**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, bringing unheard stories and narratives to the fore and opening up new imaginative possibilities. To realise this potential, we believe the sector needs long-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 potential of art for personal, cultural and social transformation. 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.

We are looking to work with organisations for whom these aspirations are central to their vision and mission. The Arts Fund supports the long-term development and transformation of these organisations as a route towards social justice and sustainability.

**Key information:**

* **Amount:** £90,000 to £300,000 per application
* **Open for applications**: 2 April – 31 May & 14 August – 14 October 2024
* **Duration:** 3 years
  + We offer support for organisations with core costs so you can continue the work you are already doing and for programmes which are central to your organisation’s mission
  + 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.

**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.
* centre the lived experience of those affected by injustice in their programmes, leadership and governance.
* are exploring how values of care, equity and justice can be embedded in their own organisational 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.
* use their creative practice to challenge traditional cultural hierarchies of genre and art form.

Our definition of ‘arts’ 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.

**What we will fund**

This fund is focused on supporting organisations to become more sustainable and to deepen the impact of the work. This can include support for specific posts, skills development, underpinning of the strategy or business model and for project delivery which is central to your organisation’s mission and vision.

When assessing applications, we will consider how organisations have been impacted by systemic inequities, 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 will prioritise applications which are actively anti-racist and intersectional in their approach.

**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.
* Capital projects and equipment purchase.

**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.

We will host two online Q&A sessions – you can sign up below:

* [Online Q&A Session – 9 April](https://phf-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vv263kmERlWJNirBXGsRPA#/registration)
* [Online Q&A Session – 7 May](https://phf-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-0xfXk3tRHSkVbbL2fQyuw)

To ask a specific question not covered in the webinars or FAQs, you can email [arts@phf.org.uk](mailto: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 an arts organisation working with young people, artists and intergenerational communities at our two sites in Southeast Wales, a railway station and an old school, and from rural locations such as mountains, caves and canals. We celebrate the unique qualities and ecologies of our region through young people’s programmes (14 – 30 years), collaborative research and residencies, exploring ways to live now and sustainable rural 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 is on a social mission to redefine contemporary visual arts. We recognise that galleries are sites of oppression which centre and reproduce white normative and elitist ways of ‘being’ under the supposed guise of neutrality. We are interested in challenging this head on; whilst also committing to creating space for local artists and our wider community to play an active role in shaping such practices.”

Ort Gallery created ‘Warmth’ in late 2020. The methodology centres collective care and empathy and embeds equity across their operations and practice, unlearning ways of working that did not serve them. 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.

**Bristol Beacon**

Grant amount: £400,000

Date awarded: 2023/24

Location: Bristol

“Bristol Beacon is a music charity, renowned venue and award-winning music education hub. With a city-wide programme of live music, creative learning opportunities and community engagement, we’re here to help make space for music every day, with everyone. With you!

A place of welcome, warmth and light, we extend an open invitation to the city for everyone to come and share in the joy of live music and celebrate this in everything we do.”

We have supported Bristol Beacon on their journey of transformation, embracing a more holistic vision of the role that they can play in the city than the traditional concert hall model. We feel that their commitment to listening and responding to communities, to accessible and communal music-making and to reflecting their values and ethos across their organisation is rare for organisations of this scale. We see their work as integral to supporting the music infrastructure of the city and to demonstrating how large, established organisations can embark on a process of change from within to be a better partner to local communities.

**How to apply**

1. Complete the online first stage application form, which will be open from 4 April until 31 May at 12pm. If you have them, we also ask that you submit your organisational business plan and budget.
2. We plan for all applicants to receive a decision on their first stage form by 31 July. 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 conversation at a convenient time between August and October and request any additional information we need. We will send you questions for the conversation in advance, and only request additional information that you already have and use.
4. We will let you know the outcome by the end of October.

**Ready to apply? Begin here.**