

Support for the Arts and Culture Sector

Business Information Factsheet
BIF567 · January 2023

Introduction

There is a wide range of organisations that provide specialist advice and support to help grow the arts and culture sector. While some organisations operate across the UK, others work exclusively in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

This factsheet provides information about the main sources of funding and support for start ups and small firms in the arts and culture sector.

UK sources of funding and support

Funding and support are available from the following sources that cover the whole of the UK:

Creative UK provides support and investment and runs funding competitions for creative businesses across the UK.

www.wearecreative.uk

Arts & Culture Finance from Nesta manages a range of investments that help arts organisations become more sustainable and resilient.

(020) 7438 2554

www.artsculturefinance.org

Creative & Cultural Skills provides specialist training and advice to encourage fair recruitment practices and support career progression in the creative and cultural sectors.

(020) 7015 1800

<https://ccskills.org.uk>

ScreenSkills provides resources and bursaries to support the UK's film, TV, visual effects, animation and games sectors.

(020) 7713 9800

www.screenskills.com

BFI (British Film Institute) provides support and funding for projects that help British filmmaking reach new audiences and create new formats of storytelling. Funding is also available to help emerging filmmakers develop their skills and grow their business.

www.bfi.org.uk/get-funding-support

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation provides grants from £30,000 to £400,000 for projects that promote equality of opportunity to access and participate in the arts.

(020) 7812 3300

www.phf.org.uk/our-funding/#what-we-fund

British Council provides specialist support and grants to promote UK film and music around the world.

www.britishcouncil.org/arts

The Heritage Fund distributes over £300 million in funding each year for projects that connect people and communities to UK heritage.

www.heritagefund.org.uk

PRS Foundation runs initiatives that provide financial support for the creation, performance and promotion of music across the UK. Funding is available for music creators, promoters, talent development organisations, festivals, venues, curators and large performance groups.

<https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support>

The Music Export Growth Scheme provides grants from £5,000 to £50,000 to UK-registered independent music companies to assist them with international marketing campaigns.

www.bpi.co.uk/news-analysis/music-export-growth-scheme

Theatres Trust provides grants to at-risk theatres that need funding for improvements and urgent repairs.

(020) 7836 8591

www.theatretrust.org.uk/how-we-help/grants-funding

Mall Galleries, managed by the Federation of British Artists, runs a not-for-profit programme of exhibitions and events, prizes and awards, with a focus on figurative art.

(020) 7930 6844

www.mallgalleries.org.uk

Crafts Council provides online resources and support for craft businesses across the UK.

(020) 7806 2500

www.craftscouncil.org.uk

Museums Association provides more than £1 million in funding every year for projects that support museums and local communities across the UK.

(020) 7566 7850

www.museumsassociation.org/funding

The National Lottery Awards for All programme provides grants from £300 to £10,000 for a range of projects that support local communities, including arts and heritage projects.

0345 410 2030

www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/under10k

Funding and support in England

Arts Council England supports museums, libraries and the arts across England. It distributes government and National Lottery funding and publishes guidance for creative practitioners and arts organisations.

(0161) 934 4317

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Creative Enterprise provides specialist support and training for businesses in the film, TV, games and technology sectors in England.

www.wearecreative.uk/support/creative-enterprise

Funding and support in Wales

Arts Council of Wales supports museums, libraries and the arts across Wales. It distributes government and National Lottery funding and publishes guidance for creative practitioners and arts organisations.

0330 124 2733

<https://arts.wales>

Creative Wales provides support and funding to grow the music, games, animation, film and TV, CreaTech and publishing sectors in Wales.

www.creative.wales

Arts & Business Cymru runs a number of programmes to support arts and heritage across Wales.

(029) 2030 3023

www.aandbcymru.org.uk

Ffilm Cymru provides funding and support for emerging and established filmmakers across Wales.

(029) 2167 9369

<https://ffilmcymruwales.com>

Funding and support in Scotland

Creative Scotland provides specialist support and distributes Scottish government and National Lottery funding for the arts, screen and creative industries across Scotland.

www.creativescotland.com

Arts & Business Scotland runs a number of programmes that support arts and heritage across Scotland.

(0131) 243 2757

www.aandbscotland.org.uk

Cultural Enterprise Office provides support, resources and advice for creative practitioners and micro-businesses in Scotland.

0333 999 7989

www.culturalenterpriseoffice.co.uk

Screen Scotland is a national body that provides specialist support and funding to grow the film and TV industry in Scotland.

www.screen.scot

Craft Scotland is the national development agency supporting makers and promoting craft across Scotland. It provides online resources and signposting to sources of support and funding.

(0131) 357 3288

www.craftscotland.org

National Museums Scotland provides support, training, funding and representation to museums across Scotland.

0300 123 6789

www.nms.ac.uk

Funding and support in Northern Ireland

Arts Council of Northern Ireland distributes government and National Lottery funding and supports creative practitioners and arts organisations across Northern Ireland.

(028) 9262 3555

<http://artscouncil-ni.org>

Arts & Business Northern Ireland is a membership organisation that provides support and representation for cultural businesses in Northern Ireland.

(028) 9073 5150

www.artsandbusinessni.org.uk

Northern Ireland Screen provides specialist support and advice on all aspects of filming in Northern Ireland. Funding programmes are available for development and production.

(028) 9023 2444

<https://northernirelandscreen.co.uk/filming>

Future Screens NI runs funding competitions for projects that grow the film and broadcast, animation, games and immersive technologies sectors in Northern Ireland.

www.futurescreens.org/funding

Craft NI is responsible for the promotion and development of the design-led contemporary craft industry in Northern Ireland. It provides signposting to sources of advice, support and funding.

(028) 9032 9342

<https://craftni.org>

Northern Ireland Museums Council provides representation, support, training and funding to accredited museums.

(028) 9055 0215

www.nimc.co.uk

Related Factsheets

BIF040 Sources of Finance for Starting a Business

BIF463 Government Financial Support for Business

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