



Arts Grants for Organisations

Research and Development



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Research and Development

Purpose

To support organisations to work in collaboration to enable the exploration and development of new ideas and new ways of working

What we want to achieve

Research and development can help deepen or strengthen an organisation's work by providing an opportunity to develop new concepts, test ideas, research new markets and build new partnerships. We want to support arts organisations by giving you time and space to pursue ideas that take you beyond your usual creative practice.

An appropriate research and development phase can be the first step in making a great idea happen. We're interested in supporting collaborative projects across all artforms that can be the catalyst for new work, or can drive forward our vision for the arts in Wales in an exceptional way. And because of the nature of research and development work, we won't always expect there to be a defined outcome.

The heart of your proposal must be the potential of the creative idea. We're not afraid to take risks when they can be justified – and we want the arts organisations that we fund to do the same. We'll be looking to you to go beyond your creative comfort zone.

We don't want to be prescriptive however, and we want to hear from you about the research and development projects that will make a difference to your organisation's creative practice.

What we need from you

We expect collaboration to be at the heart of the research and development projects we support. All projects **must** involve at least two organisations (or an organisation and individual) working together to develop creative practice and ideas.

We'll expect you to demonstrate the calibre and appropriateness of your creative collaborators, including any new and emerging artists.

All projects can include the opportunity to present work in progress to a test audience, or to would-be promoters and stakeholders, if appropriate. In these cases, we'd expect you to have plans in place to attract people to those performances, exhibitions or showcase events.

You should not embark on a research and development project with any pre-conceived ideas about whether there will be a next phase to your project or what that phase might be. We will expect you to leave a reasonable period of time for review and reflection before making any further applications to us for funding (such as applying for Production funding).

Our [Help Notes for Research and Development](#) applications will tell you more and help you fill in your application form.

Theatre and Dance Production Development

Introduction

Additional guidance if you intend to apply for a Theatre and Dance Production Development project under the Research and Development strand for Organisations

What we want to achieve

We're often approached with ideas that have the potential to become well-crafted in their delivery, but which are not sufficiently developed for us to award funding from our [Production](#) strand. So we want to support theatre and dance producers to develop work which is exciting, challenging and relevant to audiences in Wales. But this is not a production fund, it's research and development funding to help them to develop ideas, approaches and collaborations. We want to increase the likelihood of success by creating an environment in which emerging ideas can be properly researched, challenged, tested and improved. We know that the pressure to succeed when touring, both financially and creatively, is significant, and can itself become a barrier to success. This funding is designed to tip the scales back in favour of the producers.

The heart of your proposal must be the potential of the creative idea and an approach that promises a product that'll be well-crafted in its delivery. We're interested in projects that are working in English or Welsh or that offer satisfying ways of using both successfully. We also interested in projects that explore the performance possibilities of the other languages used in Wales.

We expect that a significant number of these proposals will be developing work for future touring across Wales. However we will also consider funding applications that would develop productions that would be particular to one location, venue or site-specific space in Wales.

The Arts Council of Wales is committed to the development of New Writing in Theatre in Wales. We would be pleased to receive applications which include the commissioning of a new script by a playwright based in Wales as part of your project. However, your application cannot be **solely** for the commissioning of this script and must also include other elements, such as the workshopping of ideas with a director or with actors, or the involvement of an external creative partner such as a dramaturg.

What we need from you

These requirements apply specifically to Theatre and Dance Production Development projects, and should be considered in addition to those listed in this document.

The potential of the creative idea must be at the heart of the projects we want to support. We understand that your project might not be fully defined at this stage, (due to the nature

of research and development), but we'll expect to see a convincing description of how the proposed activity will assist in the development of the creative idea.

We expect the development of partnerships with venues, planning for promotional work and approaches to fundraising to form a significant part of any proposal. We're particularly keen to see applications that have collaboration at their heart, for example a consortium of professional co-producing companies or venues, or a partnership between an individual artists and a presenting venue (where the organisation will be the applicant).

This funding can give you the opportunity to explore new production ideas and to develop new collaborations, without the pressure to produce a finished piece of work. However, we will expect you to focus on the audience of the proposed production idea and to clearly demonstrate how the work will be developed with the audience firmly in mind. A work in progress event with an audience may be appropriate in some cases.

We'll expect you to tell us how you'll use this research and development phase to promote the production idea to would-be promoters and stakeholders, through a showcase event, for example.

We'll expect you to demonstrate the calibre and appropriateness of your creative collaborators, including any new and emerging artists. We'll expect all artists taking part in your project to be paid at least minimum industry rates for their work. Where minimum rates have not been agreed, we'll expect you'll need to persuade us about the basis on which you've set your rates.

Finally, you'll need to tell us how you'll evaluate your work throughout the duration of the project.

Who can apply

Research and Development

You can check that your organisation is eligible to apply by reading our [Getting Started](#) document.

Theatre and Dance Production Development

We welcome applications from non-Arts Portfolio Wales members.

All applicants should be based in Wales, but we'll consider supporting creative partnerships between Wales based companies and venues and those from further afield, providing there's a demonstrable benefit to artists and audiences in Wales.

Funding Available

You can apply for a maximum of **80%** of your project's total eligible cost. Applications can be made at the following levels:

- Small grants between £250 and up to £5,000
- Large grants between £5,001 and up to £30,000

Large grants are only available for **theatre and dance production development** projects.

When you can apply

You should always make your application as far ahead as possible.

Small Grants

There are no deadlines for small grants, but you need to allow a minimum of **six working weeks** between the date you submit your application and the date you want to start your project. **If you're making your first application to us, then you must apply at this level.**

We will be temporarily closing the Small Grants programme while we undertake a review of our Lottery funding. The last day we'll be accepting Small Grant applications will be Wednesday, 10th July 2019 at 5pm. Decisions will be communicated by Wednesday 31st July 2019.

Large Grants

The next Large Grant deadlines are:

- 5pm Wednesday 23rd January 2019
- 5pm Wednesday 8th May 2019

For all large grant applications you need to allow a minimum of **nine working weeks** between the deadline date and the date you want to start your project.

How often you can apply

You can hold a "live grant" from this strand and another strand of *Arts Grants for Organisations* in any twelve month period. We use the term "live grant" to mean an application for a project that has received funding from us and is still happening. We use the start date of the first project we have funded to work out the twelve month period.

Although we can usually only consider funding one Research and Development application from each organisation in a year, we will allow an additional application to be submitted

specifically for Theatre and Dance production development (Large Research and Development Grant).

Please contact our Grants and Information Team if we have given you a grant before and you are unsure whether you are now able to apply again.

How to apply

You will need to discuss your project with us before we send an application form to you. If you have a project that you think might be suitable to apply for under this strand, please email your project ideas to: development@arts.wales

Please include the following details:

- Your organisation's name
- Project title
- Describe your project
- How much funding do you need?
- Location of project

Applications must be made using our online application system.

If you are unable to apply online, for example if you're disabled or do not have access to a computer, please contact our Grants and Information Team. We'll work with you to find other ways for you to apply.

We can also support you if your first language is not English or Welsh.

Need some more advice?

We have Information Sheets and guidance documents to help you with different aspects of the application process or to provide advice on a specific issue. These can be found on our website. You might find the following useful in making an application to the Research and Development strand:

- [Help Notes for Research and Development](#)

If you have further questions about the application, contact our Grants and Information team on 0845 8734 900 or by emailing grants@arts.wales