

The logo features a blue brushstroke background with a white rectangular box containing the text 'The Award for Civic Arts Organisations' in a white serif font.

The Award for Civic Arts Organisations

1) About the Award for Civic Arts Organisations

The world has changed rapidly in the last year. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought devastation, but also a reset in how we live our lives and how communities operate. And as we emerge into the 'new normal', it is arts organisations that will help us shape the future: culture, creativity and the arts are the basis through which we tell stories of our past, our present and our future, enabling us to realise what it means to be fully human, individually and collectively.

Despite the considerable challenges and uncertainty that the arts sector faces, 'green shoots' have been emerging. Arts organisations across the country have channelled the anxieties of this period and boldly reimaged their missions to put their communities first.

From delivering arts packs with food parcels to staging socially distanced carnivals, arts organisations are contributing to rebuilding our communities and restoring much-needed joy and optimism to our lives. As we face the challenges and opportunities of the coming months and years, arts and culture have an important role to play.

However, much of this pioneering work is unknown, even within the arts sector itself. This Award seeks to change that. It will highlight and celebrate civic arts organisations and their response to the pandemic, with funding and further support to continue their work and share learning. The Award will shine a spotlight on the vital role that arts organisations play in sustaining a thriving, creative, and connected society, particularly during challenging times.

This Award builds on the sea change that has been occurring in the arts sector over recent years, with a growing movement of organisations reflecting on their relationship with society. The Foundation's work on the Civic Role has demonstrated the need for arts organisations to work more closely with their communities if they are to stay relevant in a rapidly changing world. At this difficult time, this principle feels even more important.

The Award is part of a suite of initiatives being supported by the Foundation as part of its response to the pandemic. It is focusing on strengthening the arts and cultural sector to respond to urgent community needs, prioritise relevance, and become more inclusive and impactful.

2) Eligibility

Criteria for applicants

This award is open to arts organisations in the United Kingdom that receive public funding.

-**We define arts organisations** as institutions which have a primary purpose of working in the arts or culture of any form. These could be, for example, orchestras, galleries, museums, theatres, or organisations that work in a variety of art forms. No preference is given for the type of art created: the focus is on how the arts organisation has been responding with their community.

-**We define public funding** as money received from taxpayer funded government entities such as national Arts Councils or local authorities. We understand many applicants will receive a mix of public funding as well as earned revenue, donations, and private funding.

-We do not seek to prescribe what an arts organisation's community is. We understand that for some arts organisations, 'community' means those living nearby, while for others it can also mean a community of practice, or another organisation long associated with it, such as a care home or a school. It might also include the artists and/or creative team that form part of the organisation's network.

-Arts organisations of all sizes are welcome to apply.

-Arts organisations do not need to own or operate from a building to apply.

-Current grant holders from the UK Branch of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation cannot apply.

-These awards are for organisations, not individuals or teams within organisations.

3) Application Process

Stage 1: November 2020: applications open on **2 November** and close at **1.00pm on 30 November**. No late entries can be accepted.

The application process is straightforward:

Please submit a short-written statement (max 200 words) in answer to each of the three questions below. If this presents difficulties, a two-minute video in answer to each question is also acceptable. This information will be used to select the shortlisted organisations so remember to include your key facts and strengths.

Q1 – How did your organisation adapt its usual practice between March and October 2020 to respond to the effects of the pandemic in your communities? (max 200 words / 2-minute video)

Q2 – How did you actively engage with your communities during this time to craft and/or adapt your response? (max 200 words / 2-minute video)

Q3 – What impact have you seen from this work so far and how do you plan to build on this in the future, to embed and amplify the work for the benefit of the sector and wider community? (max 200 words / 2-minute video)

When answering these questions:

- Please *do not* name or identify your organisation – the selection panel should not see this information.
- Be concise and communicate the experience/evidence/benefits and who the partners and communities were.
- Pay particular attention to question 3 which has additional weighting; these are future-facing awards and the panel will want to know how your work could develop/amplify/benefit others.
- You will be asked for additional data about your organisation so that we can build a picture of developments and need in the sector, to better inform our work. This information will not be attached to your submission when it is forwarded to the panel.

- Please note that **you can only submit one file** on your application, whether this is a short-written statement or a video.

Stage 2: December 2020: Longlisted organisations may be asked to share additional information before being shortlisted. Shortlisted organisations will be confirmed by 21 December. Unfortunately, we cannot contact all applicants and can only give feedback on shortlisted applications.

January 2021: Shortlisted organisations (6-8 orgs) will be invited to meet the panel (on Zoom) and present expanded answers to the three questions (not more than 20 mins), with a particular focus on the third question on future plans and impact and how the award would facilitate this. Each organisation will choose how to structure this time, who speaks, and how to best illustrate their ideas. There is no demand on the organisation to produce accompanying paperwork. The panel will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

More information on this Stage 2 will be shared with shortlisted organisations.

4) The Panel

The panel bring together a wide range of experience and perspectives. Click [here](#) for information. The panel will individually assess and then confer to make a shortlist; they will make the final decision following the presentations. The panel will be guided by a brief which explains the ethos of the award, the timeline, and ensures confidentiality to applicants and for the judging process itself.

The Award recipients will be proposed by an independent panel of judges. The panel is chaired by **Baroness Bull** (Deborah Bull), Vice President & Vice-Principal (London) and Senior Advisory Fellow for Culture at King's College London. The other panellists are: **David Bryan, Henrietta Imoreh, André Wilkens, Anisa Morridadi, Jo Verrent** and **Fiona Doring**. The panel's final recommendations will be presented to the Board of the Foundation for ratification. We will not be able to enter into correspondence regarding selection of recipients.

5) Selection Criteria

a) The following criteria will be used to assess each application:

- How your organisation responded to evidenced **local needs**.
- A **co-created** response, with the community playing a significant role.
- How the response contributed to **develop the community's skills, capabilities and/or creativity**.
- How the response helped to **build social capital** (e.g. empathy, kindness).
- How the response **fully represented its communities** (e.g. giving a platform to people and issues which are often ignored or insufficiently recognised.)
- How the response engaged with artists and/or creative teams.
- How your response **encouraged discussion and debate** and challenged prevailing orthodoxies and ways of working.
- How your response has **strong potential for replication**, and your medium/longer-term plans for embedding and amplifying, for wider benefit and impact.

6) Award Winners and shortlisted organisations

Award winners and shortlisted organisations will be expected to participate in media opportunities to raise the profile of the awards, the recipients and the importance of playing a civic role. You may be asked to supply photographs, video material or further information about your work.

We will request that you allow one student from King's College London to interview (online) a member of your organisation to discuss your work.

For organisations receiving awards, we ask that someone from your organisation be available to accept the award at the final event in March 2021, which may be online or in person.

By applying for the award, you confirm that you have read and agree to the above.

7) Important dates

2nd November: applications open

30th November, 1.00pm: applications close

21st December: shortlisted organisations will have been notified

25-27 January 2021: Online presentations to the panel

March 2021: Presentation of the awards