

Coventry City of Culture Fund

Having won the title 'UK City of Culture 2021', Coventry City of Culture Trust is keen to support existing and potential partners to develop their practice, their organisation or their ideas as they look to get ready for 2021, ensuring they are sustainable into the future. In 2018/19, the Coventry City of Culture Fund supported 22 projects across Coventry. The success rate over the last round was 1 in 6, 16 of these were first time applicants.

The Trust has appointed Heart of England Community Foundation to manage a fund that supports great ideas that go beyond the everyday activities of individuals and organisations.

We are interested in supporting projects which deliver cultural activities in Coventry, support local individuals or organisations or develop ideas or new partnerships.

About Your Project

Coventry is a creative city. A city of pioneering activists. Projects that are submitted should be extraordinary ideas that go beyond the everyday, offering opportunities to engage with our local communities and ensuring maximum participation for those who do not normally engage with the arts and culture. We are looking for projects that can evidence demand and/or need; that will make a difference; that have a call to action; that are future and forward facing; that ensure Coventry's arts and cultural offering is strengthened for 2021, with a legacy that lasts far beyond that.

Available Funding

There are two funding schemes available as follows:

The Get Ready Fund

Grants of up to £5,000

This development grant is specifically for emerging artists or organisations who are looking to develop their practice or business and establish themselves in Coventry.

The fund will:

- Support feasibility studies or research and development work.
- Allow organisations to develop their business plans.
- Provide support for individuals or organisations to access and engage with other work outside Coventry that will enhance their own practice and have a direct benefit to our city.
- Cover costs of training or skills building courses.

The Road to 2021 Fund

Grants of up to £5,000 for individuals

Grants of up to £10,000 for organisations

This grant will support early activity, development work or pilot events for projects or ideas that could be delivered by an artist or arts organisation in Coventry in 2021.

This fund is looking to support:

- New project ideas which might ultimately form part of the 2021 programme.
- New partnership projects across the sector.
- New creative activity that is not business as usual for you or your organisation, that engages with local communities and that ensures maximum participation from those who would not normally engage in arts and culture.
- Ideas which have an evidenced demand and/or need, have a community focus and a call to action and which will make a difference to the people of Coventry.

Priority Area

Coventry-based artists and organisations will be prioritised.

Grants are available throughout Coventry.

Who Can Apply?

Both funds are open to:

- Registered Charities and Community Organisations
- Social Enterprises
- Individual Artists (or those working within an artistic / cultural setting, e.g. sound technicians). Please note, the maximum grant available to individuals is £5,000.

Additionally:

- You should have an income of under £250,000 per annum.
- Organisations who apply should have a management committee of at least three members who are unrelated.
- Activities must be taking place within a 'CV' postcode area. We will prioritise projects working in areas, or with communities, covered by Coventry City Council.
- Applicants must evidence that their project has secured additional funding; this can be services in kind, sponsorship etc. as well as other grants and should be listed as part of your project budget e.g. Venue Hire provided free but valued at £15@ hour'. Coventry City of Culture Trust is committed to paying artists for their work and their time. As such applicants cannot include their time as an in-kind cost, applicants should instead budget their work fees into their grant application.
- Individual applicants will need to provide two referees.
- New, innovative projects that go beyond your regular working practises.

What We Can't Fund

This fund is specific to the development of Coventry's UK City of Culture year in 2021.

We are unable to fund:

- Existing events that are lacking core funding
- Maps and trails
- Self-publishing
- Campaigns
- 'Business as usual' activity
- Any project which is discriminatory in any way

- Projects without clear link or benefit to the communities of Coventry
- Projects that do not include a clear artistic element (i.e. sporting tournaments)
- Capital projects

Further Information



More information about the Step Changes for Coventry City of Culture Trust can be found here: <https://coventry2021.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Coventry-2021-public-final-BID-document.pdf> on pages 8, 9 and 10.

You may also wish to consult Coventry's Cultural Strategy, which can be found here: <http://covculture.com/>

Decision Making and Timescales

- Your project must be complete within 12 months of receiving an award.
- The funding programme will be open on a rolling basis until the fund is expended.
- The panel aims to meet bimonthly on a rolling programme awarding grants within 16 weeks of application.
- Successful applicants will be contacted with marketing and communications information following confirmation of any grant award.

Monitoring

All successful applicants will be required to complete an end of grant monitoring form to demonstrate the impact of their project.

Successful applicants will also be expected to engage with the City of Culture communications team to ensure successful promotion.

For the Foundation's full eligibility criteria see our website.