

Arts Council England Funding Opportunities – NLPG & DYCP

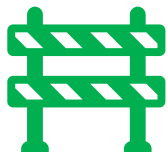
India Crawford, *Relationship Manager, Theatre London* (she/her)

Access Support:

before you apply



We want to make Project Grants accessible to **everyone**



If you have a barrier which means you find it difficult to get advice or apply, we can help



Get in touch at

artscouncil.org.uk/contact

0161 934 4317

access@artscouncil.org.uk

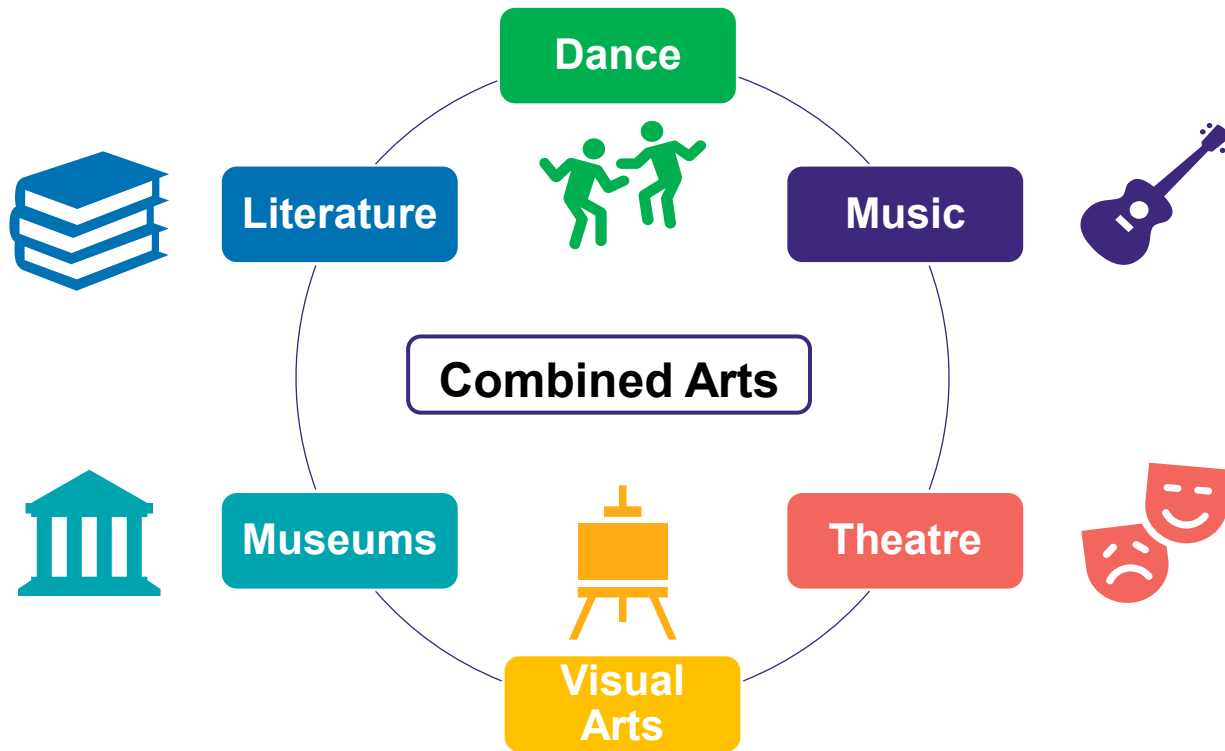


Read our **Access Support info sheet**

artscouncil.org.uk/NLPGInfoSheets

Who we are & the disciplines we support

Arts Council England is the Arts and Cultural
Development Agency in England





National Lottery Project Grants

What is Project Grants?



Project Grants is our open-access funding programme **for arts, museums and libraries projects.**

It's our most popular funding programme and it's made possible with funding from the National Lottery.

What is a project?



A **project** has a **start and end date**, and things you want to **achieve** in that time

A project will allow people to **experience or take part** in artistic work. It will involve one or more of our **supported disciplines.**

Project Grants in numbers

Project Grants is always open for applications

- **£30,000 and under** - Decision in **8 weeks**
- **Over £30,000** - Decision in **12 weeks**

In 24/25, for Under £30k applications:

- Received **7,896 eligible applications** (2,547 Theatre)
 - Awarded **2,134 grants**
 - Success rate for eligible applications: 27%
 - Success rate for Theatre applications: 26%
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What kind of activity do we fund?

A combination of:

- Research & Development
- Productions
- Touring
- Exhibiting
- Participatory projects
- Events
- Workshops
- Digital projects
- Commissions
- Residencies



What should you have before you apply?

- **Some track record**
 - **Appropriate partners**
 - **Match funding (only if possible)**
 - **A strong & focused project plan**
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The application form

- 1. Your project**
At a glance
In more detail
 - 2. People and communities**
Who will experience it
Where
 - 3. Your planning**
Project timeline
Who you are working with
Budget – income, expenditure
Risks and challenges
 - 4. About you/ your organisation**
-

Criteria: How your project will help to make a difference

The project

Is there a clear creative / cultural idea?

Does the project show ambition?

Are there clear plans to reflect on progress?

Do you know the difference you want to make?

People and Communities

Are the people you're planning to reach involved in the design and planning of the project?

Does the project team reflect the communities you want to reach?

Are people likely to be able to fully access the project, and feel included?

Criteria:
How likely
your project
is to achieve
what you
want it to

Partnerships

Are there appropriate partnerships in place to deliver the activity?

Budget and match funding

Is the budget appropriate for the project?
Is the level of match appropriate for the project?

Risks and challenges

Has risk been appropriately considered?

Planning

Is the project realistic and well planned?

**Investment Principles (for
over £30K applications)**

Have the Investment Principles been used to support the development of the project?

Our Priorities for Project Grants



People

- Data tells us if people are underrepresented in NLPG funding
- Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people and disabled people are underrepresented as recipients and beneficiaries of National Lottery Project Grants funding.



Places

- Data tell us if places are underrepresented in NLPG funding
- We've identified Priority Places.



Time limited priorities

- Sometimes specific types of applications help us make the difference we want to make through Project Grants.
 - Current time limited priorities are listed on our website.
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TIPS

- Use the offline form to draft
 - Think about the reading experience - bullet points are fine but try not to heavily abbreviate or use lots of jargon
 - The strongest responses are specific - re-iterate key quantifiable detail in the narrative answers
 - Get someone who knows nothing about the project, or your work, to read it
 - Partners – include your creative team in the table and use the character count here to tell us about their experience
 - ‘How will your project help make a difference?’ This is a key criteria
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Developing your Creative Practice

Developing Your Creative Practice

- For individual artists only (based in England, over 18 years old)
 - Awards from £2,000 up to £12,000
 - Four application rounds per year. Specific restrictions on re-application.
 - Roughly 8 weeks from the portal closing to decision.
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DYCP in numbers

DYCP deadlines

Round 24

- **Opens** for applications: Thursday 23 October 2025 at midday
- **Closes** for applications: Thursday 20 November 2025 at midday
- **Decisions** announced by: Thursday 19 February 2026

In 24/25, for DYCP applications:

- Received **1131 eligible applications**
 - Awarded **230 grants**
 - Success rate for eligible applications: 20%
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The application

- Simpler application form:
 - Tell us about yourself and your practice
 - Tell us about the developmental opportunity you want to undertake, what you hope to get out of it and how you will go about it
 - Why is this important for your practice at this point, and how will it create future opportunities?
 - Share an example of your work and a letter of support
 - Breakdown of project costs and a project plan
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What kind of things might applicants be doing?

A combination of:

- Developing your craft
- Working with mentors or collaborators
- Research and development time to explore your practice and take risks
- Building professional networks
- Learning a new skill



What DYCP is NOT for...

- Just time to write
- A rehearsal process for a show (e.g. with partners or a venue secured)
- Just creating and sharing new work with an audience



What makes a strong application?

- Emphasis on the **development of your craft**, learning new skills or significantly enhancing your existing practice, rather than finishing a piece of work.
 - Look to **take risks**, innovate, work in new ways.
 - Show **clear development opportunities** and have a **structured plan** in place to follow.
 - Be clear **why now is the time** to apply.
 - **Specific or bespoke** rather than 'off the shelf' activity.
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Key Points

- Highly Competitive
 - We are generally unable to offer feedback or advice on DYCP applications. Only online guidance.
 - There are usually 4 application windows per year & restrictions on re-applying so **think:**
 - **Why DYCP and not a Project Grant?**
 - **Why now?**
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Thank you!

Q&A

- **Full guidance documents**

[artscouncil.org.uk/ProjectGrants](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/ProjectGrants) (or /DYCP)

Technical & Eligibility Questions

Customer Services: 0161 934 4317

- **Access**

access@artscouncil.org.uk // 0161 934 4317

- **1:1 Advice Sessions** (theatre specific)

theatre.assistants@artscouncil.org.uk
