

Cultural Festivals Community Fund



Applications Open: 16 April – 19 May
Panel Deliberation & Scoring: 22 May – 30 May
All Applicants contacted by 7 June

About Together Gloucester

Together Gloucester is an ambitious three-year programme launched in March 2024. It is a partnership between cross-sector organisations that will ignite a collective spirit, developing talent of local people and empowering communities to create cultural events that animate and excite, reflecting Gloucester's unique identity.

Our Four Step Changes

Over the next three years and beyond we collectively aim to:

- Make Gloucester a better place to live, work and visit where people know they can engage in fun, cultural activity;
- Put citizens at the centre of Gloucester's cultural decision-making process;
- Improve the health and well-being of communities, supporting cross sector organisations to work together;
- Empower Gloucester's citizens to celebrate their identity

What is the funding?

Together Gloucester puts community at the heart of decision making, enabling people to create cultural and creative events that animate and excite their communities. We want to make sure the projects supported are representative of Gloucester's communities, stories, styles and art forms.

Our Cultural Festivals Community Fund enables you to apply for funding of up to £1,000 to develop events and activities in your community between mid-June 2024 and March 2025. We encourage you to apply for the funding amount you need to make your project successful, up to the £1,000 limit.

Please note, as there are a limited number of grants, only one application may be considered per organisation. We welcome applications where an organisation may be mentioned as a partner on multiple projects and have also applied individually. If an organisation has been successful in applying for other Together Gloucester funding within the same financial year, preference may be given to first time applicants.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, the project must:

- Take place between mid-June 2024 and 31st March 2025 [in Gloucester](#)
- Not be seeking funding retrospectively (for an event that has already happened)
- Be free to attend/take part

The organisation or individual must:

- Not have received Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation funding for the activity you are applying for
- Be either a legally constituted organisation (not for profit) or if applying as an individual include a letter of support in reference from an organisation about you and to demonstrate that you are 'not-for-profit'
- Have a bank or building society account

What can be funded?

The Cultural Festivals Community Fund seeks to support projects that:

- Have a strong connection to Gloucester and take place in Gloucester
- Provide exciting creative arts activities which engage local communities and have a public benefit to residents of Gloucester
- Benefit residents of Gloucester through cultural activity or development that addresses an identified gap in current provision
- Contribute to one of Together Gloucester four step changes
- Evidence project and budget management skills (e.g. the budget balances)
- Demonstrate a commitment to accessibility, inclusion and environmental sustainability

How to Apply

1. (Optional) Attend one of our advice sessions taking place in communities and/or read this guidance on eligibility and what to include in the application.

2. Fill out an online application [Here](#)

You can tell us about your project in whatever format, way or order that makes most sense to you / your project, this can be in writing, audio or film. You can also send us a couple of examples or links to help illustrate your project. There will also be some tick boxes on sustainability and accessibility/inclusion for you to fill in. Don't forget to attach your budget for the project.

3. You will be contacted following the closing date after the panel has reviewed your application.

What to include in your application

- What would you like to make happen and why?
- Describe the community* you plan to work with
- Tell us about who else may be involved? This might include artists, other creative organisations...
- Where will it take place?
- Your plan / timeline: when it will happen? Please include key dates and milestones
- Your budget: what will you spend the money on

*** Communities can be defined by: A shared interest or experience; A geographic area; Innate personal characteristics (i.e. age, gender, race, ethnicity); Values and beliefs (i.e. religion)**

What happens next?

Step 1: Representatives from Together Gloucester's Citizen panel and Strategic partners will individually score your idea against the assessment criteria on the following page.

Step 2: Once scored, a meeting will take place between the citizen panel and members of the TG strategic partners. We want to make sure the overall group of funded projects are representative of Gloucester's communities, stories, styles and art forms. They will make recommendations for funding.

Step 3: We will inform you of your outcome with any potential conditions recommended by the panel. This may include confirmation of any relevant permissions required; budget clarifications; and/or references.

We aim to offer individual feedback for all applications however where this is not possible due to a high volume of applications we will follow up all unsuccessful applications with an overview of the panel's thoughts across all applications.

Assessment Criteria

The panel will score your application on how it:

- Demonstrates a strong connection to Gloucester communities -
 - you live or work in Gloucester now;
 - you grew up here but moved away;
 - you are partnering with a Gloucester organisation on the project (but not just as a venue or space);
 - your idea is 'of or about' Gloucester, and you are the right people to deliver it.
- Provides an opportunity for Gloucester residents to engage in creative and cultural activities
- Meets the aims of the TG programme and will contribute to one or more of the step changes
- Demonstrates that the community highlighted an interest or need for this activity
- Will enrich the lives and/or develop the skills of local people
- Fills an identified gap in existing provision
- Will work with underrepresented groups.
- Is deliverable within the timescale and budget
- Will be accessible and inclusive
- Will be delivered in an environmentally stable way
- Has a budget that is fair and represents values for money and is balanced

Successful Applicants

As part of the condition of funding, successful applicants will use the Together Gloucester logos and inform the Culture Team of all activities, including the final event, presentations, performances and any other opportunities, so we can see the work in action.

Whilst applicants are expected to carry out their own marketing; Gloucester City Council and Gloucester Culture Trust can assist with advice, contacts and support with marketing through their existing websites and social media channels.

You will receive an evaluation form to be completed within 6 weeks of your project finishing. This evaluation will be required for release of the final payment 20% of funding and must include the following:

- An audience and participation survey conducted online or in person (answers must be recorded).
- Detailed final budget of the project.

Budget Tips

- We have provided an example budget template for you to use as part of your application. You don't need to use this if you prefer to present your budget in your own way.
- We look for budgets that are fair, make sense, and will deliver what you need to do.
- Remember that your budget also tells your story - if something is important in your project, make sure it's also clear in the budget.
- Make sure your budget is based on reality - get some quotes and check how much things cost as you're pulling your plans together, this can also help you get agreements on things people will provide for free or 'in kind' (like rehearsal space, specialist advice etc.)
- Include 'in kind' agreements in your budget in both the income and expenditure sections - this helps funders see the true value of your project and can help you reach any match funding you might need.
- You don't need to have match funding and you will not be more likely to succeed if you do have match funding in place.
- If your plans mean that you do need additional funding, make sure you tell us how you plan to get it, and what you will do if you don't get it.
- You must include 'fair pay' for everyone involved. You can get guidance on fair rates of pay from organisations like [Equity](#), [ITC](#) or [Artists' Union England](#) - or drop us an email if you need advice.
- Don't forget accessibility - what do you need to put in place to ensure your project is a great experience for everyone - creatives, employees, participants, and audiences?
- You do not need to be a registered company or charity, but if you are a freelancer, you will need to be registered as self-employed and pay your own tax and national insurance. You can arrange for your budget to be held and managed by a trusted partner or producer if you would prefer this for access or other support reasons.
- It's OK if once your project starts, your plan or the way you use the funding, changes, as long as you're still working on the same idea. Just make sure you keep in touch and let us know what's happening.

Together Gloucester Partners

