Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Community Grants Programme

Arts Projects Fund

Grant Guidance 2027-28

Call 1 - Opens: 02 November 2026

Closes: 27 November 2026, 12 noon

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

PLEASE NOTE FOR 2027/28

THERE WILL BE
2 OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY
TO THE
REVENUE GRANTS

Call 1: 2 November – 27 November 2026

Delivery Period: 1 April 2027 - 31 March 2028

Call 2: 1 March – 9 April 2027

Delivery Period: 1 July 2027 - 31 March 2028

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
	You must clearly detail evidence of financial need – see page 4	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.

Completing the Application Form

Top Tips:

- Select the grant that best fits your project and costs
- Refer to the specific guidance manual for details
- Answer all questions fully and clearly.
- Repeat information if relevant - assessors won't look elsewhere for answers.
- You must clearly detail evidence of financial need
- Assume assessors know nothing about your project.
- You must clearly show why your project or activity is needed.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate clear financial need for funding from Council.
- You also need to explain how your project helps support the council's goals and priorities.
- If a grant has been funded one year, it may not be funded in subsequent years, as it is subject to an independent assessment process each call
- Applications must evidence a financial need for Council support.

This means that you must show that your projected costs are greater than your projected income.

The grant funding requested cannot be greater than your expected shortfall in funding.

e.g. Projected cost of the event is £50k
Projected income for the event is £75k
Amount requested from FAP £10k

This would be viewed as unsuccessful as there is not clear evidence of financial need as the projected income is greater than the cost of the event.

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 arts project. (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 arts project and not exceeding £200	Projects or activities which are delivered outside the Council area
Materials – must be related to the arts project	Gifts, donations, prizes
Insurance – Public Liability Insurance costs for an arts project	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 All cash transactions of any kind
Toilets - Hire of a mobile accessible toilet or Portaloo toilet	Trips or transport of any kind. Accommodation costs.
	Fundraising events and projects
	Costs incurred prior to a funding offer from Council (retrospective funding)
	Costs which are not clearly linked to the arts 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 (e.g. 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:

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

The Executive Office