

Community Participation Grants - Guidance Notes

About the fund

The Isle of Man Arts Council's Community Participation Fund offers grants of up to £2,000 to creative practitioners of all artforms who want to run workshops, collaborative projects or other events with groups across the Isle of Man.

These notes explain who can apply, what the fund will cover, how applications are assessed, and what you'll need to prepare before you apply.

Eligibility criteria

- Your project must include an element of working with or for a community or group. This can be an existing group, or a group of invited or selected individuals.
- There should be at least 6 people planned to participate, in addition to you as the applicant.
- Your project should include an element of something new, and you can decide how to interpret this. It could be engaging a group of participants who are new to you, piloting a new creative activity within the participation offer you develop, or working with new technologies. Your proposal could address a challenge or problem, promote a wellbeing benefit, develop learning and skills or raise awareness of a topic, cause or idea.
- You must apply under one of the three themes currently open (see below). Themes may change or be updated over time.

What you can apply for

Applicants can request funding of up to £2,000 towards:

- Artist time, at up to £44 per hour (based on the Artists' Union England average fee)
- Equipment hire or purchase
- Venue or space hire
- Materials and consumables
- Public Liability Insurance for the duration of the funded event, if required

Costs for anything outside this list cannot be considered under this fund. If you have an idea for project with costs that exceed £2,000 please apply for a grant, or contact us.

Themes

Theme 1 - Blein Ny Gaelgey (A Manx Day Out in Douglas)

For musicians, dancers, muralists, filmmakers, designers, actors, writers and other creatives with an idea for a collaborative project. Successful applicants will work alongside Culture Vannin to deliver community arts at the Manx Language celebration in Douglas.

- Your proposal should include a connection to Manx language as part of the activity.
- Events should take place on or around Saturday 24th 2026, in Douglas. Preparation time can happen beforehand.
- Successful applicants can receive support from Culture Vannin with Manx language content.

Applications close: 11th September 2026

Ideas to inspire you:

- A cultural group organises a street parade featuring Manx culture in Costumes and Manx Language in song/dance.
- A new media designer develops an augmented reality or projected Manx language trail that members of the public can engage with.
- A painter works with a group to run a mini mural festival for display at the event.
- An audio-visual artist creates a high impact and immersive Manx language light & sound installation.
- A designer works with traders to develop Manx language artwork in shop windows.
- A songwriter creates new simple Manx language songbook to launch at the event with a workshop and public performance.
- A curator organises a public art exhibition featuring the Manx language in public space
- An event organiser creates a Manx Makers Market with workshops.

Location: Priority will be given to projects that can be delivered in the areas involved in the Manx Day Out in Douglas event – Strand Street, North Quay, Castle Street, Duke Street, Harris Promenade, Villa Marina Arcade and the streets that connect to these areas.

Theme 2 - Wellbeing and Connection

For creatives who want to help promote wellbeing and/or connection with others, either within the activity itself or as an outcome.

- Applications close: 1st January 2027
- Projects should be completed before 31st March 2027.

Ideas to inspire you:

- Multi-sensory artwork developed with users with disabilities
- A weekend percussion group with teens in a glen, culminating in a live outdoor performance
- A film club for older people combining socialising with film critique
- Stage a theatrical performance in your garden for your neighbours or community

Theme 3 - Social Prescribing

Delivered in partnership with the Department of Public Health. Proposals should be designed and delivered for residents living in the north of the Isle of Man, supporting people experiencing isolation, reduced confidence or life transitions such as retirement or bereavement. Future projects may extend to other areas of the Island.

Activities that you propose will be prescribed by GPs for individuals that fit certain criteria.

- Ongoing until further notice

Delivery requirements:

- Programme duration: 6-12 weeks
- Frequency: one session per week
- Delivered within the northern area of the Isle of Man
- Open and accessible to local residents
- Delivered through creative and arts-based activity

This programme is intended as an early intervention and preventative wellbeing initiative, and is not designed for individuals requiring specialist or intensive mental health support.

Your application should show how your activity will contribute to one or more of:

- Increased social connectedness
- Reduced social isolation
- Improved wellbeing
- Increased confidence and self-expression

- Increased participation in community activities
- Development of supportive peer relationships
- Improved sense of belonging within the local community

Additional criteria for Social Prescribing:

Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate:

- Strong community engagement
- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Experience of working with community groups
- Ability to create safe, welcoming and supportive environments
- A clear understanding of how creative activity can support wellbeing and social connection
- Sustainable links with local communities and organisations

Notes on event planning and safeguarding

If you're successful, you'll need to consider all appropriate risk assessments, permissions, safeguarding measures and ratios, and public liability insurance. The Isle of Man Arts Council does not accept liability for events beyond providing funding and support to successful applicants.

Activity involving young people or vulnerable people is welcomed, and should be appropriately safeguarded and risk assessed in line with current Manx legislation and guidance. If you're not sure where to start, let us know on your application — Arts Development officers can provide additional guidance to successful applicants on request.

Access support

If any participants or members of your creative team have access needs that will incur a cost during your project, you can apply for additional funding that will not form part of your £2,000 budget. This covers support required under the protected characteristics of the Isle of Man Equality Act 2017, and can include (but is not limited to):

- Personal assistance support
- Transport
- Accommodation
- Equipment, including adaptations
- Communication support, such as BSL interpretation, note-taking, speech-to-text reporting, lip-speaking, or translation of documents into other formats or languages, including Easy Read, large print or audio

Measuring impact

Demonstrating the value of your project matters to us as much as it does to you. Your application should describe how you plan to measure impact on participants and any audience, for example through feedback, attendance records, surveys or follow-up interviews.

If successful, you'll be asked to complete a Project Evaluation Form (PEF) within one month of the end of your project.

What you'll need to apply

- A breakdown of all costs, including quotes
- A brief creative profile
- A marketing plan
- Details of your proposal, including what you'd like to do, where, and why
- How your project addresses the "something new" criteria
- Expected number of participants and audience, and the outcomes you expect for participants (numbers not required for Social Prescribing)

How to apply

- Register or log in to the Isle of Man Arts Council online application portal.
- Select the Community Participation Fund and choose your theme.
- Complete the application form, upload your supporting documents, and submit.
- You'll receive confirmation on screen and by email once your application has been submitted.
- Officers will be in touch, and you'll receive email confirmation once a decision has been made.

Key dates

Programme	Applications close	Project completion
A Manx Day Out In... Douglas	11th September 2026	24th or 31st October 2026
Wellbeing and Connection	1st January 2027	31st March 2027

Social Prescribing	Ongoing	Ongoing
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Declaration and disclosure

By applying, you confirm that all information given is true and accurate. If successful, you agree to credit the Isle of Man Arts Council in all publicity, to abide by any conditions attached to your funding, and to supply proof of expenditure (receipts) and a completed Project Evaluation Form within one month of the end of your project.

Details of your application may be shared with the Department of Education, Sport and Culture, Public Health, Culture Vannin, the Manx Lottery Trust and other relevant government bodies. Your information may be released into the public domain through Freedom of Information requests, though your bank details will never be included. Details from your application and End of Project Form may also feature as statistics in the Isle of Man Arts Council Annual Report.

If you're successful, details of your project and financial award will be posted on our website. As part of the funding process, you'll be asked to submit high-resolution photos of your event or project for our website and social media.

All funding decisions are at the discretion of the Isle of Man Arts Council and are final.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about the Community Participation Fund, or would like guidance before you apply, please contact the Arts Development team at the Isle of Man Arts Council.

Phone: 01624 694598

Email: iomartscouncil@gov.im