



THE NATIONAL FOREST

The National Forest Arts Grants: Guidance for applicants

National Forest Arts Grants are available to support the National Forest creative community to develop and pilot new projects inspired by the National Forest and in response to one or more of the following themes - Nature, Health & Wellbeing, Sense of Place, Sustainability and Climate Action.

We are looking for projects that develop new approaches to engaging people either through the development process or the sharing and celebration of the work.

We hope to award 6 grants of up to £3000, to be delivered between 31 January – 16 September 2022.

What sort of projects are we looking to support?

The scheme is open to any art form, including but not restricted to, visual arts, performing arts, crafts, lens-based media, digital arts and socially engaged practice.

We are looking for projects that share the values of the National Forest which are centred around the belief that tackling climate change is urgent, sustainability is achievable and only by working together with nature can society and the economy thrive.

In 2021 we received a broad range of proposals, with the awarded projects providing a variety of opportunities for people to experience the Forest in new and unique ways, from podcasts, printed booklets and songs to a mobile exhibition which toured the Forest by bicycle.

If suitable then selected projects will have the opportunity to be shared as part of Timber festival, 1-3 July 2022. However, it is not expected that all projects will be presented as part of Timber.

timberfestival.org.uk

Who are the Arts Grants aimed at?

The scheme is to support arts activity to be delivered in the National Forest and is open to artists, creative practitioners, arts organisations and community groups either based in the National Forest or who can demonstrate an existing connection to the National Forest.

The National Forest covers 200 square miles of the Midlands, including parts of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire – nationalforest.org

We welcome and encourage applications from those who are underrepresented in the creative and environmental sectors, including but not limited to, Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people, individuals with Disabilities and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Grant Criteria

Applicants will need to meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate how the proposal is inspired by and connected specifically to the National Forest.
- Describe how the project responds to one or more of the following themes:
 - *Nature*
 - *Health & Wellbeing*
 - *Sense of Place*
 - *Sustainability*
 - *Climate Action*
- Explain how the proposed idea will provide new creative opportunities for engaging people with the National Forest in an accessible and inclusive way.
- Evidence of being based in the National Forest or can demonstrate an existing connection to the Forest.
- Projects should be delivered within the timeframe of 31 January – 16 September 2022.

Projects will be selected based upon the above, along with the strength and quality of the idea and the proposed delivery. We also hope to award these grants across a range of art forms and approaches.

Additional considerations

It is not essential to have match funding to apply, but it will be looked upon favourably, so where relevant please detail any cash and/or in-kind support.

As this funding crosses two financial years, a third of the payment will need to be made by 31 March 2022 (up to £1000 to be claimed by 14 March and supported by a financial update) and the remainder on completion of the project, via a claim form and on receipt of a project report.

Expenditure can not be claimed for in advance of work being carried out/items purchased. Evidence of expenditure including receipts or invoices for all items will need to be submitted with your claim.

The National Forest Company will aim to process payment within 5 working days following confirmation of claim receipt.

Time should be factored in to compile and submit claims, financial updates and the final report, along with communications with the National Forest Company relating to National Forest messaging.

The National Forest Company are able to provide support in promoting Arts Grants projects, through sharing socials, creating blog posts and a press release when suitable, but the overall communications should be led by the applicant.

How to apply

Applications should be made via the National Forest Arts Grants application form available to download from the website nationalforest.org/about/partner-with-us/grant-opportunities or by contacting Jo Maker, Festival & Arts Officer - jmaker@nationalforest.org.

The deadline for applying is 5pm Monday 10 January 2022. Please email your application to Jo Maker and title your email 'Arts Grants Application'.

If you would prefer to submit your application in another format for access reasons or require the information in an alternative format then please get in touch.

Please also complete the Diversity Monitoring Form and return this to abeech@nationalforest.org. The form is to help monitor our opportunities and analyse diversity information so that we can ensure that our processes are fair, transparent and promote equality of opportunity.

What happens next

Applications will be reviewed the week of 10 January and you will be notified of the decision via email (or alternative if requested) by 17 January 2022.

If successful you will be sent an offer letter along with the grant conditions. We will then require written confirmation of your acceptance of the grant (on the "Acceptance of Grant Aid" form sent to you with the offer letter) within two weeks of receiving your offer. If you would prefer your grant to be paid by BACS transfer, please ensure that you have filled out the BACS information on the 'Acceptance of Grant Aid' form before returning it.

Grant Conditions

Grant aid will be made subject to a number of conditions, the key ones being that:

- Grant aided items are maintained for a minimum of five years.
- The applicant agrees not to dispose of an asset purchased with grant aid without the prior approval of the National Forest Company.
- The grant does not cover 'Capital' items such as vehicles, computers and office equipment; or items such as video-cameras. Consideration will be given to the temporary hire of such items, if relevant.
- The National Forest Company should be given credit for their support on all publicity material, including press releases and written or spoken public presentations about the project applying the National Forest Company's brand guidelines and using the 'Supported by The National Forest' logo.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss an idea then please get in touch with Jo Maker, by emailing jmaker@nationalforest.org or on 07816 213225.