

Recovery and Reset

Grants 2022-23

Through Museum Development UK's continued partnership with Art Fund, MDUK has secured an additional £200,000 to support museums in recovery and rest from COVID-19.

Museum Development Yorkshire (MDY), Museum Development North East (MDNE) and Museum Development North West (MDNW) are working together to distribute the North area share of this funding in grants for Accredited museums and those working towards accreditation in the North of England.

A funding pot of £52,250 is available to award as Recovery and Reset Grants in 2022-23 to support museums with their recovery over the next 12 months. The deadline for applications is 5pm on the 30th September 2022.

This is a single grant programme, with one set of guidance, one application form and one deadline. The funding will be administered by MDY and priority will be given to:

- museums in areas of low cultural community engagement, where the museum is the main cultural offer in a locality¹
- museums in urban areas that have niche collections and specific cultural offers outside the larger city institutions, responding to the three key areas outlined below
- museums that have not directly benefitted from Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund or Historic England funding in recent years

Who can apply?

- Museums in the North of England that are Accredited, hold provisional status or are formally working towards Accreditation can apply
- Museums that are not Accredited, or not formally working towards, can be part of a project involving a partnership of museums but an Accredited museum must be the lead partner
- National Portfolio Organisations and nationally funded museums are ineligible to apply, although they can be part of partnership bids

¹ Area of low cultural community engagement as measured by Arts Council England's 'Active People' survey www.artscouncil.org.uk/document/active-people-survey-list-local-authorities-level-arts-engagement

How much can I apply for?

There is £52,250 available to allocate in grants.

- A single Accredited museum or museum working towards Accreditation can apply for up to **£5,000**
- A partnership of museums or a museum service with multiple Accredited sites can apply for up to **£7,500**. Where a partnership of museums or a multi-site organisation is applying, the project must involve a minimum of two Accredited sites

You do not need to contribute any match funding, but additional match funding would demonstrate a commitment to the project. You can add in volunteer time as match calculated in line with national living wage.

Please note that you may not be offered the full amount you apply for.

Grants will be paid in two instalments. 90% on receipt of a funding agreement and 10% in February 2023 on the submission of an interim project report.

You must have spent the funding by the end of March 2023 although your project can continue to June 2023.

The deadline for applications is **5pm 30th September 2022**. Applications received after this time will not be accepted.

Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants² (NLPG) are open for applications. You may decide that an application to NLPG is more suitable for you rather than to this fund.

What can I apply for?

The main aim of the fund is to support recovery and reset of museums in the wake of COVID-19 under three key areas:

- Developing and Using Collections in New Ways: Digital engagement; co-curation; community engagement; commissioning; contemporary collecting; stories and interpretation linked to key issues (i.e. Equity and social justice and the climate crisis)
- Audience Development: Destination marketing; supporting local audiences; giving a voice to underrepresented groups; involving more young people in museums; working with the wider cultural sector in your locality to

² www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants

strengthen your offer and collaborate with other organisations and groups;
collecting and using audience data; community consultation

- Volunteering and Workforce Development: New volunteering models; recruitment; training and development; health and wellbeing

Museums can bid for a range of activity that meet the strategic needs of their organisations.

N.B. Collections are not directly mentioned in the grant criteria, but they can feature in your application if the projects meets one of the three key areas listed above.

What costs are eligible?

This funding can include costs for:

- Materials and equipment
- Consultants and contractors
- Minor building modifications to improve accessibility and environmental sustainability
- ICT equipment and digital infrastructure - however please note the case for investment must include a clear explanation of the need and you need to have considered the ongoing costs of development and maintenance
- Training and development for staff and volunteers

N.B. The Recovery and Reset Grants can fund a wide range of activity but will not fund major capital project costs and general running costs.

What criteria will my application be assessed against?

Your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Project is viable, achievable and clearly planned
- There is a demonstrable need – You can show how this project will help your museum recover and reset post Covid-19, tackling specific challenges your museum is facing
- Project demonstrates value for money – You can show how the costs are appropriate to the scale and nature of your project
- Outcomes of the project will clearly show the impact of funds

Applicants will also be asked to demonstrate how they have considered:

- Best practice when working with freelancers and other consultants
- Environmental responsibility
- Issues around equality, diversity and inclusivity including digital and physical access

N.B. There are links to resources at the end of this guidance to help you with these considerations

When can I apply?

The fund is a single-stage process with one deadline. You need to allow enough time for funding decisions to be made before you start your project.

5pm 30 th September 2022	Deadline for applications
W/b 10 th October 2022	Panel considers applications
W/b 14 th October 2022	Applicants informed of outcome
17 th October 2022	Projects can start, once funding agreements have been received
By February 2023	Complete MDE Museums' Organisational Health Check or other organisational review tools such as NLHF (see grant conditions below)
24 th February 2023	Submission of interim report for receiving final payment
31 st March 2023	Project funding must have been spent although projects can continue to end of June 2023
July 2023	Evaluation questionnaire completed

Do I need to submit anything with my application?

Your application does not need to be accompanied with further documentation, other than providing clear evidence of your costs, which may include screenshots or quotes.

What are the grant conditions and reporting requirements?

It is a condition that grant recipients do the following:

- Complete a simple evaluation form which gathers the impact of your project to enable us to report the value of investment through Museum Development including evidence of expenditure (for completion July 2023)
- Complete a self-assessment return for the Museums' Organisational Health Check Tool 2022-23 by February 2023 (unless your organisation completed one in 2020-21 or 2021-22)³ or you can show evidence of using a similar self-assessment tool in the same time period
- Acknowledge the Recovery and Reset Grant funding from Museum Development, Arts Council England and Art Fund on print and online marketing materials using the wording and logos we will provide

Who can I contact for advice?

Your regional MD team will be happy to respond to queries about this fund and discuss your initial ideas about a project. We have designed this application process to be as straightforward as possible, requesting only the information we need and have included a 'Useful resources' list at the end of this guidance which might help you strengthen your application.

MDNW: <https://museumdevelopmentnorthwest.wordpress.com/theteam/>

MDY: https://www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/?post_type=team

MDNE: <https://museumdevelopmentne.org.uk/contact-us>

Who makes the decisions?

The grant awards will be made by a panel of Museum Development staff across the North of England.

³ Information and the link to complete Museum Development England's Museums' Organisational Health Check self-assessment tool can be found here: <https://museumdevelopmentnorthwest.wordpress.com/mdn-organisational-health-check-tool/>. This information will directly support Museum Development providers to develop programmes and grants for the future.

About Art Fund

Art Fund_

For over 110 years Art Fund has supported museums and galleries, helping them to buy and display great works of art for everyone to enjoy. It helps museums and galleries by:

- Providing museums and curators with funding for acquisitions, training and development, and the display of art through tours and exhibitions
- Running public appeals when a work of art is under threat
- Promoting hundreds of UK museums and galleries through the National Art Pass
- Providing museums and galleries with the chance to fundraise for individual projects through Art Happens, its crowdfunding platform
- Helping museums share and show collections, by supporting tours and exhibitions
- Campaigning and advocacy work
- Celebrating the very best museums and galleries in the country through the Art Fund Museum of the Year

Through a continued partnership, Art Fund is contributing £200,000 to Museum Development UK's Recovery and Reset grant programmes. The funding will reach museums across all nations in the UK, fulfilling specific cultural or local need.

For more information on Art Fund, visit: <https://www.artfund.org/supporting-museums/funding-grants-for-museums>

Useful resources to help with your application

Working with freelancers

South West Museum Development, in partnership with the Museum Freelance network, have recently developed guidance on working with freelancers. The four new guides are available at -

<https://southwestmuseums.org.uk/resources/category/working-with-freelancers/>.

Website and digital access resources

Arts Council England's Digital Culture Network provides practical guides, training and support to museums, helping you to explore and harness the benefits of technology to achieve your goals, find new ways to reach and engage audiences, and develop sustainable business models -

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-digital-culture/digital-culture-network>.

South West Museum Development has a number of guides on websites and digital access, including on planning a website, meeting WCAG 2.1 accessibility requirements and a useful checklist when thinking about your online audience communications. The resources are available at -

<https://southwestmuseums.org.uk/resources/category/digital/>.

Equality, diversity and inclusion resources

MDNW's Age-Friendly Museums Toolkit helps museums think about their offer to older people. It comprises the Age-Friendly Standards self-assessment checklist from the Family Arts Campaign, with some modifications to make it more bespoke to the museum sector -

https://museumdevelopmentnorthwest.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/mdnw_age-friendly-museums-toolkit_sept20191-1.pdf. There is a separate Checklist version with additional functionality so it can be completed electronically -

https://museumdevelopmentnorthwest.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/mdnw_age-friendly-museums-checklist_sept20192-1.pdf

Arts Council England have published some essential reads and resources to support museums to respond to the Investment Principle around Inclusivity and Relevance in the Let's Create Strategy - <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create/essential-read-inclusivity-relevance>.

Museum Development West Midlands have a list of resources on their website you may find useful when planning your project -

<https://mdwm.org.uk/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-resources/>

Environmental sustainability

Julie's Bicycle developed a Museums Framework to support museums in developing environmental practice and inspire them to use their unique role to foster environmental values, understanding and action with their audiences and communities - <https://juliesbicycle.com/resource-museums-framework-2017/>

Curating Tomorrow has resources including Museums and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which helps you map activity against the SDGs - <http://www.curatingtomorrow.co.uk/resources/>

MDNW has a number of resources on our website. See the 'Environmental Sustainability' section of our publications list - <https://museumdevelopmentnorthwest.wordpress.com/publications/>.

Carbon Literacy resources

MDNW, Manchester Museum and the Carbon Literacy Trust have been awarded NLPG funding for 'Roots and Branches', a project to develop and roll out museum specific Carbon Literacy training in England. There are opportunities for your organisations to get involved through your local Museum Development Provider. To find training in the North of England, visit:

<https://museumdevelopmentnorthwest.wordpress.com/2022/04/19/carbon-literacy-courses-for-museums-in-the-north-of-england/>