivals applications](#)
- [Arts Council of Wales Equality Guide](#)

If you have further questions about the application, contact our Grants and Information team on 0845 8734 900 or by emailing grants@arts.wales