

The Mighty Creatives: FAQs for Young Empowerment Fund

Please refer to this document to help you complete the application form.

1. Who are The Mighty Creatives?

Established in 2009, The Mighty Creatives is a charity which has transformed the lives of Children and Young People through arts, culture and creativity. Based at the heart of the Cultural Quarter in Leicester, we have served children and young people's communities across the East Midlands, reaching across the UK and Internationally through our partnership work.

You can find out more about The Mighty Creatives [on our website here](#).

2. What can my creative idea be?

We want your creative idea to be an opportunity for any of the following:

- Develops your skills.
- Allows for creative collaboration.
- Helps start a creative enterprise.
- Develops and share your creative voice.
- Supports your personal and creative development.

We've kept these headings broad and open, so that you've got plenty of opportunity to tell us what you'd like to do.

Below are some the previous projects that have been made as a result of this bursary:

- Photoshoots (exploring diverse backgrounds and underrepresentation in the arts)
- Performance pieces (including dance, music, and theatre)
- Writing kits (motivating young people to keep writing during a time of isolation)
- Zines (collaborating with others to produce writing and visuals reflecting on the past year)
- Positivity packages (a creative business that improves wellbeing)
- Animation (sharing someone's personal journey into the arts)
- Craft boxes and workshops (providing materials and workshops for families to get creative together)

Please note that these are just examples to help you come up with your own ideas! We welcome any creative ideas that fit the brief.

Projects can take shape in any art form – we have a broad definition of what this can mean and look forward to seeing how you interpret the word 'creative' in your application!

3. Where can I find inspiration?

Think about what creative skills you already have, or skills you would like to learn and develop. From this you can think about what kind of creative project you would like to produce. Maybe you would love to collaborate with someone to create something – this can be the basis of your project. Perhaps you've identified an issue in your community and have a creative solution to solve this and want to make a positive impact. Or maybe you have a project that will allow you to develop your skills and creativity. These are just a couple of suggestions to help get your ideas following and for you to share your creative voice. Doing research online about previous creative projects can also be a good starting point!



4. What do we mean by 'developing your skills'?

This is an opportunity for you to practise and grow different skills that might be useful in your work and careers, even if you chose not to pursue a creative career. So, this might mean working on things that are important in lots of jobs and careers. For instance:

- Working to a plan
- Getting things done on time
- Working together with other people
- Communicating your ideas
- Sticking to your budget
- Problem solving
- Thinking about how to improve next time

These are just some examples and you may be able to think of other skills that are more important for you to practise and grow through this project.

5. What do we mean by 'allowing for creative collaboration'?

We think it is really important and rewarding that in your projects you look for opportunities to work with different creative people. You can draw on their knowledge, skills and inspiration and share yours with them too. Your Creative Coaches should be a key part of how you think about creative collaboration, but you may want to draw on other key people you know too.

6. What do we mean by 'helps start a creative enterprise'?

A creative enterprise can be lots of different things, everything from selling your original fabric designs in an Etsy shop, to setting up as commercial photographer, to becoming a gigging musician, and everything in between! It is also not necessarily about making a profit, creative enterprises can be for the benefit of communities, for

instance through volunteering your time. It's about making the most of your skills and energy to develop a satisfying creative career in whatever way you think is right for you.

Creative enterprise can refer to starting up a full-time creative business, but we know that this is a huge leap. Setting up a full-time creative business won't be for all, and if this is for you, you will need to take this step by step and get lots of good advice. So, for this fund we want to hear about how you might explore ideas about enterprise.

7. What do we mean by a 'creative voice'?

Your voice is your self-expression, your values, and your beliefs. It is a way for you to share your feelings and opinions on what you care about. A creative voice is doing this through creativity and through culture and the arts (whatever art form you choose)!

8. What do we mean by 'personal and creative development'?

When we say personal development, we mean how you might see yourself growing and changing through this project. How will it impact you? It might for example, mean you grow in confidence or that you use others you work with on your project to help reflect on your work.

When we say creative development, this might be about you exploring a new inspiration, trying new creative techniques, working with other people or doing something creative you've never done before but always wanted to. This is all part of your journey as a creative person.

9. How do I receive my bursary?



If you are successful, you will receive what we call a 'Grant Agreement', this is something you will need to sign (along with your parents/care giver if you're under 18) to confirm you understand what the bursary is for.

At this time, we will also ask you to complete a form with yours or your parents/care givers bank details so that we can make a payment to you to complete your grant.

Once we have received these, we will ask you to send an invoice. This is a document that asks for a total sum of money and explains what the money will be used for.

As long as you meet the deadlines for the documents that we send you to complete, you should receive your bursary by July in time for the start of your project delivery.

10. I have never signed a grant agreement or sent an invoice before. Will I receive support with this?

Absolutely! We will go over the grant agreement with you in the first of our online group

sessions and will provide an invoice template for you to complete with your relevant details. Any questions that come to you outside of this session can also be sent to the Project Assistant working on the programme if you need further support.

11. What is a Creative Coach?

A Creative Coach is a professional who will be on hand to support you throughout your project. Alongside a series of drop-in and group sessions that are online, your Creative Coach will be able to offer support on developing your idea, delivering your project, and sharing your achievements, as well as any other help you may need throughout the process. You will have 5 hours with your Creative Coach, and it is envisaged that you will spend approx. 1 hour per month of the programme in a 1-2-1 with your Creative Coach.

Your 1-2-1 sessions with your Creative Coach will be arranged between you and your Creative Coach to suit your schedules.

12. Who will choose my Creative Coach?

Creative Coaches are paired with you by The Mighty Creatives. We look at their expertise and interests to make the decision. We will look at your project and pair you with the Creative Coach who is most suited to support you.

13. What will we do in our first session?

Your first session with your Creative Coach will be an opportunity to get to know your Coach and for them to get to know you. You will be able to explain your project to them and identify areas that you feel you will need the most support with. They will have access to your application before your first meeting, so that they have some background information on what it is you want to do. During this session, we will ask you to complete a questionnaire together, and to complete a timeline for your project to ensure that you can finish on time.

14. What other support will I receive?

Alongside receiving a Creative Coach, there is an online support package to help you as part of the programme. The full support package consists of:

- 5 x 1 hour of 1-2-1 support with an individual Creative Coach
- 1 x 1 hour Welcome and Grant Briefing Session
- 5 x 1.5 hour Hybrid Project Management Webinars & Discussion Sessions

If you are unable to attend our hybrid online sessions, do not worry. The webinar aspect of the session has been recorded and is available online via our learning platform, Teachable. You will have access to this to catch up on anything you may have missed out on.

We also understand that other commitments may crop up, or that you may be unable to attend the dates and times of the sessions. This is completely fine, all we ask is that you contact us to let us know if this is the case. We recommend attending the group online sessions whenever possible, as these are designed to help support you with the development and delivery of your project and are an opportunity for you to get to know other people on the programme.

15. How long do I have to complete my project?



You have from **1st July 2022** until **1st December 2022** to complete your funded project. There will be a sharing and celebration event online at the end of this programme. Details will be shared nearer the time. Once the programme comes to a close, we would highly encourage you to keep building your ideas and utilising your creativity.

16. What happens if Covid-19 restrictions are put back in place?

We are aware that the current situation could change at any time, which could have an effect on the delivery of your projects. As part of your application, we ask you to consider any ideas you might have on how to deliver your project if restrictions were to come back into place during the programme.

All group sessions and Creative Coach 1-2-1s would remain unaffected due to these taking place online regardless of the current situation.

17. What happens if something changes to my circumstance that means I cannot finish on time?

We are aware that sometimes life can get in the way of deadlines, especially now during such an unpredictable time. Your well-being is the most important thing to us, so all we ask is that you keep your Creative Coach and the Project Assistant in the loop of any developments that might disrupt your project or get in contact with them about anything you are struggling with, so that we help you to finish your project as close as we can to the deadline. What is most important is that you do not worry and know that we are here to support you.

18. How can I submit my application?

You can submit your application by completing the application web form that is on our website, or if you are having any issues with this format, please contact us about other ways that you can apply. Email us at artalliances@themightycreatives.com

19. How will you decide on successful applications?

We are looking for projects that can do any of the following:

- Help you develop a broad range of skills.

- Encourage creative collaboration.
- Are the start of a creative enterprise.
- Have a positive impact on your community.
- Projects **must** be delivered between **July 2022** and **December 2022**.

There will be a panel that will include The Mighty Creatives staff who will view your applications. We will then assess and score submissions against our criteria. We cannot guarantee that we can fund your application.

20. What if the idea I put in my application form changes and I end up working on something slightly different?

This is completely fine. You can work with a Creative Coach who will be able to support you to develop your idea, which may mean your idea changes throughout the process. The key thing is that it should use your creativity! We are also aware that ambitions may need to be scaled back from what was originally proposed – this is also fine!

21. What is a privacy statement and why do I need to complete it?

A privacy statement describes why and how we collect and use personal data and provides information about your rights. It applies to the data we receive by people themselves and others. The law says that we are required to do this. You need to complete one to give us permission to contact you and safely store your data to support you through this programme.

22. Why do you need my parent/ carer giver's contact details for under 18s?

We need these details because we are not allowed to hold contact details for anyone under 18. If you supply these details of a parent/ carer giver, please make sure that you have permission.

23. What is an Equal Opportunities Form and why do I need to complete it?

Equal Opportunities Forms are not mandatory and **do not have to be completed**. They are completely optional and anonymous. The reason that we ask for this information is because it helps us to understand who we are reaching and how we can better serve everyone in our community. If you do not feel comfortable completing the Equal Opportunities Form please skip any/ all of the questions. This will have no impact on the outcome of your application.

24. I've never put together a budget before. What would one look like?

A budget is a document that shows how much money you have coming in (income) and where from and how much you are going to spend and what on (expenditure). In more complex budgets you also plot this over time, so you know when income and expenditure is happening.

For this project the only income should be from Young Empowerment Fund.

Your expenditure might include things like resources, marketing costs, or costs of commissioning an artist for example. You may want to do some research around how much things will cost before you submit an application.

You may want to consider costs like the following. These will be completely dependent on what sort of project you wish to do:

- Resources (like art resources and materials etc.)
- Equipment
- Stationery
- Printing
- Postage
- Technical support
- Any software/app costs
- Costs for commissioning artists
- Marketing and advertising
- Design costs

Here is a very simple example to help you:

Income	£	When?
Young Empowerment Fund	500	July 2022
Income Total	500	
Expenditure		
Equipment	100	August 2022
Collaborating with a skilled person for technical support	150	September 2022
Training to learn a new skills	100	August 2022
Promotion and advertising	150	November 2022
Expenditure Total	500	

As you can see your income and expenditure total is the same. This is called a **balanced budget** and means that you are spending no more than are getting in.

We advise that you create a realistic budget that only uses the money that you get from this fund. Remember that you can apply for up to £500! Your application will not be treated differently if you apply for less money. All applications are treated the same, regardless of the amount you apply for.

Glossary to support application of Young Empowerment Fund:

Below are some definitions of words that may help you complete your application form.



Application Form: This is the form you need to complete to submit an application. We will use this completed form to assess whether you receive a grant or not.

Bursary: A sum of money given for a particular purpose (e.g. the money we are agreeing to give to you to develop your project), also known as a grant.

Creative Coach: This is a member of The Mighty Creatives team who will support you to develop, deliver and present your idea and project. They will be contactable by email.

Grant Agreement: This is an agreement between an organisation and a person receiving the grant. It sets terms, conditions and informs the person receiving the grant about what they must do in order to receive their money. If you are successful, you will receive a grant agreement to read and sign, along with your parent/carer if you are under 18 in order to receive your money.

Grant: A sum of money given for a particular purpose (e.g. the money we are agreeing to give to you to develop your project), also known as a bursary.

Invoice: This is a form you send to ask for a payment (a template will be given to you if you haven't sent one before).