

Creative Fund 2023-2024

We welcome video applications, including those made in British Sign Language
Please see our application instructions in BSL [here](#).

BACKGROUND

Since 2005, Puppet Animation Scotland's Creative Fund has supported Scotland-based puppeteers, animators and visual/physical theatre practitioners seeking to explore and research new creative ideas or hone skills.

FUND OVERVIEW

The Creative Fund supports professional artists based in Scotland with seed funding of up to £6000 for **new creative projects** in the fields of puppetry, visual theatre or animated film. Projects can be focused in any of the following three areas (or a combination of these):

- Creative project development
- Skills and training
- Research into new methodologies or ways of working

In addition to the funding, artists will be supported by Puppet Animation Scotland over the course of a year with informal mentorship, tickets to attend work and wellbeing support. We will ask applicants to tell us why now the right time in their career is to access this mentorship and development support from us specifically. This might reflect a step forward in an emerging artist's career or a step change for an established practitioner.

SUPPORTED ARTFORMS

We support projects in the field of puppetry, animated film and visual theatre. We take a wide definition of visual theatre which might include, but is not limited to: mime, clowning, physical theatre, object theatre, aerial theatre, circus, and some dance work. As there are a number of other excellent support organisations for dance in Scotland we are less likely to support pure dance but do support projects with a dance element whereby this is combined with other forms of theatre. If you have any questions about the artforms we support, please get in touch and we would welcome a chat.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Professional artists over the age of 18 at any stage in their career.
- Artists who are at a moment of development or progression in their practice such that they would benefit from mentorship and support from Puppet Animation Scotland.
- Artists we have never met before, as well as those who we have supported in the past, including through Creative Fund.
- Artists whose primary practice is in a discipline that is not included in the list of supported artforms, provided that the project is in one of these artistic areas. If this applies to you, we strongly encourage that you include a named collaborator or mentor with experience in these fields, unless you are applying for funding for a training project.

Creative Fund 2023-2024

WHAT SUPPORT IS INCLUDED

- The costs of developing your project. This may include:
 - fees for your time and the time of your collaborators*
 - technical and production costs
 - rehearsal venue hire, studio hire or equipment hire
 - masterclass, training or workshop fees
 - travel, accommodation and per diem costs
 - research costs such as books, journals and show tickets
 - CRP Facilitator if you plan to use one**

You will be asked for a rough budget breakdown when you apply.

- Regular catch ups with the Puppet Animation Scotland team (Artistic Director & CEO, Producer) to identify any challenges or opportunities with your project, build links with your work and external parties and to more generally support your work and practice.
- Time with an external industry mentor, outside eye or collaborator who will be selected by you with support from PAF – this is to recognise that you might require skills or input beyond what we can offer. It could be someone from an organisation or a freelancer, and it **sits separately from your project budget**.
- Tickets to attend some of Puppet Animation Scotland’s events during the supported residency period, subject to availability.
- The same wellbeing benefits as the Puppet Animation Scotland staff team, which currently includes membership of the Headspace app, access to a trained mental health first aider, and access to shared mental health and wellbeing resources.

*We expect all personnel involved in your project, including yourself, to be remunerated at least at minimum ITC or Equity rates.

** Puppet Animation Scotland is a strong advocate of Liz Lerman’s Critical Response Process (CRP), an internationally-recognised flexible and supportive framework within which artists can work with confidence and imagination to receive useful and informed feedback from their peers during a work-in-progress event. Use of the process is entirely optional, but if you do wish to use it, we can provide access to trained facilitators and will part-fund their fee should you wish to use them. Please include £100 in your budget if you wish to use this process.

COSTS THAT CANNOT BE SUPPORTED

- Costs which relate in any way to a full puppetry production or completed film.
- An artist’s or organisation’s ongoing running costs.
- Project costs which are not fundamentally based in puppetry, animation or visually led theatre.

Please note that we do not accept submissions to the Creative Fund which form part of larger applications to any Creative Scotland funding schemes. This is because the money for the Creative Fund already comes from Creative Scotland and could therefore constitute double funding/double tapping.

Creative Fund 2023-2024

APPLICATION PROCESS

For 2023-2024 Puppet Animation Scotland will award a total of £20,000 in project costs. The maximum that you can apply for is £6,000.

The closing date for submissions is: **Thursday 11 May 2023 at 5pm. We will not accept applications after this date and time.** All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the process by: **12noon on 31 May 2023**

Projects may start at any time from 1 June 2023 and must be completed by the end of April 2024.

To apply, you must send us:

- A completed Application Form which can be found on our website OR a video answering the questions contained in the form in either English or BSL.
- An Equalities and Diversity Monitoring Form which must be completed [here](#).

Please email your form in PDF format or a link to your video to info@puppetanimation.org by **Thursday 11 May 2023 at 5pm**. We will not be able to acknowledge all applications upon receipt, however all applicants will receive an email notifying them of the outcome of their application. If you require the application in another format, or require support or assistance, please contact us via email.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel will be made up of Puppet Animation Scotland's Artistic Director & CEO and our Producer, along with our Creative Scotland Lead Officer, a Scotland-based independent artist and a programmer from one of Scotland's leading venues or festivals. Each application will be assessed based on the information provided, and we will use a selection grid to assess each across 5 categories:

Creative Potential: We will consider the artistic merit of the idea pitched alongside the artist's previous creative track record to assess the overall creative potential of the project.

Objectives and Timeframe: How realistic is the timeframe and what the artist wants to achieve within it?

Benefit to Artist's Practice: Is Puppet Animation Scotland the right organisation to support this project and is it the right moment in the artist's career for this kind of support?

Budget: Is everyone paid fairly and is the budget realistic?

Legacy: What is the future potential for the artist and the sector from this project? For R&D projects we may consider the possibilities for a future life for the work, or for training or research projects, the potential positive impact for both artist and the wider sector.

We will discuss the projects in detail and will select those that we feel best fit these selection criteria and that we can resource with the budget available.

For artists who are not successful, feedback will be provided on their application, and they will also have the opportunity to give us anonymous feedback.