

Cultural Development and Innovation Fund Q&As

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| <p>What is the Cultural Development and Innovation Fund?</p> | <p>The Cultural Development and Innovation Fund is intended to support recovery for culture businesses by enabling them to make strategic step changes in business activity with a view to diversifying income streams, building resilience and safeguarding jobs.</p> |
| <p>Who can apply for funding?</p> | <p>The expression of interest form includes checks to see if you are eligible. Eligible businesses/charities must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an independent SME's and sole traders (including freelancers and CIC's) with between 1 and 250 employees / or a registered charity; • Not be a franchise or part of a national chain; • Be working within the cultural sector and have a demonstrable trading record of at least 24 months within the culture sector; • Be registered / trading from premises in the Tees Valley; • Have a business / charity bank account; • Have been viable pre-pandemic; • Must be able to demonstrate that the primary activity of the business is concerned with the delivery of cultural activities. |
| <p>Can a freelancer apply for a grant?</p> | <p>This grant must be used to make a strategic step change in business activity with a view to diversifying income streams, building resilience and safeguarding jobs. Freelancers are welcome to apply and must demonstrate how their proposal responds to this criteria. Funding cannot be used for the delivery of isolated creative projects which do not have a lifespan beyond that occurrence e.g. the creation of a one-off piece of work.</p> |
| <p>What is the funding for?</p> | <p>Grants are available for eligible applicants who have well-developed plans for new ways of working which have been prompted by challenges to existing business models presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. These adaptations could include activity such as developing new products; realising new partnerships (including with the wider creative industries & other sectors); engaging with new markets and deploying new technologies. Proposals should be for interventions which could lead to sustained ways of working rather than interim solutions: the programme is intended to support new ways of doing in the current climate which have the potential to be sustained to support business resilience / growth in the longer-term.</p> |
| <p>How much funding can I apply for?</p> | <p>There will be a two tier grant funding approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses with turnover of more than £100k can apply for grants of up to £25,000 • Businesses with turnover of less than £100k can apply for grants of up to £10,000 |
| <p>What do you mean by 'cultural businesses?'</p> | <p>For the purposes of this grant programme, cultural businesses are those which are focused on the creation, delivery, curation or technical production of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual arts • Performing arts • Heritage • Film & TV • Music • Literature |
| <p>Where can I apply</p> | <p>Visit: teesvalleybusiness.com/back-to-business</p> |
| <p>How will I receive the funding?</p> | <p>Payments will be made in installments (2 minimum) appropriate to the proposed activity and likely cashflow needs. If invited to submit a full application you will be asked to provide a budget profile spend as part of the full application.</p> |

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| Do I need to include VAT in my grant? | If your business is not Vat Registered and therefore unable to reclaim VAT then you need to include VAT as part of your project costs. |
| I have already had COVID-19 support – am I eligible? | Yes, you are still able to apply for this grant as long as you fit with the core eligibility criteria. |
| How quickly will I know the outcome of my application? | Decisions will not be made on a first-come-first served basis but on the merit; suitability and deliverability of the application. The grant will be administered in two stages. The Expression of Interest stage will open to applicants on Monday 19 th October and will remain open for 7 days. Following this, an initial sift of proposals will take place against set criteria. Applicants who presented the highest scoring proposals will be invited to submit a full application by mid-November. Each full application will then be appraised and those that meet the set criteria will be considered by an Expert Panel which is made up of industry leaders and partners. Successful applicants will be informed shortly after. |
| Who will be on expert panel? | This is a sector-specific grant funding programme and therefore it is essential that sector expertise be embedded in the decision-making process. This will ensure appropriate insight and evaluation of proposal viability and value for money. In-line with the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework which ensures responsible and transparent decision-making processes, the Expert Panel will include representatives from: the independent Creative & Visitor Economy Recovery Task Force; TVCA; and a Local Authority partner. |
| Where can I get help to complete the form? | Please see additional guidance notes which provide step-by-step guidance to accurately complete the expression of interest. If accessibility is a barrier to you being able to complete the EOI, help is available to you. Please call 03301247782. |
| How is the Cultural Development and Innovation Fund funded? | Tees Valley Combined Authority is launching a Cultural Industries Development and Innovation Fund as part of its wider COVID recovery programme for the Cultural Industries and Visitor Economy. The recovery programme has also included the successful 'Welcome Back' and 'Better Business' initiatives which launched earlier this year and provided over £1million of financial support to 600 Tees Valley businesses. More information about the programme and the work of the Cultural Industries & Visitor Economy Recovery Task Force can be found on the Combined Authority's website: https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/culture-tourism |
| I have already made changes to my business, can I still apply? | This fund will not cover retrospective funding or activities. Proposals must be for new activity where finance has been a major barrier in implementing your proposed plans. |
| Does this fund cover research and development (R&D) costs? | No, this fund is set up to take forward established ideas where finance is a barrier to implementation. This does not include embryonic ideas requiring research and development. |
| Can Local Authority-led Cultural organisations apply? | The programme is designed to support the recovery of independent cultural businesses and Local Authority-led cultural organisations are exempt from application |
| Is match funding required? | Financial match is welcomed but not required. Funding awarded through the programme can be used as match to support a wider proposal to other funders such as Arts Council England and vice versa provided the objectives of the TVCA investment will be achieved. |
| Can I apply for a grant to deliver a project? | This grant is designed to diversify how your business operates and your proposal should reflect development of business activity rather than delivery of projects. For example, this programme will not fund a project to be delivered with a specified audience. It will, however, fund the development of tools, resources and activity to enable market engagement and strengthen income generating opportunities. |