



ARTS CONNECT DIGITAL BURSARY - ROUND 2

Arts Connect is the 'Bridge' organisation for the West Midlands that works to improve the access and engagement of children and young people aged 0–19 in arts and culture. Arts Connect is part of a network of 10 'Bridge' organisations that cover each region of England, funded by Arts Council England to provide a development infrastructure. It is an initiative that is run by a partnership of The Faculty of Arts of the University of Wolverhampton and the cultural organisations based in Birmingham working as Culture Central.

Arts Connect offer a range of development services that broadly seek to do three things:

- 1) to improve the capacity of the cultural sector to engage more young people in high quality arts and cultural activity
- 2) to raise the level of demand for arts and cultural provision and engagement for young people from schools, other public services and potential investors.
- 3) to support the growth of Cultural Education Partnerships across the region. LCEPs bring together key influencers and activists to develop a new infrastructure for promoting and sustaining arts and cultural education (Further details <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/children-and-young-people/working-partnership>)

We meet these objectives in a number of ways such as providing professional development, creating new networks, undertaking communications campaigns and engaging with school networks. We provide investment for innovation in new business models and in order to help organisations to access new resources. We promote Arts Council England's Arts Award and Artsmark schemes. For more information on our services and activities please visit www.artsconnect.co.uk

Background to the Digital Bursary?

In November 2016, Arts Connect ran a Digital Pick and Mix event attended by individuals and organisations from the creative and cultural sector. The day sparked a range of debates and conversations within the sector and it was apparent that many organisations do not have the capacity to develop creative digital practice within their organisation that goes beyond social media.

In early 2017 we announced our first round of digital bursaries and 3 were awarded to Birmingham Royal Ballet, Kan'tu Ensemble and Coventry Libraries and Information Services. In November 2017 they shared their findings at our Digital Symposium.

You can find out about these bursaries and our broader digital programme through our digital website: www.digitalpicknmix.co.uk



Engaging audiences, driving digital creative excellence and connecting with young people through digital experiences is key to our digital strand at Arts Connect.

What is the Digital Bursary?

The bursary is designed to support research and development in the field of creative digital practice in relation to your work with children and young people. This could be through developing audiences, engagement or participation.

The bursary can be used to connect with digital practitioners who can help develop and shape your ideas, build capacity for staff and/or to widen your understanding in a digital field. We are keen to see applicants engage with creative digital experts to broaden their thinking and understanding.

Organisations and individuals will need to set out a research question which highlights what you would like to discover/find/develop through the use of the bursary.

There are three bursaries of £3000 available to organisations and/or individuals who are based in the West Midlands. You may work with organisations outside of the area but the applicant must be based within the West Midlands.

The bursary can be used for the following:

- Research visits up to a maximum of £1000 of the grant can be assigned for this element
- Creative development including piloting new technology
- Release staff time/on staff time to a maximum of 50% of the grant.

Only one bursary will be available per organisation and it must not be used for projects already underway. You also cannot use the bursary for one off events.

Please refer to the our previous bursaries and ensure your application is not similar. We are happy to receive applications which explore Augmented reality but they must be different to previous bursaries.

You can find details of these at www.digitalpicknmix.co.uk

Conditions of awarding the bursary

- On awarding the bursary, the organisation will need to meet with Rebecca Hardy, Arts Connect's Film and Digital Programme Developer to discuss the bursary and agree a final plan (This can be done via Skype).
- After completing the Research and Development, the organisation will need to produce a report (no more than 3 sides of A4) outlining what they have discovered through the use of the bursary, who they have engaged with and what they would plan to do next.



- Organisations/individuals will need to present their research findings at a sharing symposium or conference event to be held late Autumn 2018 (TBC)

Payment of the Bursary

£2500.00 will be awarded after the planning meeting.

£500.00 on receipt of the final report.

Timescale and how to apply

To apply, please submit an outline of how the bursary will help you develop your organisation's creative digital thinking or practice. You must include:

- A clearly stated research question which highlights what you would like to discover/find/develop through the use of the bursary.
- Details about your focus on young people aged between 0-19. This could be through developing audiences, engagement or participation.
- Your document should be no more than 2 sides of A4 (not including budget)
- A budget with a breakdown of costs. Do not exceed the £3000.00 unless your organisation is providing match funding and if so, please provide details.

Applications must be sent to both Susan Goodwin, Associate Director, Cultural Sector Partnerships and Rebecca Hardy, Film and Digital Programme developer.

susan.goodwin@wlv.ac.uk **and** rebecca@edge21.co.uk

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5pm on Thursday 8th March

Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.