**The Mighty Creatives: Networking and Collaborative Working Grants for Schools**

The Mighty Creatives invite schools and arts organisations to apply for a grant of **up to £1000** to support networking and collaborative working for schools in your area. The grant is available for all schools in the East Midlands region.

The purpose of these grants is to enable teachers to come together from different schools to further their skills and confidence in the delivery of cultural provision within schools and share best practice in these everchanging times. This might be an opportunity for your schools to work collaboratively to…

* Discuss subject leadership and policies
* Share practical solutions to common challenges (i.e. social distancing in the classroom, sharing resources, working in bubbles etc.)
* Explore embedding creative learning across curriculum subjects
* Support and develop positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience in children, young people and staff
* Discuss and explore racial equality and diversity within the school and curriculum

It also provides the opportunity for schools to work collectively on their vision for the Arts and Cultural provision through our free Arts Policy development workshops provided by our Education Consultant.

Previous applicants have explored using the networking grants to…

* Deliver an event which developed attendees understanding of the progression of Visual Arts skills from Early Years to Year 6 with support from an Education Consultant and Fine Artist
* Deliver a networking event with a prize-winner author and poet that explored embedding best-practice of creative writing pedagogy in curriculums
* Provide CPD across art forms, delivered by local artists and practitioners

The grant can be used to cover a variety of start-up costs for the launch of a network, or towards a new activity within an already established network of schools. This can include the following:

* To cover the costs of local artists or workshop facilitators leading CPD opportunities as part of the networking and collaborative working programme
* To cover costs of recruiting a speaker to share knowledge and expertise as part of the networking and collaborative working programme
* To produce a resource or number of resources (documents, videos, toolkits etc.) to share amongst your network
* Venue hire and catering costs (if organising face-to-face activity)

**Please note, if you’re applying for face-to-face delivery, we require you to ensure you are adhering to all government health and safety guidance. Please highlight how you are planning to do this in your application.**

As well as receiving the networking grant, recipients will also have free access to:

* A ½ day workshop (face to face) or an online focused conversation (digital) on **Arts Policy development**
* Ongoing support with **Arts Policy development** via email
* Briefings as part of your networking session on **Arts Award and Artsmark**
* Further support from the wider Mighty Creatives’ team

Applicants must be able to commit to reaching and evidencing reach with at least 10 schools through the proposed activity.

We are particularly interested in applications from schools who wish to utilise this grant to launch a collaborative working initiative to be sustained in the future and applications that wish to with local arts and cultural organisations too. If you’re looking for partners in your area, please contact Emily York by email [Emily.york@themightycreatives.com](mailto:Emily.york@themightycreatives.com) who will be able to signpost you.

To apply, please complete and return the application form below by email at [Emily.york@themightycreatives.com](mailto:Emily.york@themightycreatives.com). If you are successful with your application, as part of accepting your offer you will be asked to provide equal opportunities data regarding your organisation and your staff.  You will also be required to provide equal opportunities data regarding any beneficiaries of the work as part of your end point report. Templates will be provided to assist with this process.

The deadline for applications is **9am on Monday 7th December 2020.**

Networking and collaborative working activity must be confirmed by Jan 2021 for delivery by end of March 2021. For monitoring purposes, all events must be featured on, and bookings taken through, the TMC website. Attendance at the events must also be logged using a TMC sign-in process.

**Who can apply?**

This offer is open to schools or other organisations in the East Midlands who:

* Can bring together a group of local teachers **(a minimum of 10)** from different schools interested in developing cultural provision across their network.
* Have support from their Senior Leadership Team and capacity to organise and oversee the delivery of the networking programme as well as the Arts Policy workshop. Details must be confirmed by Jan 2021 for delivery by end of March 2021.
* Are happy to provide 15-minutes within the networking session for a TMC Consultant to talk to the group about the work of TMC, and in particular **Artsmark and Arts Award.**
* Applicant lead schools must be a member of our **Creative Schools Network.** Not a member? You can sign up for [**free here.**](https://themightycreatives.com/what-we-do/programmes/creative-schools-networks/)
* Can demonstrate how the event will support longer-term networking activity e.g. opening discussion around areas such as pooling resources for ongoing CPD, as evidence of need for another funding body, as an initial launch for on-going skills sharing events, or the intention to continue with a digital network post-event.
* Please be aware we are particularly interested in supporting schools and smaller arts organisations to develop opportunities to bring together new networks of schools. We are therefore unlikely to support applications from organisations that have previously received funding from TMC or ACE to develop work of this nature.
* Applications are welcome from schools and organisations throughout the East Midlands but are particularly sought from DfE Category 5 and 6 Local Area Districts (listed in FAQs below).

**Key Timeline and Milestones**

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| **9am Monday 7th Dec 2020** | Deadline for Networking Grant Applications. |
| **Wednesday 16th Dec 2020** | Applicants informed of outcome. |
| **Monday 25th Jan 2021** | Details of all networking activity confirmed and included on TMC website.  Date confirmed for Arts Policy workshop. |
| **Jan-March 2021** | Ongoing recruitment to networking event. |
| **End of March 2021** | All networking activity completed. |
| **End of March 2021** | Submit summary report of impact and future plans. |

**FAQs**

**Can the money be used to support an existing network?**

These grants are intended to help facilitate the development of new networking opportunities for local schools. However existing networks are welcome to apply providing they can evidence how the money will be used to support new activity that would otherwise not be possible. Examples may include: to launch a dedicated arts-subject network within an existing MAT or employing a local artist to run a CPD session for schools who already hold regular skills-sharing opportunities.

**My network is very large, can I apply for more than £1000?**

£1000 is the maximum amount that can be applied for, and we encourage applicants to only apply for the specific amount they need. In order to support as many applications as possible, it is unlikely that many awards of £1000 will be made unless there is demonstrable need for the full allocation of funding.

**Can I use this funding for training within a single school?**

These grants are being offered to help develop connectivity and support across a number of different schools. Applications providing CPD opportunities for teachers within a single school will not be considered.

**I’m an arts organisation working with schools, can I still apply?**

Applications are welcome from both schools and arts organisations, provided they are well connected with local schools and are hosting the event exclusively for the benefit of teachers in the area.

**I am an individual working in schools, can I still apply?**

We cannot accept applications from individuals; however, we would encourage you to work with a local school or arts organisation to submit an application in partnership.

**Can the grant be used to purchase resources for my network?**

Money can only be used in the support of networking activity itself and cannot be used for the purchase of resources. However, we would encourage applicants to use this as an opportunity to evidence need and interest for a larger bid to another funding body. All applicants are welcome to join our free [Funding Support Programme](https://themightycreatives.com/what-we-do/programmes/funding-support-programme/#:~:text=our%20funding%20support%20programme&text=The%20Mighty%20Creatives%20is%20committed,to%20thrive%20in%20young%20lives.&text=Access%20to%20our%20programme%20of%20free%20and%20reduced%2Drate%20funding%20workshops) to access ongoing support in this area.

**What arts activities can the network event focus on?**

We are interested in supporting the development of arts and cultural activity in schools in the broadest sense. To that end, a variety of cultural topics can be explored through the network, including but not limited to: dance, drama, music, visual arts, literature, media and animation, heritage, textiles, technology and design. We are also interested in cross-curricular subjects whereby the arts are intrinsic in supporting wider development or attainment for example: using arts to support core subjects, arts and wellbeing, or arts and inclusive practice.

**How many schools need to attend my networking event?**

Each networking event much reach a **minimum of 10 schools**, however applications for events that will reach a larger number of schools are particularly welcome. It is important to demonstrate in your application evidence of need and interest from local schools to run the networking event, and the release of grant funding will be subject to attendance on the day.

**Where are the DfE Category 5 and category 6 Local Area Districts?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **District Name** | **Upper-tier Local Authority** | **Category grouping** |
| Derby | Derby | 6 |
| Amber Valley | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Bolsover | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Chesterfield | Derbyshire | 6 |
| Erewash | Derbyshire | 6 |
| High Peak | Derbyshire | 6 |
| North East Derbyshire | Derbyshire | 6 |
| South Derbyshire | Derbyshire | 6 |
| South Holland | Lincolnshire | 6 |
| Corby | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Daventry | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| East Northamptonshire | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Kettering | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Northampton | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Wellingborough | Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Nottingham | Nottingham | 6 |
| Leicester | Leicester | 5 |
| East Lindsey | Lincolnshire | 5 |
| Lincoln | Lincolnshire | 5 |
| Ashfield | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Broxtowe | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Mansfield | Nottinghamshire | 5 |
| Newark and Sherwood | Nottinghamshire | 5 |

**Can I use this grant to fund a networking session within a larger event, for example a break-out within a conference?**

Due to the monitoring requirements of this funding, we cannot support activity that forms part of a large-scale event. However, it may be possible for TMC to provide alternative support at your conference or similar event. Please contact us directly to find out more.

**Can the grant be used to help our network work together to achieve Artsmark?**

Grants cannot be used to support networking activity exclusive to the Artsmark journey. We have a number of ways to support groups of schools wishing to work together to achieve Artsmark, including our Group School Offer programme. If you are interested in support of this kind, please contact [artsmark@themightycreatives.com](mailto:artsmark@themightycreatives.com)

**Why do we need to use The Mighty Creatives’ sign in sheets/Survey Monkey sign in forms?**

As well as through the event bookings, the sign in sheets provide us with an accurate number of those who attended the event. They also allow us to get specific permissions from delegates on whether we can continue to contact them as well as identify what programme areas delegates would like to engage with. As a lot of work is happening remotely, these may be gathered using a SurveyMonkey/Microsoft form rather than a sign-in sheet.

**What do I do next?**

To take us up on this offer, we advise that you get in touch and discuss your application with us. Please contact [Emily.york@themightycreatives.com](mailto:Emily.york@themightycreatives.com) to speak to a member of our team. To apply, please complete the application form below and return to [emily.york@themightycreatives.com](mailto:emily.york@themightycreatives.com) by **9am Monday 7th December 2020.**

The Mighty Creatives will let you know the outcome of your application by email on **Wednesday 16th December.**

If you have any further questions during the application process please contact Emily York, available Monday – Wednesday:

Email: [emily.york@themightycreatives.com](mailto:emily.york@themightycreatives.com)

Phone: 0116 2616 834

Mobile: 07771 728163

**Networking Grant Application – December 2020**

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| **Name** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Email** |  |

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| **Phone number** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Name of school / organisation you work for** |  |

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| **Address of school / organisation you work for** |  |

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| 1. **Please provide an outline of your proposed networking activity. Where possible, please indicate provisional date and timings as well as content.** |
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| 1. **How many schools do you intend to reach through your networking and collaborative working activity? Please include details of geographical location and name any schools that have already confirmed they are interested in attending.** |
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| 1. **Please provide evidence of need and interest in the proposed networking and collaborative working activity, and details of how you intend to recruit to the event to ensure the widest possible reach. We cannot support events that have been planned without full consultation and agreement from local schools.** |
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| 1. **How will this event support on-going networking and collaborative working for schools in the future?** |
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| 1. **Please confirm whether you would prefer a face-to-face OR digital Arts Policy workshop for your network.** |  |

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| 1. **How much money are you applying for? Please provide a detailed breakdown of how you intend to use the grant, including any other sources of funding or support in-kind (you can use the space below or you are welcome to attach a separate spreadsheet).** |

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| 1. **Please confirm you are happy:**  * For a TMC Consultant to be part of the networking and collaborative working activity and will allocate time for them to talk to schools about the work of TMC. * For the networking event to be featured on the TMC website. * For bookings for your event to be taken through the TMC website. * To use the TMC sign-in sheet to log attendance at your event or the SurveyMonkey alternative set up for working remotely. |
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| **We want to stay in touch…**  We like to keep in contact with the individuals and organisations we connect with, this helps us grow as a charity and improve our work for children and young people.  Our marketing is predominantly informative and not excessive; however, should you wish to adjust the frequency of our contact with you, you can do so at any time.    The data you provide will be retained by The Mighty Creatives (the ‘data holders’) in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and related legislation.  By providing your data to us, you are consenting to the data holders making contact with you in the future by telephone, email or other means.  Your data will not be sold and will not be given to anyone not connected to The Mighty Creatives.    If you would like more information about our data protection policy, please visit our terms and conditions pages on our website.   * I give permission for The Mighty Creatives to contact me with future details and opportunities   (Name)…………………………………………….(Date)………………………………… |

Please return your completed application form to [emily.york@themightycreatives.com](mailto:emily.york@themightycreatives.com) by **9am Monday 7th December 2020.**