



Funding Guides



FUNDING GUIDE 12c : The Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for the arts in England and distributes funding from government and the National Lottery. (There are separate Arts Councils in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales who also distribute Lottery money.) Its vision is "to promote the arts at the heart of national life, reflecting England's rich and diverse cultural identity".

'Grants for the Arts' is the Council's funding scheme for arts activities. Eligible activities have to be time-limited and should engage people in England in arts activities or help artists and arts organisations from England to carry out their work.

The scheme may be of assistance to churches seeking to improve their cultural facilities e.g. use for concerts, plays etc., and to commission contemporary art and craft work. It may also assist major organ reconstruction projects for concert use (although applications for the conservation of historic instruments should be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund).

Grants to organisations normally range from £1,000 up to £100,000. The average grant given in 2006/2007 was £24,696.

Although funding from sources other than the Lottery is limited, the Arts Council can arrange other funding if a parish decides not to accept Lottery funding. A letter explaining this and including the PCC resolution should accompany the normal application material.

Further factors which will be taken into consideration when assessing an application are:

- whether the applicant has received funding from Arts Council England before;
- the quality of the activity, or its ongoing effect on artistic practice and the quality of experience for audiences and those taking part;
- how the activity increases opportunities for the public to engage in arts activities;
- how the activity will be managed and its ongoing effect;
- how realistic the activity is financially, and its future effect.

There are no deadlines or programme closure dates for 'Grants for the Arts' as it is a continuous programme.

It is advisable to discuss any potential application beforehand with your regional office of the Council (the contact details are available on the website).

Please see the Arts Council's website (www.artscouncil.org.uk) or phone 0845 300 6200 for further information and an application pack.

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These Funding Guides have been developed by a "Good Practice" group of the National Stewardship Committee of the Church of England and are intended to support your church's fundraising. They are available on-line at www.parishresources.org.uk/funding or at www.churchcare.org.uk/funding.php