



Community Grants Programme

Arts Projects Fund

Grant Guidance 2026-27

Call 3 - Opens: 17 August 2026

Closes: 11 September 2026, 12 noon

Please read this grant guidance alongside the
general Applicant Manual (Revenue Grants)

Grant Programme: Arts Projects Fund		
Summary	Funding for community based arts projects which develop the skills of participants in a particular art-form	
Award	Up to £2,000	
Grant Programme Eligibility	Groups/projects must: • Be a community or voluntary organisation (not for personal profit) • Have 90% of beneficiaries from Council area	
Grant Programme Objectives	Your project should deliver on three objectives from the list below: • Improving quality of life and wellbeing. • Increasing community involvement and reducing isolation. • Building skills and capacity • Participation in heritage, culture, arts or sport. • Bringing people from different community backgrounds together. • Protecting the environment and promoting sustainability.	
How will applications be assessed?		
Grant Programme Eligibility	Be community based/not for personal profit	Y/N
	90% of beneficiaries in Council area	Y/N
Assessment Criteria	Level of need demonstrated	0-5
	Ability of group to deliver	0-5
	Value for money (cost per significant beneficiary)	0-5
	Council funding % of total	0-5
	Fit with Council priorities	0-15
	Meet specific grant programme objectives	0-15

Grant Requirements

Arts Projects must meet the following key requirements:

- 1) Deliver a programme of arts-based activity (e.g. an eight-week drama project for young people, a twelve-week pottery project for older people etc.)
- 2) Include tutoring, teaching or instruction to support development of skills or learning
- 3) Be delivered to the same core group for the duration of the programme.
- 4) Include an end of project exhibition/performance demonstrating skills developed by participants.
- 5) The maximum programme duration per application will be 12 sessions
- 6) Applications solely to commission pieces of art will be ineligible.

What costs will we fund?

Eligible Costs	Ineligible costs
Venue hire – This must be a publicly recognised venue e.g. a Community Centre (not a domestic property)	Alcohol, refreshments, food
Equipment Hire of equipment no cap, purchase of equipment up to £500, must be linked to the Event. (If you ONLY want to purchase equipment then please apply for a small capital grant.)	Flags, bunting, musical instruments, kits/uniforms Fireworks and beacons of any kind (to include lantern or balloon releases)
Printing costs - for advertising only linked to the programme and not exceeding £200	Projects or activities which are delivered outside the Council area
Materials – must be related to the Event	Gifts, donations, prizes
Insurance – Public Liability Insurance costs for an event	Bank/loan interest, legal fees.
Programme Facilitator – claimed costs should not exceed £45 per hour. (We will assume each session is for 1 person for 1 hour only unless advised otherwise in the application)	Salaries, wages, administration and private or unfunded pension costs Payments made to any members of the applicant organisation for goods or services Any purchases or payments made in cash
Toilets - Hire of a mobile accessible toilet or Portaloo toilet	Trips or transport of any kind
	Fundraising events and projects
	Costs incurred prior to a funding offer from Council (retrospective funding)
	Costs which are not clearly linked to the event or project
	Costs that are poor value for money, or that are purchased from outside of Council procurement guidelines
	Costs that are already covered by other funding, income sources, or can be recovered from elsewhere (eg. VAT)
	Any costs or projects which are clearly another statutory agency's responsibility

How we will assess your application

Your application will be reviewed by Council officers using a standard process. It can be unsuccessful if it does not meet the rules or does not achieve the pass mark. The assessment process includes:

Stage 1 – Eligibility Checks

- To ensure your organisation is eligible.
- To check that your project fits the specific grant programme.
- To confirm all required documents are uploaded.

Stage 2 – Scoring & Awards

If your application passes the eligibility checks, it proceeds to scoring. Applications are scored based on criteria for that specific grant. Funding is awarded based on your score:

- Score 70% or above = Awarded get 100% of the eligible costs you applied for.
- Score 50% to 69% = Awarded get that percentage of the eligible costs (e.g., 60% score means 60% of your requested amount).
- Score below 50% = Application will be unsuccessful and no funding will be awarded.

If there are more eligible applications than the budget can cover, all successful grants may be reduced by the same percentage to fit the budget.

Interested in applying?

Before applying, read the general Applicant Manual (Revenue Grants) for guidance on:

- Who can apply
- What projects we can fund
- Support for applicants
- Completing your application
- Assessment process and scoring
- Procurement rules when spending your grant.

The Community Grants Programme provided by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is supported through financial support from:

