

arts
fundraising &
philanthropy

Networks Funding
2026



Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy

Working with Trustees, CEOs, senior leaders, mid-career, new and emerging talent, Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy empowers cultural professionals to harness the opportunities that fundraising offers, helping to develop diverse and entrepreneurial practice, as well as building and growing a skilled fundraising workforce.

We achieve this through the following strands of delivery:

- **Ideas and innovation** - developing new ideas and practical solutions to support organisations to achieve their fundraising potential.
- **Strategy and fundraising leadership** - stimulating new sources of private income and cultivating commercial opportunities as part of impactful business planning.
- **Training and lifelong learning** - creating and sharing ideas for innovative practice via face to face, online, and accredited training and learning.

Cause4 leads Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy with consortium partner, the University of Leeds (UoL). Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy is an Arts Council England Investment Principles Support Organisation (IPSO).

Networks Funding

At Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy, we work to empower arts and cultural professionals by supporting them to develop their practice and find creative, new approaches to fundraising.

We are offering **core financial support to fundraising groups or networks** across England to support them to grow and thrive.

This round of Networks Funding intends to provide core financial support to arts, culture and heritage organisations. It can contribute to the development of new training events, conferences, seminars or meetings.

What can we fund?

We are looking to support organisations to create and/or run a range of networks, projects and events.

We are particularly interested in activity that aims to strengthen the following areas of fundraising practice:

- Developing effective fundraising policies and managing risks and reputation in fundraising.
- Understanding the applications of AI in fundraising practice.
- Improving impact measurement to bid for funding from non-arts sources.
- Increased knowledge and application of environmentally sustainable and green fundraising methods.
- Providing professional development support for freelancers working in the arts, culture and heritage sector.

Funding could be used to:

- Support arts organisations to develop effective fundraising policies and to navigate challenges in managing risk and reputation in fundraising.
- Provide training to guide organisations in best practice in the use of AI in fundraising.
- Explore models for capturing, evidencing and articulating impact, especially to support arts organisations to bid for funding effectively from non-arts sources.
- Enhance knowledge of green fundraising strategies and how cultural fundraising can play a part in supporting the environmental agenda.
- Provide professional development support for freelancers working in the arts, culture and heritage sector.

What can I apply for?

Organisations can apply for support to cover any relevant expenditure for an event or activity to take place **between June and December 2026**.

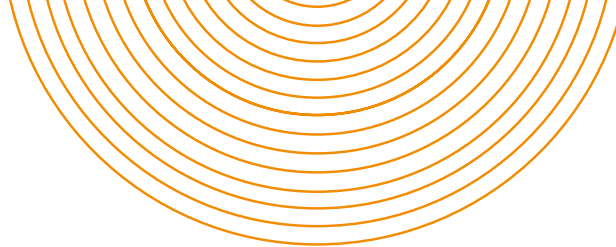
As part of this funding round, you can apply for funding for:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| - Training Days | - Speakers/Facilitators |
| - Conferences | - Access Costs |
| - Seminars | - Administration |
| - Panel Discussions | - Resources and Toolkits |
| - Travel Costs | - Marketing Materials |
| - Event Hire | - Evaluation |
| - Catering | |

We are able to fund both face-to-face and virtual networking activity, understanding the important role of accessible online opportunities and real-world connections.

- Up to a maximum of £2,500 is available for any single event, or group of events (in-person), to cover the costs of co-ordination, participants' travel costs, venue hire, catering and speakers/guests. The activity must benefit a minimum of ten people.
- Up to a maximum of £1,000 is available entirely for virtual activity, to cover the cost of software, administration or external training support. Virtual activity must benefit a minimum of ten people.

Organisations can apply for a further £500 to support access costs for their online or in-person event.



How do I apply?

To apply, please provide answers to the below questions using this [SurveyMonkey Form](#) and submit your response by 12.00pm (noon) on Monday 1st June 2026.

- Your organisation name, status (registered charity, CIC, CIO, Other), artform, annual income, and numbers of staff and trustees
- Lead contact name, number and email
- The location of your organisation
- The name of your network
- Whether your network will be online, in-person or hybrid
- A summary of your network and its purpose (300 words)
- A summary of what the funding will cover (300 words)
- An overview of your intended impact (300 words)
- How you will share learning with other organisations / fundraisers (300 words)
- A summary of any additional access requirements needed (300 words)
- A detailed budget, with expenditure and income for the activity, including a breakdown of the costs you would like to be covered by AFP and any income from other sources either cash or in-kind.

To submit your application, please fill out this [SurveyMonkey form](#) by Monday 1st June 2026. We will review all applications the week commencing 8th June 2026.

If you would like to submit your answers in a different format, please contact artsfundraising@cause4.co.uk.

We welcome applications from a wide range of organisations, to reflect the diversity of artists and audiences for art and culture across England.

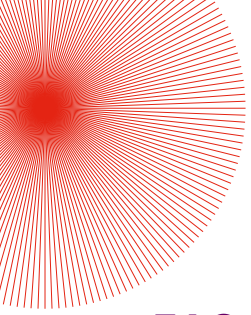
We are particularly interested in hearing from organisations that meet the Arts Council England definition of 'diverse-led,' where 51% or more of the board and senior management team identify as:

- Black, Asian and Ethnically diverse, or;
- Disabled, or;
- Female, or;
- LGBTQ+, or;
- From a lower socio-economic background

Within their proposals, we will expect all applicants to include ways in which they will ensure that their event(s) are fully inclusive and accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Please note that we will expect all successful applicants to provide us with a short report following their activity to feed into our evaluation. We will pay 50% of this project funding upfront and 50% upon completion of the activity, submission of a report and transaction listing. Templates and additional support will be provided with the grant agreement.

If you need this information in any other format or require further information about the Programme, please contact artsfundraising@cause4.co.uk



FAQs

Do you have examples of other networks funded?

Absolutely, you can find the details of the projects we have funded from 2018 to 2025 on our website [here](#).

I have been awarded funding from this programme before. Can I re-apply?

Previously funded networks are welcome to apply; however, we will look to prioritise supporting new networks and therefore it is worth bearing this in mind when considering applying.

What are the success rates for this funding?

We receive a considerable number of applications for support and are typically able to fund 26% of those we receive.

What is your criteria for reviewing applications?

When reviewing applications, we will consider why the network is needed and what it will involve. We will also consider how the chosen activity will benefit your organisation, as well as the broader audience/community you intend to reach.

When will the funding be paid?

We will pay 50% of this funding upfront and 50% upon completion of the activity and submission of a report and a financial transactions listing. Templates and additional support will be provided to all successful networks.

Can the funding be used for internal training and events?

The funding is intended to support the building of networks, and we will be looking to fund activities with maximum impact and reach. With that in mind, internal training and events aren't something that we could fund, unless they were also being opened to others outside of the organisation.

Can the funding be used to promote my organisation?

We're looking to fund events that benefit as many people as possible, both at the time of the event and in the future. As such, any application where the event is presented as solely a promotional opportunity for your organisation, without much wider benefit to others, is unlikely to be successful.

Will you support us to promote our activity if we're funded?

Yes, if you're funded through the programme, we'll be happy to share your events through our social media and networks, and we will provide you with our logos and branding so that you can share this on your promotional materials.

What are the reporting requirements following our event?

Following completion of your event(s), you will need to provide a summary of the learning outcomes from your project that you would like to share across the arts and cultural sector, along with a final financial transactions listing. For those who are successful, we will share templates for you to use.