

Assistance for the arts

A guide for constituents

August 2026



Find out more:
research.senedd.wales

The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people.

Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

An electronic copy of this document can be found on the Senedd's website:
research.senedd.wales

Copies of this document can also be obtained in accessible formats including Braille, large print, audio or hard copy from:

Welsh Parliament
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

X: **[@SeneddResearch](https://twitter.com/SeneddResearch)**
Senedd Research: **research.senedd.wales**
Subscription: **[Newsletter](#)**

© **Senedd Commission Copyright 2026**

The text of this document may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium providing that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading or derogatory context. The material must be acknowledged as copyright of the Senedd Commission and the title of the document specified.

Assistance for the arts

A guide for constituents

August 2026

Senedd Research provides impartial research support to Members of the Senedd. We cannot correspond directly with any other individuals or organisations, nor advise or comment on individual cases.

The information provided in this guide is for general informational purposes only to support the work of Members of the Senedd in assisting their constituents. It is not intended as a substitute to legislation, guidance, policy nor professional advice.

This guide outlines and signposts information and sources of financial assistance relating to the arts.





Contents

1. Arts Council of Wales Support	7
Funding for Individuals.....	7
Funding for Organisations.....	7
Creative Learning.....	8
International.....	9
Night Out/Nosan Allan.....	9
Strategic.....	9
2. Literature Wales	10
3. PRS for Music Foundation	11
Funding for Organisations.....	11
Funding for Music Creators.....	11
All Levels.....	11
Early Career	12
Next Steps.....	12
International Opportunities.....	13
4. The Charity Commission	14
5. Community Groups and Clubs	15
The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust.....	15
Clore Duffield Foundation.....	15
Woodward Charitable Trust.....	15
Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust	16
Fidelio Charitable Trust.....	16
Elephant Trust.....	17
Anchor Foundation	17
Leverhulme Trust.....	17
The Idlewild Trust.....	18
Colwinston Charitable Trust.....	18
Concertina Charitable Trust	18

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.....	19
Fenton Arts Trust Grant.....	19
Garfield Weston Foundation	19
The Grocers' Charity.....	19
Jerwood Arts	20
John Ellerman Foundation	20
Ashley Family Foundation.....	20
Paul Hamlyn Foundation.....	20
Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts	21
The Art Fund.....	21
Wolfson Foundation	21
Young Sounds UK.....	22
Skinnners' Charity Foundation.....	22
6. Lottery Funding	23
7. Local Authority Support	24
8. County Voluntary Council.....	25

1. Arts Council of Wales Support

The Arts Council of Wales is an independent charity, established by Royal Charter in 1994. It is the official body that is responsible for funding and developing the arts in Wales, and is largely funded by the Welsh Government and National Lottery.

The funding that is provided by the Arts Council of Wales is categorised into four types: **Individuals**, **Organisations**, **Creative Learning** and **International**. It also provides some strategic funding available to both individuals and organisations.

Funding for Individuals

Research and Development supports the development and creation of high-quality and ambitious work. It supports exploring and developing new ideas and ways of working in collaboration with partners. Proposals should have a clear intention to create work that will reach audiences and demonstrate a strong potential for future success. There are two levels of award: small, up to £10,000 and large, up to £30,000.

Creative Practice grants are designed to support you as an artist or creative professional, investing in your growth and future. They allow you to dedicate time and space for creative experimentation, professional development and to work in new ways.

Create and Engage funds the development, creation and delivery of high-quality arts experiences that help creative individuals and organisations engage with and connect to the public.

Creative Steps for Individuals funds the professional, business and organisational development of artists who have experienced barriers to careers within the arts.

The **Edinburgh Bursary 2026** is a funded opportunity to participate in networking and events and workshops at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, alongside seeing high quality UK and international work.

Funding for Organisations

The Arts Council has occasional rounds of funding for **Major productions**.

Research and Development supports the development and creation of high-quality and ambitious work.

Festivals funding supports focused, time-limited festivals that deliver vibrant, high-quality arts programmes and reach the widest possible audience.

Create and engage funds the development, creation and delivery of high-quality arts experiences that help creative individuals and organisations engage with and connect to the public.

Creative Steps funds the professional, business and structural development of organisations who have experienced barriers to careers within the arts.

Creative Communities is designed to encourage voluntary and community groups who are embedded in their communities across Wales, to engage in artistic activities, particularly in areas with limited creative opportunities or areas underrepresented in Arts Council funding. **Arts, health and wellbeing** supports partnerships from across the arts, health, social care and third sectors to provide high-quality creative projects that deliver health and wellbeing benefits for the people of Wales.

Creative Learning

Experiment is a funded opportunity for teachers to explore a real question from their practice, within and beyond the classroom, supported by a Creative Learning Partner and aligned to their school development priorities.

Explore is a professional learning programme for teachers, support staff, and school leaders across Wales.

Extend: creative leadership programme is a funded opportunity to join the Creative Leadership Programme, a partnership between the Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Government.

Have a go is new fund for learners aged 3-16 years to have a go at a hands-on activity or workshop that focuses on the expressive arts in and out of school settings.

Go and see offers grants up to £1,000 to enable teachers in state-maintained schools in Wales to take their learners to see high-quality art in venues across Wales.

International

The **International Opportunities Fund** provides funding for the development and delivery of international work.

Night Out/Nosan Allan

In addition to the above schemes, the Arts Council's **Night Out/Nosan Allan** scheme works with local authorities to help groups of volunteers arrange artistic performances in their communities.

Strategic

Sharing Together: The Arts Council of Wales wants to fund ideas which encourage the creation of new networks, and which strengthen existing networking opportunities. It is particularly interested in initiatives which focus on promoting and strengthening diversity and inclusion throughout the arts sector, and on widening engagement with diverse communities.

For more information:

www.arts.wales

2. Literature Wales

Literature Wales is the national company for the development of literature in Wales, and is largely funded by the Arts Council. It is a registered charity, and works to inspire communities, develop writers and celebrate the literary culture of Wales. It facilitates, funds and directly delivers a literary programme across Wales.

Support it offers includes:

Representing Wales is a 12-month programme which provides development opportunities for writers currently underrepresented in the literature sector in Wales.

Inspiring Communities Fund funds literature events.

Ty Newydd, run by Literature Wales, is the national writing centre, specialising in residential writing courses and retreats. Its website contains information about **financial support** to attend events.

For more information:

www.literaturewales.org

3. PRS for Music Foundation

The PRS for Music Foundation is the biggest funder of new music across all genres in the UK, with the aim of stimulating and supporting the creation of new music in the UK.

The PRS Foundation has many initiatives that provide financial support for the creation, performance, and/or promotion of outstanding music. These initiatives are broadly split into two strands: **funding for organisations and funding for music creators.**

Funding for Organisations

The PRS Foundation supports promoters, talent development organisations, festivals, venues, curators and large performance groups. Organisations can apply to the following schemes:

The Talent Development Network supports and brings together organisations working at the frontline of talent development across the UK.

Beyond Borders stimulates and strengthens cross-border collaborations between music creators, performers and presenters. It supports the creation, touring and promotion of innovative and high-quality new music across all genres and encourages engagement with audiences across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Resonate is a fund and resource which encourages professional orchestras to programme into their repertoire the best pieces of British music from the past 25 years. The fund aims to inspire more performances, recordings and broadcasts of outstanding contemporary repertoire. Grants of up to £10,000 are available.

Funding for Music Creators

PRS Foundation classes the following as music creators: songwriters, composers, artists, bands, producers or performers who write their own music. Funding for music creators is split into categories based on their career stage:

All Levels

The funding opportunities under the **All Levels** category are available to music creators at any career stage.

- **Women Make Music**: supports the development of outstanding women, trans and non-binary songwriters and composers of all genres and backgrounds at different stages of their career.
- **The Open Fund for Music Creators**: supports the development of outstanding songwriters and composers of all genres and backgrounds at different stages of their career.
- **Sustaining Creativity Fund**: Supports artists, songwriters and composers to create and develop when they need it most. The latest round has been adapted to provide targeted support for black music creators in any genre and gender across the UK who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early Career

The opportunities under the **Early Career** category are most suited to those at the early stages of their career. There are a range of schemes, including, but not limited to:

- **Adopt a Music Creator**: this scheme pairs member groups with music creators for one year, with each pair working collaboratively to create a unique new work.
- **PPL Momentum Accelerator** is a targeted scheme to support the development of outstanding artists and bands who are writing their own music, and future industry professionals, outside London and who face additional barriers in reaching a crucial career tipping point based on their location.
- **Prelude** supports UK-based composers taking their first steps and address under-representation within the world of media composition.

Next Steps

The opportunities under the **Next Steps** category support those who are at crucial tipping points in their career. These schemes have been designed to address specific talent development needs and include, but are not limited to:

- **Power Up**: a long-term initiative which supports Black music creators and industry professionals and executives, as well as addressing anti-Black racism and racial disparities in the music sector.

- **The Hitmaker Fund**: offers an opportunity for songwriters and producers working in popular music genres to further develop their careers and writing/production with grants of between £5,000 – £10,000.
- **Composers' Fund**: an opportunity for composers with a strong track record, giving direct access to funding at pivotal stages in their career. Grants of up to £10,000 are available.

International Opportunities

The schemes under **International Opportunities** support activity outside of the UK. Some of the opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- **The International Showcase Fund**: offers vital export support for UK-based artists, bands, songwriters and producers who have been invited to perform or create new music at international showcasing festivals or conferences.
- **Keychange**: is a pioneering international initiative which transforms the future of music whilst encouraging festivals and music organisations to include 50% women and underrepresented genders in programming, staffing and beyond.

For more information:

www.prsfoundation.com

4. The Charity Commission

Many funding streams are only available to groups with charitable status. The Charity Commission website provides comprehensive information and an application pack for people who wish to register a charity.

The Charity Commission offers advice and guidance on the application process, including the provision of model documents and help in setting the objectives of the charity.

For more information:

www.gov.uk

5. Community Groups and Clubs

The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust

The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust provides grants for voluntary organisations in Wales in support of sport, art, the community and the environment.

Funding is issued according to the geographical area that an organisation has a remit to cover. The Trust has classified the funding levels as follows:

- Local Grants - A local project is where the organisations usually have a remit to serve their local community or town.
- Regional Grants- A regional project is where the organisations usually have a remit to serve a region of Wales or a local authority area.

For more information:

Email: applications@millenniumstadiumtrust.org.uk

Telephone: 02920 022 143

Website: www.millenniumstadiumtrust.org.uk

Clare Duffield Foundation

Grants are available to registered charities in support of the cultural sector, including performing arts.

For more information:

Email: info@clareduffield.org.uk

Website: www.clareduffield.org.uk

Woodward Charitable Trust

The Woodward Charitable Trust awards grant funding to small-scale, locally-based charitable initiatives in the UK. They like projects that promote community cohesion and the development of skills that will change the outlook and outcomes for the users.

For more information:

Email: contact@woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk

Website: www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk

Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust

The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust award grants to registered UK charities that work with communities in the UK. They aim to give grants to those in society who face the greatest challenges and whose opportunities are most limited.

For more information:

Email: admin@austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk

Website: www.austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk

Fidelio Charitable Trust

Fidelio welcomes applications for grants in support of the Arts particularly for Music, including Opera, Lieder, Composition and Dance.

Fidelio aims to provide support for individuals or groups of exceptional ability, to enable them for example:

- To receive special tuition or coaching (e.g. in the case of musicians to attend Master Classes)
- To participate in external competitions
- To be supported for a specially arranged performance
- To receive support for a musical composition.

Applications need to be supported by Institutions, Colleges, Arts Festivals or other similar arts organisations in the United Kingdom with recognised relevant expertise. Applications from individuals or groups seeking funding for themselves or their children without such support will not be considered. Applications are not generally considered for activities for people under the age of 21, or for course fees, capital items or retrospective expenditure.

For more information:

Email: admin@fideliocharitabletrust.org.uk

Website: www.fideliocharitabletrust.org.uk

Elephant Trust

The Elephant Trust awards grants which are usually limited to £5,000 to artists, small organisations and galleries within the United Kingdom to make it possible for artists and those presenting their work to undertake and complete projects when frustrated by lack of funds.

The trust is committed to helping artists and institutions/galleries that depart from the routine and signal new, distinct and imaginative sets of possibilities.

For more information:

Email: enquiries@elephanttrust.org.uk

Website: www.elephanttrust.org.uk

Anchor Foundation

The Anchor Foundation offers grants up to a maximum of £12,000 to UK-registered Christian charities for projects that encourage social inclusion through ministries of healing and the arts.

For more information:

Email: secretary@theanchorfoundation.org.uk

Website: www.theanchorfoundation.org.uk

Leverhulme Trust

The Leverhulme Trusts awards funding across academic disciplines, supporting talented individuals in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences to realise their personal vision in research and professional training. As well as substantial grants for research, they offer fellowships for researchers at every stage of their career, grants for international collaboration and travel, and support for the fine and performing arts.

For more information:

Email: grants@leverhulme.ac.uk

Website: www.leverhulme.ac.uk

The Idlewild Trust

The Idlewild Trust supports learning programmes that provide opportunities for professional musicians, dancers, actors, writers, artists and those involved creatively in the arts at an early stage in their career.

It also supports the conservation of nationally/internationally important works of art and historic objects. Grants of up to £8,000 are available to UK registered.

For more information:

Email: info@idlewildtrust.org.uk

Website: www.idlewildtrust.org.uk

Colwinston Charitable Trust

The Colwinston Charitable Trust aims to support charitable organisations in the UK (especially Wales) working in areas such as opera; classical music; visual arts and libraries and archives.

For more information:

Email: colwinstontrust@colwinston.org.uk.

Website: <https://colwinston.org.uk/>

Concertina Charitable Trust

The Concertina Charitable Trust provides grants to charitable organisations in England and Wales to improve the quality of life of elderly members of society, through musical entertainment and related activities.

Grants are a maximum of £250 and the deadlines for applications are April 30 and October 31. The Trust can no longer be contacted by email or telephone. Only hard copy postal applications will be accepted:

The Concertina Charitable Trust, Nells Platt, Smithwood Common, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8QY

For more information:

www.concertinamusic.org.uk

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve the natural world, secure a fairer future and strengthen the bonds in communities in the UK.

For more information:

Email: info@esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Website: www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Fenton Arts Trust Grant

The Fenton Arts Trust Grant aims to support individuals and organisations that contribute to the artistic culture of the country in the fields of drama, painting, sculpture, dance, music and poetry. The trust focusses its efforts specifically on the support of artists at the beginning of their careers.

For more information:

www.fentonartstrust.org.uk

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Garfield Weston Foundation supports a wide range of charities that make a positive difference, working in different sectors in the UK. These include welfare, youth, community, environment, education, health, arts, heritage and faith.

For more information:

Telephone: (020) 7399 6565

Email: admin@garfieldweston.org

Website: www.garfieldweston.org

The Grocers' Charity

The Grocers' Charity provides one off grants of up to £5,000 for charities. The major causes it supports are relief of hardship, the elderly, disability, arts and heritage, health, military, environment, and children and young people. Applications will only be accepted if submitted through the online form.

For more information:

Website: <https://grocershall.co.uk/the-charity>

Jerwood Arts

Jerwood Arts is an independent funder dedicated to supporting outstanding UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. It welcomes funding applications from organisations with a focus on supporting excellence and emerging talent in the arts in the UK, making art available for public benefit, and those interested in working with Jerwood Collection.

For more information:

Email: info@jerwood.org

Website: <https://jerwood.org/>

John Ellerman Foundation

The John Ellerman Foundation aims to advance wellbeing for people, society and the natural world. It wants to support charitable organisations that, at their core, are committed to ensuring the rights of people, society and the natural world for current and future generations.

For more information:

Email: beth@ellerman.org.uk

Website: www.ellerman.org.uk

Ashley Family Foundation

The foundation's three funding rounds per year support a broad range of arts, community and social welfare projects in Wales, with a particular interest in supporting rural communities and environmental sustainability. It funds requests up to £10,000 and which represent at least 10% of the overall project cost.

For more information:

Email: info@ashleyfamilyfoundation.org.uk

Website: www.ashleyfamilyfoundation.org.uk

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

The foundation's funding focuses on: arts, education and learning, migration and young people.

For more information:

Email: information@phf.org.uk

Website: www.phf.org.uk

Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts

The trusts support a variety of different interests, including the environment, social inclusion, education, scientific research, the arts, and heritage.

Each of the 16 trusts, together with associated charitable companies, was set up by an individual member of the family. Each trust is an independent legal entity with a separate focus and board of trustees. You can find out more about the work of [individual trusts here](#).

For more information:

Telephone: (020) 7410 0330

Email: info@sfct.org.uk

Website: www.sfct.org.uk

The Art Fund

Art Fund supports the vital work of museums and galleries across the UK. They give grants to help museums acquire and share works of art, support the professional development of curators, and inspire and engage new audiences.

For more information:

Email: members@artfund.org

Website: www.artfund.org

Wolfson Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation provides grants to support excellence in the fields of education, science and medicine, health and disability, and heritage, humanities and the arts.

For more information:

Telephone: (020) 7323 5730

Email: grants@wolfson.org.uk

Website: www.wolfson.org.uk

Young Sounds UK

The charity supports the UK's most talented young instrumentalists who, because of financial need, may be prevented from fulfilling their creative potential. The charity assists musically-gifted children in families, where income is limited, to help develop potential.

For more information:

Email: enquiries@youngsounds.org.uk

Website: www.a-y-m.org.uk

Skinnners' Charity Foundation

The Skinnners' Charity Foundation (SCF) is a grant-making charity, supporting three core themes: 'arts, heritage and communities', 'young people's vocational development', and 'the relief of poverty and hardship'.

For more information:

Telephone: (020) 7213 0562

Email: charities@skinnners.org.uk

Website: <https://skinnners.org.uk/our-grants>

6. Lottery Funding

The Welsh branch of the **National Lottery Community Fund** delivers funding to a range of different projects that help people connect, grow and build a better future.

The National Lottery Community Fund website has an option to search **Funding Programmes** to enable individuals and community groups to locate funding for a variety of different projects.

The National Lottery Community Fund can be contacted on **0300 123 0735** or **wales@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk**

7. Local Authority Support

Support for the arts may be available from your local authority. You can find your local authority on the [Welsh Government website](#).

8. County Voluntary Council

The relevant County Voluntary Council will be able to advise Individuals sources of financial assistance for that particular locality. Contact details are available on the **“Knowledge Hub”**, the Third Sector Support Wales website.

