

The Outdoor Arts Sector Support Fund



Abi Collins at Port Eliot Festival, photo: Louise Roberts

- This is a Benevolent Fund, created in response to the Coronavirus Emergency to support professional individuals and freelancers who work specifically in the Outdoor Arts sector, who have suffered a loss of earnings because of the crisis.
- [Arts Council England](#) has made £160 million of emergency funding available for organisations and individuals who will need it during this crisis; of that funding, £20 million is dedicated to freelancers and individuals working in the cultural sector.
- Looking at the impact the crisis is having on all parts of the cultural workforce, ACE has allocated £4 million to benevolent funds targeted at cultural workers, in partnership with Help Musicians UK, The Equity Charitable Trust, Dance Professionals Fund, The Theatrical Guild, the Royal Literary Fund, a-n (Artists Information Company) & OutdoorArtsUK.
- ACE has asked [OutdoorArtsUK](#) to manage the distribution of £500,000, to ensure that financial assistance reaches people who work in Outdoor Arts in many different capacities, but who do not qualify for other funding streams.
- Applications for the fund can be from £500 to £2,500, with an additional £500 for extra costs relating to a disability. We anticipate being able to support around 200-250 individuals.
- **Applications will open on Thu 9 Apr, deadline of Thu 23 Apr.** As the fund is managed directly by OAUk, you do not need to register with Grantium, ACE's application portal.

Who is this fund for?



- Like all our colleagues, OutdoorArtsUK has, of course, been aware of the immediate problems caused by the Coronavirus pandemic across our entire cultural ecology. For the inherently seasonal outdoor performance sector, the timing has been particularly unfortunate, potentially wiping out an entire year's work and earning potential at a crucial point in the contracting and commissioning process.
- Looking forward to a time when we are allowed outside again, the Outdoor Arts community has an exemplary track record of engaging with the most diverse audiences and for delivering unforgettable cultural celebrations. We are dedicated to protecting our sector in readiness for the time when we can all gather in the streets again.
- This fund is to support individuals and freelancers who work predominantly in the Outdoor Arts sector and who do not qualify for the other ACE funding streams or the government schemes. We expect that a significant amount of earned professional income comes from your work in the Outdoor Arts sector.
- The £20M [Arts Council England Fund for Artists, Individuals & Freelancers](#) is aimed at 'Creative Practitioners' who have been in receipt of public funding. Read the guidelines, and if that is you, **you must apply to that fund and will not be considered for this fund.**
- The government [Job Retention Scheme](#) or [Self Employment Income Support scheme](#) may be your most suitable route, so if you are eligible you should use the appropriate scheme.

What is the Outdoor Arts sector?



- To qualify, you will have been regularly paid to work in the Outdoor Arts performance sector over the past three years, so you'll have worked professionally at festivals such as Hat Fair, Greenwich + Docklands International Festival, Festival of Thrift, Leicester Caribbean Carnival, Inside Out Dorset, Dagfest, Circulate, Out There Great Yarmouth, Birmingham Mela, Stockton International Riverside Festival, Devizes International Street Festival, London Mela, Light Up Poole, Notting Hill Carnival, Big Feast Stoke, So Festival Skegness and many others.
- As an individual, you may have been employed in a variety of capacities by a company which produces outdoor work, such as Mimbire, Walk the Plank, Stopgap Dance Company, Puppets with Guts, Nutkhut, 101 Creation Centre, Justice in Motion, Bureau of Silly Ideas, Upswing, Emergency Exit Arts and many others.
- With a few exceptions, we don't include green field music festivals.
- If in doubt, see the [OutdoorArtsUK Member Directory](#) for more examples.

What if my fees have come from public funding?

- If you have been paid a *fee* for your services by an outdoor company, festival or event organisation, you should be eligible for this fund – even if that funding originally came from public funds (such as ACE funded festivals, Local Authority events, CPP and BID programmes). But you should not be a creative lead in receipt of funding; if you were a funded 'Creative Practitioner' in receipt of any form of public funding, you should apply to the ACE Individuals Fund.

What type of individuals and freelancers?



- This fund is not just aimed at creatives and performers; within the Outdoor Arts sector context, we will support professional and specialist artists (including dedicated street performers, circus performers and project directors etc), technicians (riggers, projectionists, pyrotechnicians, specialist designers & makers), delivery teams (outdoor programmers, bookers, prop & costume makers, production staff, volunteer managers, participation & engagement leaders etc). *All of these must be in an outdoor context.* Again, see the [OutdoorArtsUK Member Directory](#) for further examples.

Do I have to be an OutdoorArtsUK Member?

- No, this fund is open to the Outdoor Arts sector beyond the membership.

What can I use the money for?

- The money can cover lost wages and fees.
- The fund can cover your living costs (rent, bills or food).
- The money can cover IT equipment or software to help you do your job from home.
- The fund can support resources to work on your creative practice (training, research or planning new work).

Please, think carefully, as the funds are limited...



- If you have enough money from another source to sustain you, please don't apply.
- If you are applying for government funds as a freelancer, or in receipt of money as a furloughed employee, please don't apply.
- Let us know if you are applying to any other funds or sources of support.
- This fund will be popular, and we won't be able to fund everyone who applies.
- If you received one of the previous "OAUK Micro-Grants", you are very welcome to apply to this fund, but it would be good to reflect that in the amount you are requesting.
- Think about what you will do if we can't fund your application. See ACE's list of [other sources of funding](#).

Who CANNOT apply?

- Organisations cannot apply.
- ACE NPOs and their staff cannot apply.
- This fund is not for project funding to make specific work.
- Creative Practitioners who fulfil the ACE Individual fund criteria cannot apply.
- Festival volunteers and unpaid performers cannot apply.
- Please be mindful of the other [Benevolent Funds](#) available which may be more appropriate; there are specific funds for musicians, dancers, visual artists, theatre technicians, actors and writers; circus artists who work indoors or in tented circus should head to the Equity Charitable Trust.
- Street and field festival musicians and bands should apply for the support for musicians.
- Graffiti artists should apply for visual artist support.
- If you live in Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland, please apply to your relevant funding body's schemes.

We will ask you to tell us...



...how much money you need.

- The grants can be between £500-£2,500 (and you can request up to £500 more if you have extra costs relating to a disability)

...what will you use the money for.

- Just offer a brief explanation of why you need the amount you are requesting.

...about paid work that has been cancelled, reduced or has disappeared.

- We understand that you won't have contracts or agreements, so some of this will be guesswork, but please keep hold of any evidence.

... other funding applications.

- We will ask you about your applications to other funding opportunities.

... your experience in the Outdoor Arts sector.

- We would like to know a bit about your Outdoor Arts work in the past three years, so examples of festivals and companies will be useful here.

... someone who can vouch for you.

- OutdoorArtsUK has a wide membership, but inevitably we won't know everyone who is applying, so if you're not an OAUk Member we will ask you to help us identify you as part of the Outdoor Arts sector. Provide the name and email of an existing OAUk Member, an OAUk staff member or an OAUk Board member as a referee.

Eligibility



Eligibility Checklist...

- You are aged 18 or over.
- You live in England.
- You hold a UK bank account.
- You identify as part of the Outdoor Arts sector.
- You are a freelancer or individual working as a paid professional.
- You've not been a main recipient of public funding, or part of a consortium.
- You don't qualify for other ACE Funding or Government schemes.

What next...

- Your application will be considered alongside other applications.
- Applications will be evaluated by members of the OAUk Board.
- We will consult with ACE colleagues to ensure we're not double funding.
- We'll start to let people know the outcome by early May.

Please note...

- OAUk won't give advice on individual applications, but email us with questions about qualification and criteria: funding@outdoorartsuk.org
- If any disabled and D/deaf applicants need any assistance with the process, please get in touch: funding@outdoorartsuk.org
- Should we receive significantly more applications than we are able to process, in order to manage expectations, we may close applications.
- The decisions will be final, and we will not offer feedback on the applications.