

## Arts Programme

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

#### Application Guidelines June 2020

#### **Purpose of this call**

We are seeking to support established organisations in the UK that focus solely on offering creative opportunities to people of any age living with mental health problems using the skills of professionally trained artists.

Grants are **not** available in this call for organisations which undertake this work as one part of a broader offer.

#### **Background to the call**

This year, the Baring Foundation is beginning a long-term funding programme to strengthen the creative opportunities available for people with mental health problems in the UK. You can find out more about the Foundation on our website including a first mapping study of the arts and mental health field entitled [Creatively Minded](#).

We want to begin the programme this year by offering modest, unrestricted grants to eligible specialist organisations for whom this work is their essential purpose. This is an unusual approach for us and we have tried to take account of some of the pressures that the sector is undergoing due to the Covid-19 crisis.

In future years we will expand beyond this starting place as we know that a great deal of valuable work is being done by other organisations which this first round of funding will not be able to support.

## Type and size of grant

Our grants will be one-off and unrestricted. Although we are interested in hearing about any plans you have for the grant and more generally learning about your work, we know there is no right answer. The grant is to serve your charitable purpose as you best see fit.

We want to fund as many such specialist organisations as we can. We have £900,000 available for this work in 2020. We are aware that there are quite a lot of such specialist organisations. Our initial research found that this may be around 60-70. We envisage making grants of **£12,000 - £15,000**. The final grant awarded will depend on the level of demand.

## Eligibility

We have given careful consideration to the criteria we expect applications to fulfil in order for us to judge whether we are able to award a grant. Please read our eligibility requirements carefully and be as clear as possible in your application about how you meet our criteria. We are unable to fund applications that fail to **fully meet all four** of the criteria set out below. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact us for a discussion.

1. **Established organisations operating in the UK** – your organisation will need to have been operating for at least two years and have audited accounts for at least the last year. Eligible organisations include registered charities and CICs.
2. **Sole focus** – you need to be able to evidence that your organisation only concerns itself with work relating to creativity with people, including children and young people, with mental health problems.
3. **Creative opportunities using the skills of professionally trained artists.** We define creativity broadly – as the use of all art forms. This includes, for example, specialist mental health museums that employ creative practices. The Foundation will retain for this funding call our long-standing approach of funding participatory arts, in which a trained artist (in any art form) facilitates the creativity of people without that form of training. You need to demonstrate that your work uses this approach. We will not fund any creative arts therapy, including art, drama or music therapy.
4. **Mental health problems** – we are aware that the language around mental health problems and the ideas behind these are a contentious area. We wish to use language that is respectful and accessible. We are using the phrase ‘mental health problems’ to cover psychoses, Common Mental Health Disorders and addictions. There is more on this in our report *Creatively Minded*. This includes self-diagnosis as well as someone in contact with mental health services. It does not include learning disabilities or neurological issues such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder in themselves, though we recognise that people with these conditions can also have mental health problems. We need you to be able to demonstrate that you work solely with people experiencing mental health problems.

## Application process

We have tried to keep the application process as simple as possible, with a single written application assessment. 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 1,250 words or less, telling us:
  - How your organisation meets all four of the eligibility criteria set out above. If you do not clearly meet these criteria, we will be unable to award you a grant;
  - How you intend to use the grant – remember it is unrestricted and can be used in whatever way best meets your purpose;
  - Anything else you would like us to know about your organisation. We are always interested in how the lived experience of people is valued.
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.

Your expression of interest and safeguarding policy 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, please call us on 0207 767 1348 and leave a message detailing the problem – 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.

## Timetable

Deadline for applications is **12pm (midday) on 18th August 2020**. Final decisions on grants to be awarded will be made by trustees and you will receive the outcome of your application by mid-September.

## Get in touch

If you have any queries about this funding opportunity particularly regarding eligibility, please get in touch with our Director: david.cutler@ing.com. Like many other organisations all Foundation staff are working from home.