

**COUNCIL NEWS**

**New Culture Strategy agreed for Edinburgh**

A new Citywide Culture Strategy to shape the council’s Culture and Wellbeing service through to 2030 has been agreed by councillors.

Four action plans will now be developed that will ensure the city delivers on the strategy’s three main aims, that:

* All Edinburgh residents can easily access cultural experiences that they find meaningful in their local area, and everyone has the opportunity to contribute to shaping local cultural provision
* Edinburgh is a welcoming and supportive city in which a broad spectrum of creative and cultural practitioners choose to develop their careers
* Edinburgh is a world leading cultural capital, an environmentally responsible host city where ideas are exchanged freely, and the diversity of its residents is celebrated.

Edinburgh has a long history as a world centre for the culture and creative sector and the [draft strategy](https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s52772/7.3%20Citywide%20Culture%20Strategy%202023-30.pdf) sets out the overall purpose, vision and aims for the future of the service in the Council. Four individual service area action plans will be developed for:

* Cultural Partnerships and Strategy
* Heritage, Culture Venues and Museums
* Community Empowerment
* Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing.

Culture and Communities Convener Cllr Val Walker said:

*“The Council has a vital role to play in Edinburgh’s festivals and events sector and our Citywide Cultural Strategy 2023-2030 as well as our existing funding programmes reflect our direct and continued support, contributing to the retention of jobs, creative practices and future development.*

*This strategy outlines the priorities and guiding principles of our support for culture in Edinburgh over the next eight years. The pandemic had a massive impact on this sector but also meant creative minds have been hard at work to reappraise long term challenges as well as look for new opportunities. It’s exciting that we’re finding new ways of working to reach existing and new audiences and support career development of those in the sector. Following today’s endorsement the strategy will be developed further and we will ensure the future of the sector and maximise on this potential.”*

**Creative Scotland’s Crowdmatch Competition – Register your Interest**

Following the success of the initiative last year, Crowdfunder and Creative Scotland are back with a new pot of £150,000 for creative projects across Scotland.

Creative individuals, groups or businesses are encouraged to let Creative Scotland know your creative ideas in order to take part in a competition to win a share of £150,000 in match funding (up to £10,000 per project) from them towards your crowdfunding campaign.

Applications open at 9.00 am on Monday 23 January 2023 and will close at 12 noon on Sunday 5 February 2023.

To register your interest and get inspired from previous projects, visit: [Creative Scotland Crowdmatch](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/funds/creative-scotland-crowdmatch). For further information, please contact support@crowdfunder.co.uk.

**FUNDING**

## **Nesta Arts & Culture Impact Fund**

## **Repayable loans of up to £1 million are available to support the UK’s arts, culture and heritage social enterprises.**

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| Maximum value: | £1,000,000 |
| Application deadline: | None specified |

**Background and Objectives of Fund**

The Arts & Culture Impact Fund brings together a mix of public, private and philanthropic investors – Arts Council England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Big Society Capital, Bank of America, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Freelands Foundation and Nesta. The fund is the world’s biggest impact investment fund for the creative arts. The fund builds on the success of the Arts Impact Fund, a pilot initiative launched in 2015 to demonstrate how impact investment could transform the arts and cultural sector. The Arts & Culture Impact Fund sets out to achieve several objectives for the arts, cultural and heritage sectors:

* Provide organisations with appropriate and bespoke repayable finance
* Develop the financial resilience of borrowers
* Support organisations to better monitor, evaluate and communicate their social impact
* Attract additional investment into the sector to help organisations thrive
* Promote the wider positive impact the arts, culture and heritage have on society and support more organisations to benefit individuals and communities through their work.

The Fund offers repayable finance between £150,000 and £1,000,000 with a repayment term until May 2031 and interest rates ranging between 3% and 8.5%. The following fees apply:

* 1% completion fee
* 2% per annum, pro rata holding fee (minimum holding period is six months)
* No early repayment fee.

**Who Can Apply and Further Information**

Eligible organisations must:

* Be registered and operating in the UK. Digital organisations will need to demonstrate their primary audiences are based in the UK.
* Have core operations or primary activity in the arts, culture and heritage
* Have a clear social mission, reflected in its structure and governance
* Be able to demonstrate measurable social impact on individuals or communities in the UK.

Loans will not be made to:

* Individuals
* Sole traders
* Partnerships
* Unincorporated bodies (unless their partners/members are exclusively corporate bodies).

Eligible organisations must work in one of the following disciplines:

* Architecture
* Archives
* Combined arts
* Comedy
* Crafts
* Culture and heritage in the natural environment
* Dance
* Fashion design
* Film
* Graphic design
* Heritage
* Libraries
* Literature
* Museums
* Music
* Textiles
* Theatre and performance
* Touring
* Visual arts.

Further information can be found via the [Arts & Culture Finance website](https://www.artsculturefinance.org/our-funds/arts-culture-impact-fund/).

**How to Apply**

Applications can be submitted at any time. Further information can be found via the [Arts & Culture Finance website](https://www.artsculturefinance.org/our-funds/arts-culture-impact-fund/). For fund-specific enquiries, please contact Rachel Green.

## **Creative Scotland: Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development**

## **This fund is Creative Scotland's main project fund for organisations, supporting a wide range of creative activity. PLEASE NOTE: this fund is being relaunched in Feb 2023, see** [**Creative Scotland website**](https://www.creativescotland.com/what-we-do/latest-news/archive/2022/12/update-on-open-funding-for-organisations) **for details.**

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| Maximum value: | £100,000 |
| Application deadline: | 08/02/2023 |

**Background and Objectives of Fund**

Creative Scotland is committed to ensuring that people are supported to develop excellence and experimentation in a wide range of arts and creative activity, reflecting Scotland’s diverse and dynamic cultures. They want to ensure that the experience of the arts and creative activity benefits as many people as possible across Scotland’s communities and places. They have a key role in ensuring that Scotland’s creative workforce and businesses have opportunities to develop, evolve and flourish. The Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development aims to enable organisations to explore ways of working that will help them to adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances for up to 12 months. This fund can support applications for between £1,000 and £100,000.

**Who Can Apply and Further Information**

The fund is for organisations and groups based in Scotland whose work or project involves the arts, screen and creative industries.

Further details on this fund can be viewed via the [Creative Scotland website](https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/open-fund-sustaining-creative-development).

**How to Apply**

There are no deadlines for this fund - you can apply year-round. Guidance documents and an application form are available for download via the [Creative Scotland website](https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/open-fund-sustaining-creative-development). Please note that applications take between 8-12 weeks for a decision and if you are applying between October and December, these timescales will be affected by office closures due to public holidays over the New Year period. Please check the Creative Scotland website or contact enquiries@creativescotland.com to confirm.

## **Creative Scotland - Open Fund for Individuals**

## **The Open Fund for Individuals is one of Creative Scotland’s key funding programmes, supporting a wide range of creative activity by artists, writers, producers and other creative practitioners in Scotland.**

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| Maximum value: | £100,000 |
| Application deadline: | 31/03/2024 |

**Background and Objectives of Fund**

The Open Fund will support a period of research, development and/or delivery of creative activity for up to 24 months. Creative Scotland will ask you to tell them the start and end date for this activity and to describe the outcomes, benefits and impacts that you wish to achieve. This fund is designed to support creative activity such as a specific project, production or a period of research and development. It can support an individual’s time where this is related to specific creative outcomes.

**Who Can Apply and Further Information**

Freelance and self-employed artists and creative practitioners living in Scotland who are at least 18 years old are eligible to apply. You must have a UK bank account in your name.

If you are not a self-employed individual or a sole-trader then you are not eligible to make an application to the Open Fund for Individuals. You should look at the other funding programmes run by Creative Scotland or partners, including the Open Fund for Organisations.

Further details on this fund can be viewed via the [Creative Scotland website](https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/open-fund/open-fund-for-individuals).

**How to Apply**

Guidance notes and a FAQs sheet are available to download via the [Creative Scotland website](https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/open-fund/open-fund-for-individuals).

## **Feltmakers' Award**

## **Business support and subsidised studio space available to milliners based in the UK.**

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| Maximum value: | Discretionary |
| Application deadline: | 09/01/2023 |

**Background and Objectives of Fund**

The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers is a Livery company in the City of London whose Charter was granted by James I in 1604. The company supports and has an association with the hatting and felt industries in the UK. It organises a Europe–wide hatting competition each year, open to students at design schools and fashion colleges as well as apprentices at hat making companies. The first prize is presented by the Lady Mayoress at the annual banquet. The Master of the company presents the incoming Lord Mayor each year with a prestigious tricorn hat with black plumes. The new Lord Mayor is appointed in the Silent Ceremony in the Guildhall, the moment he puts on this hat. The Main purpose of the company, however, is charitable giving and the company raises funds for its Charitable Foundation. Donations are made to a wide range of causes including Pensioner Hatters, the disadvantaged in London, Treloars School for the handicapped, the Lord Mayor’s Appeal, The Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity, Cockpit Arts and the Armed Forces.

The Feltmakers' Award is provided by Cockpit. Business development support, including one-to-one coaching and workshops, and studio space is available to support a milliner in the UK. The awardee will receive one year of business support and subsidised studio space at Cockpit, worth up to £5,000.

**Who Can Apply and Further Information**

Cockpit particularly encourage applications from those who are underrepresented in craft including non-graduates, disabled, D/deaf and neurodiverse people, LGBTQIA+ people, and people from Black, Asian and Global Majority backgrounds. They welcome applicants from a range of educational backgrounds and there is no minimum formal qualification for this Award. Applicants must:

* Be a maker working as a milliner or with primarily felt textiles
* Commit to taking up the Award and developing their practice for the full duration of the Award
* Commit to attending Cockpit’s Induction Day and full set of Make It Count business training workshops
* Arrange and pay for their own public liability insurance [minimum £5m] and contents insurance prior to the start date
* Be currently living in the UK and entitled to remain in the UK for the period of the Award. (Cockpit is unable to sponsor or support visa applications.)

**This is a heavily subsidised space in a shared studio for one year worth up to £5,000.** The successful applicant will supplement this award in first year by paying £500 over 12 months. The total sum is linked to the cost of the space and support services. Electricity costs, insurance and office service charges will be payable on top and cannot be paid from the Award. The Award space allocated is at Cockpit discretion. Please note that most studios are shared and sizes vary.

All awards and bursaries at Cockpit include studio space, business support and membership of a vibrant craft community, giving successful makers the space and time to develop their profile, grow their business or practice, and increase profitability. In applications, they are looking for individuals who demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit, creative excellence and highly developed craft skills.

Further information on this fund can be viewed via the [Cockpit website](https://cockpitstudios.org/awards/feltmakers-award-at-cockpit/).

**How to Apply**

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 9 January 2023. An [application form](https://cockpitstudios.org/award-application-feltmakers-award/) is available on the Cockpit website.

**The City of Edinburgh Council – Culture and Communities Committee – Business Bulletin**

Should you be interested, you can catch up with all of the Culture & Wellbeing Service’s latest news via its [Culture Bulletin](https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s52763/Culture%20Bulletin%20-%20FINAL.pdf) (latest version available - 13 December 2022). These Bulletins are produced for each scheduled Culture and Communities Committee meeting and are available to download via the [Council’s website](https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=139&Year=0).

Best wishes.

Sandra