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**St Hugh’s Foundation for the Arts - Artists Awards 2024**

**Who are we?**

The [St Hugh’s Foundation for the Arts](https://www.sthughsfoundation.co.uk/) is a registered charity, formed in 1991. Since 1992 we have awarded over £400,000 to artists and arts organisations in our area of benefit. Applicants to the Foundation must be resident, and their activity must take place in the City of Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire and/or Lincolnshire (including North and North East Lincolnshire).

We are committed to supporting the highest standards of arts practice in our area through provision of an annual award programme and opportunities for professional development.

Read more: <https://www.sthughsfoundation.co.uk/about-us>

**Context for the Artists Grants 2024**

We developed our ‘Artists Respond’ grants in 2020 as a new way to offer support to artists and organisations finding ways of responding to uncertain times with imagination, authenticity, courage, humour and a genuine desire to find new ways to connect and communicate.

[Read about some of our previous Artists Respond award holders on our blog here.](https://www.sthughsfoundation.co.uk/news-and-blog)

**As we move into the new year, we are gradually increasing the amounts of the grants in line with inflation in order to continue to support artists in our area of benefit.**

The deadline for applications for our next round of Artists Respond grants will be **Monday 4th March, 2024 at 5pm.** Please read on for further application details.

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**Artists Respond Grants – A celebration of 30 years**

We are marking our 30 years as a Foundation by awarding **30 awards of up to £2,500 during the years leading up to our 35th anniversary in 2026.**

**What would you do with an award of up to £2,500 to focus on your practice, reflect on the impact of recent events and consider what your next steps might be?**

Previous award recipients have used their grants to:

* spend time in the studio
* return to previous works/projects they have had to pause over the last few difficult years to get started on completely new ideas
* buy resources to help them make adaptations to their practice
* consult with experts to help them develop new business strategies or organisational structures
* explore new ways of collaborating with individuals or communities (remote, in person or hybrid models of engagement)
* spend time chatting with others – other artists, possible collaborators, local venues or other arts partners – to provide new perspectives or clarify their thinking

This is not an exhaustive list of what you can do with an Artists Respond Award, so tell us about your idea and why it would be helpful to you at this time.

Note also that these grants are different to our past Arts Awards, and in this situation:

* we do not expect you to spend the grant on making something, unless it feels appropriate;
* the work that you do with our support does not have to include or be aimed at a particular audience or participant group (although it can be if that is relevant to you).

If you are successful in your application for support, our team of Trustees may be able to offer you further guidance on your project as it develops, in an informal mentoring capacity.

**At the end of your period of funded activity:**

* we’d like to be able to share something about your project – you can [read some examples from previous recipients on our blog here](https://www.sthughsfoundation.co.uk/news-and-blog). This could include something as simple as sharing an image from your work-in-progress and a short description, or we could link to a fuller self-reflection report if you plan to prepare one.
* We also have the ambition to try to involve all our Artists Respond and Grant artists in our 35th anniversary year celebrations in 2026.

**Eligibility**

* Applicants must be resident, and the activity must take place in the City of Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire and/or Lincolnshire (including North and North East Lincolnshire)
* We will consider activity encompassing any field of the arts
* We will consider applications from artists at all stages of their practice, as long as Trustees are satisfied that applicants are sufficiently experienced to deliver the proposed activity.
* We cannot fund recreational or other non-professional activity, but this does not exclude projects in which a professional artist may work with non-professional participants.
* We cannot support applicants wanting to undertake academic courses.
* We cannot accept applications from local authorities.
* We cannot fund work retrospectively. Activity can start as soon as applicants find out about the outcome of their application (end of April 2024)

**Criteria**

When assessing Artists Respond applications, Trustees consider the following questions:

* **Concept** - *Does the idea respond to the current situation/the artist’s particular circumstances at this time? Has it been well-considered?*
* **Impact** - *How will this funding impact on the applicant (and on others - only if relevant)? Is this something that the artist could be (or maybe already is being) supported to do through other funding?*

We expect that many applicants to the Artists Respond fund will be applying due to a need brought about because of the challenges of recent years, so if relevant tell us about this in your application. We will aim to prioritise those who demonstrate that this has impacted upon them adversely but who haven’t been able to access other funding to support them in the recent past. Or if they have received other funding support, we will expect applicants to explain how the Artists Respond funding will add to/increase the impact of what they are working on at this time.

* **Feasibility** - *Is this idea manageable at this time? Does the applicant have what they need in place to make it happen, or will our funding support them adequately to carry it out?*

**Other notes about what we will fund**

* If your idea includes practical activity, you must take into account any health and safety precautions in place at the time the activity takes place.
* We will support artists seeking to work from home, in a studio or other venue, embracing possibilities of digital and/or making live connections - tell us about the context within which your activity will need to take place.
* We realise the significant impact lockdowns had, and now the cost of living crisis is having, on many artists. However, we are not in a position to offer the kinds of emergency support that has been made available by other organisations including [Arts Council England](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19/data). Given the level of the grants we can offer, we ask that you think about using our Artists Respond grants to support you engaging in your practice in some way, rather than applying for support to cover core costs such as rent.

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**How to apply:**

**To apply for one of our Artists Respond grants, please complete the form available here** [**https://forms.gle/6yC1e2bFHNYyTycx8**](https://forms.gle/6yC1e2bFHNYyTycx8)

You will be asked to confirm your eligibility for the fund, submit some general information, including contact details, and then to supply a short statement (maximum 500 words).

To help you prepare for submitting your application we provide a practice form (Word template) on the website. We suggest using this to collect all your information together before submitting using the online Application Form. Please note you cannot save your information in the online application form as you go along so you need to complete it in one go.

As part of the application form, you will be asked to submit a link/s to a website, LinkedIn profile, online portfolio, blog, showreel for example where we can find out more about you, your experience and your work. Alternatively you can supply a CV and up to 3 images of previous work (images should be at least 1MB each and sent as jpgs) by email to sthughscharity@gmail.com before the deadline, using your name and ‘Artists Respond Awards 2024’ in the subject line of the email.

**Access/alternative formats**

It is very important to us that the application process should not form a barrier to you applying for the Artists Awards, so please contact us (sthughscharity@gmail.com) if you would like to provide the information requested in our application form in another format.

For example, we will accept video applications (5-8 minutes). If making a video application, please make sure your video includes all the information requested in the application form including confirmation of your eligibility for the fund, and send a password-protected video link to sthughscharity@gmail.com with your contact details and links to supplementary information so that we know how to contact you/find out more about you.

**Deadline for all applications – Monday 4th March 2024 at 5pm**

Please note:

* If you do not submit your application completely and as stated (including meeting any word count requirements), it will be withdrawn automatically from the application process. Therefore, if you have any questions about how to make an application, please contact us well in advance of the application deadline by emailing sthughscharity@gmail.com
* All materials associated with an application must be received **by the 4th March 2024 at 5pm**. We will not be able to assess applications for which we have not also received any relevant supplementary materials before the deadline (where links to supplementary materials are not already given within the application form).
* If you experience any technical difficulties while you’re completing the online application form, do consider sending a follow-up email to sthughscharity@gmail.com to ensure that everything has arrived safely.

**Application timeline**

**Monday 4th March 2024 - Deadline for applications (by 5pm)**

**April 2024 - Trustees will meet to discuss applications**

**End of April 2024 – Successful Award recipients will be notified**

**May 2024 – Unsuccessful applicants will be informed**

Unfortunately we are unable to give individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants due to the number of applications we expect to receive and the capacity of our voluntary team.

***Claire Peasnall Award 2024***

*We are also inviting applications for our fourth Claire Frances Peasnall Memorial Award in 2024 (aimed at those who work in painting and/or drawing), but in order to apply for that Award, please go to the website, download and complete the separate Word form, which should then be emailed direct to* *sthughscharity@gmail.com* *by 4th March 2024.*

**A chance to find out more**

We will be holding an informal Zoom ‘meet the artists’ session with current / past Artists Respond grant recipients on the **7th February 2024 from 11am to 12.30pm**

This session would provide an opportunity for you to hear more about how other artists have used their grants and to ask questions.

Email sthughscharity@gmail.com by the 29th January 2024 to receive the Zoom link and let us know if you have any requirements we can accommodate in order to make it possible for you to join the session on the 7th.

**Additional information about the assessment process**

In addition to using our stated criteria, when assessing applications Trustees will endeavour to ensure a fair spread of resources geographically and across artforms (although successful applications must first and foremost satisfy our criteria to a high standard).

**Policy on Artist Fees**

Please note that we will expect all fees for artist time to be in line with industry standards for the year in which the proposed activity will take place. For further guidance on these rates, please consult:

* [The Musicians Union](https://www.musiciansunion.org.uk/)
* [Equity](https://www.equity.org.uk/)
* [ITC](https://www.itc-arts.org/)
* [a-n – The Artists Information Company](https://www.a-n.co.uk/news/)

or another relevant industry body.

**Conflicts of interest**

Trustees must not be involved in helping applicants prepare/submit applications. Where a Trustee has a close involvement/ongoing relationship with an applicant, they must formally declare their conflict of interest and can have no role in assessing that application. If a period of two years or more has passed since a Trustee last worked with an applicant, they will be allowed to make an assessment of that application. Where a Trustee has a close involvement/ongoing relationship with multiple applicants they will withdraw completely from the application process.

**Equality and Diversity**

Trustees recognise that our area of benefit is culturally diverse, and welcome proposals from all applicants. We will not discriminate against or treat any application differently on the grounds of age, sex, race, disability, pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or religious background. We expect any applicants we support to show the same commitment to equal opportunity within their proposed projects.

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All correspondence about the Artists awards should be **via our email address** **sthughscharity@gmail.com** but please note that we cannot answer questions regarding the content of specific projects. Best of luck with your application, we look forward to hearing from you.