the space

Easy Read

2026 Commissioning Round

How to apply for money and help with your digital project



Easy Read version

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

LOTTERY FUNDED

Contents Page

What we do



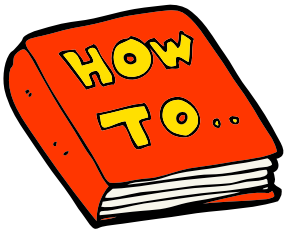
Your idea



Who can apply



Importrant dates



How to apply



Things you can use the money to pay for

Contents Page



People who see your work



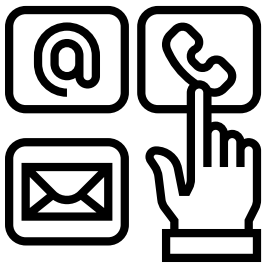
When you have finished the project



Who owns your work



Choosing the best ideas



Contact us

3

What we do

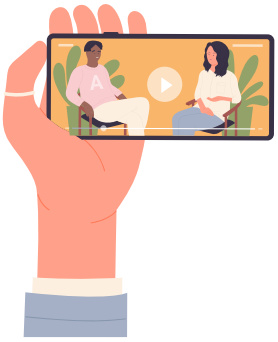


We are The Space. We help cultural organisations to do things online.



Arts and culture is things like:

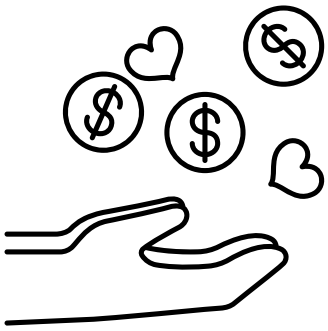
- music, dance and theatre poetry and literature
- painting and sculpture
- film, photography and animation



We want organisations to send us new ideas about arts and culture activities that can happen online.



Online means being able to see or hear it using a computer, phone or other device.



We will give money and support to the best ideas, to make the ideas happen.



Audio digital activities are things like listening to sounds, music or someone speaking.

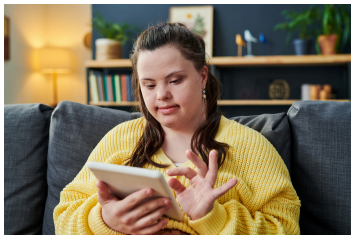


Organisations can ask for £5,000 to £8,000 for audio activities.



Organisations can ask for £5,000 to £16,000 for other types of digital ideas.

Your idea



You must create something for people to watch, listen to or take part in online.



Your audience might see or hear it on:

- your website
- social media
- YouTube, Vimeo or similar



Your project can be to:

- create new work, or put arts and culture online in new ways



- film or record work that has already been done. Things like performances or exhibitions



- reach new audiences. For example people with disabilities or people in prison



- find new ways to reach audiences online

Support to make your idea happen



You may not have all the skills you need to do a digital activity.



We will give you support and advice. We will help you to get more skills and learn more about digital arts.



We can help with:

- production
- social media
- accessibility
- legal rights



Who can apply



Organisations doing cultural activities in England. This includes museums, libraries, local councils and community organisations.



More than 1 organisation can work together. 1 organisation must lead the work.



You cannot apply as an individual.



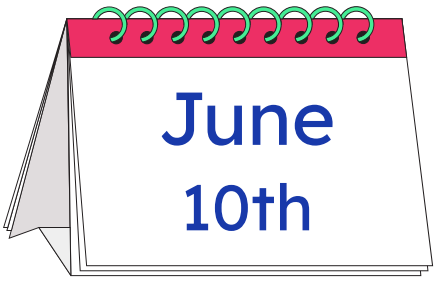
You can apply if you have applied to The Space before.

Important dates



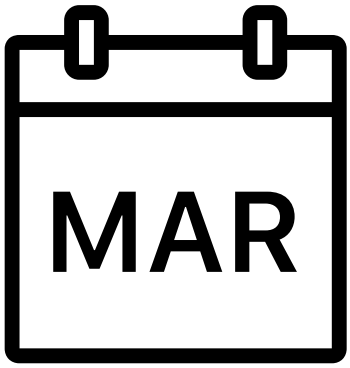
You must send us your application by 5pm on:

Thursday 30th April 2026



We will tell you if you have been chosen on:

Wednesday 10th June 2026



2027

If we choose your idea you must finish your project by:

March 2027

How to apply



Click here for the online application form.

Click here to get a copy of the questions on the application form.



You do not have to fill in the application in one go.
You can save it and return later.



We have money to help pay for support to apply if you need it. Things like help with filling in the form.



You can email us at:

commissioning@thespace.org

or

You can phone us on:

0121 663 1488



Leave us a message with your contact details. We will call you back.



Things you can use the money to pay for:

- artists and other people who will help with the project



- computers, equipment and software



- legal fees to do with using other people's music or images



- marketing. This is telling people about your new work
- making sure lots of different people can access your work



- money to put aside in case something goes wrong or you have to pay for something you didn't expect

Things we cannot pay for:



- activities that happen before the project starts



- members of staff in your organisation



- projects that are mainly about buying equipment

- anything that is not directly helping your project to happen

If your project is selected:



We pay you a few times during the project.

The payments are linked to the things you plan to do.



If you do not do these things, you do not get paid.

People who see your work



We want lots of people to see your work. Let us know how many people will see or try the work.

Tell us what your plans are to reach the audience.



We understand that you may have smaller audiences for some works. VR, for example. This is fine.



We want to help you make it easy for people to see your work. Tell us about how you will make it accessible.

When you have finished the project



You will need to tell us how many people saw or heard your work.



We will work with you to review your project and write a case study.





A case study is about:

- what you did
- how you did it
- what you learned

Who owns your work



When you create work it belongs to you.



You can sell it, change it or use your ideas after the project is finished.



If you use someone else's work in your project, you must make sure that it is ok to use it.

the space

We can help with this as it can be complicated.

Choosing the best ideas



We will look at:

1. How good the idea is.



2. How it will reach an audience.



3. How much experience you have.



4. Whether you can do your plan with the money and time you have.



5. Whether your organisation and other people will benefit from the project.



6. Value for money

We will also think about:



1. The diversity of the people involved in the project

Diversity means the mix of people from different backgrounds.



2. Where your organisation is.

We want to support organisations across England, especially outside of London.



3. If your work is accessible.

Accessible means lots of different people can use, see and understand your activity.

4. The size of your organisation.

Contact us



You can contact us with questions about:

- this guidance
- how to apply

We cannot give you advice about what to put in your application.

Email us:
commissioning@thespace.org



Phone us: 0121 663 1488

Leave us a message with your contact details. We will call you back.