

EXTERNAL CHARITY GRANTS 2026 FAQs

1. Which organisations/projects CAN apply for funding from The Arts Society?

- UK registered charities in the arts, crafts or heritage sectors, with an annual turnover of less than £1 million.
- New projects, or projects entering a clearly defined new phase, that meet the 2026 theme of 'Community Engagement'.

2. Which organisations/projects CANNOT apply for funding from The Arts Society?

- Organisations that are not UK Registered Charities
- CIC's
- Individuals
- Schools, Colleges and Universities. This includes parent-teacher associations and friends of organisations
- Charities whose main activity is not in the arts, crafts and heritage sectors
- Capital expenditure, including building works, equipment purchases and other one-off asset costs
- Core costs
- Projects that have already started (unless the project is entering a clearly defined new phase) or been completed
- Charities with an annual turnover of more than £1 million
Please note, reserves will be taken into account. The Charity Commission defines reserves as "that part of a charity's income funds that is freely available"

3. Does my project qualify for this year's theme?

This year's theme is Community Engagement. Your application will be assessed as to how well your project:

- Focuses on public arts or heritage events, activities or festivals
- Centres on community participation and cohesion
- Brings the arts or heritage into shared public places
- Provides access for people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to engage
- Improves wellbeing, and/or reduces isolation, and/or removes access barriers

All projects should:

- Deliver meaningful benefit at a grassroots level
- Have a clear positive impact for local communities
- Be viable, well managed and sustainable
- Have a robust timetable, budget and financial plan

4. What is the deadline for the External Charity Grant applications?

The application deadline is Wednesday 30 September at 23:59.

5. Does The Arts Society offer extensions to application deadlines?

Unfortunately, we cannot offer any extensions to our Grants deadlines.

6. How often does The Arts Society run External Charity Grants?

External Charity Grants are offered once a year in the autumn.

7. Can I view the application form before starting it?

You can see the application form questions [here](#). We recommend that you prepare your answers in a separate word processing document, then copy and paste them into the online form for final submission.

8. Can I get help and guidance with my application?

If you have any accessibility requirements that may affect your ability to complete the application form, please contact us at grants@theartsociety.org and we will be happy to discuss how we can support you. Specific feedback or help with applications is not possible due to the limited capacity of our small team.

9. Can we submit more than one application per round?

No, we only accept one application per organisation for each round.

10. Will we receive a copy of our final application?

No, this will not be sent automatically so please keep your answers onto a separate document if you need this information.

11. When will we hear the outcome of our application?

We endeavour to confirm the outcome as soon as possible and within two months of the closing date.

12. Will we receive feedback on the outcome?

Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications, we cannot offer individual feedback on projects.

13. If we are successful, when will the grant be transferred to our account?

If your application is successful, your grant payment will be processed within a few weeks of receiving your outcome.

14. If our application is successful, do we need to acknowledge the grant offer or the bank transfer in writing?

Please confirm receipt of your grant funds via email to grants@theartsociety.org

15. If our application is successful, what do The Arts Society require from us?

We will provide you with our grant recipient logo to feature on any materials regarding the project we have helped to fund.

We are interested in learning from all our funded projects about the difference they make. We ask you to measure and evaluate your project and report back to us once your project has completed. We will ask you to include information about:

- What was delivered and who participated
- The outcomes and impact achieved
- Any challenges or learning
- Examples or evidence of impact, such as photographs, feedback or case studies

16. What if our grant application is unsuccessful?

If your application is unsuccessful, you will receive a written notification.

17. If we are unsuccessful with our application, can we apply again?

Yes, there is no limit to the number of grants rounds you can apply for. Even successful applicants can apply more than once.

18. How are decisions reached about which grants applications are successful?

We receive more applications than we are able to fund. Decisions are reached by our Grants Committee, who will consider the most effective use of our resources along with how closely aligned the application is with our chosen external charity grant theme and the overall objectives of The Arts Society.

If you have any further questions that aren't covered here or on [our website](#), please email grants@theartsociety.org