

# Sharing Together 2025-26

Arts Council of Wales Strategic  
Initiative to Encourage the  
Development of Networking  
Opportunities



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## Accessibility

Arts Council of Wales is committed to making information available in large print, braille, audio, Easy Read and British Sign Language. We’ll also try to provide information in languages other than Welsh or English on request. Arts Council of Wales operates an equal opportunities policy.





## Introduction

The Arts Council of Wales wants to fund ideas which encourage the creation of new networks, and which strengthen existing networking opportunities.

We're particularly interested in initiatives which focus on promoting and strengthening diversity and inclusion throughout the arts sector, and on widening engagement with diverse communities. We want all voices to be heard, and to matter. We feel it's important that communities and debates arising from #BlackLivesMatter and #WeShallNotBeRemoved are able to continue, to inform, enrich and broaden the arts sector here in Wales.

We're open to different sorts of ideas. However, this might include networks which focus on:

- Engaging and developing diverse audiences.
- Supporting diverse voices across the sector to make themselves heard. We are particularly interested in supporting networks from Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent communities and/or Ethnically or Culturally Diverse communities.
- Widening engagement, and promoting active or creative participation in the Arts, particularly for those who feel separated or disconnected for a number of reasons. We would particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups such as – but not limited to – those experiencing socio-economic deprivation, or those who are living in rural, social or geographical isolation.





Networks come in all shapes and sizes. Some are more formal than others; some large, others small. Networks may choose to meet on a regular basis, others as and when the members feel it necessary. Networks don't have to depend on face to face meetings – they can be created and run online.

We see networks as being important to facilitate the following:

- sharing skills, knowledge and expertise;
- providing support;
- encouraging collaborative working;
- sharing resources;
- debating issues and discussing ideas.



## Supporting new and existing networks

We're keen to encourage the creation of new networks that bring together people and organisations with shared needs and interests. We feel that these are far more likely to develop and prosper if they grow organically from within the sector rather than being created by a third party, such as the Arts Council of Wales.

**So it's over to you. We can provide small sums of money on a one-off basis towards:**

- Costs of meetings to bring together individuals or organisations sharing a common purpose with a view to creating a network.
- Set-up costs towards the creation of online forums/communities.

We don't want to exclude existing networks, and we're keen to explore with them ways of developing the support they offer their members. This may, for example, result in providing some funding towards a one-off event that will enhance the capabilities of the group or offer an opportunity to increase the number of members.

We're open to supporting a range of different types of networks: local/regional groups; artist-led groups or networks connected by art form or activity types. In supporting the development of new networks, we're particularly concerned that evidence of a clear common purpose or shared need among potential members can be demonstrated. We also need to feel sure that subsequent activity will be self-sustaining.



## Applying for funds

We have funds available for small scale one-off projects in 2025-26. We can provide up to £2,500 per project.

You'll need to use our online portal to make an application. If you haven't done so already, you'll need to register for access to the portal. You can [find out how to register](#) here.

If you're unable to access the online form or require further assistance, please contact [grants@arts.wales](mailto:grants@arts.wales).


You should:

1. Complete a Sharing Together 2025-26 application form on our online portal.
2. Upload the following additional material in your submission:

A description of your project, taking into account the scheme guidance above on what kind of activity we're able to support, including:

- A description of what you want to do and the reasons why.
- Evidence of the need for this project.
- The number of organisations/individuals you envisage will want to take part and how you will attract members.
- The benefits to those of taking part.

Your project proposal can be provided as text or audio/video format. We would expect this to be a maximum of 2 sides of A4 or 5 minutes of audio or video. [You can find out how to submit a video/audio application here](#).

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3. Submit a budget to outline how you would use the funding, clearly showing estimated expenditure and income.

We will fund 100% of your project costs as long as they do not exceed £2,500. The types of costs that we can help with include:

- Room hire.
- Catering.
- Speaker/facilitator fees and expenses.
- Translation fees (if required).
- Access costs.
- Hire of equipment.
- Purchase of appropriate software or up to 1 year's access to an online platform.





## Further information

We can only meet the travel costs and expenses of individuals taking a formal role in the meeting, for example as a guest speaker, facilitator etc.

It doesn't matter if you haven't received funding from us in the past. As long as you can show the need among potential participants, we'll consider your proposal.

We'll consider proposals from organisations based outside Wales that wish to create a network based in Wales. We'll also consider proposals for networks that include organisations from beyond Wales within their membership.

## What we'll expect from you if we award you funding

We'll ask all those who received our support to provide a brief report on the meeting/activity that takes place. This might include details of the number of people who took part, the types of organisations represented, a description of what took place and an outline of any future plans that might have been discussed either on the day or subsequently.

We will retain 10% of your funding to be paid after we have received your report.





## Selection process

Decisions will be made by a Panel of Arts Council of Wales Officers, including up to three Development Officers and chaired by a Portfolio Manager.

We will do our best to let you know the decision no later than eight weeks after the published deadline date. If the number of applications we receive means that this isn't achievable, we'll let you know as soon as possible.

**Deadline for proposals: Wednesday 3 September 2025, 12pm midday**

Applications must be complete. We won't accept further supporting information after you've submitted your application (other than what's requested as part of the application process).



## Need to get in touch?

Should you have any technical issues with the application form or your portal account, please contact our Grants and Information team: [grants@arts.wales](mailto:grants@arts.wales)

You can contact us in a number of ways:



Telephone: 03301 242733 (all calls charged at local rates)  
10am-4pm Monday to Friday



Website: [www.arts.wales](http://www.arts.wales)



Facebook: [Arts Council of Wales](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsCouncilofWales)



Tweet: [@Arts\\_Wales](https://twitter.com/Arts_Wales)



Instagram: [celfcymruarts](https://www.instagram.com/celfcymruarts)

You can find [further information on how to contact us](#) on our website.



## Contacts

To discuss details of your proposal please contact either:

### Amanda Loosemore

Portfolio Manager, Engagement and Participation

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Tel: 07967 161763

### Lisa Williams

Team Co-Ordinator, Engagement and Participation

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Tel: 029 2044 1349

## Accessibility

If you have any access needs and are thinking about making an application, we can help to make sure that you're supported during the application process. Please contact us at [access.support@arts.wales](mailto:access.support@arts.wales) to discuss how we can help with specific access needs.