

Networks Funding

Opens May 2024

What is it?

At Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy, we work to empower arts and cultural professionals by supporting them to develop their practice and find creative, new approaches to fundraising. We believe that collaboration is a powerful tool for stimulating innovation, sharing ideas, building knowledge and developing new skills. Our Networks Funding aims to achieve exactly that.

We offer **core financial support to fundraising groups or networks** across England to support them to grow and thrive. Our funding will contribute to the development of new training events, conferences, seminars or meetings, with the aim of strengthening arts fundraising skills and building robust partnerships across the sector.

What can we fund?

We are looking to support a diverse range of events tackling key issues within the current environment. We are particularly interested in activity that aims to strengthen business planning, governance, fundraising, earned income, cash management and audience development.

Examples of activity eligible for funding:

- Training days
- Conferences/seminars
- Setting up a network around a particular geographic area, business focus (eg fundraising) or specialism
- Place-based networks such as cultural strategy groups where there is an emphasis on the resilience of the organisations involved

We are able to fund both face-to-face and virtual networking activity, understanding the important role of both accessible online opportunities and real-world connections.

Organisations can apply for support to cover any relevant expenditure for an event or activity to take place **between June and October 2024:**

- Up to a maximum of £2,500 for any single event, or group of events, benefitting a community of people, who are either freelancers or staff from at least five different arts, cultural or heritage organisations. The funding can cover the costs of co-ordination, participants' travel costs, venue hire, catering and speakers/guests.
- Up to a maximum of £1,000 for entirely virtual activity, to cover the cost of software, administration or external training support. Virtual activity must benefit a minimum of ten people.

We will prioritise support to networks and groups that have not previously received funding from Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy. However, we will accept proposals from those that we have previously supported that would like to do something different or expand their reach in some way.

We are looking to support a diverse range of events tackling key issues that organisations are currently facing in regards to fundraising. As such, we have identified the following priority areas that we have a particular interest in:

- Exploring place-based fundraising and collaboration across region, especially in response to changes to Local Authority Culture budgets
- Exploring ways to support the wellbeing and resilience of arts fundraisers
- To develop knowledge of AI effectiveness in fundraising, particularly in relation to donor engagement and support
- To advance programmes in relation to legacy giving and encouraging investment into this area in the arts
- To enhance knowledge of green fundraising strategies and how cultural fundraising can play a part in supporting the environmental agenda

How to apply

To apply please fill out this [SurveyMonkey form](#) and submit it by 12.00pm (noon) on Friday 24th May 2024. The form will ask you to provide the following:

- Your organisation name, status and lead contact information
- A summary of your network and its purpose
- A summary of what the funding will cover
- An overview of your intended impact and how you will share learning
- A detailed budget, with expenditure and income for the activity, including a breakdown of the costs you would like to be covered by AFP and any income from other sources either cash or in-kind

Diversity & Inclusion

We welcome applications from a wide range of individuals and organisations, to reflect the diversity of artists and audiences for art and culture across England. We are aware that diversity runs through many aspects including race, ethnicity, faith, disability, age, gender, sexuality, class and economic background, as well as many other social and institutional barriers that prevent people from creating, participating or enjoying art and culture.

We are particularly interested in receiving applications from networks that offer support to a diverse range of individuals and/or support to staff within organisations that are themselves committed to helping beneficiaries from diverse backgrounds.

We will expect all applicants to include within their proposals ways in which they will ensure that their event(s) are fully inclusive and accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Applicants can request an additional 20% of the basic amount they have requested towards the costs of access requirements. Please outline in your application why you require this additional support and outline specifically how the funds will be used.

How will decisions be made?

When making our decisions, we will consider:

- The benefit of the activity for those involved;

- The benefit of the activity for strengthening arts, cultural or heritage fundraising across the region or sector that the group represents;
- The balance of support we can offer to individuals and groups across England, taking into account our commitment to reach a diverse range of individuals and networks.

Please note that we will expect all successful applicants to provide us with a short report following their activity to feed into our evaluation. All funding will be provided following your activity through the submission of an expenses form and receipts.

For further information about the Programme please contact artsfundraising@cause4.co.uk