

GMCA Culture Fund: Inspire 2024-2026

Managed by Salford CVS, on behalf of 10GM.



Grants of £500 – £2,000 for freelance and independent artists, and smaller organisations across Greater Manchester

Background

In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been found and reported that the level of investment and support for freelancers, independent creatives, artists, musicians, and performers across the arts could be improved, with many freelance artists leaving the sector.

Following extensive consultation, the need for a focused, small investment into the creative sector was highlighted. This led to GMCA establishing this fund to support the regrowth and strengthening of the creative sector in Greater Manchester.

Is Inspire for me / my organisation?

You may be a musician who would benefit from a new instrument, a small group who needs funds to expand your wardrobe or replace costumes, or a freelance artist who wishes to upskill via a training course.

The GMCA Culture Fund: Inspire is designed to support Greater Manchester-based:

- Freelance artists
- Independent creatives, artists, musicians, and performers
- Small creative arts organisations (less than £100k turnover)

What is eligible for funding?

The GMCA Culture Fund: Inspire welcomes applications that concern or involve:

• Music	• Craft	• Small Capital Expenditures
• Theatre/Spoken Word	• Photography	• Equipment
• Visual Arts	• Film	• Instruments
• Multi-disciplinary Arts	• Design	• Room, space hire but not solely
• Literature	• Museums	• Event/project budgets (in part, only)
• Heritage	• Combined Arts	• Course fees – practice/area-specific (not degree-level or above)
• Dance	• Resources	• Applications only within GM.

What will not be considered eligible?

- Total costs of an event or project
- Living costs or expenses
- Organisations already funded by the Spirit and Sustain strands of the GMCA Culture Fund
- Work already supported by GMCA
- Costs towards a project or activity that will last beyond April 2026

Funding rounds and submission deadlines

There will be 5 rounds of funding 2024 – 2026, as shown in the table below. Please submit your application for consideration in the round of your choice. Please note that funding is ring-fenced to support each and every round.

Round	Day	Date	Year	Time
1	Friday	1st March	2024	12:00 noon
2	Friday	31st May	2024	12:00 noon
3	Friday	1st November	2024	12:00 noon
4	Friday	30th May	2025	12:00 noon
5	Friday	31st October	2025	12:00 noon

Application Process

Individuals or groups may submit applications for £500 - £2,000, via a short written application form. Use this form to outline or showcase your work, and explain why you would benefit from this funding. There is the **option** to submit an accompanying video (3 minutes max) in the form of a link (URL) to a video-sharing website (e.g., YouTube or Vimeo). We will **not accept** attached video files (e.g. MP4 files).

What happens after submitting an application?

Once a few checks have been completed, applications (minus contact details) are passed to the assessment panel for review. This is followed by a meeting to agree on the awards. **All applicants will be notified of the outcome, by email, within 6 weeks of the closing date.** If successful, your award will be paid into your account by bank transfer. Salford CVS will request a very simple update on progress 4-6 months later; also, quotes, photos, videos etc. will be very welcome!

Any questions?

If you are a small group, freelancer, or independent creative, and unsure whether your idea is an eligible spend, or would like help completing the application form or require it in another format (e.g. hard copy, large print, using BSL etc.), please email: grants@salfordcvs.co.uk

Please submit completed applications to: grants@salfordcvs.co.uk

The GMCA Culture Fund: Inspire is being managed by Salford CVS, on behalf of [10GM](#)