

Arts Council of Wales

Sharing Together 2020/21

Arts Council of Wales Strategic Initiative to encourage the Development of Networking Opportunities

September 2020



Introduction

The Arts Council of Wales wants to fund ideas which encourage the creation of new networks, and which strengthen existing networking opportunities.

As we all try to cope with the consequences of Covid 19, it's becoming increasingly important that we connect across the arts and cultural sectors, and that we provide support for the sharing and exchange of information.

We're particularly interested in initiatives which focus on promoting and strengthening diversity and inclusion throughout the arts sector, and on widening engagement with diverse communities. We want all voices to be heard, and to matter. We feel it's important that communities and debates arising from #BlackLivesMatter and #WeShallNotBeRemoved are able to continue, to inform, enrich and broaden the arts sector here in Wales.

We're open to different sorts of ideas. However, this might include networks which focus on:

- Engaging and developing diverse audiences
- Supporting diverse voices across the sector to make themselves heard. We are particularly interested in supporting networks of creatives from the Black, Non-Black People of Colour and Disabled communities
- Increasing participation in the Arts, particularly for those who feel separated or disconnected for a number of reasons – including, but not restricted to, economic, social and geographical considerations.
- Developing sustainable funding models to enable this activity.

Networks come in all shapes and sizes. Some are more formal than others; some large, others small. Networks may choose to meet on a regular basis, others as and when the members feel it necessary. Networks don't have to depend on face to face meetings – they can be created and run online. You will, however, need to consider and fully comply with current restrictions around social interaction due to Covid-19.

We see networks as being important to facilitate the following:

- sharing skills, knowledge and expertise;
- providing support;
- encouraging collaborative working;

- sharing resources;
- debating issues and discussing ideas

Supporting new and existing networks

We're keen to encourage the creation of new networks that bring together people and organisations with shared needs and interests. We feel that these are far more likely to develop and prosper if they grow organically from within the sector rather than being created by a third party, such as Arts Council of Wales.

So it's over to you. We can provide small sums of money on a one-off basis towards:

- Costs of one-off meetings to bring together individuals or organisations sharing a common purpose with a view to creating a network
- Set up costs towards the creation of online forums/communities

We don't want to exclude existing networks, and we're keen to explore with them ways of developing the support they offer their members. This may, for example, result in providing some funding towards a one off event that will enhance the capabilities of the group or offer an opportunity to increase the number of members.

We're open to supporting a range of different types of networks: local/regional groups; artist led groups or networks connected by art form or activity types. In supporting the development of new networks, we're particularly concerned that evidence of a clear **common purpose** or **shared need** among potential members can be demonstrated. We also need to feel sure that subsequent activity will be self-sustaining.

Applying for funds

We have funds available for small scale one off projects in 2020/21. We can provide up to £2,000 per project. **Please note that we expect your project to take place before the end of March 2021.**

To apply for funding, you'll need to complete a simple application form. **This funding opportunity isn't part of general lottery funding, so you must contact us for a link to the relevant form, or we will be unable to process your request (see contact details at the end of this note).**

You'll also be asked to upload some supporting information, to include a project budget and also a brief proposal (no longer than two sides of A4) that clearly outline the benefits of the project. Within your proposal we would like you to include:

- Contact details for the individual and organisation leading the proposal
- A description of what you want to do
- The reasons why you want to do it
- Evidence of the need for this project
- The number of organisations/individuals you envisage will want to take part and how you will attract members
- The benefits to those of taking part
- Details of the costs you would like us to meet

We will fund 100% of your project costs as long as they do not exceed £2,000. The types of costs that we can help with include:

- Room Hire
- Catering
- Speaker/Facilitator fees and expenses
- Translation Fees (if required)
- Access costs
- Hire of equipment
- Purchase of appropriate software or up to 1 year's access to an online platform

Further Information

We can only meet the travel costs and expenses of individuals taking a formal role in the meeting, for example as a guest speaker, facilitator etc.

It doesn't matter if you haven't received funding from us in the past. As long as you can show the need among potential participants, we'll consider your proposal.

We'll consider proposals from organisations based outside Wales that wish to create a network based in Wales. We'll also consider proposals for networks that include organisations from beyond Wales within their membership.

What we'll expect from you if we award you funding

We'll ask all those who received our support to provide a brief report on the meeting/activity that takes place. This might include details of the number of people who took part, the types of organisations represented, a description of what took place and an outline of any future plans that might have been discussed either on the day or subsequently.

Selection Process

Decisions will be made by a Panel of Arts Council of Wales Officers, including up to 3 Development Officers and chaired by a Portfolio Manager.

We will do our best to let you know the decision no later than four weeks after the published deadline date.

Interested?

Please make sure to contact us to receive a link to an application form for strategic funding. You can contact either:

Amanda Loosemore

Portfolio Manager, Engagement & Participation

Email: amanda.loosemore@arts.wales

Tel: 01267 230337

Lisa Williams

Team Co-Ordinator, Engagement & Participation

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Tel: 029 2044 1349

Deadline for proposals Wednesday 7 October 2020

When planning your submission, please make sure that you've allowed yourself enough time to complete your project before the end of March 2021. We won't be able to fund those whose activities will extend beyond this date.