

Norfolk & Suffolk Culture Board

Environment and Place Seed Fund

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The Norfolk & Suffolk Culture Board (NSCB) is a coalition of culture leaders working together to build the cultural economy in the area, increasing investment, accelerating inclusive growth, enhancing health and wellbeing, and championing sustainable development.

The region is home to significant knowledge, expertise and innovation relating to environmental sustainability – in the universities, science and technology sectors, and through our artists and cultural organisations. The NSCB members want to maximise the region’s full potential as a sustainable development pioneer through creative and interdisciplinary collaboration which can foster innovation. As a cultural sector, we are responsible custodians of the environment, and with new types of partnership, we can drive sustainable environmental impact through culture.

NSCB has appointed Fern Culture to undertake research and to develop a report about cultural environmental responsibility in Norfolk and Suffolk. Amber Massie-Blomfield and Lilli Geisendorfer are currently consulting across the region and will present their report in spring 2026. Their research is financially assisted by Arts Council England. This seeding fund runs alongside their work.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival (NNF) is managing the Environment and Place research and seed fund on behalf of NSCB. Funds for this initiative are from NNF and Suffolk County Council.

Environment and Place Seed Fund

The NSCB Environment and Place Seed Fund aims to support innovative ideas and projects which build awareness of and/or deliver actions in cultural environmental responsibility. We are interested in how you interpret the phrase ‘cultural environmental responsibility’. We see it taking two forms:

- Environmental responsibility **IN** culture – eg green organisations, reduced environmental impact; and
- Environmental responsibility **THROUGH** culture – where culture leads and/or interprets a broad range of concerns from nature recovery, through energy and power, to behaviour change.

The fund is a seed fund because we want to support ideas and actions in their initial stages which have the potential to grow and ultimately make a meaningful and sustainable contribution to cultural environmental responsibility.

The fund has a budget of £10,000 and we will award five (5) seeding grants of £2,000 each.

We imagine we may receive proposals from:

- Artists to develop a new work embedded with an environmentally sustainable ethos with a model of practice to share.

- Environmentalists to pilot a podcast about interdisciplinarity and the coming together of arts and science, with a call to action for collaboration.
- School teachers to establish a network of teenagers who champion local artistic environmental actions which act as catalysts for communities.
- Many other types of cultural leaders to explore forms of practice which help us understand and build cultural environmental responsibility and which provide a provocation for others.

Who we're looking for

- Applicants must be a resident of Norfolk or Suffolk.
- Proposals must come from an individual. We welcome proposals supporting collaboration and/or collectives but expect one individual to submit the application and to take responsibility for delivery and reporting.
- You can be at any stage of your career and come from any sector.
- We are looking for cultural and/or environmental leaders – you could be an artist, curator, activist, scientist, educator or young person.
- We encourage applicants from groups underrepresented in the arts in Norfolk & Suffolk, especially people from culturally or socially diverse backgrounds and/or people who identify as neurodiverse, D/deaf or disabled.

What we're looking for

- Your project can take any form - research, development, creation, engagement, dissemination, etc.
- Work must take place between 1 April and 31 August 2026.
- Proposals should be clearly rooted in Norfolk and/or Suffolk and address issues relevant to our region. Eg coastal erosion, food security, the power industry.
- Proposals should include actions towards and/or stories about a sustainable world. We would like one outcome of each project to be an idea and/or provocation for the future which can be shared publicly.
- We are keen to seed ideas for the future and welcome proposals which are led by and/or engage young people.

Proposal Selection

Proposals will be selected by a panel of members of the NSCB Environment & Place Working Group.

The selection criteria are:

- The clarity of the proposal
- The contribution of the proposal to cultural environmental responsibility
- The viability of the proposal
- The track record of the applicant in engagement in cultural environmental responsibility, and in delivering projects of similar scale and ambition
- The potential of the seed idea or action to grow in the future

Where possible, we will select a portfolio of proposals which consider geographic representation.

Grants will be managed by Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

Reporting

Each grant recipient will be required to contribute to the Environment and Place Seed Fund public report. The report will represent the five supported projects and be a space to share ideas and/or provocations for the future. The form of the report is yet to be determined but is likely to be in pdf format with each project represented across two A4 pages.

How to apply

To apply complete an application form and equal opportunities form and return both to sava.radulovic@nnfestival.org.uk by **10am on Monday 16 March 2026**. Please put 'Environment and Place Seed Fund' in the subject line.

If you have any questions about the seed fund, require the forms in large print or would like a paper copy posting to you, please email sava.radulovic@nnfestival.org.uk

You can read information about how NNF will use your data at <https://tinyurl.com/NNFdata>.

We understand some applicants will use AI to assist with their proposal. Our experience tells us proposals with an authentic voice are more compelling.