



NORFOLK **N&S** NORWICH
FESTIVAL

Network Grant

Seed-funding to grow cultural networks across East Anglia



Norfolk & Norwich Festival is delighted to announce the Network Grants, a set of seed-funding grants to grow the cultural networks across East Anglia.

The initiative will fund eight individuals, collectives or organisations to develop or build cultural networks across East Anglia, with the aim to enrich the connections in the cultural sector as well as develop cultural leaders working in the region.

8x £1000 grants to grow cultural networks across East Anglia, to connect and develop our cultural leaders.

Grant amount:
£1000

Closing date for applications:
10am on Wednesday 1 July 2026



Norfolk & Norwich Festival



Norfolk & Norwich Festival is a charity delivering one of the country's longest running arts festivals and a region-wide, year-round programme of creativity and culture for children, young people and their communities.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival takes place in Norwich and around Norfolk for 17 days each May. The Festival is distinctive because we collaborate with artists – from down the road and around the world – to explore the unique physical and cultural identities of our place and to make art which is meaningful to the lives of our audiences.

Festival Connect & Create is the Festival's participation initiative. We work across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on projects that support and collaborate with educators, artists, young people and their communities.

Our vision

To lead and support celebration, creativity and curiosity in our community to make our part of the world a great place to live, learn, work and play. All of our work is informed by our 'programme principles' – our embrace of:

- Art relevant to today, blurring the boundaries between artforms and between art and everyday life.
- 'Festival spirit' which we bring to our work to celebrate, to share cultural experiences and to bring our community together.
- Questions and actions about a Social Responsibility with a focus on: Equality, diversity and inclusion; placemaking; and environmental sustainability.



Introduction



Norfolk & Norwich Festival's Network Grants provide seed-funding to grow cultural networks across East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough). This is through eight grants of £1000 to individuals, collectives or organisations aiming to develop or build cultural networks across East Anglia, to enrich the connections in the cultural sector as well as develop cultural leaders working in the region.

What are the criteria for a 'cultural network'?

We consider this as a collective of cultural sector workers or organisations. For example, this could be a group of:

- Creative industry graduates
- Freelancer artists, producers or crew
- Music venues in a city
- Art studios along the coast
- Film festivals across the region, etc.

What are the criteria for 'cultural leaders'?

For us this includes individuals, collectives or organisations making cultural work in the region. This includes artists, producers, cultural professionals, venues, charities, collectives and organisations.

Example of proposals:

- You're a group of spoken-word artists who want to hire a marketing specialist to help promote open-mic night events and create a platform to archive your artistic work.
- You're a collective of young visual-crafters and you wish to host a celebration event to showcase your network, your work, and to encourage new members to join.
- You're a group of studio artists and you wish to hire a business consultant to build a sustainable model for your network.
- You wish to start a collective of music venues in your city to share/pool resources such as equipment, marketing etc., and you wish to use the fund for staff-time and logistical set-up.



Budget



What can the fund be used for?

The fund is to be used to develop an existing cultural network or start a new network. Within this the fund can be used for paying running costs and/or project/event costs. This includes; admin, staff time, artist/freelancer fees, paying a consultant/specialist, venue hire, travel, catering, materials, renting/buying equipment and more.

Grant activity must take place between August 2026 – April 2027, with the funds spent and reporting submitted by April 2027.

Apply as part of a larger project

We welcome applications in which the grant is integrated into a larger programme of activity and included as match-funding. However, this additional funding needs to be already secured. It cannot be based on application funding awaiting success. Additionally, your programme of activity for the grant must be clearly defined and not simply merged into a larger project.

Eligibility Criteria



To be eligible to apply for a bursary you must be:

- An organisation, charity, CIC, collective, or individual based in East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, or Peterborough).
- Committed to building or developing a cultural network within East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, or Peterborough).

Norfolk & Norwich Festival embraces questions and actions about a changing world. We particularly welcome proposals from people who are part of groups under-represented in the arts in East Anglia, especially people from culturally or socially diverse backgrounds and/or people who identify as neurodiverse, D/deaf or disabled.

Selection Criteria



Selection Criteria

Our selection criteria are as follows. Your proposal will need to demonstrate:

- Development of cultural leaders through connections, knowledge and/or upskilling.

'Cultural leaders' can include early career creatives, artists, producers, cultural workers, collectives, venues and/or organisations.

- A need for the work and its intended impact
- Relevant experience of the applicant
- Feasibility with timescales and budget

Where possible, we will select grants which also:

- Provide geographical representation
- Provide a range of artform practices
- Provide a diverse cohort
- Impact sector learning and practice

Selection Panel

The selection panel will be made up of Norfolk & Norwich Festival staff and a representative from the cultural sector.

Timelines



Application Timeline

- **Wednesday 13 May 2026:**
Network Grants announced and applications open
- **Wednesday 10 June 2026:**
Online Q&A sessions for prospective applicants
- **Wednesday 1 July 2026:**
Deadline for applications
- **Thursday 30 July 2026:**
All applicants notified

Q&A session

We are hosting a virtual information session for potential applicants. This will be an open and informal online event where you can ask members of the Norfolk & Norwich Festival team any questions about the programme and your potential application.

- **5–6pm on Wednesday 10 June 2026:**

Book a place on the information session [here](#)

Grant Recipient Timeline

- **August 2026:**
1-to-1 grant induction meeting (virtual – 1 hour)
- **August 2026 – April 2027:**
Grant activity takes place
The fund must be spent by April 2027
- **January 2027:**
1-to-1 grant check in session (virtual – 45 minutes)
- **April 2027:**
1-to-1 grant reflection session (virtual – 45 minutes)
- **April 2027:**
Reporting due

Applications



How to apply

To apply, please complete an Application Form and our online [Equal Opportunities Form](#) and return via email to fcc@nnfestival.org.uk by 10 am Wednesday 1 July 2026. Please put 'Network Grants Application' in the subject line.

Deadline

10am Wednesday 1 July 2026

Queries

If you have any questions about the grant, require the forms in large print, or would like a paper copy posted to you, please email fcc@nnfestival.org.uk

