

About the fund: Guildhall Futures is a new funding scheme to provide professional and artistic development support to our alumni community.

Today artists face more challenges than ever before. The Guildhall Futures fund has been developed to offer professional development support, to address issues raised during this time of crisis. These grants can be used for advancing artistic practice, launching research and development, and seed funding new ideas.

We hope that this funding will give our alumni artists space to consider their practice, adapt to a fundamentally changed landscape and maintain sustainable and fulfilling careers.

We have two priority areas, but this does not mean that other applications won't be considered. It just means that applications with these focuses will be given preference if the decision is close between two different applications. These areas are:

1. Social and community engagement
2. Projects by underrepresented practitioners, or aimed at underrepresented audiences and participants (including people who are D/deaf and disabled; Trans, LGBTQIA+, Black and ethnically diverse; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, people from care or people that are carers; people with limited access to education or the arts).

This is a pilot initiative, and we will review this at the end of its first year. Please note that we may also make minor in-year changes to criteria, to enable us to adapt to feedback. If re-applying, please ensure that you read the application guidance in full.

Funded activity: Building sustainable practice, training and professional development, research and development of new ideas (R&D), developing and/or creating new work, building networks, establishing a start-up business or collective, undertaking artistic residencies.

Grant range: You can apply for funding between £500-£3,000.

Eligibility: Guildhall School alumni who have completed a higher education programme of at least one year's full-time duration (or part-time equivalent), within the past 5 academic years (2017-2021 inclusive). You must have completed your course in order to be eligible. You must be eligible to live and work in the UK in order to apply.

Criteria: Please consider our criteria when writing your application, which can be seen below in Appendix 1. Your proposal must demonstrate a clear plan and schedule for all activity and planned outcomes (i.e. how will this grant allow you to unlock or advance the

next stage of your artistic practice or career? What exactly are you planning to do? What is the timeline for activity?).

What you can apply for: Funding is provided for the advancement of creative practice and creative careers. It is intended to support artists to consider, adapt and redefine their practice in line with a rapidly shifting arts industry. The funding is designed to be flexible to support a range of professional and artistic development activity broadly related to the disciplines of Music, Drama and Production Arts. This might include:

- Practical implementation of steps to build the sustainability / resilience of your practice, reflecting on the impact made on your practice by COVID-19 (e.g. resource and research materials, the cost of your time away from other paid work)
- Training and upskilling (e.g. course fees or equipment such as software)
- Coaching and/or mentoring (e.g. coaching fees)
- Artistic practice development through research (e.g. purchase of research resources)
- R&D of ideas (e.g. costs for proto-typing and 'lab' work for early stage creative projects, writing, purchase of services such as legal advice)
- Developing new creative partnerships and building your professional network for the future (e.g. transport costs)
- Undertaking artistic residencies with the aim of considering, adapting and/or redefining your artistic practice.

How to apply: Please send an email to futuresfund@gsmd.ac.uk by **Tuesday 12 April** with the following:

- A completed application form
- A completed budget
- Your CV

Please note that any application that does not include all of the above documents will not be considered.

Selection: Applications will be reviewed by a representative and interdisciplinary panel of industry experts and Guildhall staff. All applicants will receive written feedback on their applications when requested.

When assessing your application, the panel will review against the criteria in Appendix 1. They will take into account Guildhall's commitment to accessibility, inclusivity and representation, and our objective to support artists who are committed to social and community engagement.

Evaluation: Successful applicants will be asked to complete a short evaluation at the end of the funded work. This can be submitted in written, audio or video format. We will also ask applicants to commit to a follow up interview or survey after 12 months. Your support in this is invaluable. It will help us to evaluate the impact of the scheme – both immediate and longer-term. It will also help us to secure further external funding to provide alumni support in the future.

Intellectual Property: You will retain full ownership of all intellectual property produced throughout the funding. Where appropriate we may ask for your permission to use your words (testimonials/ feedback) or work (images, video) in marketing the scheme or in feedback to funders.

Appendix 1: Criteria

Aims	Does the proposal clearly define the applicant's stated ambitions and demonstrate clearly how this fund will support them to achieve these ambitions? Please consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's ambitions and aims clearly outlined • Applicant understands how the funding will contribute to project success and has clearly communicated this • Applicant has understood the purpose of the funding and has linked their proposal to the fund's criteria
	Is the activity proposed in the application the best way of achieving the stated goal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals structure, timeline and outcomes relate clearly to the applicant's aims and ambitions. • The applicant's approach is appropriate and clear in relation to their goals.
Personal development	Does the proposal clearly demonstrate how it will advance the applicant's creative practice and/or career? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant has explained how and in what ways the project will advance their practice • The applicant has considered and communicated their career or creative ambitions and explained how the funding will allow them to achieve this
	Will the proposed activity aid career sustainability? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal explains how the project will contribute to their development in the longer-term • The proposal talks about changes in the industry and explains clearly how their proposal will help them continue their career • The proposal explains how the project will contribute to longer term financial sustainability

	<p>Does the proposed activity make sense in terms of the applicant's practice and career goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant's approach and project proposal are linked to both their artistic training and their goals • The ambitions of the proposal seem feasible given the applicant's experience
The activity	Does the proposed activity support the applicant's artistic engagement with communities, non-professional participants or marginalised demographics?
	Does the proposed activity support the applicant to create work in the future that is accessible and inclusive to a diverse range of audiences?
	Does the proposed activity demonstrate a clear intention to innovate and work in new ways?
Budget	<p>Does the proposal demonstrate good value for money?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal is well costed • The proposal includes union rates and quantities where relevant • The proposal only contains eligible costs

Appendix 2: Budget Guidance

Please provide a carefully considered budget

The scheme funds:

- Professional development training, either to support you to build on and evolve a pre-existing part of your practice and/or to acquire additional or new skills
- Coaching or mentoring fees
- Residency costs, including fees, travel and subsistence.
- The fees of collaborators required to undertake this activity (ITC/Equity minimum rates should be used as a benchmark when considering rates of pay)
- Specific equipment or materials which will enable this area of professional development and significantly unlock the next phase of your practice.
- Research associated costs such as purchase of books
- R&D or lab associated costs for new work, products, or services
- Start-up set up costs
- Where you are undertaking research or developing work (e.g. writing), you can claim for the cost of your time at a research rate of £25 per hour.

Your application will be ineligible if it:

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- Includes living costs such as rent, or day to day costs associated with your practice (such as travel to auditions, maintenance or purchase of your instrument);
- Includes any costs associated with additional higher education study;
- Doesn't focus broadly on the disciplines of Music, Drama and Production Arts;
- Doesn't clearly state how funding will be used to evolve and advance your artistic practice;
- Is incomplete or does not include relevant attachments;
- Is requesting funding to cover the cost of activity that has already happened.