

Funding for

# Arts & culture

## **Overview of data**

Trust and Foundation funding in the UK

2019–20

## Data overview

# UK Trust and Foundation funding to arts and culture

**The briefing aims to show the contribution of Trusts and Foundations to the UK's arts funding ecology, highlighting their role in the wider funding picture and identifying shared priorities and ambitions.**

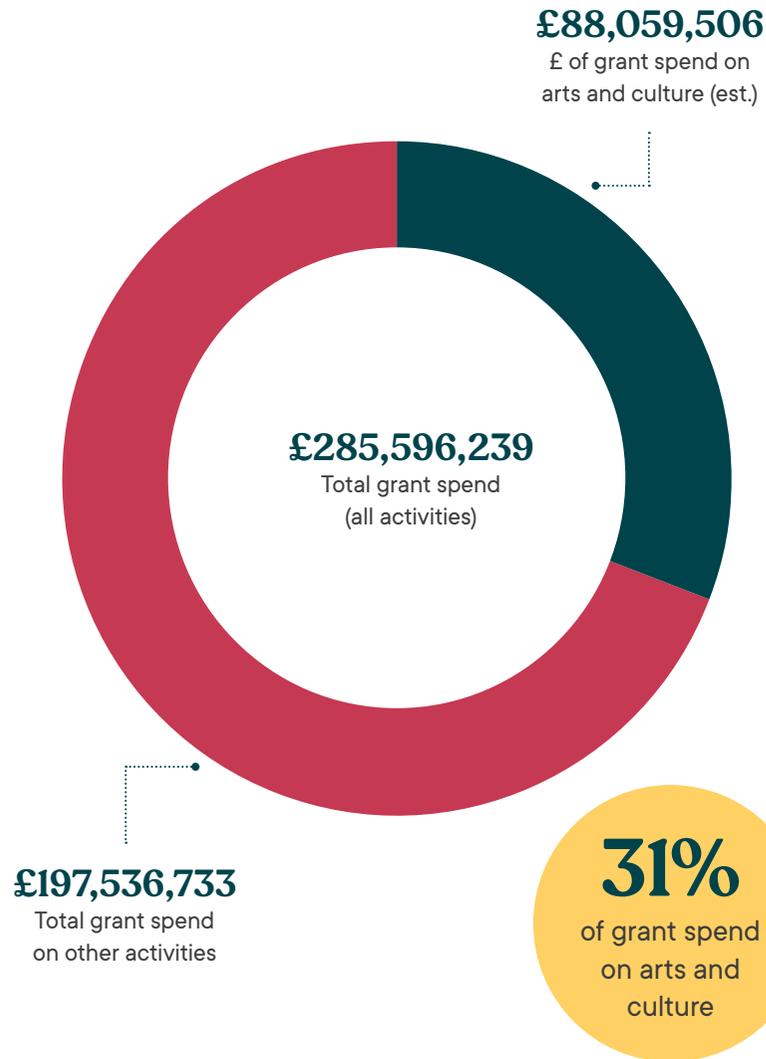
It was commissioned by The Arts Funders Group, a group of independent Trusts and Foundations who meet regularly to share intelligence and shape collective action. The Group is part of the [ACF Funders' Collaborative Hub](#).

The data collates findings from 19 Trusts and Foundations<sup>i</sup> and relates to the last 'typical year' where audited information was available – 2019-2020 – prior to disruption from Covid-19. It includes information on 'live grants' which may span more than one year.<sup>ii</sup>

# Funding ecology

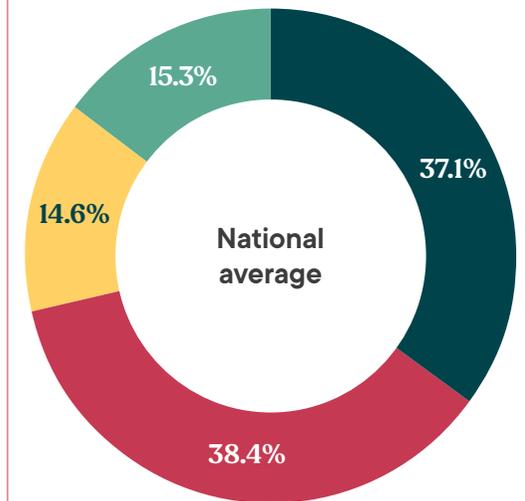
Overall Trusts and Foundations contribute around £88 million to arts and culture per year, forming a key part of the UK's funding ecology.

**Figure 1**  
Overall grant spend and activities of the 19 Trusts and Foundations surveyed



Using a combination of Cause 4 and MyCake<sup>iii</sup> and public funding data we can see how Trust and Foundation spending fits into the broader income picture for the sector.

**Figure 2**  
Income to arts and culture as a % of overall income per organisation



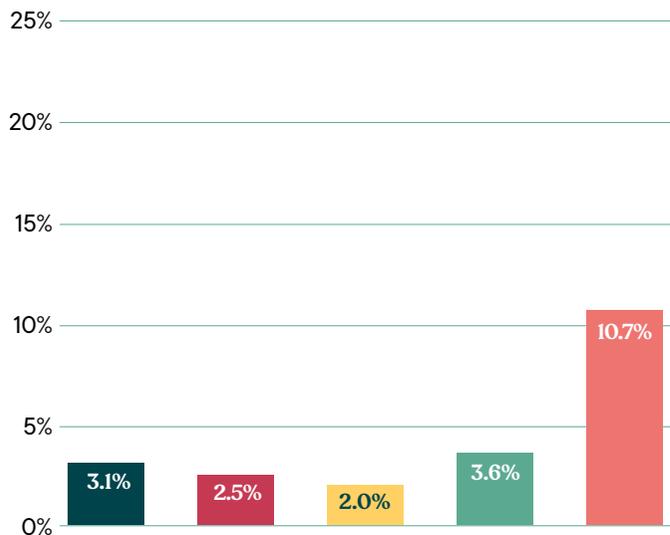
**Key (% of overall income)**

- Earned income
- Arts Council England (excl. capital)
- Contributed income
- Other subsidy

Source: Key findings of the [Arts and Culture Fundraising Benchmark Report](#) (2019 release of 2018 data) by MyCake for Cause4.

**Figure 3**  
Breakdown of contributed income as a % of overall income per organisation

**National average**



**Key (% of overall contributed income)**

- One-off donations
- Regular donations
- Fundraising events
- Sponsorship
- Trusts, Foundations and legacy bequests

Source: Key findings of the [Arts and Culture Fundraising Benchmark Report](#) (2019 release of 2018 data) by MyCake for Cause4.

**Figure 4**  
Average income per organisation by region as a % of overall income

**Average income from contributed income**

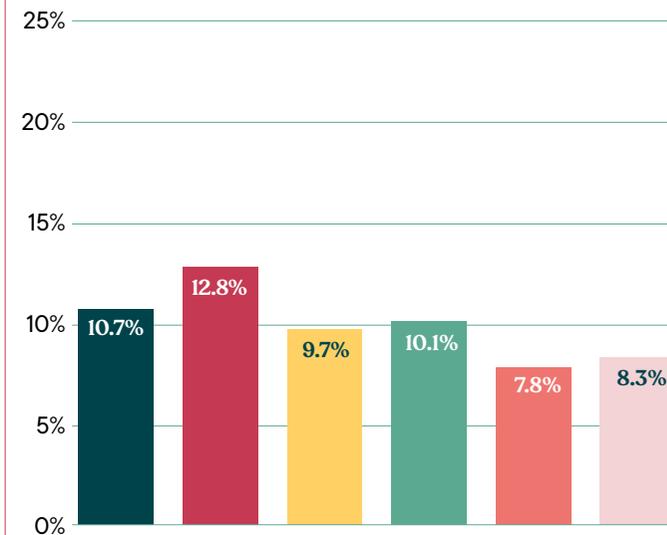


**Key (% of overall contributed income by region)**

- England
- London
- Midlands
- North
- South East
- South West

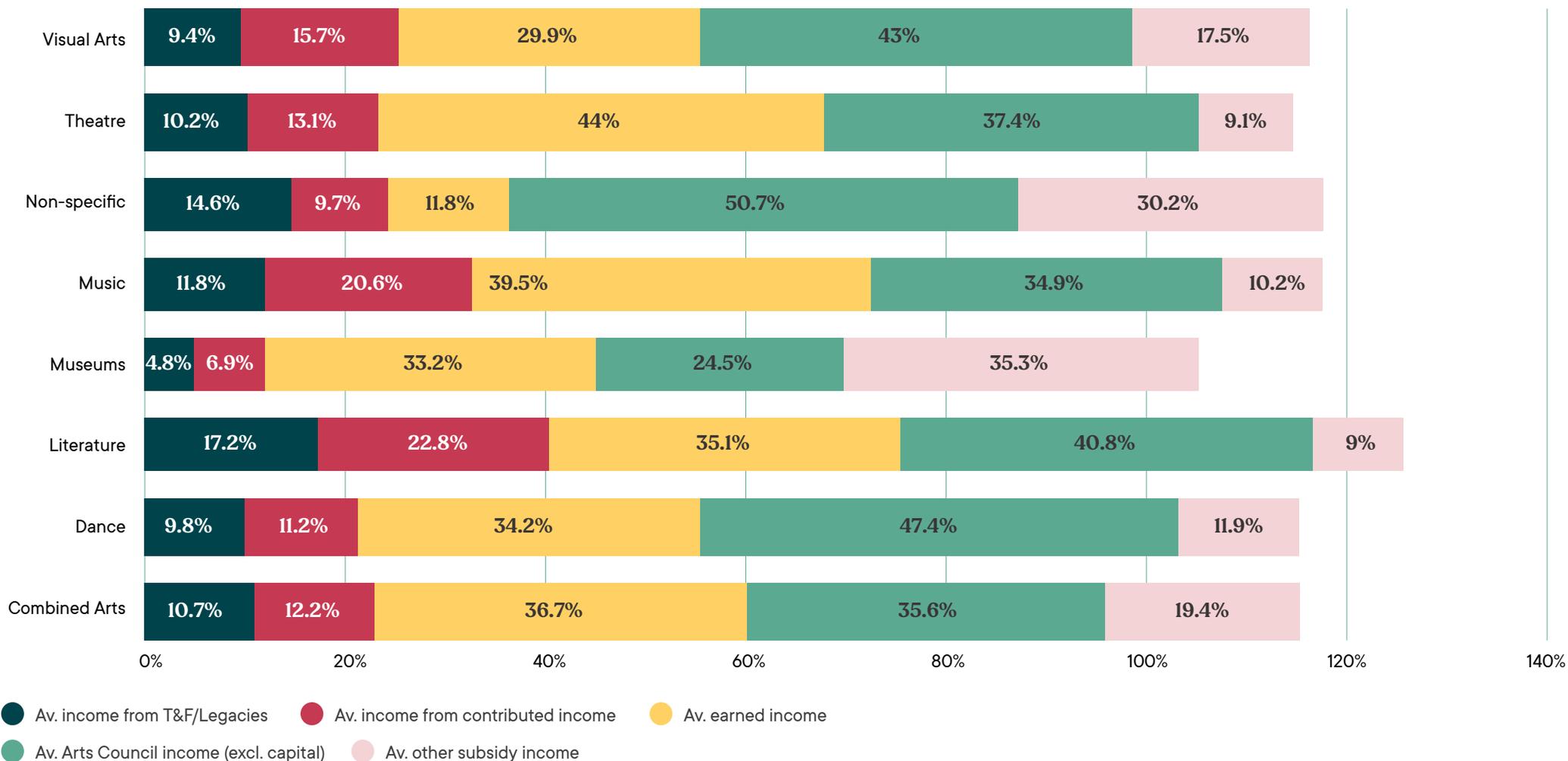
Source: Key findings of the [Arts and Culture Fundraising Benchmark Report](#) (2019 release of 2018 data) by MyCake for Cause4.

**Average income from Trusts and Foundations/Legacies**



Using the same data we can see that income streams in the sector vary across regional geography and artform.

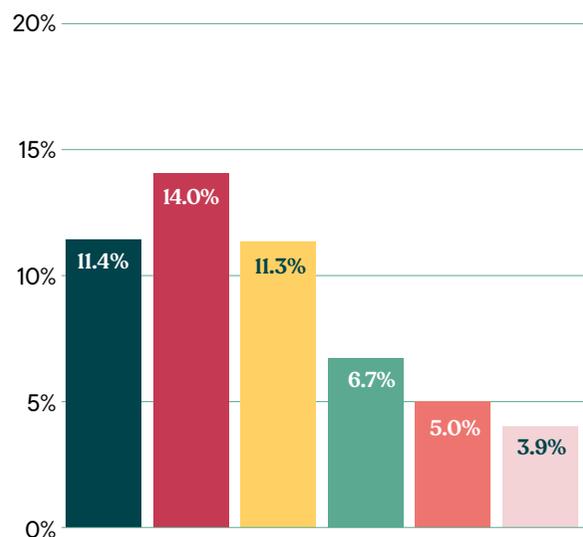
**Figure 5**  
Average income per organisation by artform/discipline



Source: Key findings of the [Arts and Culture Fundraising Benchmark Report](#) (2019 release of 2018 data) by MyCake for Cause4.

**Figure 6**  
Average income per organisation by turnover band

**Average income from Trusts and Foundations/Legacies**

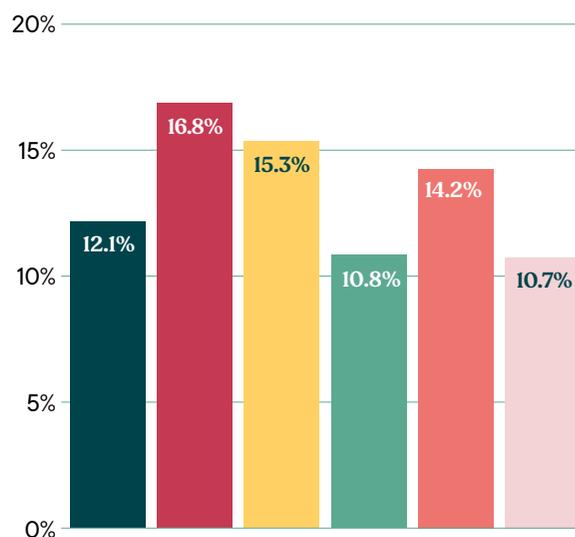


**Key (% of overall income)**

- Up to £200k
- £200k-£750k
- £750k-£2m
- £2m-£5m
- £5m-£10m
- £10m plus

Source: Key findings of the [Arts and Culture Fundraising Benchmark Report](#) (2019 release of 2018 data) by MyCake for Cause4.

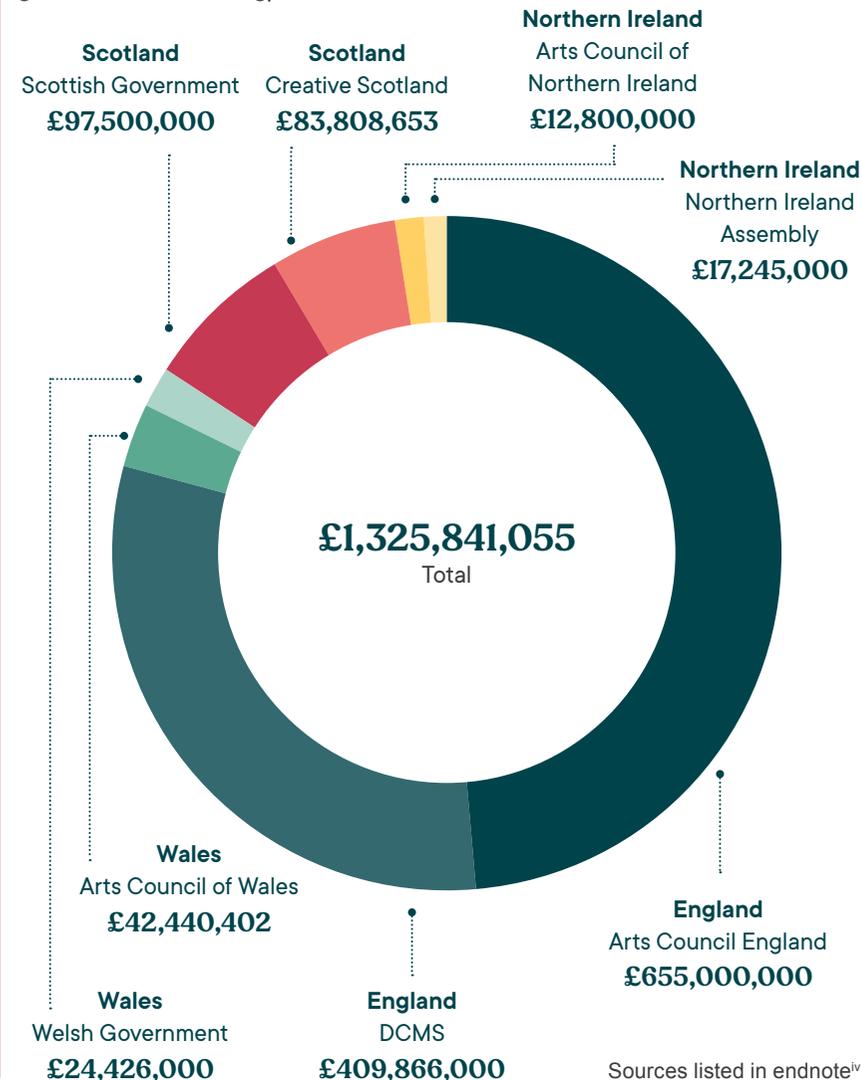
**Average income from contributed income**



Larger organisations, by turnover, typically have a lower proportion of income from Trusts and Foundations which may reflect wider mix of income streams and more capacity to generate earned income.

Trust and Foundation income, whilst hugely significant, sits alongside far greater investment from the public sector.

**Figure 7**  
Public funding in arts and culture (funding councils and direct government funding)



Sources listed in endnote<sup>iv</sup>

# Differences between funders

Across the Trusts and Foundations surveyed there is significant diversity.

The four highest spending Trusts are responsible for 75% of the total grant expenditure (Esmée Fairbairn, Garfield Weston, Paul Hamlyn and Wolfson Foundations). Five Trusts and Foundations **only** fund arts and culture activity, and one reports more than 90% of its grant-making goes to arts and culture.

Five Trusts and Foundations have a total grant spend of £10 million or more in a typical year, while five Trusts and Foundations have a total grant spend of £2 million or less in a typical year.

“  
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”

# Funding priorities

## Art for everyone

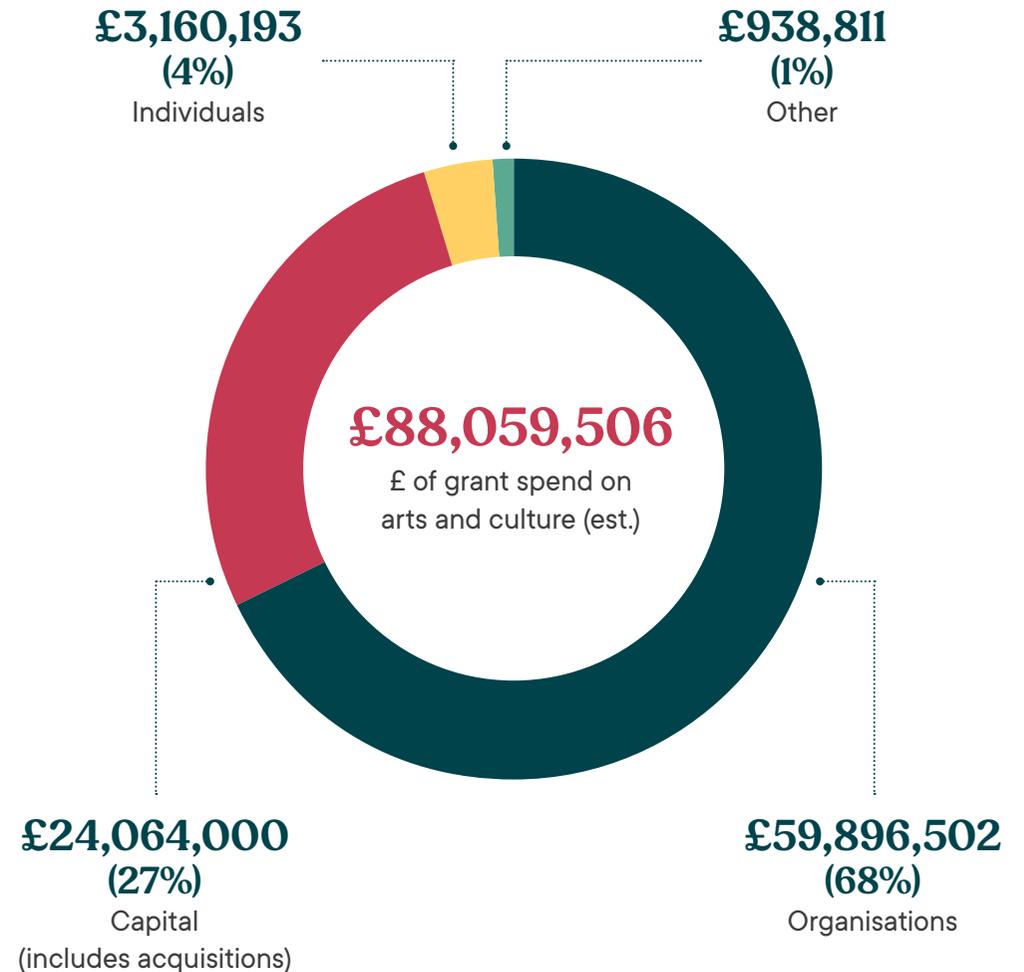
Looking at the different priorities which Trusts and Foundations outline for their funds, there is an emphasis on supporting work which helps foster a happier and healthier society, with a focus on **engagement, learning** and **widening the audiences** for arts and culture as well as **championing** the place of arts and culture in society. Just under two-thirds of the Trusts and Foundations articulate at least one, and sometimes several, of these priorities; this includes the three largest investors in arts and culture annually.

## Artform emphasis

Amongst the group of 19, some Trusts and Foundations have some degree of artform or discipline emphasis but 42% refer generally to arts and culture with no specific exclusions identified. None of the three funds which invest more than £10 million in arts and culture in a typical year are artform specific.

**Figure 8**

Grant spend on arts and culture from the surveyed Trusts and Foundations



## Workforce and Innovation

Some Trusts and Foundations emphasise the production of art works, or the significance of the artistic product, artwork or venue.

The role of artists, practitioners, curators and other individuals was a particular area of focus for some Trusts and Foundations (particularly in the context of diversifying the workforce). Just under a third of the Trusts and Foundations explicitly articulate a priority which relates to supporting the workforce in the arts and cultural sector, and in most cases this explicitly and exclusively relates to artists and creative practitioners.

There was an emphasis from some Trusts and Foundations on encouraging new ways of working. 37% of Trusts and Foundations referred to organisational development, including new business models and ways of working and new approaches to delivering different kinds of practice.

## Cultural assets

Just under a third of the Trusts and Foundations support arts and cultural 'assets', either through funding new and refurbished building work, acquisitions and/or restoration of artworks and artefacts, purchase of instruments or other physical assets. These Trusts and Foundations sit in the middle of the spectrum by expenditure, so they are neither the largest nor the smallest investors on an annual basis.

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”

# Who gets funding?

The data set includes **1,465 grant records** across 19 Trusts and Foundations, reflecting **£167,314,922** worth of grants made<sup>v</sup>.

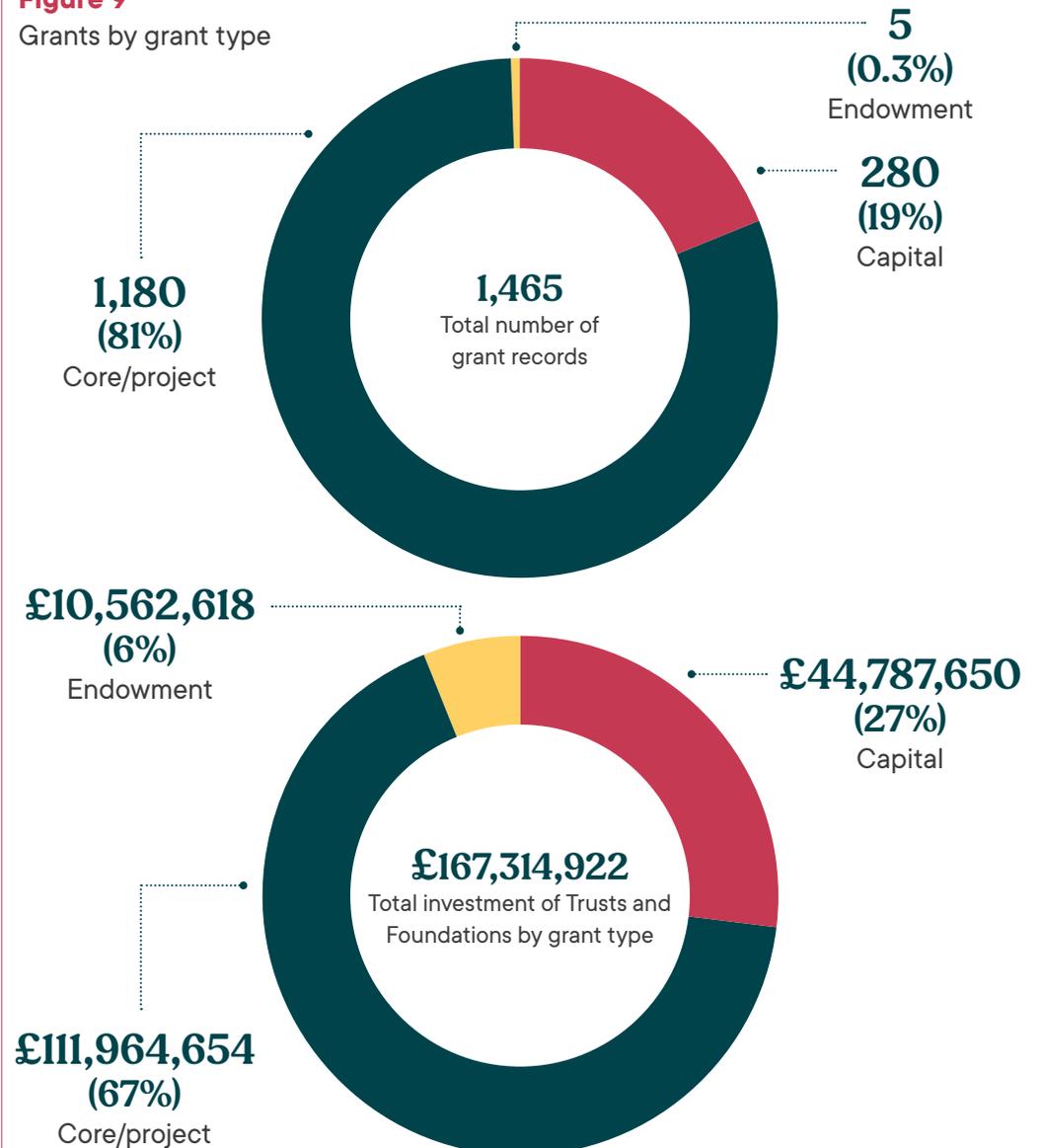
The number of grant records per Trust or Foundation ranges from 14 to 296. Just over **1,030** individual grant recipients (grantees for brevity) appear in the data, indicating that some grantees receive more than one grant from a particular Trust or Foundation.

The majority of grants awarded are at the lower end of the award scale (awards between £450 and £10 million were captured). 95% of grants awarded were £300,000 or less with 50% being £50,000 or less. Looking at grantees (and their total grants across different Trusts and Foundations) 95% of grantees were awarded £400,000 or less, with 47% receiving £50,000 or less.

Only 11 grants were made of over £1 million, and only 18 grantees across their total grants received more than £1 million. 36 organisations received four or more grants across the 19 Trusts and Foundations, and a further 58 organisations received three grants.

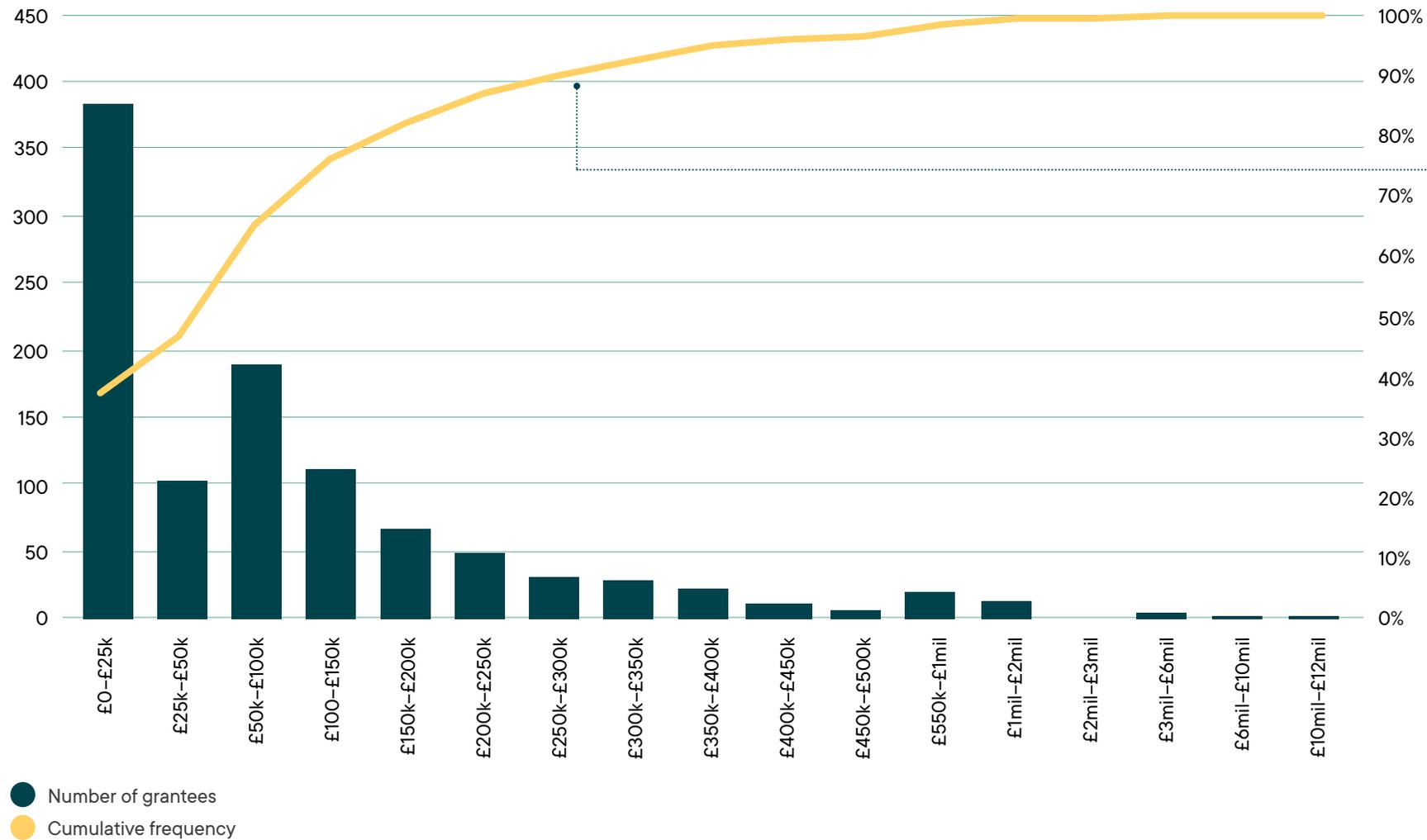
**Figure 9**

Grants by grant type



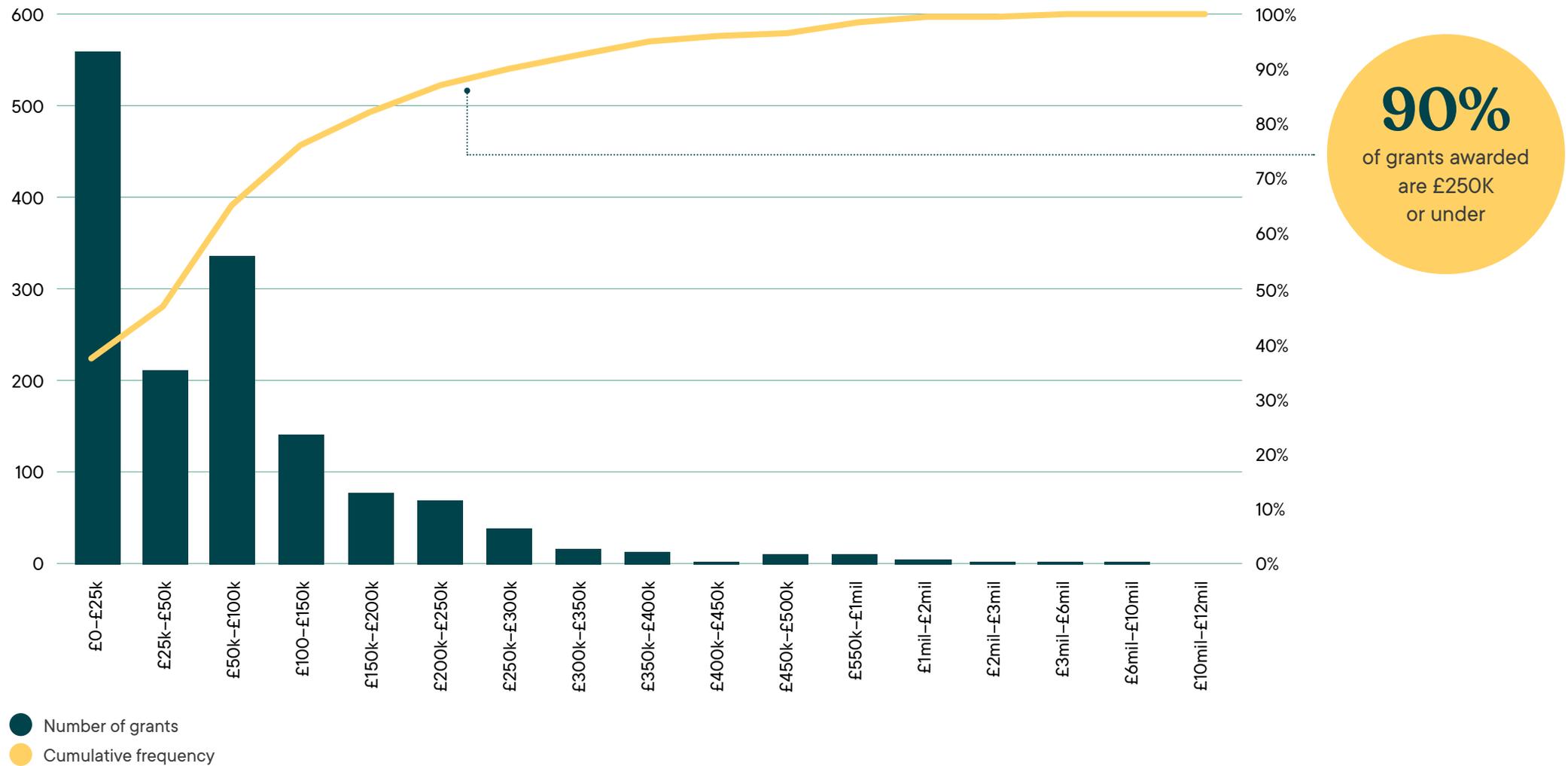
**Figure 10**

Cumulative frequency of grantees by total amount awarded across all Trusts and Foundations

**90%**

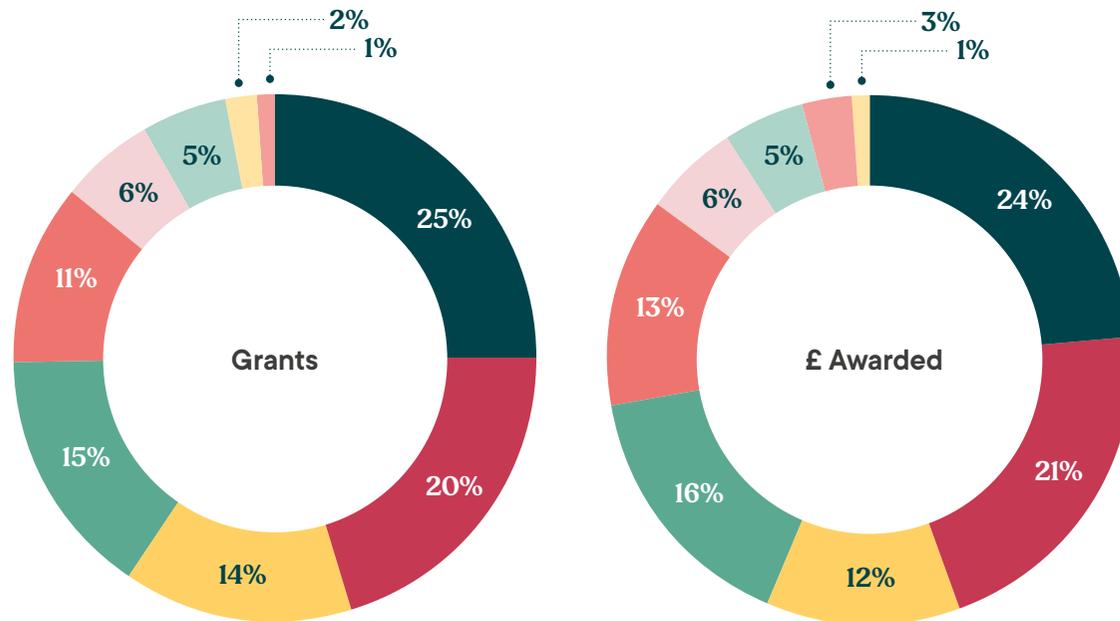
of total awards to a single grantee are under £300K or less

**Figure 11**  
Cumulative frequency of grants by total amount awarded across all Trusts and Foundations



**Figure 12**

Grants and amount awarded by main artform/discipline (combines capital awards and other awards)



**Artform/discipline**

- Music
- Theatre
- Combined arts
- Visual arts
- Museums
- Not discipline specific
- Dance
- Heritage
- Literature

Source: Key findings of the [Arts and Culture Fundraising Benchmark Report](#) (2019 release of 2018 data) by MyCake for Cause4.

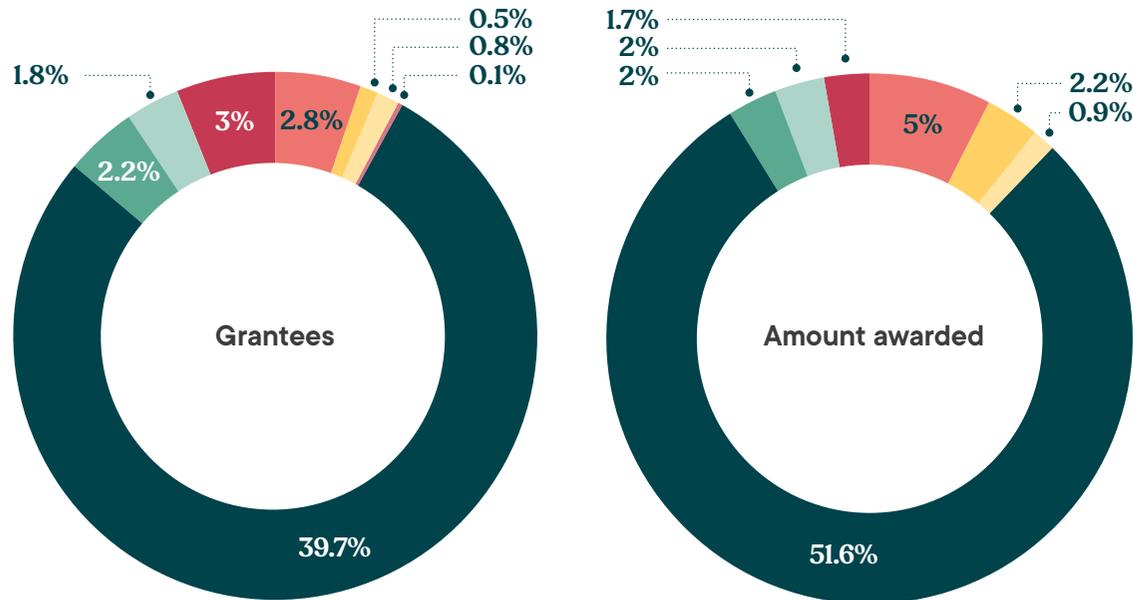
**Figure 13**

Proportion of number of grants and amount awarded by UK region/nation (awards and capital by application address)

Region/Nation	% of no. of grants	% of amount awarded
London	34.0%	41.8%
South West	8.7%	5.4%
South East	8.3%	6.0%
Scotland	7.8%	4.1%
North West	7.4%	5.5%
Yorkshire and The Humber	6.7%	4.7%
West Midlands	5.6%	10.0%
Wales	4.8%	5.3%
East of England	4.8%	6.9%
North East	3.7%	2.8%
Northern Ireland	3.5%	3.9%
East Midlands	3.1%	2.0%
Ireland	0.3%	0.3%
Not known	1.4%	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The majority of awards go to London and the South East but this does not capture the area of benefit or distinguish between national/non-national activity.

**Figure 14**  
Overlap with public funders



- Funder**
- Arts Council England NPO
  - Arts Council of Northern Ireland Annual Funding Programme
  - Arts Council of Wales, Arts Portfolio Wales Grant in Aid Funding
  - Creative Scotland Regular Funding Network
  - DCMS
  - Welsh Government
  - Scottish Government
  - Northern Ireland Assembly

There is an overlap between organisations funded by the main public funders (not including local authorities) and Trusts and Foundations. 40% of the organisations funded in this year were also on the list of Arts Council England’s 835 National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs).

The following organisations were the most frequently awarded grants not including capital grants (four or more Trusts or Foundations gave them a grant in the period we have included in this study):

**Figure 15**  
Organisations most frequently awarded grants

Organisation	Total no. of grants
Battersea Arts Centre	6
Snape Maltings	6
National Youth Choirs of Great Britain	5
Philharmonia	5
Serious	5
Southbank Centre	5
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales <sup>vi</sup>	4
Bristol Music Trust	4
Cardboard Citizens	4
Clore Leadership	4
Cultural Learning Alliance, Clore Duffield Foundation	4
Heart n Soul	4
National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain	4
Paraorchestra and Friends	4
Sistema Scotland	4
The Albany	4
The MAC	4

The 'top ten' awards by total value (the sum of grants awarded by all Trusts and Foundations) not including capital or endowment:

### Figure 16

Top ten awards by value

Organisation	Total amount awarded
Snape Maltings	<b>£8,375,000</b>
Museums Association	<b>£4,178,557</b>
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales	<b>£3,161,790</b>
The Nerve Centre	<b>£2,000,000</b>
Koestler Trust	<b>£1,500,000</b>
Tate Gallery	<b>£1,330,903</b>
Battersea Arts Centre	<b>£1,327,000</b>
Local Trust – Creative Communities	<b>£1,260,000</b>
The MAC	<b>£1,004,000</b>
Institute of Imagination	<b>£1,000,000</b>

The top ten capital awards (sum of all capital awards in the period we have included in this study).

### Figure 17

Top ten capital awards

Organisation	Total amount awarded
Royal Opera House	<b>£10,875,488</b>
Courtauld Institute of Art	<b>£4,390,000</b>
Imperial War Museum	<b>£1,685,438</b>
English National Ballet	<b>£1,450,000</b>
Science Museum	<b>£1,285,000</b>
National Portrait Gallery	<b>£1,250,000</b>
Bristol Music Trust	<b>£750,000</b>
National Gallery	<b>£725,000</b>
The Wallace Collection	<b>£716,000</b>
Donmar Warehouse	<b>£700,000</b>

### Endnote

This briefing was commissioned from DHA Communications by Paul Hamlyn Foundation on behalf of the wider groups of funders.

With thanks for additional support from Garfield Weston Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and John Ellerman Foundation for helping guide and shape the research.

If you would like to comment on the findings, or suggest areas for further investigation, please contact [information@phf.org.uk](mailto:information@phf.org.uk)

## Endnotes

- i Data from the following Trusts and Foundations is included in this overview.

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation  
 Art Fund  
 Baring Foundation  
 Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation – UK Branch  
 Clore Duffield  
 Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
 Fidelity UK Foundation  
 Freelands Foundation  
 Garfield Weston Foundation  
 Help Musicians  
 Jerwood Arts  
 John Ellerman Foundation  
 NESTA  
 Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
 PRS Foundation  
 The Foyle Foundation  
 The Linbury Trust  
 The Pilgrim Trust  
 Wolfson Foundation

- ii Note on method. Data was captured through a pro forma survey to 19 Trusts and Foundations sent in Summer 2020. 16 Trusts and Foundations completed and returned the proforma; a further one supplied information via email and for the remaining two, information was

sourced from annual reports. In some individual cases data includes estimates, or is slightly incomplete.

The following definition of arts and culture was used:

‘By arts and culture, we are interested in funding for activities which includes:

- Arts activities in all disciplines/ artforms, and including presentational, participatory and educational contexts
- Museums’ activities

We are excluding grants for heritage and libraries, except where the activities in the grant include other arts and cultural activities.’

Attempts have been made to assign grants where the definition may be unclear and where there may be ‘double-counting’ – that is one Trusts and Foundation giving money to another for onward funding. There may therefore be some errors or disagreements in attribution. It is hoped that this method will be refined in the future.

- iii Source: Key findings of the [Arts and Culture Fundraising Benchmark Report](#) (2019 release of 2018 data) by MyCake for Cause4.

- iv Source: Arts Council England Annual Account 2019/2020, all grant expenditure; DCMS Public Expenditure Core Tables 2018/2019, Museums and Galleries Arms Length Bodies resource and capital; Arts Council Wales Operational Plan 2019/2020, Arts Portfolio Wales and Lottery Budget; Welsh Government grant-in-aid for 2019/2020 from Amgueddfa Cymru Financial Report 2019/2020; Creative Scotland Annual Budget 2019/2020, total grant expenditure; Scottish Government Budget 2019/2020, National Performing Companies and Cultural Collections; Arts Council of Northern Ireland 2019/2020 Decisions; National Museums Northern Ireland Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2020, grant-in-aid from the Department for Communities.

- v Total is the sum of all live grants and therefore includes grants (and their full award amount) awarded in earlier years where data was not available on ‘live’ grants, grants for the majority of the year for which data was most recently available. The data therefore includes a range of single-year and multi-year projects. All grant-making took place prior to Covid-19 disruption.
- vi Organisations which have multiple sites (e.g. Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales) are grouped together under the umbrella organisation rather than by individual site.

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## **Contact us**

If you would like to comment on the findings,  
or suggest areas for further investigation,  
please contact [information@phf.org.uk](mailto:information@phf.org.uk)