



The Cultural Life Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Cultural Education Partnership?

The Cultural Education Challenge asks art and cultural organisations, educational institutions and local authorities to come together to drive a joined-up art and cultural offer locally, to share resources and bring about a more coherent and visible delivery of cultural education through Local Cultural Education Partnerships.

Cultural Education Partnerships organise and collaborate to overcome inequality of opportunity by driving forward a locally based strategy so that every child and young person has access to a consistent and high-quality arts and cultural education. These partnerships:

- Include schools and cultural organisations working together within a defined geographic area and with a common vision for children, young people and culture;
- Have a strong leadership and governance structure;
- Demonstrate the creativity and capacity for innovation to overcome traditional barriers to access and inclusion, and scale delivery to benefit many more children;
- Address the needs of children, young people and schools, with the potential to create demand and grow supply of new opportunities;
- Use data to drive decisions and demonstrate impact
- Demonstrate capacity to align existing resources to maximize impact and secure potential investment for future growth.

2. Why those locations?

In 2015 Arts Council England identified 50 new partnerships across the country in areas most in need of arts and cultural provision, including the following priority places in the East Midlands:

Corby
Derby
Leicester

Mansfield and Ashfield
Nottingham
Skegness, Boston and South Holland

Where possible, we also want to build on our previous investments in the following places:

Amber Valley
Bassetlaw
Bolsover
Chesterfield
Kettering
Newark and Sherwood

North East Derbyshire
North West Leicestershire
South Derbyshire
Wellingborough
West Lindsey



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3. What does Arts Council England expect this fund to deliver?

The following statement from Arts Council England (July 2018) provides important context on what the Cultural Life Fund will be expected to deliver.

“The Arts Council expects that Partnership Investment will support the strategic development of Local Education Partnerships as a priority focus where ever possible. This may include resource to support capacity, planning or evaluation of LCEP progress. Investment outside of this scope will only be agreed in exceptional circumstances. Our ambition is that LCEP areas will continue to grow and thrive over the next four years and we consider Partnership Investment to be central to this success. Partnership Investment must not be used to facilitate programme delivery, it is not an alternative to project grants and the Arts Council will not support the approval of applications where this is the case. Our ambition is that Partnership Investment will support local areas to create new financial sustainability for cultural education. Therefore at least 100% match funding must be sourced from alternative non-arts income. This cannot include Lottery funding or support in kind. Bridge Organisations will support LCEP partners to develop their cultural education offer locally and will be able to advise on how Partnership Investment can support their strategic development and future sustainability”

4. Do I need to have a pre-application conversation with The Mighty Creatives?

Yes. Before applying a member of the partnership must have attended an investment briefing and discussed the proposed activity with Emily Bowman, Deputy CEO. Please be aware that for Round 2 (September 2018), we are prioritising applications from existing cultural education partnerships areas. We anticipate Round 3 (Spring 2019), will be open to all applicants that meet the criteria.

5. What is the minimum amount I can apply for and for what duration?

TMC will be looking to make investments of between £25,000 - £60,000 for the period of 2-4 years. These investments will taper out over the period of investment. We expect that LCEPs will secure and increase other sources of investment in the coming years to support the long-term sustainability of the partnerships.

The minimum duration of your partnership should be two years. All programmes should conclude in good time to prepare final reports in line with the conditions detailed in your investment contract. All contracts must be completed by **April 2022**.

6. What are the criteria for applying?

Please refer to the application criteria detailed in the [Cultural Life Fund – Introduction](#) .



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7. What income can be included as match funding and what evidence do I need to provide?

Income needs to be in cash form and has to be secured income which is *not* from a Lottery source. In kind offerings are unfortunately not eligible as match, though are of course welcome to be included in any planning on top of any cash match where appropriate. The sources of the cash match could be for example:

- Schools and Academy chains (pupil attainment, pupil premium and progression)
- Colleges and universities (skills and competencies, employment)
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (skills and competencies, employment, plus digital, e.g. Digital Growth funds)
- Clinical Commissioning Groups and Public Health (early years and prevention)
- Police and Crime Commissioners (youth and interventions, e.g. anti-social behaviour)
- Housing, Planning Gain, Section 106 (e.g. large scale residential and commercial developments)
- Sports funding (health and wellbeing, families)
- Local authority budgets, children's/youth services - looked after children budgets
- Library services
- Music Education Hubs
- The private sector
- Trusts and Foundations.

For the funds to be released the match income secured will need to be demonstrated. Documentary evidence will be required to show that either the funds have already been received or there is sufficient expectation that the funds will be received in the near future (e.g. a funding agreement, offer letter, contract, statement showing funds already received and available).

8. Can I access the Cultural Life Fund without being in a Cultural Education Partnership?

Yes, but the Cultural Life Fund is aimed at supporting the development of strategic partnerships. Funds are limited, and we will prioritise those applications which help us deliver against our partnership investment plans.

We encourage you to first contact your local CEP to discuss your ideas and to see if you can work together. Visit <https://www.themightycreatives.com/culture/cultural-education-partnerships> to find your local cultural education partnership.

9. Will more than one partnership be supported by TMC per geographic area?

No. We will support a minimum of 10 cultural education partnerships and expect each partnership to have a different geographical area.



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10. Can partnership projects happen in places other than those listed in the Introduction?

No - we will only accept applications that help us deliver in the listed areas.

11. If the focus of the work is every child, can the starting point be a specific age range (e.g. 0-5 or 16- 19)?

Yes. We would also want to see how plans for a specific age range connect across the life course, e.g. transition from early years to primary, or primary to secondary.

12. What's Artsmark?

[Artsmark](#) is the creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. You can find out more about Artsmark either by visiting TMC's website at www.themightycreatives.com or visiting Artsmark at www.artsmark.org.uk

In your application you should tell us how you will work schools to support there Artsmark journey

13. What's the Artsmark Partnership Programme?

The Artsmark Partnership Programme is an Arts Council England endorsed network of organisations who support Artsmark registered schools and education settings on their journey, embedding arts and culture across the curriculum. To find out more about becoming a partner, please contact artsmark@themightycreatives.com

In your application, you should tell us how those involved in your partnership will become Artsmark Partners.

14. What's Arts Award?

[Arts Award](#) is an accredited qualification for young people across five different levels. You can find out more about Arts Award either by visiting TMC's website at www.themightycreatives.com or visiting Arts Award at www.artsaward.org.uk

In your application, you should tell us how you will support Arts Award delivery.

15. What are you looking for in the digital priority?

Broadly we are looking for ways in which cultural education partnerships are using digital resources to improve their work, enhance their reach and as a creative tool. Please tell us about how you plan to do any of these.

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ENDS**



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