



# Cash for Culture

A guide to fundraising for  
community-based creative  
groups in England

2025



**Creative  
Lives**

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# Hello

**If you're reading this, chances are you're one of the people responsible for raising money for your group. In which case, well done – you deserve a massive pat on the back.**

**Across the UK and Ireland, thousands of creative groups regularly get together to have fun, learn and share skills, express themselves and make life better within their communities. But all of that costs money – often not a lot – but some level of investment is required, whether it be in-kind support or small pots of cash.**

**This guide is here to help you access funds in a range of ways. From applying to national funders and trusts to raising money at a local level, there are lots of ways to help your group do what it does best – be creative.**

**We hope you'll find this guide useful and we wish you all the very best in your fundraising endeavours.**



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## About Creative Lives

**Creative Lives is a registered charity that was established in 1991. We champion community and volunteer-led creative activity, and work to improve opportunities for everyone to be creative.**

**We work with groups, organisations, policy-makers, funders and others to encourage creative participation, promote inclusivity, connect people and increase awareness of the links between creativity and wellbeing.**

**There are a number of ways in which we can help you fundraise for your group . . .**

### Website

Visit [www.creative-lives.org](http://www.creative-lives.org) to explore our regularly updated 'Funding opportunities' section. Here you'll find details of the latest grants available from funders who support creative activity, along with other fundraising initiatives. We also occasionally have our own micro-grants to distribute.

We also have a number of free information briefings to download, including 'Applying to Trust Funds', 'Corporate Social Responsibility', 'Attracting Business Sponsors', 'Crowdfunding for Creative Groups' – and our most popular briefing, 'How To Write a Successful Funding Application'.

### Newsletter

On our homepage you'll find a place to sign up to our monthly newsletter, which includes recent funding opportunities, as well as lots of other information about creative participation, helpful learning events and stories to inspire you!



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## About Creative Lives

### Creative Lives Awards

Our bi-ennial celebration recognises the hard work, innovation and creativity of community-based groups across the UK and Ireland. We choose winners from each nation and there is a 'People's Choice' award voted for by the public.

Winners receive a cash prize amongst other things – and previous applicants have found that being shortlisted for and/or winning a Creative Lives Award has a positive impact on future funding applications. Find out more at [www.creative-lives.org/awards](http://www.creative-lives.org/awards)

### Creativity Map

More members in your group can equal more subs and potentially bigger audiences at your events. Make sure people can find you by adding your group to our Creativity Map, which carries details of local creative groups across the UK and Ireland.

[www.creative-lives.org/creativity-map](http://www.creative-lives.org/creativity-map)

### Social Media

Let us spread the word about your events, performances and achievements – and potentially increase your audience – by tagging us on social media @CreativeLivesCL or getting in touch via [info@creative-lives.org](mailto:info@creative-lives.org) with details of your event.

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# Searching for funding online

## Searching for funding online

Increasingly, finding and applying for funding often relies on your ability to search online for information or opportunities.

As a starting point, try looking in your search engine (e.g. Google) for information using basic terms such as 'arts funding', 'culture funding' or 'community grants'. To narrow it down, you can add your location or refine results by being more specific in what you do..

There are also many 'Funding Finder' websites available. These platforms carry extensive databases of trusts and foundations for you to search through. Some will charge for access – which may well prove to be value for money in the long run – but some are available for free, so shop around.

Here are a few places worth checking out online . . .

## ActionFunder

ActionFunder matches businesses with local non-profits that share their aims and ambitions. Community-based groups register (for free) and create a profile, then ActionFunder matches your organisation with grant funding opportunities on their platform. You get notified when you have a new match, at which point you upload details of your project and see if you're offered funding. [www.actionfunder.org](http://www.actionfunder.org)

## Charity Excellence

A free, all-in-one platform designed to support non-profits in accessing funding, resources, and expert guidance. The platform offers a wealth of tools, including online health checks and funding directories. [www.charityexcellence.co.uk](http://www.charityexcellence.co.uk)

## Funds Online

Run by the Directory of Social Change, Funds Online features a search database of over 8,000 funders. They also run training courses, organise events and write publications on a range of helpful subjects. Subscriptions are available for one week or one year. [www.fundsonline.org.uk](http://www.fundsonline.org.uk)

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## Searching for funding online

### Get Grants

Get Grants provides practical support in the form of training, information and advice that fundraisers (including community groups and charities) with all levels of experience can take away and put into practice. They also have a 'Funding Finder' section, with details of hundreds of funders.

[www.getgrants.org.uk](http://www.getgrants.org.uk)

### Grants Online

Grants Online is one of the UK's most comprehensive grant funding information services. You can search their database by region and by area of interest (such as 'Arts, Culture & Heritage', 'Community Development', 'Children & Young People'). Subscriptions start at £99 per year for a single user but even if you don't want to subscribe, their 'Latest Funding News' section can still prove useful.

[www.grantsonline.org.uk](http://www.grantsonline.org.uk)

### Grantway

Grantway is free to search and carries details of thousands of funding opportunities, both nationally and internationally, plus articles, guides and tips.

[www.grantway.com](http://www.grantway.com)

### My Funding Central

This subscription-based funding service is exclusively aimed at small local communities, small town/parish councils, voluntary and charitable organisations, and small business enterprises in England. Their extensive funding database holds up-to-the-minute funding information on active grants and social investment providers. Annual subscriptions are free for groups with an annual turnover of £30,000 or less.

[www.myfundingcentral.co.uk](http://www.myfundingcentral.co.uk)

### Spacehive

Spacehive is a funding platform for ideas that bring local places to life. If you create a page for your project idea on their website, it will be matched to funds from councils, foundations and companies that may want to help.

[www.spacehive.com](http://www.spacehive.com)

### Turn2us

Turn2us is a national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially. One of the services on their website is an easy-to-use 'Grants Search' tool which is free to access.

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

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## Tips for writing a successful funding application

**Whether it's for a large Lottery application or a few hundred pounds from a local micro-grant, the people reading your words want you to build a picture of your activity in their minds. Chances are, you'll be up against many others competing for the same pot of cash so don't let a poor application stop your fantastic project from getting the funding it deserves. Here are a few things to bear in mind . . .**



**Answer the question** – Funders expect you to answer the question they actually ask and not just tell them how good your project will be. Read over all the questions carefully to ensure you have all the answers in front of you before you start writing (this may involve asking several people for input, so make sure you build in enough time).

**Consider your words** – Don't just throw them in, choose your words wisely to help add meaning to your story. Read it out loud to yourself before sending – does it sound compelling? Would you fund it if you heard someone else saying those words? A positive tone often helps: 'We will do this' not 'We might do this' – if you don't have confidence in your ability, nor will the funder!

**Word(s) count** – Make sure you stick to the word count. It can be hard but funders don't want to read pages and pages of text. Many digital applications are limited to a specific character count or word count (and there's a huge difference between those two!) so plan it out in advance before filling in the actual online application.

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# Tips for writing a successful funding application

**Do your homework** – Read any application guidance the funder provides before starting, in particular regarding specific criteria or priorities they may have. It's also worth taking a look at their annual reports or case studies of previous funding recipients, to get a feel for what they're looking for.

**Think about your 'audience'** – Who are you asking for support? What are they interested in? What do they want to hear from you? While you need to have your own voice, think about the language the funder uses to describe things and how you might incorporate some of that into your writing.

**Don't oversell** – Not everything can be stratospheric all the time. This can be hard to gauge, but overselling your time and skills is a risk. Remember the costs and time allotted need to be appropriate to the project, and funders know that.

**It's not all about money** – When writing your budget, remember to include any in-kind support such as donations of materials, free space to work in, training, or volunteers gifting their time and expertise. All of these make for an impressive mixed budget and show that you have support from others, which adds more value to your project for a funder.

**Make it easy for them** – Funders need to be able to make sense of your application, and quickly! Label things clearly and consistently, double-check your costs, make sure any links (to websites etc) work and that all your documents can be opened easily.

**Don't be scared of rejection** – Not every request will be successful, and sometimes there are just too many applicants and even a great application will be turned down. But if you don't ask you don't get – and if it's a "no", you can learn from it (request feedback if they offer it) and ask again.

**Keep in touch** – If you're successful with your application, let your funder know how your project is going from time to time, with testimonials and photos. And be honest and open with them – if your project needs to alter or adapt due to a change in circumstances, or in response to participant feedback, talk to them about it. Remember, you may be looking for funding from them again in the future.



Download Creative Lives' free guide 'How To Write a Successful Funding Application' at [www.creative-lives.org/how-to-write-a-successful-funding-application](http://www.creative-lives.org/how-to-write-a-successful-funding-application)

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# Becoming a charity

**Creative groups come in different shapes, sizes and structures and funders are well aware of this. Some funders will require you to be a registered charity, while others will be content with your group simply being constituted and having a bank account (or even be happy with you nominating a larger organisation to receive the funds on your behalf).**

If you start to find that not being a registered charity is limiting your fundraising options, then it's worth considering making the move to become one. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has a range of helpful resources on its website in its 'Running a Charity' section. Here you'll find information on the legal obligations of charities, charity finance, compliance and much more. Visit [www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/running-a-charity](http://www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/running-a-charity).

NCVO also maintains a handy toolkit originally created by the Small Charities Coalition (now closed) which steers you through the logistics of setting up a charity, including lots of useful checklists. You can find the toolkit here: [www.charitysetup.org.uk](http://www.charitysetup.org.uk)

The Charity Commission for England and Wales has information on setting up and registering a new charity, what you need to send to them for your annual return, the roles of trustees and much more. Visit them at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission)

On the UK Government website you'll also find a handy 'step by step' guide to becoming a charity in England or Wales: [www.gov.uk/set-up-a-charity](http://www.gov.uk/set-up-a-charity).



Download Creative Lives' free information briefing, 'Getting Charitable Status': [www.creative-lives.org/getting-charitable-status](http://www.creative-lives.org/getting-charitable-status)







**How was it for you?**

**We speak to Thames Head Singers in Stroud, Gloucestershire about their experience of registering as a charity.**

**How long had Thames Head Singers been going before you became a registered charity? What prompted you to do so?**

We formed in 1980, and in 2017 we registered as a charity with HMRC for Gift Aid purposes. In 2023 we then applied to the Charity Commission to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and were registered in January 2024.

Our initial registration with HMRC in 2017 was prompted by the opportunity to use Gift Aid. Gift Aid is a long-standing tax break that allows charities to treat donations (in a broad sense) as if they had been paid net of basic-rate tax, and claim the tax from HMRC. That means that a donation of £80 attracts a tax benefit of £20.

Our subsequent registration with the Charity Commission in 2023/24 was prompted by the need either to register or to cease being a charity due to our growing turnover. This is because charities with turnover in excess of £5,000 must register with the Charity Commission. We had been close to the limit before, but then Covid meant that we were able to wait.

**How did you find the process of registering with the Charity Commission? Did they help guide you through the process?**

We decided that if we had to register, we would take the opportunity to convert to a CIO. We were lucky in having a trustee who had been through the process with another organisation, so he led us through it.



The process of setting up a CIO is not that complicated, but nor is it intuitive. It's definitely one of those things that is much easier when you have done it before. We had limited contact with the Charity Commission - they just made a couple of helpful suggestions for changes to our draft CIO constitution.

### **What responsibilities did you take on when you became a charity? And how much time does this take you, as an organisation?**

As part of the process of registering with HMRC in 2017, we adopted a Making Music model charitable constitution. That was not massively onerous. The jury is still out on the extra work generated by being a CIO - it has not been too bad so far, but we have yet to go through our first year-end reporting process. Fortunately our trustees have connections with other longer-established CIOs, and can learn from them.

### **What do you feel are the benefits of being a charity? Have you found more fundraising opportunities?**

Gift Aid\* was the big one for us. We were also then able to participate in our local community good-causes lottery. However, we believe that it probably also brings some intangible benefits in our public perception. Our potential audience and

potential members may be more likely to support an organisation that has the official confirmation of being for good causes rather than making money.

*\* See page 63 in this publication for more information on Gift Aid.*

### **If a group is thinking of taking the plunge and becoming a charity, what advice would you give them?**

Ideally, find someone to help you who has been through the process already with another group or organisation. It's not that difficult, but it seems rather daunting for those who have not seen it before. It may well not be practical to recruit a trustee just because they have done a charity incorporation before, but it may be possible to find someone who has done it and would be prepared to give some advice through the process.

### **Is there anything you wish you'd known before starting the process of becoming a charity?**

No, I don't think there is. It has delivered the benefits we were looking for and (so far!) has not given us any cause for regret. We are glad we did it.

# Your local area

## Local Councils

**Most local councils have grants available for grassroots groups – or at the very least can provide support to help you look for it.**

**Each local council website will have a different way of listing their grants, so try searching for words such as ‘culture funding’, ‘arts grants’, ‘community grants’ etc to track down what’s available in your area.**



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# Local authority funding

## Community Foundations

The community foundation closest to you will have at least one local grant to give out (and possibly more), and may also distribute other small funds on behalf of national programmes. Find your nearest community foundation by keying in your postcode at the website below.

[www.ukcommunityfoundations.org](http://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org)

## Combined Authorities

In some parts of England, local authorities have joined forces to boost the economy in their region. In some cases, this may include arts and culture funding. There are currently combined authorities for:

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#)

[Greater Manchester](#)

[Liverpool City Region](#)

[North East](#)

[North of Tyne](#)

[South Yorkshire](#)

[Tees Valley](#)

[West Midlands](#)

[West of England](#)

[West Yorkshire](#)



# Funders and development agencies

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## Funders and development agencies

### The Architectural Heritage Fund

Supports charities and not-for-profits in developing historic building projects in England with two funding options: Project Viability Grants of up to £15,000 for early-stage work to assess project feasibility, and Project Development Grants of up to £20,000 to support development work to help projects progress toward the start of on-site work.

[www.ahfund.org.uk](http://www.ahfund.org.uk)

### The Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund

This fund supports the purchase of materials for the permanent collections of non-nationally funded museums, galleries, record repositories, and specialist libraries in England and Wales. Maximum grant of 50% of the purchase price, up to £50,000 per applicant per year.

[www.vam.ac.uk/info/the-ace-va-purchase-grant-fund#how-to-apply-for-a-purchase-grant](http://www.vam.ac.uk/info/the-ace-va-purchase-grant-fund#how-to-apply-for-a-purchase-grant)

### The Arts & Culture Impact Fund (Figurative)

An £18 million social impact investment fund supporting UK-based arts, culture, and heritage organisations. Offering repayable finance between £150,000 and £1million, the fund helps organisations acquire assets, improve infrastructure, and scale their ventures. With a focus on social impact, the fund supports organisations that deliver measurable outcomes for communities.

[figurative.org.uk/fund/arts-culture-impact-fund/](http://figurative.org.uk/fund/arts-culture-impact-fund/)

### Art Fund

Supports UK museums by helping them acquire and share art, engage with communities, and inspire future generations. Its funding includes Acquisition Grants for purchasing art, Commission Grants for creating and acquiring new works, and Student Opportunities Grants to provide paid placements for students in museums.

[www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)

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## Funders and development agencies

### The Association of Independent Museums (AIM)

Offers grants to its members to support organisational growth. Funding includes Collections Care and Conservation grants to help small to medium-sized museums conserve their collections, and training grants of up to £350 to develop the skills of museum staff. To apply, organisations must be AIM members.

[www.aim-museums.co.uk](http://www.aim-museums.co.uk)

### BBC Children in Need

Awards grants to charities and not-for-profit organisations supporting disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.

[www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk](http://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk)

### Film Hub

Part of the BFI Film Audience Network, Film Hub offers funding across England to support film exhibition, audience development, and community screenings. With branches in the Midlands, North, South West, South East, and London, Film Hub funding focuses on enhancing access to underrepresented films, supporting local film festivals, and growing diverse audiences. Each Hub tailors its funding opportunities to regional priorities.

[www.bfi-fan.org.uk/about-fan/film-hubs](http://www.bfi-fan.org.uk/about-fan/film-hubs)

### The Fore

Offers grants to charitable organisations, including those in the arts sector, that address social challenges with innovative, impactful projects. It supports organisations that demonstrate scalability and a clear potential for positive change.

[www.thefore.org](http://www.thefore.org)

### Friends of the Nations' Libraries

Provides acquisition grants to national, regional, and specialist libraries, archives, and museums to help them acquire rare books, manuscripts, and archives. As the only UK charity focusing on acquisitions in this area, FNL supports collections that might not otherwise be affordable, contributing significantly to the preservation of the nation's written and printed heritage.

[www.fnl.org.uk](http://www.fnl.org.uk)

### The Grocers' Charity

Supports UK charities that foster wellbeing, and promote creativity, self-expression and social understanding through ideas, dialogue and performance. It funds programmes that help artists with financial challenges or disability support requirements, and charities engaging with marginalised audiences.

[www.grocershall.co.uk](http://www.grocershall.co.uk)

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## Funders and development agencies

### Help Musicians UK

A range of grants for music-makers, to help with educational costs, recording your own music, attending courses and more.

[www.helpmusicians.org.uk](http://www.helpmusicians.org.uk)

### Higher Education Museums, Galleries and Collections Fund

Provides an annual allocation to higher education museums, galleries and collections. The current funding of £14 million per year supports 40 higher education museums, galleries, and collections across 21 higher education providers.

[www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/museum-galleries-and-collections-fund](http://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/museum-galleries-and-collections-fund)

### Historic England

The organisation has a range of funding streams, including repair grants for historic sites, and 'Everyday Heritage Grants' for creative projects that focus on heritage, connecting people to historic places.

[www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/grants/our-grant-schemes](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/grants/our-grant-schemes)

### National Lottery Awards for All England

Voluntary or community organisations can apply for between £300 and £20,000 to do at least one of the following:

Bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities  
Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities

Help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage

Support people, communities and organisations facing more demands and challenges because of the cost-of-living crisis

[www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england)

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## Funders and development agencies

### The National Lottery Community Fund

Offers two key funding programmes in England:

- Awards for All England provides grants of £300 to £20,000 for up to two years to support community-led projects. These projects must build relationships, improve community spaces, help individuals reach their potential, or support those affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Projects involving sports, arts, or heritage must show how they strengthen communities.
- Reaching Communities England offers grants starting at £20,001 for up to five years to fund projects or organisations making positive changes in communities. Funding can cover specific activities, broader organisational costs, or responses to the cost-of-living crisis. Projects must demonstrate they are people-led, strengths-based, and connected to their communities, involving local people in their design and delivery.

Both programmes aim to empower communities and prioritise projects addressing local needs. Applications are open year-round, with flexibility in funding to meet varying challenges.

[www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

### The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The UK's largest heritage funder, offering grants from £10,000 to £10 million for projects that connect people and communities to heritage, inspire pride, and support local economies. Funding is available across England through the National Lottery Heritage Grants programme for London and South, Midlands and East, and the North.

[www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)

### The People's Postcode Lottery

Supports arts charities in England through trusts like the Postcode Culture Trust, Local Trust, and Community Trust. Grants range from £500 to £25,000 for projects that benefit communities. Use the Community Trust Finder tool to identify the best trust for your project and access specific guidelines and application details.

[www.postcode lottery.info](http://www.postcode lottery.info)

### The Royal Countryside Fund

Supports rural communities across the UK, funding transformative, community-led initiatives. Through its Supporting Rural Communities grant programme, it helps projects that boost resilience, sustainability, and innovation, with grants of up to £25,000.

[www.royalcountrysidefund.org.uk](http://www.royalcountrysidefund.org.uk)



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## Funders and development agencies

### Youth Music

Supports children and young people aged 0-25 to make, learn, and earn in music by providing grants through several funding rounds to charities, arts venues, and youth clubs across England. Key funds include the Trailblazer Fund (£2,000–£30,000) for innovative projects, the Catalyser Fund (£30,001–£300,000) for scaling and sustaining work, and the NextGen Fund (up to £3,000) for young creatives to develop their ideas.

[www.youthmusic.org.uk/funding](http://www.youthmusic.org.uk/funding)

# Trusts and Foundations

Many trusts and foundations operate across England and the UK, each with a particular area of interest – here are some of the larger ones. You'll find more foundations that are linked to specific companies in the 'Shops & Businesses' section on page 38.



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## Trusts and Foundations

### Adnams Community Trust

The Trust awards grants for the benefit of those living within a 25-mile radius of Southwold, East Suffolk. Grants range from £100 to £2,500 in the following areas: Education, Health & Social Welfare, The Arts, Recreation, Buildings & Community Facilities, The Environment/Conservation, History. [www.adnams.co.uk/pages/adnams-community-trust](http://www.adnams.co.uk/pages/adnams-community-trust)

### The Aird Charitable Trust

Awards discretionary grants, typically under £2,000, to registered charities working across a wide range of causes, including health, education, the arts, conservation, and more. The trust does not have a website. Please phone 0151 236 6666 for information on how to apply.

### The Alburys Charitable Foundation

Supports small charities in Croydon, Dartford, and the Medway Towns, focusing on key areas including helping disadvantaged children and supporting young artists in musical theatre. Grants are awarded for specific, clearly defined projects, with a strong preference for local engagement and alignment with the foundation's objectives. [www.tacf.uk](http://www.tacf.uk)

### Allen Lane Foundation

Funds small registered charities, voluntary groups, and charitable organisations. Their current priorities are: Asylum seekers & refugees; Gypsy, Roma & Traveller communities; People with mental health issues; Offenders & ex-offenders; Older people; People affected by violence or abuse; and Young people. Grants of up to £15,000 are available, however the average grant size is £5,000-£6,000. [www.allenlane.org.uk](http://www.allenlane.org.uk)

### The Andor Charitable Trust

Offers grants of up to £3,000 to registered charities in England and Wales. It supports causes in medical services, education, disability, elderly care, sheltered accommodation, poverty relief, and the arts. The trust does not have a website. Please email [robin@blickrothenberg.com](mailto:robin@blickrothenberg.com) for information on how to apply.

### The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust

Awards grants to UK-registered charities supporting those most in need. In 2025, funding will prioritise projects focused on Access to the Arts and Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Grants are awarded quarterly, and eligibility depends on meeting income and expenditure criteria and aligning with the trust's priorities. [www.austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk](http://www.austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk)

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# Trusts and Foundations

## The Awesome Foundation

A world-wide organisation with 'chapters' in hundreds of cities, the Awesome Foundation (which is more a grassroots organisation than an actual foundation) offers monthly, no-strings grants of £500 to community groups that are making their city a better place. In England, there is currently a chapter in Liverpool.

[www.awesomefoundation.org](http://www.awesomefoundation.org)

## Backstage Trust

Supports registered charities and Community Interest Companies in the performing arts, particularly theatre and music. It funds projects up to £50,000 that engage young people, promote community participation, and help develop small and medium-scale arts organisations.

The trust does not have a website.

Please email [info@backstagetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@backstagetrust.org.uk) for information on how to apply.

## Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust

Offers bursaries for classical music education, conservation and crafts training, as well as grants for education projects in museums, the theatre and poetry and conservation of endangered historic artefacts, the natural heritage environment or historic or natural collections. Most grants are between £1,000 and £3,500.

For more information email:

[denise@bwct.org](mailto:denise@bwct.org)

## Basil Samuel Charitable Trust

Registered charities can apply for grants of between £1,000 to £5,000 to support projects for medical needs, social care, education and cultural activities.

The trust does not have a website. Please phone 020 7131 4376 for information on how to apply.

## The Belgae Trust

Supports a range of causes, including IT education, social care, youth education, the arts, and environmental conservation.

Prioritising smaller charities and projects with a value of under £100,000, the trust focuses on organisations based in Hampshire, though it may occasionally consider neighbouring counties. Grants are typically £3,000 or less.

[www.belgaetrust.org](http://www.belgaetrust.org)

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## Trusts and Foundations

### BlueSpark Foundation

Supports the education and development of children and young people by providing grants for educational, cultural, sporting and other projects.

[www.bluesparkfoundation.org.uk](http://www.bluesparkfoundation.org.uk)

### The Britford Bridge Trust

Funds UK-registered charities for national or international projects, with regional grants limited to Dorset and Cambridge. It supports education, arts, heritage, science, the environment, and poverty relief, reviewing applications quarterly.

[www.thebritfordbridgetrust.org](http://www.thebritfordbridgetrust.org)

### The Chapman Charitable Trust

Supports UK registered charities that promote physical and mental wellbeing, conserve the natural environment, and increase arts accessibility, especially for young people. Grants (£1,000–£3,000) are available for national projects or local work in South East England, with a focus on addressing root causes and making a lasting impact.

[www.chapmancharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.chapmancharitabletrust.org.uk)

### Clore Duffield Foundation

Supports UK charities in the arts, education, social welfare, and health. It funds projects that create opportunities through art, culture, and heritage, focusing on children, young people, and vulnerable communities. The foundation's Clore Learning Spaces programme helps develop creative learning environments in cultural institutions, while also supporting smaller cultural organisations to enhance spaces that engage and inspire local communities.

[www.cloreduffield.org.uk](http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk)

### The Clothworkers' Foundation

The Foundation's Open Grants Programme accepts applications from UK registered charities and not-for-profit organisations. Grants are awarded towards capital projects such as buildings, fixtures and fittings, equipment and vehicles. Their programme areas are: Communities experiencing racial inequalities; Disabilities; Domestic abuse; Economic disadvantage; Homelessness; LGBT+; Older people facing disadvantage; Prison and Rehabilitation; Substance misuse and addiction; and Young people facing disadvantage.

[www.clothworkersfoundation.org.uk](http://www.clothworkersfoundation.org.uk)

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# Trusts and Foundations

## The Coral Samuel Charitable Trust

Provides grants of up to £5,000 to UK registered charities for a variety of charitable causes, with a preference for animal welfare, education, culture, medical causes, and social welfare. The trust does not have a website. Please phone 020 7131 4376 for information on how to apply.

## The Costume Society

The Daphne Bullard Grant supports small museums and organisations in conserving and displaying dress and textiles. Established in 1973, it offers around £1,000 annually and accepts year-round applications, focusing on the history and conservation of dress and costume design.  
[www.costumesociety.org.uk/awards/the-daphne-bullard-grant](http://www.costumesociety.org.uk/awards/the-daphne-bullard-grant)

## Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation

Small grants of between £2,000-£9,000 are available for individuals, societies, associations or other bodies in the UK or Japan to promote and support interaction between the two countries. Grants can cover all fields of activity, including educational and grassroots exchanges, research travel, conferences, exhibitions, and other projects and events.  
[www.dajf.org.uk](http://www.dajf.org.uk)

## The Djanogly Foundation

Provides grants to UK charities and organisations working in education, arts, social welfare, and projects promoting the welfare of elders and the young. Grants typically range from £200 to £15,000. The Foundation prioritises new projects requiring long-term development, and has historically focused on Westminster, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire. The trust does not have a website. Please phone 020 7930 9845 for information on how to apply.

## D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

Makes grants in the range of £500-£6,000 for projects in the arts, medical welfare and the environment. Their 'Arts' category includes improving access and participation in the arts; support for charities to engage with young people on the fringes of society; and performance development for those in the early stages of their careers.  
[www.doylycartecharitabletrust.org](http://www.doylycartecharitabletrust.org)

## The Drapers' Charitable Fund

Supports projects improving quality of life for disadvantaged communities, focusing on education, social welfare, and heritage, particularly in Greater London. It funds textile conservation, skills development, and military or London heritage projects, prioritising nationally significant textiles, innovations, and related memorials or museums.  
[www.thedrapers.co.uk/drapers-charitable-fund](http://www.thedrapers.co.uk/drapers-charitable-fund)

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## Trusts and Foundations

### The Dulverton Trust

Supports UK charities with a national reach, focusing on social issues, natural world protection, and heritage crafts. Grants average £25,000–£35,000 per year and prioritise medium-sized, independent charities (£200,000–£3m income) operating in multiple regions outside London and Northern Ireland. Applications are assessed on impact, adaptability, and governance.

[www.dulverton.org](http://www.dulverton.org)

### The E C Sosnow Charitable Trust

Provides grants, typically up to £5,000, to UK registered charities working in the arts, education, emergency relief, healthcare, and supporting underprivileged people. The trust does not have a website. Please phone 020 7240 5821 for information on how to apply.

### Eranda Rothschild Foundation

Supports UK-registered charities in medical research, education, and the arts. In the arts, it prioritises education and outreach work. The Foundation does not fund individuals or non-registered charities.

[www.erandarothschild.org](http://www.erandarothschild.org)

### Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

The Foundation's current priorities are 'Our Natural World', 'A Fairer Future' (which includes 'Arts and creativity making change') and 'Creative, Confident Communities'. Registered charities with an annual turnover of over £100,000 may apply for grants ranging in size from £30,000 upwards.

[www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk](http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk)

### Fidelio Charitable Trust

The Trust welcomes applications for grants in support of the arts, particularly music, composition and dance. It aims to provide support for individuals (over school age) or groups of exceptional ability.

[www.fideliocharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.fideliocharitabletrust.org.uk)

### Ford Britain Trust

The Trust pays special attention to projects focusing on education, environment, children, the disabled, youth activities and projects that provide clear benefits to the local communities close to their UK locations (Essex, East London, Bridgend, Southampton, Daventry, Manchester and Liverpool). Small grant applications up to £250 are welcomed three times a year, while large grant applications up to £3,000 are welcomed twice a year.

[www.ford.co.uk/experience-ford/news/ford-britain-trust](http://www.ford.co.uk/experience-ford/news/ford-britain-trust)

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# Trusts and Foundations

## The Fore

The Fore offers unrestricted grants for small charities that will have a transformational impact on your organisation, strengthening it internally to help you take the next steps towards growth or sustainability. Funding of up to £45,000 is available over three years. [thefore.org](http://thefore.org)

## The Gale Charitable Trust

Supports charities promoting education, community outreach, and legal advocacy for refugees, people seeking asylum, and migrant communities in the UK. The Trust aims to foster tolerance and inclusivity by supporting organisations that educate the public, challenge harmful policies, and celebrate the contributions of migrants to British society. [www.galecharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.galecharitabletrust.org.uk)

## Garfield Weston Foundation

Supports charitable organisations that help those most in need. Registered charities working in the areas of welfare, youth, community, arts, faith, environment, education, health, and museums and heritage, can apply for up to £100,000 to cover capital costs, core costs and/or project work. Additionally, the foundation offers the Weston Charity Awards, providing up to £22,000 in support for charities in the North of England, Wales, and the Midlands. [www.garfieldweston.org](http://www.garfieldweston.org)

## Goldsmiths' Foundation

Dedicated to advancing creative, technical, and vocational skills in goldsmithing, silversmithing, jewellery, and the wider creative industries. Through grants, advocacy, and support to charity partners, the foundation aims to enhance education and training in these fields. [www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk](http://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk)

## The Golsoncott Foundation

Grants of up to £3,000 are available to support projects that demonstrate and deliver excellence in the arts, be it in performance, exhibition, artistic craft, or scholarly endeavour. [www.golsoncott.org.uk](http://www.golsoncott.org.uk)

## The Granada Foundation

Supports charitable and not-for-profit organisations in North West England, funding projects that promote the arts, sciences, and education. It prioritises imaginative, impactful projects with professional involvement that boost creative engagement in underrepresented areas and reflect the region's lived experiences. Match funding is required, and organisations can apply once per year. [www.granadafoundation.org](http://www.granadafoundation.org)



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## Trusts and Foundations

### Greenham Trust

The Trust's aim is to support local charities and organisations that carry out work for the benefit of the people in West Berkshire and North Hampshire. The committee for the 'Community Grants' sits twice a year.  
[www.greenhamtrust.com](http://www.greenhamtrust.com)

### The Hall & Woodhouse Community Chest

An annual fund of £60,000 supporting voluntary and community organisations across the south of England. Grants ranging from £300 to £3,000 are available for projects in youth work, sports, elderly care, health and social care, arts, and environmental conservation.  
[www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk/about-us/community-chest](http://www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk/about-us/community-chest)

### The Headley Trust

Funds regional museums and galleries, curators, and acquisitions, with a focus on British ceramics, industrial, maritime, and built heritage conservation, archaeology, and arts education, including digitisation and outreach.  
[www.sfct.org.uk/the-headley-trust](http://www.sfct.org.uk/the-headley-trust)

### The Hedley Foundation

Supports small UK charities that focus on social welfare, particularly for disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals. It funds projects that improve the quality of life for young people, the disabled, the elderly, the terminally ill, and other disadvantaged groups. Grants typically range from £250 to £5,000, with occasional larger grants for high-impact projects.  
[www.hedleyfoundation.org.uk](http://www.hedleyfoundation.org.uk)

### Hemby Charitable Trust

Supports charitable organisations in Merseyside and Wirral, awarding grants of up to £5,000, typically between £500 and £3,000. The Trust focuses on social need, youth and employment, older people, the arts, and the environment, with a preference for capital funding and evidence of self-help, such as community fundraising.  
[www.hembytrust.org.uk](http://www.hembytrust.org.uk)

### The Hobson Charity

Supports the relief of poverty, suffering, and distress in the UK, including the provision of facilities for recreation and leisure in the interests of social welfare. Also the advancement of education, and other charitable purposes beneficial to UK communities.  
[www.hobsoncharity.org.uk](http://www.hobsoncharity.org.uk)

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# Trusts and Foundations

## The Hodge Foundation

Supports charities that assist vulnerable or disadvantaged individuals, including the elderly, homeless, disabled, special needs and those with mental health issues. It prioritises education projects, particularly those helping young people to fulfil their potential. The Foundation also funds arts projects for education.

[www.hodgefoundation.org.uk](http://www.hodgefoundation.org.uk)

## The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Charitable Trust

Supports projects in Gloucestershire that advance education, the arts, health, amateur sport, historic preservation, poverty relief, and community development, with grants typically between £100 and £1,000.

[www.honcoglos.org](http://www.honcoglos.org)

## Jerwood Foundation

Provides funding to organisations that focus on making art available for public benefit and engaging with the Jerwood Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art.

[www.jerwood.org/funding](http://www.jerwood.org/funding)

## The John Jackson Charitable Trust

Supports projects that benefit the community of Eastbourne, focusing on education, heritage, social welfare, disability, animal welfare, community sports, and the arts. It welcomes applications from local charities, clubs, and community groups for funding large and small projects.

[www.johnjacksoncharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.johnjacksoncharitabletrust.org.uk)

## John S Cohen Foundation

Supports UK registered charities in the areas of the arts, higher education, conservation, and the environment. It provides small grants, typically between £1,000 and £3,000, to charities focused on heritage, conservation, music, and social welfare

The trust does not have a website.

Please phone 020 7286 6921 for information on how to apply.

## The Johnson Foundation

Supports UK registered charities and organisations working within the Liverpool City Region, funding projects in welfare, youth, community, arts, education, and health.

[www.thejohnsonfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thejohnsonfoundation.co.uk)

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## Trusts and Foundations

### The Joyce Fletcher Charitable Trust

Supports music and the arts in social and therapeutic contexts in the South West of England, as well as children and sports in the North of England. It also funds environmental projects. Grants typically range from £250 to £2,000, with occasional larger awards.

[www.joycefletchercharitabletrust.co.uk](http://www.joycefletchercharitabletrust.co.uk)

### The Lawson Trust

Supports a wide range of charitable causes in Kent and Sussex, with key priorities in arts and heritage, education, environment, health, and social and economic disadvantage. The Trust prioritises grassroots organisations and national charities that engage with beneficiaries and volunteers in these counties.

[www.lawsontrust.org](http://www.lawsontrust.org)

### The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust

Supports registered charities in England and Wales with grants typically ranging from £1,000 to £3,000. It funds a wide range of causes, including education, medical research, disability, welfare, the arts, animal welfare, sports, and environmental conservation.

The trust does not have a website. Please email [charities@rftrustee.com](mailto:charities@rftrustee.com) for information on how to apply.

### Leverhulme Trust

The Trust provides support for scholarships at specialist arts institutions, or for registered charities to provide training opportunities across the fine and performing arts. They support arts training at any level, from school-age children to undergraduates and postgraduates.

[www.leverhulme.ac.uk](http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk)

### The Linbury Trust

The trust funds charities focusing on public engagement with culture, including arts, dance, museums, and heritage. It prioritises projects improving wellbeing and life opportunities for disadvantaged groups, such as the homeless and refugees, and supports initiatives for older people, environmental work, and connecting people with nature.

[www.linburytrust.org.uk](http://www.linburytrust.org.uk)

### The Linder Foundation

Supports UK registered charities working across various causes, with a focus on vulnerable young people, environmental conservation, and the arts. It funds projects that foster social change, particularly for those affected by childhood trauma, and supports initiatives protecting the natural world and promoting creativity in music, theatre, and illustration.

[www.thelinderfoundation.org.uk](http://www.thelinderfoundation.org.uk)

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# Trusts and Foundations

## The Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust

Supports charities and community organisations within Greater Manchester, focusing on young people, the sick, disabled, elderly, and disadvantaged individuals. It also funds educational initiatives by arts organisations and community groups. Grants, typically up to £3,500, are awarded to registered charities and small groups with defined projects. Larger grants may be considered in exceptional cases.

[www.manchesterguardiansociety.org.uk](http://www.manchesterguardiansociety.org.uk)

## McCarthy Stone Foundation

The Foundation awards unrestricted core funding up to £7,500 to grassroots charitable organisations, who have people over 65 at the heart of their work. They also offer project funding to support a new, or existing, programme dedicated to supporting people over 65 within an organisation.

[www.mccarthystonefoundation.org](http://www.mccarthystonefoundation.org)

## The Michael Marks Charitable Trust

Supports registered charities dedicated to the preservation and promotion of culture and the environment.

[www.michaelmarkscharitabletrust.org](http://www.michaelmarkscharitabletrust.org)

## The Mohn Westlake Foundation

Supports UK registered charities working to improve education, arts, and opportunities for young people, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Funding is allocated through specific call-outs announced on their website.

[www.themohnwestlakefoundation.co.uk](http://www.themohnwestlakefoundation.co.uk)

## The Odin Charitable Trust

Supports UK registered charities with grants, typically up to £50,000. It prioritises causes such as the arts, care for the disabled and disadvantaged, hospices, homelessness, and prisoners' families, amongst other charitable causes.

The trust does not have a website.

Please email

[odincharitabletrust@gmail.com](mailto:odincharitabletrust@gmail.com) for information on how to apply.

## Old Possum's Practical Trust

Supports artistic, literary, musical, and theatrical projects, as well as initiatives promoting freedom of speech. Grants typically range from £500 to £5,000 and are awarded to organisations rather than individuals.

[www.tseliot.com/foundation/old-possums-trust](http://www.tseliot.com/foundation/old-possums-trust)

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## Trusts and Foundations

### Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Funds initiatives in arts, education, and youth development. The Youth Fund offers up to £150,000 over three years to organisations supporting young people aged 14–25, addressing inequalities and empowering them to shape their futures. The Arts-based Learning Fund provides up to £300,000 for projects that use arts to enhance learning, particularly for disadvantaged pupils. Applications are open year-round.  
[www.phf.org.uk](http://www.phf.org.uk)

### P.H. Holt Foundation

Supports small and medium-sized charities in Merseyside with an income under £1 million, awarding grants of £1,000–£15,000 for community, arts, education, and welfare programmes. It prioritises projects that engage communities, overcome barriers, widen access to education, and involve excluded groups in the arts.  
[www.phholtfoundation.org.uk](http://www.phholtfoundation.org.uk)

### The Pilgrim Trust

An independent charitable trust focused on preserving the UK's heritage and supporting social change. It funds the conservation of historic buildings, artworks, collections, and records, ensuring that the best of the past is preserved for public enjoyment. The trust also supports research and advocacy efforts aimed at driving systemic change and strengthening sectors within its areas of interest.  
[www.thepilgrimtrust.org.uk](http://www.thepilgrimtrust.org.uk)

### The Prince Philip Trust Fund

Supports one-off projects in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, awarding grants of £250 to £5,000 for initiatives in areas such as youth, social need, disability, health, the elderly, and the arts.  
[www.theprincephiliptrustfund.org](http://www.theprincephiliptrustfund.org)

### The PRS Foundation

Supports music creators and organisations across the UK, funding new music and talent development. The Beyond Borders fund offers grants to support collaborations, performances, and touring opportunities across the UK and Ireland, encouraging innovation and cross-border partnerships.  
[www.prsfoundation.com](http://www.prsfoundation.com)

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# Trusts and Foundations

## The Radcliffe Trust

The Trust has two areas of interest: classical music, and heritage and crafts. In particular they favour youth orchestras, music education for children and adults with special needs, and craft and conservation training. Grants of between £2,500–£7,500 are available. [www.theradcliffetrust.org](http://www.theradcliffetrust.org)

## The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust

Supports charitable projects in east Kent, particularly in Folkestone, Hythe, and Romney Marsh. Funding focuses on education, arts, culture, heritage, community development, amateur sport, young people, and the health and welfare of older people, aiming to make a significant impact within its local area. [www.rdhct.org.uk](http://www.rdhct.org.uk)

## The Rothschild Foundation

Supports registered charities in Buckinghamshire, focusing on arts, heritage, the environment, education, and social welfare. Funding is available through the Community Fund, Strategic Fund, and Schools Access Fund, with an emphasis on collaborative, community-focused projects. [www.rothschildfoundation.org.uk](http://www.rothschildfoundation.org.uk)

## The Rushworth Trust

Supports musical performance and education within a 60-mile radius of Liverpool Town Hall. It provides grants for composers, young conductors, performers, student singers, choirs, and musical organisations. Grants typically range up to £500 for individuals and £1,000 for organisations, funding activities such as training, performances, and special projects. [www.lcvs.org.uk/funding/provided-or-managed-by-lcvs/rushworth-trust](http://www.lcvs.org.uk/funding/provided-or-managed-by-lcvs/rushworth-trust)

## The Saintbury Trust

Supports registered charities based and operating within the West Midlands, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and North Gloucestershire. It focuses on the arts, heritage, the environment, and helping those with disabilities. Most grants range from £1,000 to £5,000. [www.thesaintburytrust.co.uk](http://www.thesaintburytrust.co.uk)

## Scops Arts Trust

The Trust aims to help people participate in and enjoy the arts, particularly the performing arts. They are particularly keen to support projects that widen access to the arts and have a lasting cultural impact on the community. [www.scopsartstrust.org.uk](http://www.scopsartstrust.org.uk)

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## Trusts and Foundations

### The Shears Foundation

Offers grants of £2,750 to £5,750 to charitable organisations working in culture and the arts, education, the natural environment, community development, and health and medicine (excluding hospices), with applications reviewed quarterly. Priority is given to projects in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, with additional support for groups in Harrogate, York, Bradford, and Greater Manchester.  
[www.shearsfoundation.org](http://www.shearsfoundation.org)

### The Sir George Martin Trust

Supports West Yorkshire-based registered charities, CIOs, and churches that provide arts initiatives for disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. Grants, typically ranging from £500 to £5,000, are available for running, capital, and project costs.  
[www.sirgeorgemartintrust.org.uk](http://www.sirgeorgemartintrust.org.uk)

### The Skinners' Company

Grants of up to £5,000 per year for registered charities and not-for-profits in London and Kent working on arts, heritage, and community projects. Funding supports local landmarks, traditions, and culture, as well as visual and performing arts, including theatre, music, and art.  
[www.skinners.org.uk/our-grants](http://www.skinners.org.uk/our-grants)

### Steel Charitable Trust

Funds projects that a) improve services in Luton or b) support young people across the UK. The Luton Matters Fund offers grants of £10,000–£50,000 for charities enhancing quality of life in Luton. The UK Under-26 Fund supports charities outside Luton providing education and access opportunities for disadvantaged young people, with grants of £10,000–£25,000.  
[www.steelcharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.steelcharitabletrust.org.uk)

### Swire Charitable Trust

Supports UK-registered charities through three key programmes: Opportunity, focusing on disadvantaged groups including young people, ex-service personnel, and victims of enslavement; Heritage, funding projects that restore heritage for community benefit and develop heritage skills; and Environment, supporting biodiversity, habitat restoration, and sustainable living initiatives.  
[www.swirecharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.swirecharitabletrust.org.uk)

### Sylvia Waddilove Foundation

The Foundation provides grants to charities and some not-for-profit organisations operating in a range of areas, including visual arts, theatre, music, dance, and opera.  
[pwwsolicitors.co.uk/charity-grants/waddilove-foundation-uk](http://pwwsolicitors.co.uk/charity-grants/waddilove-foundation-uk)

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## Trusts and Foundations

### The Taylor Family Foundation

Supports charities helping children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to overcome challenges and lead fulfilling lives. Grants focus on sustainable projects with national reach, prioritising the London Borough of Merton. Funding supports areas such as the arts, social inclusion, and opportunities for young people.

[www.thetaylorfamilyfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thetaylorfamilyfoundation.co.uk)

### Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

The Trust works with front line organisations and offers Small Grants of between £2,000 and £10,000 and Large Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000, both of these can be used for core costs, salaries, running and project costs.

[www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk](http://www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk)

### The Ulrike Michal Foundation for the Arts

Promotes the appreciation and practice of fine, decorative, and applied arts through grants for projects in North Wales and parts of England, including Merseyside, Cheshire, Shropshire, and Herefordshire. Its Core Grant Scheme supports exhibitions, workshops, community art, conservation, artistic development, and residencies, while its Student Grant Scheme funds students in the later stages of fine or decorative art degree courses.

[www.umffta.org](http://www.umffta.org)

### Victoria Wood Foundation

The Foundation supports the arts in the most general sense. Only registered charities can apply, and grants up to £5,000 are available.

[www.victoriawoodfoundation.org.uk](http://www.victoriawoodfoundation.org.uk)

### The Wigoder Family Foundation

Provides grants ranging from under £5,000 to £25,000 to UK registered charities for a wide variety of causes, both in the UK and overseas. The Foundation has a preference for supporting Jewish causes but also funds non-Jewish initiatives.

The trust does not have a website.

Please email

[wigoderfamilyfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:wigoderfamilyfoundation@gmail.com) for information on how to apply.



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## Trusts and Foundations

### Wingate Foundation

The Foundation welcomes applications from charities working in performing arts, music or Jewish life and learning.

[wingate.org.uk](http://wingate.org.uk)

### The Wise Music Foundation

Supports a wide range of charitable causes, primarily benefiting children, the elderly, and the disabled. It funds projects in education, cultural activities, arts and heritage. Donations typically range from £500 to £5,000, with the average donation around £1,500.

[www.wisemusicfoundation.com](http://www.wisemusicfoundation.com)

### The Wolfson Foundation

Funds projects to enhance the display and interpretation of nationally significant collections in museums and galleries. Grants, ranging from £15,000 to £500,000, support new builds, refurbishments, or equipment, with match funding required for projects over £50,000. Eligible applicants include UK charities or local authorities.

[www.wolfson.org.uk](http://www.wolfson.org.uk)

### The Yapp Charitable Trust

The Trust offers grants to registered charities with a total annual expenditure of less than £40,000. They only make grants for ongoing core funding, to groups undertaking work in their priority areas: Elderly people; Children and young people; People with physical impairments, learning difficulties or mental health challenges; Social welfare; Education and learning.

[www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk)



# **Shops and Businesses (Corporate giving)**

**Most businesses, large and small, are aware of the need to behave responsibly and ethically within their local community and ‘give something back’. Larger corporations such as banks, supermarkets and financial companies often have a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy in place, which outlines the support and/or services they offer to charities, community groups and good causes.**

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## Shops and businesses

CSR can range from employees volunteering to help renovate your premises to donations of products, or them offering free meeting spaces or skills development. If you know someone who works for a corporate organisation or independent business, ask them to flag up your group/project to see what support they could offer. Or find out the best person to speak to and approach them yourself.



You can also ask for help via [www.neighbourly.com](http://www.neighbourly.com), a free to use online platform that matches your needs with local businesses that want to lend a hand. Thousands of charities and community groups have already received help through Neighbourly, including financial donations, meals, products and more.

Many large corporations also have a charitable arm or foundation that administers funds – here are some of them:

### The Asda Foundation

Supports grassroots community groups through funding and donations. Colleague Match Funding boosts Asda colleagues' fundraising efforts by up to £500 for local causes. Local Community Emergency Donations provide essential aid, like cleaning supplies and clothing, to support groups facing disasters such as floods or fires.

[www.asdafoundation.org](http://www.asdafoundation.org)

### Biffa Award

Provides grants of £10,000 to £75,000 for community projects near landfill sites, focusing on transforming lives and building communities. Under the Cultural Facilities theme, funding supports improvements to theatres, galleries, museums, arts centres, and heritage sites that enhance recreation, education, and public engagement.

[www.biffa-award.org/cultural-facilities2](http://www.biffa-award.org/cultural-facilities2)

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## Shops and businesses

### Birmingham Airport Community Trust Fund

Birmingham Airport offers grants ranging from £500 to £5,000 to small community-based organisations. The fund aims to support projects that benefit local communities impacted by the airport's operations.

[www.birminghamairport.co.uk/community-and-environment/community-investment](http://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/community-and-environment/community-investment)

### Bristol Airport Local Community Funds

The Airport Environmental and Amenity Improvement Fund provides grants of up to £12,000 for community projects addressing environmental or amenity impacts from the airport's development. The Diamond Fund offers grants of up to £1,000 for smaller local projects that do not meet the main fund's criteria.

[www.bristolairport.co.uk/corporate/community/local-community-fund](http://www.bristolairport.co.uk/corporate/community/local-community-fund)

### B&Q Foundation

Supports UK registered charities with grants, volunteer support, and home improvement resources to create better spaces for those in need. Funding is available for projects that renovate, decorate, or develop indoor and outdoor spaces, helping people affected by homelessness, financial hardship, disability, or other challenges. Charities can apply for grants of up to £10,000 for indoor projects and up to £5,000 for gardens.

[www.diy.com/responsible-business/community/bandq-foundation](http://www.diy.com/responsible-business/community/bandq-foundation)

### Coop Community Fund

The Co-op Local Community Fund supports projects across the UK that do one of the following:

- bring people together to access food;
- help improve people's mental wellbeing;
- create opportunities for young people to be heard and make a difference;
- help people protect local biodiversity or tackle change by reducing carbon emissions.

<https://causes.coop.co.uk>

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## Shops and businesses

### **CrossCountry Customer & Communities Improvement Fund**

The fund supports projects that have a tangible community benefit or address an area of social need in locations along their routes.

[www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk/xc-community-hub](http://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk/xc-community-hub)

### **Cumberland Building Society Charitable Foundation**

Provides small grants of up to £100 to charitable organisations within its operating area, supporting health and wellbeing, vulnerability, and financial education initiatives.

[www.cumberland.co.uk/community/fund](http://www.cumberland.co.uk/community/fund)

### **DP World London Gateway's Community Investment Fund**

In collaboration with its tenants, DP World London Gateway has established a joint levy to promote local community projects, social infrastructure, and skills training. The fund aims to distribute £15 million over five years to support initiatives that benefit the surrounding areas.

[www.dpworld.com/london-gateway/sustainability/community-investment-fund](http://www.dpworld.com/london-gateway/sustainability/community-investment-fund)

### **Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund**

For every take-off or landing at the airport, a levy contributes to this fund, which supports local projects including environmental improvements, outdoor activities, music events, and play equipment. Managed by Rushmoor Borough Council the fund is available to projects located within 5 kilometres of the airport.

[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/airportfund](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/airportfund)

### **Gatwick Airport Community Trust**

The trust supports schemes targeted towards the development of young people, the arts, sporting facilities, environmental improvement and conservation, and improvements to community facilities in the area surrounding the airport. Grants typically range from £1,000 to £5,000.

[www.gact.org.uk](http://www.gact.org.uk)

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## Shops and businesses

### Greggs Foundation

Provides community grants of up to £20,000 per year for up to two years to not-for-profit organisations tackling social isolation and local community needs. Funding prioritises groups in geographical focus areas, particularly near Greggs Outlets and in the North East of England. Applications open four times a year. [www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/grants/community-funding](http://www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/grants/community-funding)

### Heathrow Community Trust – Communities Together Programme

Offers grants of up to £15,000 per year for up to two years to groups working in areas surrounding the airport, focussing on projects that bring communities together, with an emphasis on organisations working with adults aged 25 and over. [www.heathrowcommunitytrust.org](http://www.heathrowcommunitytrust.org)

### Homebase

From outdoor plants to tins of paint, tools to get the job done or a helping hand, Homebase supports local communities in a variety of ways, including product donations and assistance. Contact your closest store for local charity and community engagement opportunities. [www.homebase.co.uk/about-us/growing-responsibly.list](http://www.homebase.co.uk/about-us/growing-responsibly.list)

### IKEA

Supports charities and non-profits that promote equality, sustainability, and child-friendly spaces. Funding is prioritised for projects benefiting communities or the environment where IKEA can contribute design expertise, products, or staff involvement. Send a written request to your local store's Marketing Department to apply. [www.ikea.com/gb/en/this-is-ikea/community-engagement/sponsorship-and-charity-requests-pub9adfdae1](http://www.ikea.com/gb/en/this-is-ikea/community-engagement/sponsorship-and-charity-requests-pub9adfdae1)

### John Lewis Partnership Foundation Golden Jubilee Trust

Funds the donation of time and skills, offering Partners the chance to be seconded to a UK registered charity for up to six months, either full or part-time. Charities benefit from hands-on support to accelerate projects and broaden their impact, while Partners gain valuable skills before returning to their roles with no loss of pay or benefits. [www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/foundation.html](http://www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/foundation.html)

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## Shops and businesses

### Liverpool Airport Community Fund

This fund supports local projects that enhance the environment, improve communities, and promote education and sustainability in the area surrounding the airport, with grants of up to £3,000 available.

[www.liverpoolairport.com/community/liverpool-airport-community-fund](http://www.liverpoolairport.com/community/liverpool-airport-community-fund)

### LNER Customer and Community Fund

The fund supports charities, customers and communities on its route, focusing on causes that are important to them: mental health; education and employability skills amongst marginalised groups; diversity and inclusion; and environmental sustainability. LNER is also happy to donate complimentary train tickets to fundraisers that align with their areas of interest.

[www.lner.co.uk/about-us/customer-and-community-investment-fund](http://www.lner.co.uk/about-us/customer-and-community-investment-fund)

### London City Airport Community Fund

This fund provides grants of £300 to £3,000 to charities and not-for-profit organisations in East London. It supports projects that improve quality of life by strengthening communities, creating greener spaces, and raising aspirations. [www.londoncityairport.com/corporate/our-community/community-investment/community-fund](http://www.londoncityairport.com/corporate/our-community/community-investment/community-fund)

### London Luton Airport Community Trust Fund

Awards grants of £250 to £10,000 to charities, non-profits, and community groups in the areas surrounding the airport. It supports projects that benefit local residents and enhance community well-being. [www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/community-trust-fund](http://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/community-trust-fund)

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## **Shops and businesses**

### **London Stansted Airport Community Funds**

The Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund supports local causes within 20 miles of the airport using donations from unwanted foreign currency. The Stansted Airport Community Trust awards grants to groups within 10 miles of the airport, with £150,000 committed annually until 2029 to benefit communities most affected by its operations.

[www.stanstedairport.com/community/community-support/community-funds](http://www.stanstedairport.com/community/community-support/community-funds)

### **Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund**

The fund aims to promote, enhance, improve, and protect both the natural and built environment in the local community. It supports neighbourhood and community projects within an approximate 10-mile radius of the airport, awarding grants of up to £3,000.

[www.manchesterairport.co.uk/community/working-in-our-community/community-trust-fund](http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk/community/working-in-our-community/community-trust-fund)

### **Marks and Spencer**

In each store, M&S employees can select one local charity to fundraise for each year – so if you know somebody who works there, ask them to put your group forward! [corporate.marksandspencer.com/sustainability/our-communities](http://corporate.marksandspencer.com/sustainability/our-communities)

### **Morrisons Foundation**

The foundation supports registered charities that make a positive difference in local communities across England, Scotland and Wales. Grants are available to fully fund projects up to £10,000. Morrisons also match fund the money that employees raise for their chosen charities. [www.morrisonsfoundation.com](http://www.morrisonsfoundation.com)

### **Port of Dover Community Fund**

Supports projects that enhance the lives of people in Dover and its immediate surroundings, focusing on skills, employment, and community enrichment. Grants typically range from £2,000 to £10,000.

[www.portofdover.com/corporate/csr/community](http://www.portofdover.com/corporate/csr/community)



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## Shops and businesses

### Sainsbury's

Through their fundraising and volunteering programmes, Sainsbury's colleagues have the opportunity to fundraise and volunteer their time to local good causes. Speak to a manager instore to find out more.

[www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/sustainability/better-for-everyone](http://www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/sustainability/better-for-everyone)

### Screwfix Foundation

The foundation currently offers local registered charities and non-profit organisations grants of up to £5,000, to support projects that improve, repair and maintain homes and community facilities used by those in need across the UK.

[www.screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation](http://www.screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation)

### WHSmith

The WHSmith Trust supports local communities near its branches through large-scale literacy projects, donating to schools and literacy groups, fundraising for employee-nominated charities and volunteering.

[www.whsmithplc.co.uk/sustainability/community/whsmith-trust](http://www.whsmithplc.co.uk/sustainability/community/whsmith-trust)

### Tesco

Tesco Community Grants fund thousands of local community projects across the UK, with a focus on supporting children and families. The scheme is open to all registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, who can apply for up to to £1,500. If you're a Tesco customer or colleague, you can also nominate a cause that you'd like to see supported.

[www.tescostrongerstarts.org.uk](http://www.tescostrongerstarts.org.uk)

### Waitrose

After running its green token scheme for 12 years, Waitrose is no longer using this system to distribute funds amongst local community groups. Instead, the in-store Community Champion will decide who receives a grant of up to £1,000 each month. Visit your local branch to speak to yours.

### Warburtons

Community grants of up to £400 are available for charities and non-profit organisations running projects or activities for families.

[www.warburtons.co.uk/goodstuff/financial-giving](http://www.warburtons.co.uk/goodstuff/financial-giving)

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## Shops and businesses

### The Wesleyan Foundation

The foundation provides financial support for registered charities and constituted voluntary and community groups across the UK, for projects that centre on education, health, innovation and social development.

[www.wesleyan.co.uk/foundation](http://www.wesleyan.co.uk/foundation)



To aid you in applying for any of the above, download the free Creative Lives briefing, 'Making the most of Corporate Social Responsibility' at [www.creative-lives.org/corporate-social-responsibility](http://www.creative-lives.org/corporate-social-responsibility).

### Wickes

The Wickes Community Programme supports local initiatives and organisations near to its stores, distribution and support centres, through taking on key renovation work for community areas. The programme is open to all local community groups seeking help for improvement projects. Enquire at your local store or via social media.

[www.wickes.co.uk/community-programme](http://www.wickes.co.uk/community-programme)

# Sponsorship, Pro-bono and In-kind support

Fundraising isn't just about getting cold hard cash in your hands – sometimes a little help can be worth its weight in gold. Donations of goods or services aren't just useful to help your group survive and thrive, in-kind support can also look great on a funding application (especially if you can work out what they *would* have cost you, had they not been donated for free and put that in your budget).



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# Sponsorship, pro bono and in-kind support

## Local businesses

From donating prizes, free venue space or transport hire to contributing specialist services or volunteer time, there are lots of ways local businesses, organisations and venues can help you save and make money. The benefits to you of receiving sponsorship and services in-kind are obvious – but what's in it for them?

For many businesses, knowing they are helping a good cause is reward enough, but others may seek something in return. This can be as simple as mentioning their name on your poster, offering them a free advert in your programme or on social media, or gifting them free tickets to your event. You could also ask them to help with a specific physical item, for example sponsoring a music stand, costume item or picture frame, so they can see they're making a tangible difference.

Depending on your relationship, it may be appropriate to have a written agreement with your sponsor, detailing the products/services/funds they are donating and what is expected in return, signed by both parties. It's also worth keeping a record of donations, and their financial equivalent, in case you need them for evaluation or charity accounting purposes.

Doing some research into local businesses, organisations and venues is a good place to start, then decide the best mode of communication (letter/phone call/email/in person) to ask for what you need, or find out what they can offer. Ask around your group/friends, to see if any of them is an employee at a local business – an 'insider' is always more likely to reap results.

## Materials and services

Re-painting your venue, replenishing materials and purchasing equipment for your project can be costly, but many organisations and businesses have surplus stock they are willing to donate to a good cause.

## A Good Thing

Connects charities with local businesses that donate surplus items, such as IT equipment, office furniture, and meeting spaces.

[www.agoodthing.org.uk](http://www.agoodthing.org.uk)

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## Sponsorship, pro bono and in-kind support

### B&Q Community Reuse

From paint to pallets and tables to tiles, this scheme donates surplus and display items to community groups, charities and schools.

[www.diy.com/responsible-business/waste-donation](http://www.diy.com/responsible-business/waste-donation)

### Collecteco

Partners with companies across the UK to donate surplus furniture, equipment, and materials to charities, schools, and other not-for-profit organisations.

[www.collecteco.co.uk](http://www.collecteco.co.uk)

### Community RePaint

A UK-wide scheme that collects unwanted, surplus and leftover paint from manufacturers, retailers, tradespeople and recycling centres and redistributes it to communities and charities.

[www.communityrepaint.org.uk](http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk)

### Crown Paints

Could your community centre, rehearsal space or meeting hall use a fresh lick of paint? As part of their 'Project Possible' scheme, Crown Paints is donating thousands of litres of paint to worthy causes in local communities across the UK. To find out more, email [projectpossible@crownpaints.co.uk](mailto:projectpossible@crownpaints.co.uk), visit your local Crown Decorating Centre, or fill out Crown's 'Community Paint Donation Request Form' here at

<https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/576A-HUT/community-paint-donation-request-form>

### Enviromate

Focuses on diverting leftover or surplus building materials from larger developers to community projects across the UK.

[www.enviromate.co.uk/community-projects](http://www.enviromate.co.uk/community-projects)



Community RePaint

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## Sponsorship, pro bono and in-kind support

### FareShare

Redistributes fresh, in-date surplus food and drink, which would otherwise go to waste, to charities and community groups across the UK. It does this via its Regional Centres and by connecting charities directly with food from their local supermarket when it becomes available.

[www.fareshare.org.uk](http://www.fareshare.org.uk)

### Reuseful UK

A network of scrapstores across the UK that support the redistribution and re-use of unwanted resources. Each scrapstore is managed independently, gathering clean, art and craft materials from local businesses and making these available as low-cost to its members.

[www.reusefuluk.org](http://www.reusefuluk.org)

### Computers 4 Charity

Computers 4 Charity is a registered UK technology charity that securely refurbishes unwanted or redundant laptops, computers, and other IT equipment, then distributes them to charitable causes across the UK.

[www.computers4charity.org](http://www.computers4charity.org)

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## Sponsorship, pro bono and in-kind support

### Volunteers

When you're planning a big event or project, people power is worth just as much, if not more, than money and services. If you're keen to recruit new volunteers, speak to your local Volunteer Centre about advertising the role and contact Creative Lives so we can help publicise your call for volunteers.

Organisations in the private and public sectors can and do encourage their staff to either volunteer in their own time or allow staff to volunteer during work time. This is usually referred to as Employer Supported Volunteering or ESV for short. ESV could involve staff taking part in a team challenge such as painting a community centre, or setting up something more regular to share their skills. If you're contacting a local business or supermarket to request donations or sponsorship, it's worth asking if they have an ESV policy, too.

### Meeting space and venues

If you need to hire a room for a meeting or special event, it's worth bearing in mind that many businesses and organisations have spaces lying empty which they may offer you at a reduced rate, or even for free. Pubs, cafes, shops, train stations, shopping centres and/or public venues such as your local library or museum might offer a cheap or free solution.

An increasing number of supermarkets and high street retailers are offering spaces for community groups to meet (for free), including Tesco, Waitrose, John Lewis, Asda and Sainsbury's – some even have a dedicated community room. Approach your local store to ask if they have a space available for you to use.



On the Creative Lives website, you'll find a range of stories capturing how creative groups have used local spaces. Get inspired at [www.creative-lives.org/spacesforcreativity](http://www.creative-lives.org/spacesforcreativity).

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# Sponsorship, pro bono and in-kind support

## Sponsorship

### Posters and leaflets

If you're advertising your group's activity (for example, a performance or exhibition) on a poster or leaflets, see if any local businesses would like to make a donation in return for having their logo and details printed on it. Likewise in any programmes you're printing.

### Approaching local businesses

As well as requests for donations, consider asking local businesses if they can help with refreshments, materials, publicity, space to meet etc. As one craft group said "We found that asking businesses how they would like to be involved, rather than being too prescriptive worked well. Not all businesses had the means to offer us money, but they suggested other ways they could help, which made a real difference to our project."

### Let people know what you need

List the items on your website that you need to spend money on (for example, musical instruments, entering competitions, art materials etc.), and how much they cost.

Then you can share the page with local businesses and potential sponsors, so they can choose what they'd like to help with and feel like they're making a real difference.

### Be prepared

It's worth spending time putting together something to show potential sponsors, explaining what you do, what you need, how they could help, and what's in it for them.

As one brass band said: "We spent a lot of time preparing a presentation and supporting information and then sent it around our contacts. In it, we presented a number of options such as support in-kind, sponsoring a particular activity, helping with equipment or full sponsorship. In return, we offered them advertising in our programmes. We've had lots of offers for rehearsal space, venues for concerts and individual volunteers. We've found that 1:1 meetings and building up personal contacts within organisations is key."





# Crowdfunding

From a few hundred pounds to many thousands, crowdfunding is a way of raising money by getting your community involved. This could be people from your local area or a ‘community of interest’ such as like-minded individuals keen to see your project flourish.

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# Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is a relatively straightforward process which may, or may not, involve coming up with 'rewards' for people who pledge to support you, such as free tickets to a show, a tangible product (t-shirt, CD etc), or a plaque on the wall with their name on it. Be realistic about the rewards you can offer, and don't overstretch yourself with things that will either be too costly or time consuming to deliver. It's also advisable to send your rewards soon after your crowdfunder has finished - you don't want to annoy people whose support you may seek again in the future.

That said, not everyone chooses to offer a 'reward' for financial pledges - some organisations simply ask for donations in exchange for the 'feel good factor' that comes from helping something get off the ground.

There are a number of crowdfunding websites available, on which you create a page explaining what you're fundraising for and encourage people to support you. The more personal this page is, the better - a meaningful testimonial (video or text) from one of your participants can really sell your cause. Decide how long you'd like to run your campaign for (around two months is popular) and then promote it far and wide!

This is easier, more effective and less energy-draining if you can gather a crowdfunding team together to spread the word. Find some 'champions' who believe in your group/project/cause as much as you do, and ask them to fire up some enthusiasm on social media and locally at various points during your campaign.

Sidmouth Jazz Festival



## Crowdfunding in action

### **Sidmouth Jazz and Blues Festival**

wanted to raise £3,000 for its education and street music programme, to pay for tutors, instruments and venues to help make the festival accessible to all. They ran their crowdfunder from the end of February to the end of April, beat their goal so set a new 'stretch target' of £5,000 - which they also beat! They didn't offer any 'rewards' for backing them, just the knowledge supporters were helping a worthy cause.

**Movema**, an accessible dance organisation in Liverpool and Bristol, wanted to raise £5,000 in its 15th birthday year. They planned to use the funds to continue their work with disadvantaged communities, and in return for financial pledges offered a range of rewards. As well as their own branded t-shirts and hoodies, they also reached out to nearby venues and creative organisations who in turn offered memberships, artworks, 20% off in their cafe and other enticing rewards.



Download Creative Lives' free briefing 'Crowdfunding for voluntary arts and cultural groups' at [www.creative-lives.org/crowdfunding-for-creative-groups](http://www.creative-lives.org/crowdfunding-for-creative-groups)

### **And here are a few crowdfunding platforms for you to consider:**

[www.crowdfunder.co.uk](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk)

[www.spacehive.com](http://www.spacehive.com)

[www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com)

[www.chuffed.org](http://www.chuffed.org)

[www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com)

[www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)





# Selling your work

If your creative group creates something tangible, selling your work can be a great way to raise funds. Selling at fairs can be expensive, if you have to pay for a table upfront, so consider buddying with another group to split the cost. Some organisations take a percentage of what your work sells for, but at least you don't have to pay for display space.

## Selling your work

Online platforms such as Etsy and Shopify are a great way to reach a wide audience, and if you've made an item in bulk this can be the ideal way to distribute it. Costs vary across platforms, but as an example Etsy currently charges 16p for you to list an item for four months (or until it's sold). If you find a buyer, they then charge a 6.5% transaction fee, and if you use their in-house payment system, there's a 4% processing fee. Shopify has a range of packages, starting from £5 a month if you sell via social media.

Whether you're selling in-person or online, remember to factor in the cost of materials, any packaging (and postage, if relevant) when figuring out a price tag, so you can plough as much profit as possible back into your group.



Download Creative Lives' handy guide to selling your work, '[Know Your Worth](#)' [here](#).



Fiona Mclean

# Raising and Saving

Raising money at a local level is a good way to show funders how resourceful you are and demonstrate commitment to your project. From bag packing at the local supermarket to shaking a bucket at the end of your concert, there are lots of ways to raise small sums – and they all add up.



### Maximise your creativity

Aside from the traditional bake sales, raffles and tombolas, think about how you can tie in fundraising with the creative activity you already do.

For example, one drama group charges for 'Murder Mystery Nights', while another takes photographs of its productions throughout the year, then turns them into a calendar to sell at Christmas.

Consider selling space in your show programmes, run a 'Christmas Post' delivering cards locally for less than the price of a stamp, host a 'Come Dine with Us' in a local cafe with volunteer chefs preparing each course, run a pub quiz or thematic parties.

You could also tap into the **skills available in your local area** by asking people for in-kind donations of their time (such as technical advice, DIY expertise, a music lesson etc.), then hold a fun auction to sell them off. If you go back to the well too often, your supporters will tire of helping, so try to think of new events or prizes which people will enjoy. And make sure your ventures are safe and legal.

### Friends schemes

Many groups, societies and small venues run membership, supporters or friends schemes which not only encourage people to support you regularly, but can be a reliable source of income. They charge a reasonable annual fee for which members receive a range of rewards, such as priority booking, discounted tickets, printed brochures and invites to special 'members evenings'.

### 100 Club

Many groups set up a '100 Club' (or 200 or 500 depending on the size of your group). Each month, members donate a small amount (usually between £1– £5) and are entered into a monthly draw. Generally, around 50-60% of the donations go into your funds, with the rest paid out in prizes. If you only sell tickets to people within your group, there is no need to register your private lottery. However if you advertise your club and offer it to people outside your membership, you will need to register with your local authority.

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## Raising and saving

### Membership bodies

You might also find there are ways to save money by doing things differently, such as becoming a member of an umbrella body. The benefits of joining an organisation such as Making Music, The Quilters' Guild of the British Isles, National Operatic and Dramatic Association, Embroiderers' Guild etc. can be many and varied.

For example, large membership organisations sometimes offer preferential insurance rates. DD8 Music found its annual insurance bill reduced significantly when it joined Making Music. Or you might get discounts on materials - for example, the Quilters' Guild and the Embroiderers' Guild have both negotiated reduced rates for members at various shops and online outlets. Many umbrella bodies also help with PVG checks, legal advice, health and safety etc, all of which can save you time and money.

### easyfundraising

Encourage your members, supporters, family and friends to buy things via the easyfundraising website and help your group as they shop online. Easyfundraising has partnerships with over 8,500 well known retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Boots and many more. They each donate part of what is spent on their website to a cause of the shoppers' choosing.

The Quilters Guild of the British Isles uses easyfundraising and to date has raised almost £7,000 this way! Find out more and get your group involved here: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/creative](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/creative)



## Raising and saving



### **What does the process of signing up to easyfundraising involve - and does it cost anything for groups?**

One of the best things about easyfundraising is that signing up is completely free. There aren't any sign-up fees, monthly costs or hidden charges. Simply visit the easyfundraising website at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/creative](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/creative) and register your group. We'll create an easyfundraising page for your group and help you let everyone know, so they can choose you as the cause they want to support. easyfundraising is completely free for your organisation and supporters to use, and your supporters won't pay a penny more on their shopping either.

### **Do you have to be a particular sort of group to sign up? (e.g. a charity)**

No, it's open to all voluntary groups, community organisations, CICs, and social enterprises of all shapes and sizes. You don't have to be a charity (although if you are a charity, that's fine too!).

### **What kinds of shops are signed up to the scheme, and how does it work?**

Thousands of popular retailers are part of the easyfundraising scheme, including many well-known names like Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Tesco, Trainline and many more. When your supporters shop through the easyfundraising platform, a percentage of their purchase value is donated to your group, at no extra cost to them.

### **Does it matter how much people spend when they shop online? Is there a minimum threshold before the group receives a contribution?**

There's no minimum spend required for donations to be made. Every qualifying purchase earns a contribution, no matter how big or small. And it all helps! It's unrestricted funding too which means your group can spend the funds on anything you want or need!

## Raising and saving

### **After a group has signed up, what tips do you have to help them spread the word and encourage their friends/family to use it?**

Once your group is signed up, getting the word out to your network is key. Here are some top tips:

- Share your easyfundraising link with everyone in your network: members, supporters, family, friends etc. We'll help you do this with pre-written wording for your newsletters, emails you can send out social media posts and even posters and flyers.
- Remind supporters to use the platform for everyday shopping as well as bigger purchases like insurance, travel, and home essentials.
- Set goals and celebrate milestones to keep motivation high.

### **Can you give a sense of how much a group could raise over the course of a year?**

The amount raised depends on how many of your supporters shop via easyfundraising and how often, but it soon mounts up! A small group can easily generate a few hundred pounds a year. It's all about encouraging consistent use!

And another top tip is to remember to use easyfundraising if you need to buy things for your group – you'll be surprised how much you buy online to run your group and those purchases can now be donations for your group!

### **Does being part of easyfundraising involve any monitoring or upkeep? Or, once it's been set up, does it just run itself?**

Yes, once set up, the system largely runs itself, making it a passive fundraising tool. However, regularly reminding supporters, tracking progress, and celebrating achievements will keep the momentum going and ensure you raise as much as possible. Every three months, we'll send you the donations your supporters have raised to spend on whatever you need.



### Gift Aid

If you're a registered charity, claiming Gift Aid on any donations you receive will literally give you money for nothing.

In most cases, providing the donor is a UK taxpayer, your charity can claim an extra 25p for every £1 given. There are a number of rules and regulations involved in claiming Gift Aid, so check out our briefing below which has helpful advice and links to extra information.



Download Creative Lives' free briefing 'Gift Aid and tax effective giving' at [www.creative-lives.org/gift-aid-and-tax-effective-giving](http://www.creative-lives.org/gift-aid-and-tax-effective-giving)

### Collecting donations online

With fewer people carrying cash, it can be useful to give your supporters an easy way to donate to your group online. Here are a few of the platforms out there . . .

### CAF Donate

The Charities Aid Foundation runs an online fundraising platform which is free to sign up to, and has no monthly fees. Instead, they cover the cost of helping you raise funds by charging a small amount for each donation. For example, a £10 donation + £2.50 Gift Aid = £12.50, minus their 4% fee = £12 to your charity.

[www.cafonline.org/charities/caf-donate](http://www.cafonline.org/charities/caf-donate)

### Donate

Run by the National Funding Scheme, Donate helps charities and unincorporated groups raise funds via its online platform. They create a unique code for you to include on your flyers, posters and website, which allows your supporters to send text messages or scan QR codes to donate money to your group. To cover their costs, the National Funding Scheme takes a very small percentage of your donation.

[www.nationalfundingscheme.org](http://www.nationalfundingscheme.org)

### Donr

Donr specialises in 'text giving', which means your supporters can give you a one-off donation or donate monthly by sending a text message. You publicise a keyword on your website/social media/leaflets (e.g. 'Text CraftClub to 00879 to donate £5'). Donations are then added to your supporter's phone bill or deducted from their phone credit.

[www.donr.com](http://www.donr.com)

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## Raising and saving

### Just Giving

Create a page, add some information and photographs, then share your Just Giving page with friends, family and your local community to help boost funds for your group. Setting up a page is free, there is just a small processing fee for each payment.

[www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)

### Wonderful

By using 'bank account to bank account' technology (rather than taking donations via cards), Wonderful is able to help you fundraise without charging any fees to you or your donor.

[www.wonderful.org](http://www.wonderful.org)

### PayPal

Whether you're a charity or not-for-profit organisation, if you're raising money for a good cause, PayPal has a range of solutions. They can help you accept one-off and regular donations online or in person. Just copy and paste a line of code to add the PayPal donate button to your website.

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Drama Express

**Based in the West Country, award-winning charity Drama Express runs performing arts workshops to help develop the potential of children and young people with additional needs.**

**We speak to Emma Allison about the group's fundraising strategies.**



**Do you have a fundraising strategy? Do you do any preparation in advance, such as putting together a 'case for support', researching the funder, writing case studies etc.?**

Yes, first we identify a particular project that needs funding - this could be a series of workshops, a performance, a block of coaching sessions, or a themed performance such as a pantomime. The next step is to identify potential funders, both new and existing. We then prepare the materials to make funding applications.

This evidence is made up of the following (although this can vary depending on the type of application or whether just a letter is required) -

- Case studies and photos, both individual and the charity as a whole
- Feedback from beneficiaries, their families and partners
- A project overview
- Project budget
- Outcomes / aims / objectives of the project



### **Where do you look for possible sources of funding?**

A wide range of sources. Drama Express is signed up to several databases that will provide free searches for funding. Searches often focus on funders specific to the role Drama Express delivers e.g. disabled arts. We then search for a wider field of grants such as those specific just to disabilities and just the arts.

Other sources of grants include local networking events where other charities are present with links to the arts, online searches (again, specific to the criteria of the charity), volunteer organisations often hold grant information, CAF (Charities Aid Foundation), Arts Council / Unlimited Arts (they hold databases on funders).

### **How much time do you spend on a funding application? Is it a joint effort or is one person responsible for it?**

It's just myself in the organisation. Fundraising is probably the most time-consuming activity I do. It can be a lengthy process, often in the wee small hours of the morning. I like to still write individual applications, as this makes the bid personal.

A useful tip is to research the organisation and make the application bespoke to them. For example, if it's a trust or foundation, you can say why your grant application fits the type of project they wish to fund.

Another tip is to phone the trust / foundation / funder and let them put a face to your charity.

Timewise, my target is around five or six applications per week. The average time spent on each application is two hours, so that's about ten hours per week in researching and applying for funds.

### **What kind of things do you raise money for?**

We tend to raise money (from fundraising not grants) for smaller projects and events, or for branded items such as t-shirts etc. We also fundraise for capital projects such as equipment, props and stage sets.

### **Do you seek any in-kind support?**

Yes, often. Our volunteer team has a wide range of skills that we utilise. We also seek support in-kind through donations such as costumes, scenery and equipment. We also ask for discounts on venue hire or rehearsal space.

### **Aside from applying for grants, do you do any other sorts of fundraising throughout the year? What have you found to be successful?**

We do indeed. We feel this encourages families and supporters to recognise that funds are vital to the continuation of the charity. Examples of fundraising in the past 12 months include:



- Cake sales
- Online auctions
- Christmas fair
- Bag packing at a supermarket
- Raffles at the intervals of performances
- Coffee morning
- Skills promise
- Occasional street collections
- Games nights

**How much does social media play a part in your fundraising? How else do you spread the word?**

We have a very strong Facebook presence and also use Instagram. Twitter (X) is less effective. Drama Express is also a member of various other Facebook pages and groups, where we can share our work and activities. We send out a digital newsletter to our supporters and our members, and our Patrons also advocate for the group.

Our performances provide the best opportunity to share our work, and flyers are used but not in excessive amounts. We also give talks to local groups and although we don't charge, we do ask for a kind donation.

**What advice would you give to somebody fundraising for a community-based creative group?**

Stick with it! The more applications you submit, the more chances you have of success. Build up your profile and make contact personally if you can. Don't be too pressing or 'needy' but equally, don't undersell yourself or your achievements.

Involve your beneficiaries in sourcing and applying for funding. And don't be downhearted, because often a rejection is totally out of your control!

**What have you learned along the way that has improved your fundraising?**

- To re-visit applications - as long as the deadline is not too tight, write out the application then revisit it after a week or so before submission.
- Gather advice on how to prepare a successful application, but still make yours individual with your own ideas.
- Always complete the 'end of grant' forms (however tedious), as you might then stand a better chance when re-applying.
- Devise a USP capturing why your work is unique and what you have achieved
- Name-check any awards you have been nominated for or even won.

For more information about Drama Express, visit [www.drama-express.org](http://www.drama-express.org)



# Creative Lives

**Creative Lives Charity Limited is registered in Scotland as Company No. 139147 and Charity No. SC 020345. Registered office: The Melting Pot, 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh EH8 8DL.**

**Creative Lives acknowledges funding from Arts Council England, the Arts Council of Ireland and Creative Scotland.**