*Please note that this is a draft of the applicant guidance for the reopening of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Arts Fund and as such is subject to change. The final version will be available on our website when we reopen on April 2nd.*

**Arts Fund**

We see culture as the heart of a just society, where all people and communities have a right to express themselves through art and culture. We believe that art and artists can help us see the world differently, opening up new imaginative possibilities for change and bringing unheard stories and narratives to the fore.

To realise this potential, change is needed. We know that resources and decision-making power in our cultural sector remain concentrated within traditional art forms, urban centres and an unrepresentative workforce.

Despite significant investment into workforce diversity programmes and other similar initiatives, we believe the sector needs new ideas for longer-term structural and cultural change.

**What you need to know**

Our ambition is to support a portfolio of organisations who represent this change to develop, learn from each other and further explore the intersection of art, activism and social change. Together, we want to:

* build capacity and resources for culture within historically underfunded communities.
* explore the role that artists can play in addressing issues of social justice.
* create the infrastructure for a more equitable cultural sector.

The Arts Fund supports the long term development of organisations as a route towards justice, equity and sustainability. The Fund will support development that leads to more socially engaged artistic practice for the benefit of society.

We are looking to work with organisations for whom art and social change is central to their vision and mission. We also support applications which propose new ways of addressing the structural inequalities within the cultural sector.

We prioritise supporting organisations with their core costs so you can continue the work you are already doing in this space. We do not prioritise proposals which are solely or in the majority for project funding.

**Key information:**

* **Amount:** £90,000 to £300,000 per application
* **Open for applications**:1 April – 31 May & 14 August – 14 October 2024
* **Duration:** 3 years

**Who we want to support**

We want to support cultural organisations who:

* use their creative practice to help us engage with the complexity of the world around us.
* are working in historically underfunded genres and art forms
* using their creative practice to challenge traditional cultural hierarchies of genre and art form
* centre the lived experience of those affected by injustice in their programmes, leadership and in their organisational governance.
* are exploring how values of care, equity and justice can be embedded in their own organisational structure and culture.
* have a clear sense of their own role in supporting change as part of a wider ecosystem.
* are generous with their learning and working with other organisations towards mutual aims.

**What we will fund**

This fund is focused on organisational development for those whose work aligns with the criteria of the fund. Through our funding, we would like to support you to become more sustainable and to deepen the impact of your work. This can include support for specific posts, skills development and for project delivery which is central to the organisation’s mission and vision.

We will prioritise proposals which are from organisations experiencing systemic inequity, such as (but not limited to) racial inequity, socio-economic disadvantage, having disabilities, living in isolated rural communities or experience of the immigration system**.** We’re keen to see applications which are actively anti-racist and intersectional in their approach.

Our definition of ‘arts’ is broad and includes crafts, creative writing including poetry, dance, design, film, music, opera, photography, digital arts and media, theatre and drama, the visual arts and cross-arts practices. We also seek to support organisations working outside or across disciplines.

We will fund up to 50% of an organisation’s annual turnover over three years, based on their last audited accounts. We fund organisations working all over the UK.

**What we will not fund**

* Work that is focused on entry-level employment pathways
* Work which aims primarily to deliver targeted health, wellbeing, educational or public health outcomes.
* Academic research programmes.
* Organisations who work primarily in formal education settings.
* Newly registered organisations that have yet to produce independently audited or examined accounts.
* Individuals.

**Help with applications**

We’re excited to hear your ideas and want the application process to be clear and straightforward. This year, we are using new guidance and trialing a new application process which we have developed to give applicants greater clarity about the purpose of the fund as well as the timelines for the year.

If you want to understand these changes in more depth, we have published two blogs, which cover the renewed vision of the fund and changes we have made to the processes.

We will be running regular webinars throughout the year and will make recordings of the webinars available to rewatch, along with FAQs. We encourage prospective applicants to attend and be part of the conversation.

To ask a specific question not covered in the webinars or FAQs, you can email arts@phf.org.uk.

**Who we have funded**

Some examples of what we’ve funded from our most recent rounds of applications:

**Peak Cymru**

* GRANT AMOUNT: £179,000
* DATE AWARDED: 2023/24
* LOCATION: The Black Mountains, Wales

“We’re a Welsh arts organisation based in the Black Mountains collaborating with artists, young people and their communities. Responding and working in our rural environment, we use the resources of landscape, culture and language to create a trans-disciplinary programme, focused on visual, digital and literary arts supporting sustainable, equitable futures.”

Our support for Peak Cymru is for a Co-Director (Young People and Programme), paid roles for Young People across production and programming and support for a steering group of Young People. We love Peak Cymru’s programming approach, exploring global issues such as the climate crisis, language loss and colonialism through a hyper-local lens.

**Ort Gallery**

Grant amount: £200,000

Date awarded: 2023/24

Location: Balsall Heath, Birmingham

Ort Gallery created ‘Warmth’ in late 2020. The methodology centres collective care and empathy and embeds equity across their operations and practice. The gallery interrogated its own role in upholding exclusivity and engaged in a process of unlearning ways of working that did not serve them. They have implemented a flat working structure, ensuring that everyone working for the organisation has a right to challenge, influence and steer its direction.

Throughout the last 2 years, they have shared their journey and learnings and the gallery is gaining recognition through this approach. With PHF support, OG plans to explore the potential for wider sector impact through partnerships and consultation whilst continuing to grow its community-led creative programming. We are excited to support Ort Gallery for their self-reflective approach to working equitably and generous approach to learning in the open.

**How to apply**

1. Complete the online first stage application form, which will be open from 1 April 12pm – 31 May at 12pm. You will also need to submit your organisational business plan and budget.
2. We plan for all applicants to receive a decision on their first stage form by July 31st. This may vary depending on the volume of applications that we receive.
3. If we progress your application to the second round, we will contact you to arrange an interview at a convenient time between August and October.
4. We will let you know the outcome by the end of October.

**Ready to apply? Begin here.**