



Horniman Museum and Gardens

NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

Museum and Collections projects

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our open-access funding programme for individual practitioners, arts organisations, libraries, and museum projects.

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What's Inside

This information sheet relates to Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants. It can be used alongside the Project Grants 'How to Apply' guidance documents to support you to make your application.

See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

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Museums, Collections and Project Grants

We welcome applications to Project Grants from museums or individuals and organisations working with and supporting museums, for projects focused on museum and collections practice. We also welcome museums to apply for projects which focus on any of our other supported disciplines.

People and organisations that could apply in this way include:

- individual museums or museum services
- a network or support organisation whose role focuses on developing museums' work
- a key funder of a museum(s)
- an organisation with a research relationship with a museum or group of museums
- individuals who are self-employed applying for museum and collections projects working with museums

Museums are eligible to apply to all strands of Project Grants. Before you apply, we recommend reading the relevant [‘How to apply’ guidance](#), in addition to this information sheet.

Museums applying for **Nationally Significant projects**, **Place Partnerships projects** or **Touring projects** should also read the relevant [information sheet](#).

Museums that are National Portfolio Organisations or members of a consortium and Sector Support Organisations should also read the Funded Organisations [information sheet](#).

What you can apply for

Museum and collections projects could include:

- public programming, including displays and exhibitions
 - This could include the hire or purchase costs of appropriate equipment or assets. (For example: display cases)
 - The **Government Indemnity Scheme** is an alternative to commercial insurance for object loans to museums. You can explore this scheme, before submitting your application, [here](#).
- Building projects
 - see our **Building projects** information sheet for more detail on what we can support through Project Grants [here](#)
- commemorative projects around the museum's core collections and objectives
- digital and creative media projects that encourage the public to interact with collections
- projects focusing on the conservation of objects, as long as the project engages people
- projects focused on the touring or loans of objects or collections
- projects that engage the public in consultation on collecting or other museum activity. (For example: community or youth panels, participatory practice or co-design)
- projects that deliver Subject Specialist Networks activity:
 - either from existing Subject Specialist Networks or that aim to set up new Subject Specialist Networks
 - see the **Subject Specialist Networks** section of this sheet for more details [here](#)

- projects that increase use of a museum's Designated collection
- outreach activity or community engagement projects linked to the museum's core objectives
- projects involving children, young people and learning in a museum context, including Arts Award
 - See the **Children, young people and learning** information sheet on our website [here](#).
- organisational resilience projects, such as:
 - business planning and or
 - consulting on new approaches to fundraising or commercial development

where these will have a longer-term benefit for a museum's ability to reach audiences and to develop the quality of its programme of work
- projects involving professional development for the museum workforce, boards, and or volunteers
 - where these will have a longer-term benefit for a museum's ability to reach audiences and develop the quality of its programme of work. See [Character Matters 2016](#)

Unlocking Collections

As part of Arts Council England's commitment to funding museums and their collections, we have created an Unlocking Collections campaign. This is a **Time Limited Priority** within Project Grants. It is aimed at enabling museums to develop their collections-based work and increase public engagement with, and use of, their collections.

You can find out more about our Time Limited Priorities, and access the **Unlocking Collections** information sheet on our website [here](#).

What you cannot apply for

There are some types of museum projects that we can't support through Project Grants:

- funding the purchase of collections/collection items (except new artistic commissions where the commission is part of the project)

Key things to remember for museum projects

- All applications, regardless of the type of activity, must engage individuals and/or communities, either in the short term or the long term.
- Support in kind can count towards the percentage of funding you need to provide from other sources. This means any materials or services that you would otherwise have to pay for but are being provided free of charge or at a reduced rate. This can include volunteers' time, where appropriate.
 - to learn more, see our **Support in kind** information sheet [here](#).

Accreditation

We will continue to advocate for the value of Accreditation for museums as the UK industry standard for museums and galleries, however, it will not form part of the eligibility criteria for applying to National Lottery Projects Grants.

If your museum is Accredited you may choose to use your award as supporting evidence for your application. There may be aspects of your approach to organisational health, managing collections and users and their experiences which are relevant to your application. For example referring to your award as evidence that you have an organisation-wide approach to planning, budgeting, and risk management.

In meeting the Accreditation Standard you will have already demonstrated how you understand and develop your audiences. This feedback from users and your plans for developing your range of users may be helpful in telling

us how you'll respond to the Inclusivity & Relevance principle. You may have already provided an audience development or marketing plan as part of your Accreditation application or return.

If you would like more information on Accreditation, please visit our [website](#).

Subject Specialist Networks

Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs) support the development, use and wider understanding of collections by sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources with people working with collections. Organisations can apply to Project Grants for activity that involves Subject Specialist Network activity.

Subject Specialist Networks and National Portfolio Organisations

Some Subject Specialist Networks are hosted by National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs). An NPO can apply specifically for Subject Specialist Network activity on behalf of its wider Network. NPOs applying in this way can apply for any amount, and any application for SSN activity does not count towards Project Grants NPO restrictions. The host NPO should contact us in the first instance to confirm their eligibility to apply for Subject Specialist Network activity. Please see our **Funded Organisations** [information sheet](#) for more details.

Subject Specialist Networks and National Museums

Some SSNs are hosted by National Museums (those that are governed by national legislation and directly receive funding from central Government or from UK devolved Governments).

A national museum can apply specifically for SSN activity on behalf of its wider Network. National Museums applying in this way can apply for any amount. For restrictions on National Museums applying to Project Grants please see the **National Museums** section of this information sheet [here](#).

National Museums

National Museums are eligible to apply to Project Grants for over £30,000 **Touring projects**, over £100,000 **Nationally Significant projects**, and over £100,000 **Place Partnership projects**. For more details, see the information sheets on each strand [here](#).

National Museums may also apply to Project Grants for Subject Specialist Network activity. For more information, see the **Subject Specialist Network** section of this sheet [here](#).

Museums and our other supported disciplines

Museums are eligible to apply for (and be part of wider projects focusing on) creative and cultural activity in any of the disciplines we support. We continue to encourage arts and cultural organisations to collaborate.

Project Grants can support a range of activity associated with museums, such as artists' and creatives' residencies. This includes exhibitions (including touring), workshops, international exchanges and projects that interpret collections.

We can also support Arts Award-related activity in a museum context. Please see the Children, young people and learning information sheet on our [website](#).

Key things to remember about museums and other supported disciplines

- Projects should have a clear creative rationale, with a clear description of the creative aims and outcomes, how they would be achieved and evaluated

- Be clear about the creative practitioners and/or partnership organisations you are working with
- Consider all artforms and disciplines:
 - combined arts (including festivals and carnivals)
 - dance
 - literature
 - libraries
 - music
 - theatre; and
 - visual arts

Further information

The following organisations support people working in museums and provide access to a range of advice, guidance, standards, toolkits and other resources supporting museums practice:

[The Association of Independent Museums](#) is a membership network for independent museums, galleries and heritage organisations across the UK.

[The Collections Trust](#) helps museums capture and share the information that gives their objects meaning.

[The Museum Development Network](#) support diverse, inclusive and innovative museums to create a thriving museum sector.

[The Museums Association](#) is a membership organisation for museum professionals, inspiring museums to change lives with a vision of inclusive, participatory and socially engaged museums at the heart of their communities.

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You can also Livechat with our customer services team by clicking the icon on our Project Grants page on our website: artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants