

TRADITIONAL ARTS & CULTURE FUND

Criteria and Guidelines for Applicants

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1. THE FUND

Traditional Arts and Culture Fund (TACF) is a fund devolved from Creative Scotland, managed by TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) and open to organisations and individuals.

TACF is designed to provide support for traditional artists, craftspeople and organisations to create, perform, tour and showcase work. The fund can also support professional development and learning projects. £48,000 is available to disburse in 2026-27.

Although the fund is managed by TRACS, grants will be agreed by a panel of advisers and projects will be monitored and evaluated by staff from both TRACS and Creative Scotland.

2. WHO CAN APPLY?

[Click here to check you are eligible before applying](#)

Eligibility for TACF is in line with Creative Scotland's general priorities for funding, guidance for which is available by clicking on the link above. In general, individuals over 18, groups and organisations either based in Scotland, or undertaking work in Scotland, may apply; but please check your [eligibility](#) carefully before embarking on the application form.

Please note that TACF

- **cannot** be used to match other Creative Scotland funds - e.g. Open Fund, Maoinean Ealain Gàidhlig, VACMA

N.B. Multi-Year Funded Organisations may apply so long as the project is not part of their existing MYF programme.

- does **not** prioritise either international travel costs or activity which takes place outwith Scotland.

N.B. If your application is for professional development or training, consideration can be made for travel costs to cover necessary travel within the wider UK and Ireland

Applicants must demonstrate a positive track record in and/or professional commitment to one or more of the following traditional artforms as they are practised in Scotland today:

- Traditional Craft
- Traditional Dance
- Traditional Music
- Traditional Storytelling

Applicants should consider the part their project will play in helping to explore, realise and develop their creative potential, help sustain artistic practice, and address any personal development needs to build resilience.

Some examples of successful applications from past rounds of TACF (formerly Tasgadh) are available [here](#) as a guide.

If you require further clarification on eligibility, please email tacf@tracscotland.org.

2.1. What TACF can and cannot fund

Traditional Arts and Culture Fund CAN FUND: • The creation, performance, touring and showcasing of traditional arts and crafts practised in Scotland today • Professional development and learning projects	Traditional Arts and Culture Fund CANNOT FUND: • Equipment purchase • Album or EP recordings, or preparation for such, unless recordings are for promotional purposes only where no sales are to be generated • Film / video projects unless the benefit to traditional arts, or artists, is very clearly defined • Work by students currently in education • Competitions • International travel or project activity which takes place outwith Scotland.
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3. ACCESS

We welcome applications from individuals with access requirements. If you need any adjustments or support during the application process, please email us at tacf@tracscotland.org to let us know how we can help.

Financial support may also be available to assist with these requirements.

4. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

- Details of when funds open and close, as well as the links to the application form and other supporting documents, are published on our [website](#).
- Each applicant may apply for an award of between £250 (minimum) and £1,200 (maximum). Applicants who require more than £1,200 should consider applying to the [Creative Scotland Open Fund for Individuals](#).
- If you would like some general information on writing a successful funding application, you may find this [briefing from Creative Lives](#) helpful. Please be succinct but ensure you give us enough information to be able to assess your application fully.
- Although TACF is a light-touch funding scheme, the panel will prioritise applications that demonstrate artistic integrity, a well-researched and planned project, and benefits and legacy for the sector.

If you have any questions around how to complete your application, please email tacf@tracscotland.org.

4.1. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

We understand that AI tools can be useful for initial inspiration or refinement; but we strongly encourage you to write the application you submit in your own unique voice.

The panel wants to see applications where your personality, passion and commitment to your project come across clearly; and although AI is improving all the time, it will be obvious which applications have relied too heavily on it.

4.2. Sample Budgets

Sample budgets are available to [download from our website](#).

Please pay close attention to points [8.3 to 8.8 in the Terms & Conditions](#) below, noting that the figures in the sample budgets are illustrative and not to be used as endorsed rates of pay, ticket prices or similar.

5. ASSESSMENT

The 2026-27 TACF Assessment Panel comprises six specialists drawn from the traditional arts and crafts sector, each chosen for their specific expertise in their respective fields.

For transparency, the names and specialisms of the panel members are published below as well as on the [TACF page of the TRACS website](#):

Name	Specialism	Organisation
Alison Carlyle	Dance	Freelance
Brian Ó hEadhra	Gaelic / Music	• TRACS • Traditional Music Forum of Scotland
Catriona Hawksworth	Traditional Arts Officer / Music	Creative Scotland
Helen Voce	Craft	Freelance
Joanne Urwin	Storytelling	• TRACS • Scottish Storytelling Forum
Steve Byrne	Convenor / Scots / ICH	TRACS

5.1. Notifying us of a Conflict of Interest

The traditional arts world is a small one, and it's highly likely that some of the applicants will already be known to one or more panel members in a personal and / or professional capacity.

If you feel that you may have a conflict of interest with one or more members of the panel, please [get in touch with us](#) in confidence, outlining the nature of it and which member(s) of the panel it refers to.

We are committed to managing any conflict of interests in line with our own internal conflict management framework.

5.2. Register of Panel Interests

Panel members are also requested to complete an annual Register of Interests form, declaring any of the following professional or personal interests:

- Any freelance work undertaken in the public, private, and voluntary sectors; board membership(s); company directorships; trusteeships etc. held over the past five years relevant to the traditional arts sector
- Details of any significant consultancies undertaken over the last five years

- Any financial stake in relevant organisations, or as a beneficiary of such an organisation
- Any spouse, partner or other personal connection in TRACS or other relevant organisations, or as a beneficiary of such an organisation
- Any goods or services received from TRACS, including grant funding
- Any other interest which might be reasonably construed as creating a conflict of interest.

You can access the register [here](#)

5.3. Successful Applicants

TRACS will notify all successful applicants within **2 weeks** of the assessment panel meeting, which will take place within **6 weeks** of the closing date.

Successful applicants will be notified with a letter of offer detailing how funds will be paid and any conditions attached to the award.

Any subsequent changes to project plans must be submitted in writing to TRACS. The submission of a final report in the correct form will be required within **two months** of the project end and may select some projects for evaluation to ensure they are being implemented as planned. We may also feature some completed projects as case studies on our website to illustrate the kinds of projects the fund can assist.

5.4. Unsuccessful Applicants

It is anticipated that there may be more qualifying applications than available funding. Unsuccessful applicants will be offered feedback on their application within **2 weeks** of the assessment panel meeting, with the reasons for the decision.

Unfortunately, due to the anticipated volumes of applications, we will not be able to provide any additional feedback beyond this.

6. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

TRACS is committed to ensuring equality in all its activities and has a contractual obligation to monitor that commitment. We are therefore required to collect information on defined protected characteristics in The Equality Act 2010, as well as on Scots and Gaelic language use and socio-economic status.

Please help us by completing the survey linked to below. The information provided - which is not personally attributable, will not be shared with any third party, and is managed confidentially in accordance with our Privacy Notice - will be used for statistical reporting and to help us improve our services only.

Filling in this form is entirely voluntary; but your answers will greatly assist us with improving our offering and our reach. While all questions require a response (*), each question has a 'Prefer not to answer' option.

Traditional Arts and Culture Fund EDI Monitoring Form

7. OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

If your project is ineligible for the Traditional Arts and Culture Fund, or your application is unsuccessful, you should consider applying for one of the funds listed below instead.

Remember that any fund either delivered directly, or delegated by, Creative Scotland cannot be used to match-fund another such fund.

7.1. General

7.1.1. Creative Scotland

[Open Fund](#): One of Creative Scotland's key funding routes, supporting the wide range of activity initiated by organisations, artists, writers, producers and other creative practitioners in Scotland.

7.2. Crafts

7.2.1. Heritage Crafts

- [Endangered Crafts Fund](#): Small grants for craft practitioners and organisations in the UK to fund projects that support endangered crafts
- [Training Bursaries](#): Training bursaries are available for new entrants and early-career practitioners in the UK who require financial support to gain the hand skills they need to set themselves on a path to success. **(N.B. this fund is currently closed)**

7.2.2. Creative Scotland

[VACMA \(Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards\)](#): Programme of small grants schemes, delivered in partnership with local authorities and art organisations across Scotland and managed locally by these partners. Bursaries to support visual artists and craft makers in their creative and professional development, which can also assist with the purchasing of "Essential equipment [...] that clearly helps you experiment or develop your practice".

(N.B. this fund is currently closed for the financial year)

7.3. Gaelic Language Projects

7.3.1. Bòrd na Gàidhlig

- [General Grants](#): Considers projects outside its normal funding schemes which will contribute to the priorities of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Corporate Plan

- [Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig \(Gaelic Arts Fund\)](#): Fund designed to assist the delivery of Gaelic arts projects.

7.4. Scots Language Projects

7.4.1. Creative Scotland

[Wee Grants for Creativity in the Scots Leid](#) (administered and managed by Hands up for Trad): Fund tae support new creative wark in Scots tae bring tae audiences in 2026.

7.4.2. Scottish Book Trust

[Scots Language Publication Grant](#): Fund to support publishers to publish and promote work written in Scots.

7.5. Film

7.5.1. Creative Scotland

[Screen Scotland](#): Various funds to drive the development of all aspects of Scotland's film and TV industry.

8. TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 8.1. You must leave at least **eight** weeks from the application deadline to the start of your project.
- 8.2. If known, please provide the names of artists or tutors you expect to work with - even if their involvement is dependent on availability and/or securing funding. This will help us assess the artistic and creative quality of your project.
- 8.3. Your application and budget may include elements that put the delivery of your project in context. However, when deciding upon an amount of funding for which to apply, please bear in mind that the TACF aims to support the **creation, performance, touring or showcasing of Scottish traditional arts**, or **professional development in the Scottish traditional arts**. The panel will prioritise support towards those elements of an application.
- 8.4. TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) and Creative Scotland are committed to **fair pay** for artists and you can view the [Creative Scotland guidance here](#) which applies to TACF applications. Industry standard rates ([Musicians Union](#), [Equity](#), [Scottish Artists Union](#) etc) **must** be offered to tutors/performers and the costs reflected in your budget. It is recognised some artists/practitioners may wish to work for less/contribute free of charge. If so, you should make their wishes explicit in your application and your budget should reflect, as 'in-kind' support, the contribution of an artist/practitioner by including the difference between the industry standard rate and what they will actually be paid. See our [sample budget 4](#).
- 8.5. Please think carefully about your budget and consider the appropriateness of costs and income you wish to include. Give as much detail as you can and ensure you submit a **balanced budget** - i.e. income (including the expected contribution from TACF) should match expenditure. See [sample budgets 3 and 4](#).

N.B. Applications with incomplete budgets where income and expenditure do not balance cannot be taken forward to the assessment panel.

- 8.6. You must also provide details of all matching funds, and whether they are confirmed or pending, as well as **evidence of 10% generated income**. Generated income could take the form of ticket sales, partnership income from another source or the applicant's own contribution.
- 8.7. Please be **realistic about any sales** and ensure they reflect the value of the event or product. We would be unlikely to fund a print-run of 1,000 books if the applicant expects to sell only 25. We would be unlikely to fund the production and promotion of a performance if the applicant

expects to attract 20 people paying just £2 each. Be sensible about pricing and place a realistic value on the offer.

- 8.8. While **£1,200** is the **maximum** grant available, please only ask for what you need: that way more people may benefit from limited TACF funds. Note also the **minimum** amount you can apply for is **£250**.
- 8.9. It is a priority to support and encourage **Environmental Sustainability**. We do not expect projects to have an environmental focus, but ask that all applicants consider the environmental impact of their activity and explain the steps they are taking to mitigate this impact within their bids. We will take this into consideration when prioritising applications so, when faced with high demand, we may prioritise offering support to projects and activities that consider and work to mitigate their environmental impact.
- 8.10. Applicants may submit more than one project for consideration but please be aware that competition for TACF funds is such that it is unlikely we will be able to offer more than one grant in any financial year and we may prioritise support for applicants who have not been funded previously.
- 8.11. Applicants may apply for an annual event, or a similar event each year, but there is no guarantee that because your project was funded once it will be again. TACF should not be relied upon as a form of regular/core funding.
- 8.12. It is up to the applicant to provide enough information to enable the panel to assess their application. In some cases, where further information may be required to make a decision, applicants may be asked to resubmit an application at the next deadline date. If the panel thinks it appropriate, in offering feedback applicants may be signposted to alternative Creative Scotland funding or other funding streams.