



Northfleet Creative Development Grant Grant Information Pack

Why Northfleet?

This grant scheme is part of the Northfleet Place Partnership Programme. The partnership, made up of Creative Estuary, Gravesham Borough Council, and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, are working together to increase the creative and cultural infrastructure of Northfleet. We are investing in people, spaces and Northfleet communities, through a range of activities, to ensure Northfleet has a vibrant creative landscape with the ability to provide a range of high-quality opportunities for local people.

What's on offer and what do we expect?

Grant funding for creative practitioners is part of our Estuary-wide movement to support the Creative and Cultural Industries.

We will support creative and cultural professionals that are individuals, registered sole traders or unincorporated groups. If you are applying as a group, one person should represent the group on your behalf.

Applicants should be looking to grow their creative professional potential and have identified a need or a barrier that the grant will enable them to overcome. Allowing them to purchase resources, learn new skills, enhance their expertise or test new ways of working.

We will provide 10 grants of up to £1000 to support the creative development of individuals. You can apply as a group with other practitioners if you have identified a shared need, skill, or resource that would allow you to individually or collectively improve. We expect this funding to support specific and costed activities that are required to develop the applicants' professional practice and ensure future success. To give you a starting point to think about how you might use the creative development investment here are some suggestions of what it could be used for:

- Develop a new skill e.g. a painter who wants to learn framing, a juggler who wants to learn acrobatics, a sound technician who wants to learn sound engineering, a dancer who wants to open their own dance school.



- Existing skilled professionals exploring transferring their skills to the creative industries, e.g. a carpenter who wants to work in set building, a marketer who wants to work in advertising, a coder who wants to work in app development.
- Hobbyists who want to explore their professional potential, e.g. a home sewer who wants to work in fashion, an amateur dramatics producer who wants to work on professional productions, a gamer who wants to work in the gaming industry, a crafter who wants to do it full time/set up their own business.
- Those who have had creative training or previously worked in the creative industries but no longer work in the sector and would like to return.
- The purchasing of equipment, materials, software or assets that will improve professional outcomes or business potential.
- Those excluded from their creativity due to financial resources and costs, e.g. those who need specialist equipment to make their products or paid for access to specialist studios, makers who need materials to get started.
- Those who would like to shift their practice to be more sustainable e.g. allowing you to undertake climate responsibility training, covering costs of shifting to greener materials or technology, exploring new ways of working that would reduce your creative practice's carbon footprint.

To think about how you might shift to sustainable practices and what action you might explore through this funding, Creative Kent and Creative Medway have pulled together many creative sector resources as part of their sustainability pledge, covering the broad range of creative industries; <https://creativemedway.co.uk/medway-and-kent-creative-sector-environmental-sustainability-pledge/#resources>

Applicants will need to demonstrate a clear need for support, benefit of the investment and a budget outlining the costs you'd like the grant to cover.

How to apply?

Complete the application form, we've made the questions as simple as possible. Then return to info@creativeestuary.com by the deadline date (please refer to application deadlines and decision-making section for these).

We want to know:

- About you and your relationship to Northfleet
- About your creative ambitions



- How you will use the money and how it will help you achieve or take steps towards your professional creative goals
- How much money you're asking for
- What you'll spend the money on. We want to see a breakdown of costs, and these can be laid out as follows;
 - Item name (training, equipment, materials, software etc), description (who, what, where will you get it from, quantity you need), the cost in £s
 - If you're asking us to support more than one cost, then repeat the above for all costs.
 - The total of the costs should be equal to the amount of money you're asking for.

If you have any access needs or questions about the application form, please get in touch: info@creativeestuary.com

Who can apply?

- Applicants must be creatives, who live, work or are based in Northfleet, Kent.
- We are particularly interested in supporting those who are underrepresented in the creative industries such as the global majority, LGBTQA+, and those with a disability and neurodiverse conditions and/or have faced financial barriers to pursuing their creative professional ambitions.
- We are keen to receive applications from individuals and groups, who have received public funds or investment in the past, as well as from those who have not secured funding or investment previously.
- All of the following are eligible to apply to this fund: individuals, sole traders, unincorporated groups. Unincorporated groups must have identified a shared need, one representative of the group must act as lead applicant and be responsible for the funding. Applicants will be expected to receive and manage a grant and report back to partners on activities undertaken. If you have questions about what's involved in managing a grant, join one of our webinars, 1 to 1 surgeries, or email us, and we can help you understand the process and options.
- Creativity must be the main purpose of your practice or professional ambitions. We're following the Department for Media, Culture and Sport's definition of creative industries which include; Advertising & Marketing; Architecture; Crafts; Design (product, graphic); Fashion; Education & training; Film & TV; Radio & Audio; Photography; IT, Software & Computer; Publishing; Museums,





Galleries and Libraries; Music; Performing Arts; Visual Arts; Animation & VFX;
Video Games; Heritage.

How will applications be assessed?

The Northfleet Place Partnership Programme Partners, will convene a decision-making panel to assess the applications against the following criteria:

1. Creative individuals with demonstrated connection to Northfleet.
2. Demonstrated impact and benefit to the applicants' professional creative development.
3. If the proposed use of the money and the possible results are practical and achievable.
4. A clear budget breakdown.

Application deadlines and decision making

The programme will have three application rounds over the next 9 months, allowing as many of Northfleet's creative individuals to have an opportunity to apply:

Round 1 deadline for applications 23.59pm **Sunday 8th December 2024**

Round 2 deadline for applications 23.59pm **Sunday 9th March 2025**

Round 3 deadline for applications 23.59pm **Sunday 1st June 2025**

Decisions on applications will be made 3 weeks after the deadline.

Projects must be completed and fully reported on by **31st October 2025**.

Grant Programme Information:

We are offering a series of online webinars and 1 to 1 surgery sessions for potential applicants. This will be an opportunity to find out more information about the programme and ask questions relating to the application, eligibility and ideas.

For more information, check the Creative Estuary website and follow us on socials @CreativeEstuary or contact us: info@creativeestuary.com

Alongside the **Creative Development grant** we are also offering the **Creative Enterprise grant** for new and early-stage businesses and the **Creative Impact grant** to support previous and existing public programmes, events and activities happening



in Northfleet. For more information visit:

<https://www.creativeestuary.com/northfleet-place-partnership-programme/>