



Create: Networks

Funding Guidance for Create:Networks 2024/25

Delivered by Scotland's Creative Networks, led by Creative Dundee, with support from The National Lottery through Creative Scotland.





What is Create:Networks?

Create:Networks is a fund to help groups, organisations and creative practitioners create new, or develop existing, local creative networks as enablers for sustainable creative communities in Scotland.


The fund will support emerging and established creative networks to build and sustain their activities, supplemented through peer-sharing and network development support.

Funded networks will be supported to develop and run a 12-month programme for their identified creative community/ies, enabling creative practitioners and businesses to connect, access opportunities and encourage greater sustainability.

Applicants should note that the primary usage of the word 'sustainable' in relation to this fund refers to the capability of creative practices and businesses to be sustained within the creative economy, with the creative network's purpose being to support this.

Create:Networks 2024/25 is managed and delivered by Scotland's Creative Networks*, led by Creative Dundee, with support from The National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

What types of networks will the fund support?

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- The creation of a new local network which will support creative practitioners and businesses through knowledge sharing, networking and access to opportunities;
 - or*
 - The development of an existing local network which is already supporting creative practitioners and businesses, and is now focused on improving the network's opportunity for longer term sustainability.

The creative network must be local (not national) and aim to support creative practitioners and businesses within the creative sector. The network's focus may cover one, a range of, or all creative specialisms/artforms and sub-sectors.

Creative specialisms/artforms can include the following creative industries sub-sectors: architecture; fashion and textiles; product, graphic and service design; comics; the performing arts; illustration; music publishing; photography; games; radio; and writing and publishing. We recognise that creative practitioners and businesses exist in other areas too; if you're uncertain about eligibility, please

contact jen@creativedundee.com with the subject line 'Create:Networks enquiry' for clarification.



Who can apply and what funding is available?

All applicants must be based in Scotland, and be able to make a clear and compelling proposal outlining how they aim to build and grow their creative network.

This fund will support existing creative networks to undertake new activity as well as activity to establish new creative networks. To reflect this distinction there are two award levels:

- New networks – up to £10,000 of funding per network.
- Established networks – up to £20,000 of funding per network.

For new networks (up to £10,000): we will be looking for proposals to articulate the need and demand for this network and how you will meet this – and how the network might be sustained beyond the period of the funding.

Groups and collectives are eligible to apply for this award level, with a nominated lead individual who is named within the application and will receive the funding if successful.

Groups and collectives who run existing networks are also eligible for this award level, provided they can demonstrate how this funding will advance the network towards longer term sustainability.

For existing networks (up to £20,000): we will be looking for proposals to articulate why support is needed to grow and sustain your network, and what new activity the fund would support.

Social enterprises, charities, community interest companies and creative support organisations with an existing registered bank account are eligible to apply for this award level.

Cultural and Leisure Trusts, Local Authorities and National Companies can apply, but they must demonstrate in their application that the funding they are applying for is additional, and not a substitution for their own resources.

Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisations are not eligible to apply to this fund.



The Create:Networks total funding available is £120,000. The fund is managed and delivered by Scotland's Creative Networks*, led by Creative Dundee, with support from The National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

Our aim is to support networks that are representative of Scotland's creative communities in locations across Scotland. The total number of awards made will be dependent on the strength of applications; we anticipate the fund supporting approximately 7–8 networks. Successful applicants should be aware that the exact amount awarded may vary from the amount requested depending on proposed plans and number of awards made.

What can the funding be used for?

The fund must be used to support activity for a local creative network which includes:

- Developing, managing and delivering the network activities;
- Running peer-to-peer networking and knowledge-sharing events;
- Providing information on and access to opportunities – local, UK and international;
- Supporting the creative network to develop its business plan and become sustainable long-term.

In addition to the funding, representatives from the successful networks will be expected to take part in two development sessions online in October 2024 to meet others, gain insights from established networks and share experiences and learnings. They will also be invited to take part in a final sharing session in summer 2025. Funded networks are also welcome and encouraged to join the regular virtual meetings held by Scotland's Creative Networks*.

What do we expect the networks to achieve?

We will be looking for each supported network to achieve the following:

Outputs:

- The development of a productive local creative network to support creative practitioners and businesses;
- The running of events and other support activity that enable networking and business/market development among creative practitioners and businesses and the wider industry;
- The sharing of knowledge and skills among creative practitioners and businesses;



- The exploration of diverse income streams to support viability of the creative network;
- The sharing of learning about sustainable creative business models within the network.

Outcomes:

- Creative practitioners and businesses supported by the creative network are able to increase their sustainability through their business, market and financial models.
- The creative network increases its own sustainability and generates diverse income streams to support its long term viability.



Timeline

Fund launched: 1pm, Monday 10 June 2024

Deadline for applications: 12 noon, Monday 5 August 2024

Decisions shared with applicants: by end of August 2024

Funded activity begins: Monday 16 September 2024

Development sessions (2x two-hour online sessions): October 2024, dates TBC

Sharing session: summer 2025, date TBC

Funded activity complete: by Sunday 31 August 2025

How to apply


Applicants should complete the online application form and submit this by 12 noon, Monday 5 August 2024. We are unable to accept applications after this time.

[Please apply by using this Google Form application.](#) We are unable to accept applications via any other means unless agreed in advance. See below for more information about making an application.

Criteria we'll be assessing on:

- A clear outline summary of your idea and motivation for your proposal.
- Demonstrated understanding of the practical steps for developing the project, and how you will make the network viable.
- A clear and realistic 12-month outline of programme activity that details how this will support creative practitioners and businesses in becoming more sustainable.
- Demonstrated skills, understanding, experience and connections you have that will support the development and viability of the network.



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- Evidence of demand for the network, exhibiting an understanding of the network's audience/participants and their needs, and how it will benefit them.
 - Clear understanding of how the network's activities will reach and reflect broad demographics.
 - Demonstrated awareness of the network's need to support a balance of cultural, social and economic value, and how it will do this.
 - A clear and realistic expectation in relation to time, spend and capacity, with a sound understanding of the total project budget, with costs that are appropriate to the described activity. [Please download and complete this template with this information](#), then save your budget outline as a PDF. Please then email your PDF to jen@creativendundee.com with the subject line 'Create:Networks application – budget outline' before Mon 5 August 2024, 12 noon. Applications without a budget outline will be considered ineligible.

We want to ensure that our application process does not present any accessibility barriers to potential applicants. If we can provide any assistance to support you through this process (or if you want to discuss alternative ways to apply), please contact jen@creativendundee.com with the subject line 'Create:Networks application support'.

If you have any enquiries about the application process, guidance or application form, please contact jen@creativendundee.com with the subject line 'Create:Networks enquiry'. Submitted enquiries will be added to an updated FAQ (with permission) on Creative Dundee's website throughout the application period, to help answer potential questions from others.

Application selection:

All eligible applications will be assessed by Creative Dundee and three representatives from Scotland's Creative Networks*. Application information will be shared with these representatives and Creative Scotland.

***Scotland's Creative Networks**

Since October 2021, many creative area networks across Scotland have held regular virtual meetings to share and learn from each other's experiences, practices, challenges and opportunities.

Each network has its own distinctive character, aims and objectives defined by their unique location, and has been developed around the specific needs for sustainability of their local creative practitioners, businesses and communities.

Networks include both rural and urban creative places, representative of Scotland's broad geographic distinctiveness.

Although each network model is different, each shares similar values and activities. The networks operate in a responsive way, delivering valued services and contributing considerably to their own creative and cultural ecosystem, relative to their resources and flexible to the needs of their respective creative communities.

Scotland's Creative Networks representatives include: [CABN](#), [Creative Dundee](#), [Creative Edinburgh](#), [Creative Stirling](#), [DG Unlimited](#), [Glasgow Connected Arts Network](#), [Look Again Aberdeen](#) and [XpoNorth](#).



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