

STEP INTO THE ARTS



LOTTERY FUNDED

ABOUT THE FUND

Step into the Arts is a new youth led fund that will provide opportunities and support for young people to get involved in the arts, especially young people who might not usually be able to access them. £65,000 is available to young people aged 5 - 25 from across Scotland. We will also accept applications from young people aged 25 – 30 if they show that they are facing significant barriers to accessing the arts.

The fund is divided into two sections:

- **First Steps into the Arts** - for young people who have some, a little or no experience with the arts, and want to explore them further
- **Next Steps into the Arts** - for young people who have experience in the arts, want to improve their practice, and may be considering a creative career

WHAT WE WANT TO FUND (CRITERIA)

All projects must be completely **youth led** - the idea must come from the young person or young people; they must decide on what to put in the application and carry out the project if they are successful. We will also be looking out for projects that meet one or more of the criteria below. Projects that meet three or more of the criteria points will be prioritised:

- Enable young people to access the arts who might otherwise face barriers
- Use arts to support young people's self expression
- Use arts to support young people's mental health and wellbeing
- Use arts to get young people's voices and perspectives heard
- Will have a lasting impact on the young people doing the project



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WHAT ARE THE ARTS?

Our Youth Panel spent some time thinking about what the arts are. You can see their thoughts below. If your idea or art form is not below, that does not mean you can't apply for it.



WHO CAN APPLY?

Young people aged 5 – 25 living in Scotland (or up to 30 if you face significant barriers to accessing the arts). Young people can apply as an individual or team of two, or in a group of three or more young people.

We understand that many young people, particularly those aged 5 - 11, may need extra support to apply and carry out their project if they are successful. In these cases they may seek help from a supporting adult.

Applicants must be based in Scotland. We strongly encourage applications from groups who are living in areas where there are fewer education and employment opportunities, higher instances of crime, and higher levels of poverty. These will be identified using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). We will aim to ensure that at least 50% of successful groups are from SIMD 1 - 4 areas.

HOW MUCH CAN I APPLY FOR?

	Individuals or teams of two young people	Groups (three or more young people)
First steps into the arts	£100 - £1000	£500 - £2000
Next steps into the arts	£100 - £1000	£500 - £3000

WHAT CAN I USE THE MONEY FOR?



- Equipment (tools you need for your project that will last you a long time and be reused, e.g. easels, cameras, speakers)
- Materials (supplies you need for your project that will not last a long time, e.g. paper, paints, pencils)*
- Venues
- Refreshments for events or sessions
- Trips to arts-based events in Scotland
- Course fees
- Facilitators, tutors, or specialist staff support
- Travel expenses incurred during your project
- Reimbursement for loss of earnings (if the young person is in employment and needs to take time off to attend a course or run an event)
- Professional fees and/or time to complete the project

This list is not exhaustive, you may have other costs in the course of your project.

** We suggest that materials costs should only make up 20% of the amount you apply for. If you are spending more than 20% of your budget on materials, please tell us why.*

WHAT CAN'T I USE THE MONEY FOR?



- Alcohol
- Cigarettes or vapes
- Purchasing land or building works
- Trips overseas

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the application form and send it to eloise.acland@youthscotland.org.uk. There is an option on the application form to submit the 'about your project' section in video, audio, or another creative format if you wish to. Further instructions on how to do this are on the form. Applications submitted in creative formats will be assessed in the same way as written ones.

We have two deadlines for applications. The first is **Monday 1st May 2023**. After this point we will pause applications and review whether the fund can accept any more. If we can, the fund will then be reopened with a second deadline of **Friday 26th May 2023**. To ensure your application is considered, please submit it before the first deadline.

SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

There will be two online support webinars for applicants and supporting adults. These will be on the following dates:

- **Thursday 13th April from 4.30 - 6pm** - [click here to book through Eventbrite](#)
- **Tuesday 18th April from 4.30 - 6pm** - [click here to book through Eventbrite](#)

Please also see our list of frequently asked questions below.

If you have further questions or want more support with your application, please contact eloise.acland@youthscotland.org.uk.

Youth Scotland is committed to supporting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. If you are not supported by one of our member youth groups and there is something in your application that causes us concern, a member of our team will contact you directly if you are 16 or over, or your parent or guardian if you are under 16. If you are supported by a member group, we will contact your youth worker.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

What do we mean by youth led?

Youth led means that the project idea has come from the young person or young people, and the project will be carried out by the young person or young people. Young people should create the application themselves to ensure the project applied for reflects their plans. This can be done with support if needed (see below). If the young person or people are successful, they will be in charge of delivering their project and spending their funding. Our Youth Panel will be looking for evidence in the application form that the project is youth led.

Can someone support me with my application?

We understand that not all young people will feel able to complete the application form on their own. If this is the case, a supporting adult may help with the application, be that a parent, guardian, carer, teacher or youth worker. However, while the young person may get help with the application process, the project proposed must be their idea, and they must carry out the project (again, they can ask for support with this!)

What kind of projects could I apply for?

This fund is all about developing your creativity – you can come up with almost anything! Your project must be youth led and should meet some of the other things listed in the ‘what we want to fund’ section. It must be arts related, but arts encompass a wide range of different things – see the section ‘what are the arts?’ above for some suggestions from our Youth Panel. You can go as big or small as you like with the funding available. For example, you might have an idea for a small creative project you want to do at home and be requesting funding for equipment and materials, or you might want to put on a show or exhibition for an audience.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Should I apply to first steps or next steps?

'First Steps into the Arts' is for young people who have some, a little or no experience of the arts, but want to try them out some more. It might be that you have heard about a new art form that you think you would really enjoy, or that you know creative activities improve your mental health and wellbeing, and this funding would help you to access them.

'Next Steps into the Arts' is for young people who feel confident engaging with the arts, want to improve their existing skills, and create higher quality outputs. It might be that you have done a lot of art in your free time or are studying or have studied an art form in school or college and are considering a creative career.

If you are still not sure which strand to apply for, please contact eloise.acland@youthscotland.org.uk.

What are some barriers to accessing the arts?

Some factors that might be considered barriers to accessing the arts are:

- **Money** – some arts materials, equipment, courses and events can be expensive. Not everyone has enough money to cover these costs.
- **Location** – your area might not have many opportunities for you to take part in arts activities or events.
- **Learning difficulties or disabilities** – you may need extra support to engage in the arts or arts events due to learning difficulties or a disability.
- **Communities that are under-represented in the arts** – you might feel that voices from people with similar experiences to you are not represented much in the arts. This might be in terms of your ethnicity, care experience, neurodivergence, disability, being part of the LGBTQ+ community, or another reason.