

Arts Connect THRIVE Research and Development Fund Criteria 2021

R&D Bursaries for arts and culture organisations and artists based in the West Midlands.

Context

Arts Connect continue to invest in the arts and cultural sector helping them to thrive through supporting new, innovative and creative ideas which take them beyond their current approaches.

We're looking for dynamic, exciting proposals that will develop your ambitions for work with children and Young People.

What is the fund for?

The R&D bursary should enable you to look at new ways of developing your artistic/creative practice or approaches in relation to your work with children and young people. This could be through developing audiences, engagement or participation. We are particularly interested in ideas which link into a digital field and / or connecting with young people to help shape this new approach.

The bursary should support a strategy to grow/adapt your current offer and enable you to spend time building capacity. For example, this could be achieved through the development of a new product, an enhanced offer, a new approach, increased knowledge in a particular field and/or a new collaboration.

Your idea could enable you to connect with other practitioners who can help develop and shape your ideas, build capacity for staff and/or widen your understanding in a particular technical or artistic area. We are keen to see some of the funding spent on others who can help you shape your ideas. You can use the funding to support your own time and/or staff costs.

We welcome applications from across the arts and cultural sector including established cultural organisations/artists as well as emerging artists and encourage ideas which may take you outside of your usual practice or approaches.

You must meet the following criteria

- Applicants must live / be based in the West Midlands region covered by Arts Connect which includes the local authority areas of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Herefordshire, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire.
- In order for Arts Connect to support as many individuals and organisations as possible, those who have already received a Thrive bursary funds are unable to apply again.

Your proposal must meet our essential criteria:

1. Applicants must propose a clear and inspiring research question which demonstrates ambition and innovation and highlights what you would like to discover and develop through the use of the bursary.
2. Applicants must provide details about their focus on children and young people aged between 0-25. This could be through developing audiences, engagement or participation.
3. Applicants need to show how they will evaluate their project.

What will the bursary not fund?

Only one bursary will be available per individual or organisation and it must not be used for projects already underway.

The bursary cannot be used for:

- One off events.
- One off projects which do not support the development of your longer term creative practice and plans
- Online resources

Where applicable, all projects and ideas must adhere to social distancing rules and government protection policy.

Timescale and how to apply

To apply please send in a proposal which addresses the essential criteria outlined above and follows the guidance below:

- A clearly stated and inspiring research question which demonstrates ambition and innovation and highlights what you would like to discover and develop through the use of the bursary.
- Your document should be no more than 2 sides of A4 (not including budget)
- A budget with a breakdown of costs. Do not exceed the £3000.00 unless your organisation is providing match funding and if so, please provide details.

Conditions of awarding the bursary

- On awarding the bursary, the individual/organisation will meet virtually with:

A member of Arts Connect's Cultural Sector Development Programmers to discuss the bursary and agree a final plan.

- After completing the Research and Development, the individual/organisation will produce a report (no more than 3 sides of A4) outlining what they have discovered

through the use of the bursary, who they have engaged with and what they would plan to do next.

- Individuals/organisations may be asked to present their research findings at a sharing symposium or conference events to be held during 2022.

Payment of the Bursary

Total bursary fund: £3000.00

£2500.00 will be awarded after the planning meeting. £500.00 on receipt of the final report.

Applications must be sent to artsconnectwm@wlv.ac.uk

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5pm on Thursday 29th July 2021

Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. We aim to notify successful applicants week commencing 13th September.