

Arts Programme

Promoting the role of creativity in the lives of people with mental health problems

Application Guidelines April 2022

1. Purpose of this call

To fund activity to redress the under-representation of participatory artists from ethnically diverse communities in offering creative opportunities to people living with mental health problems by giving funding to Global Majority-led arts organisations.

2. Background to this call

The Baring Foundation is an independent funder promoting human rights and inclusion in all our work. We have decided that we wish to pay particular attention to racial justice within this overall approach. Since 2020 our [Arts Programme](#) has focused on offering creative opportunities to people living with mental health problems. As part of this work, we have published a report called [Creatively Minded and Ethnically Diverse](#), in which practitioners with lived experience explore a range of issues and suggest good practice when engaging creatively with people with mental health problems from ethnically diverse communities. There was considerable agreement among the writers and in our other consultations that an important issue is the under-representation of participatory artists from ethnically diverse communities in this field. There is also a large body of research about the experience of people from ethnically diverse communities of mental health problems and the mental health system. Importantly we acknowledge the systemic and intersectional characteristics of racism.

In 2021, we began to address this under-representation making 25 grants to arts organisations already involved in arts and mental health activity. Although highly successful overall, only a few of the organisations we funded were from Global Majority-led organisations. We believe this is because not many had experience in this field. We believe that Global Majority-led organisations have a distinctive role to play in broadening the field of creative engagement for people with mental health problems and therefore have created this targeted round of funding to support their entry into the field.

A note on language

We recognise that language in the areas of both mental health and racial justice is contested and evolving. There is no strong consensus on acceptable language. This is explored more fully in our publications. Understanding this we have chosen to use the terms 'mental health problems' and 'Global Majority' but respect that there are a range of terms in use that others will prefer.

3. Some definitions

This is a funding round open to **Global Majority-led arts organisations**. There is no 'official' definition of Global Majority Communities. In line with our concern over racial equity we are using this to mean communities that experience racism in the UK. This can be seen, for instance as equivalent to terms such as Black and Minority Ethnic, Ethnically Diverse Communities or Black Indigenous People of Colour. Given the experience of racism of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, they are included

We are using the definition employed by the Arts Council England (ACE) for a diverse led arts organisation. That is that **51 per cent or more of the organisation's board and senior management are from Global Majority communities**. Like ACE, we define leadership as being the combination of both staff management and governance. It is not adequate for majority representation to be from simply management or governance.

We wish to define **arts organisation** broadly. Global Majority-led arts organisations offering any art form, including crafts, and any combination of arts forms, would be eligible. Art forms that are described as community or amateur are included. It is also possible that the applicant organisation does other forms of activity too, for instance community services or sports. However, **art should be the organisation's main activity**, not marginal.

Participatory artist is defined in a number of our publications. We use it to mean a creative practitioner (in any art form) who uses his or her skills to facilitate the creativity of people without that training or experience.

4. Type and size of grant

Grants will be made to support this work of £20K- £60K.

Grants can fully or partially fund the work. Work should take place over a minimum of two years and potentially longer. The work must take place in the UK. Our resources cannot support work that is already funded but can support the extension or expansion of work.

We are assuming that the great majority of applicant organisations will not previously have had experience of offering participatory creative activities particularly targeted for people with mental health problems. Therefore, we expect typically there to be a development phase perhaps of six months or more in exploring how to offer this work.

This is likely to involve organisations more established in this area and our funding can pay for their advice and support. There are many organisations with extensive experience in this field. Our publication [Creatively Minded: The Directory](#) is an extensive list. The 25 organisations we funded in 2021 may also be potential partners and [are listed on our website](#).

You may want to partner with an organisation which specialises in mental health in your area which is not an arts group. However, **the lead applicant must be a Global Majority-led arts organisation.**

We then wish a successful applicant to provide participatory creative activity to people living with mental health problems. Although it is expected that many of the participants will also be drawn from Global Majority communities, this does not have to be exclusively the case.

There are a number of examples of such work in our report [Creatively Minded and Ethnically Diverse](#) and in some of our other publications.

We anticipate that this fund will be highly competitive and oversubscribed. We will have at least £500k available and may well make 10 or more grants.

The Baring Foundation is a Living Wage Funder. We expect everyone who is paid through our funding to be fairly paid and for this to be at least at the Living Wage. More details can be found [here](#).

The wellbeing of everyone working in the field of arts and mental health is important to us. How this is best supported by an arts organisation is a developing field but can include regular time for reflective practice on a one-to-one basis or in groups. We expect applicants to consider this and will pay reasonable costs for this support. More advice on this area can be found [here](#).

5. Eligibility of applicant

Applications will only be considered from arts organisations with **all** of the following characteristics:

- an established arts organisation of any kind including CICs operating in the UK. Importantly, some applicants will wish to work in partnership for instance with arts organisations or mental health organisations more experienced in mental health work;
- led by global majority communities in terms of both staff and governance as defined above;
- an arts organisation that has been established for at least two years with audited accounts or management accounts for at least that length of time.

The 25 organisations already funded under our 2021 open round called Creatively Minded and Ethnically Diverse are **NOT** eligible to apply as lead applicants but can be partners.

6. Application process

We have tried to keep the application process as simple as possible, with a single written expression of interest. In order to consider your application, we need you to:

1. Complete a grant application form, which can be found [here](#).
2. Write an expression of interest in 2,000 words or less, including:
 - a short description of your organisation including how it meets our eligibility criteria.
 - how and when you intend to use the grant, making your plans as clear as possible. For instance, how would you equip yourself with relevant expertise in advance of providing creative activities? Do you have an organisation in mind to work with? How would you attract participants? What activities do you anticipate being on offer? Describe to us where, when and over what period this would be offered. How would you support and safeguard participants? Who do you anticipate attending and how would you support them? How would you support people working on the project? Do you anticipate any risks or challenges and how would you meet them? Is there a way for you to sustain this project after our funding ends?

Please write as plainly and simply as possible.

3. Attach your most up-to-date safeguarding policy. We will not be able to make grants to organisations which do not have a safeguarding policy.
4. Finally, attach your most recent audited accounts including management accounts. If you have any questions, please put them in writing to baring.foundation@ing.com

Your expression of interest, safeguarding policy and accounts should be separate documents. You will be directed to upload these documents in the grant application form. If you encounter any issues using our online form email us baring.foundation@ing.com and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

We may follow up applications with a phone call if we require further information or clarification.

We expect successful applicants to submit a short monitoring report at the end of the grant period sharing their activities, learning, and expenditure. Full details of the conditions of any grant will be provided following its award.

7. Timetable

We are holding two zoom meetings for anyone interested in applying on 9 May and 8 June. [You can register for either event here.](#)

We will also try to deal with individual enquiries; please email david.cutler@ing.com

The deadline for applications is **12pm midday on 26th July**. Final decisions on grants to be awarded will be made by trustees and you will be informed by the end of October.