

Rochdale Borough Culture Network – Small Grants Fund

The Rochdale Borough Culture Network aims to support individual artists & arts organisations, as well as voluntary groups, faith and social enterprises that widen access to arts & culture in the borough.

This funding is aimed at artists and arts organisations who are based in Rochdale Borough.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 14th March 2025 at 10am**

Each applicant may apply for a maximum of £800 for projects or ideas that support at least one of the following aims:

- Funding for Rochdale-based artists to develop their practice
- Funding for Rochdale-based artists / arts organisations to develop an idea or deliver a project
- Projects that widen access to the arts, and engage traditionally under-represented groups including, but not exclusive to ethnically diverse, disabled, LGBTQ+ individuals / communities and those experiencing poverty.
- Projects that celebrate Rochdale's creativity and engage audiences across the borough and beyond

Please note, RBCN are committed to ensuring artists are paid fairly and adequately for their work. We are open to applications that support artists to be artists, including paying an adequate fee, investing in development as well as materials.

Examples of projects that we have funded in the past include:

- An independent artist investing in materials, equipment and development time
- A voluntary sector organisation providing creative sessions to a community group
- A comedy event that celebrates performers with diverse lived experiences including identifying as LGBTQ+, neurodiverse and mental ill-health
- An exhibition of work by local artists – open to the public, with an opportunity to connect with professional artists.

How to Apply

To apply, please complete the attached application form and return it to Cartwheel Arts, who will administrate this Small Grants Fund. You may apply in any of the following ways:

Online: Complete the application form online here:

<https://forms.gle/hgdATYM9M8b3vNXz8>

Word Document: If you would prefer to complete a word document, this can be accessed by emailing admin@cartwheelarts.org.uk. You can either return via email to admin@cartwheelarts.org.uk, including 'RBCN Small Grants Fund' in the email subject line or return via post to 'Cartwheel Arts Ltd, 110 Manchester Street, Heywood, OL10 1DW'

WhatsApp Voice Note Application: You can complete the application form via WhatsApp Voice-note. To do this, please first telephone 01706 361300 and ask to speak to Hebe Reilly, and we will provide you with a mobile number to send Voice Notes to for this application.

Video Application (via You Tube): You are welcome to apply via video. We recommend creating one that is no longer than 5 minutes long, that answers all the questions in the application form. Please upload your video to You Tube via an 'unlisted' link and forward the web-address to admin@cartwheelarts.org.uk. Please clearly state 'RBCN Small Grants Fund' in the subject line of the email, and include your name and contact details within the email itself.

If you require any additional support with the application, please contact admin@cartwheelarts.org.uk or telephone 01706 361300.

Terms & Conditions

This funding is aimed at artists and arts organisations who are based in Rochdale Borough. Please note, applicants whose work predominately takes place outside of Rochdale Borough will not be eligible.

Each applicant can apply for a maximum of £800. We have a total of £8,000 in the Small Grants Fund to distribute.

Applicants may only submit 1 application to the 2025 Small Grants Fund. We will not fund the same project twice.

As RBCN only have limited funds to distribute each year, and the Small Grants fund is aimed at artists and organisations who may not have access to other arts funding, our criteria is as follows:

- Applicants who are successfully awarded an Arts Council Project Grant Match Fund by RBCN in this financial year (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025) will not be eligible to apply for the Small Grants Fund
- Applicants who are successful for a Small Grants Fund are eligible to apply for an Arts Council Project Grant Match Fund in the same financial year (as we hope to support your progression)
- These rules apply to each financial year and will be re-set from 1st April 2025.

The RBCN Small Grants fund is made possible thanks to support from the Rochdale Borough Council and Your Trust. The funds are managed by Cartwheel on behalf of the Rochdale Borough Culture Network.

Time-Frame:

Deadline: Friday 14th March 2025 at 10am

Results: Early-April 2025

Reporting Deadline: 31st December 2025 (a simple monitoring & report form will be provided to successful applicants)