

Art





Arts in criminal justice

The arts are practised within the criminal justice system in many different ways. They take place in education classes within the prison system, via innovative voluntary sector organisations and self-practised with extraordinary results. Arts and creativity in criminal justice settings can support improved wellbeing, awaken an interest in learning and can help people build new positive identities. Engaging in the arts can also lead to new skills and employment opportunities as well as equipping participants with a desire to actively engage in their community and culture.



*'7 Billion Wishes',
HMP Warren Hill,
Silver Award for
Watercolour &
Gouache 2021*

Theatre, music, dance, visual art and creative writing have a long tradition of successfully empowering people in contact with the criminal justice system to turn their lives around and to help prevent re-offending, something which has been acknowledged by the government (Making Prisons Work, Skills For Rehabilitation [2011], Department for Business Innovation and Skills and Ministry of Justice). Here's what Nick Hardwick, a former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons says about the impact of arts in prison:



We all know from our personal experience how participating in or creating art has the possibility to change how we see the world and our place in it. This is true for prisoners too – and I have seen how great arts projects in prisons can play a crucial role in helping prisoners see a new crime-free future for themselves.

The National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance's vision is to ensure the arts are used within the criminal justice system as a springboard for positive change. The Alliance provides a network to promote, develop and support high quality arts practice in criminal justice settings, influencing and informing government, commissioners and the public.

This introduction was written by the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance and is presented here with their kind permission.

For more information on the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance, see www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk or contact artsalliance@clinks.org



KOESTLER ARTS

Organisation	Koestler Trust
Name of programme	Koestler Awards
Website	www.koestlerarts.org.uk
Number of prisoners/ prison leavers helped	Over 2,000 Koestler Awards given each year. Every entrant gets a certificate and many Award winners receive a cash prize.
Who can apply	Anyone in custody in a UK prison, young offender institution, secure training centre, secure children's home, immigration removal centre, or high or medium security psychiatric hospital or unit (including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Any current client of the national Probation Service, a Youth Offending Service, the Scottish Criminal Justice Social Work Service or their equivalents elsewhere in the UK. Any UK citizen currently in a prison overseas (must submit via Prisoners Abroad). Entrants may enter as an individual or as a group.
What can be funded	The Koestler Awards are given annually for original work in 52 art forms, including creative writing, drawing, fashion, graphic design, music, painting, photography and woodwork. Many of the awards carry cash prizes from £20–£100, which are paid into the 'private cash' of prisoners. Koestler Arts also offers to sell visual artwork on behalf of entrants.
How to apply	You may send up to five entries of visual art, writing or music to the Koestler Arts Centre at the address below before the annual Spring deadline. Every artwork must come with a Koestler entry form for the current year, countersigned by an authorised member of staff. Koestler Arts sends entry forms to Education Departments in all establishments every December. The forms may also be downloaded from the Koestler Arts' website or requested by post, phone or email.
Key dates	December: entry forms available. April: deadline for entries. June: judging of entries. August: Awards results announced. October: certificates and prize money sent out. December: money from sales sent out. January–March: unsold entries from previous year returned.
Acknowledgement	Response to all letters within a month, usually sooner.
Notes	The Koestler Awards attract over 7,000 entries from over 3,500 entrants every year. Awards entrants may also apply for a Koestler mentor to support them to develop their arts practice in the community.
Apply to	The Koestler Trust 168a Du Cane Road London W12 0TX 0208 740 0333 info@koestlertrust.org.uk



It has given me a feeling of fulfilment, purpose and drive. Creativity has given me new perspective and confidence. It has opened a whole new door for me, one without limits. It has helped me manage my time in prison and during lockdown, thanks to Koestler."

*Organisation***Arts Council of Northern Ireland***Website*

www.artscouncil-ni.org

Who can apply

Artists, performers, writers, arts organisations, community and voluntary groups, local authorities. The applicant must be able to demonstrate their willingness and ability to contribute to the creative and cultural life of Northern Ireland.

What can be funded

Visual and performing arts, participatory arts, literature, language and culture are the headings that funding is released under.

What is NOT funded

Activities that are not directly arts related or do not enhance the artistic and cultural life of Northern Ireland. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland does not fund art students for activities related to their course of study or tuition fees. Some costs associated with the artists' project may also be deemed ineligible.

How to apply

The information is available from the Arts Council website in the funding section. The information is sub-categorised into 'Funding for Individuals' and 'Funding for Organisations'. Guidance notes are available for each of the programmes and applicants are encouraged to read those before submitting an application for funding. Arts Council personnel are also on hand to assist with applications.

Key dates

The Arts Council administers a number of funding programmes which are open for applications at different points in the year. The Support for the Individual Artist Programme is generally open for applications in June/July.

Acknowledgement

All applications are acknowledged.

*Apply to***Arts Council of Northern Ireland**

Linen Hill House

Lisburn

BT28 1FJ

028 9262 3555



<i>Organisation</i>	Arts Council of Wales
<i>Name of programme</i>	Create
<i>Website</i>	www.arts.wales
<i>Who can apply</i>	Applicants should be pursuing an artistic career or be professionally employed in the arts in Wales, including freelance practitioners who may have worked alongside more experienced collaborators or with organisations.
<i>What can be funded</i>	<p>'Create' is about providing opportunities for individuals and organisations to produce and present their best work. This can mean funding the production and presentation of work, the development of new ideas and/or supporting individual development through training or business growth and change, but we're open-minded about how the project might look.</p> <p>What we do expect is that projects we fund should help us to meet our priorities around equalities, diversity, the Welsh language, nurturing creative talent, health and wellbeing and supporting resilience in the arts sector. We're particularly keen to see collaborations and partnership working. This could involve a partner organisation, critical friend, artistic mentor, business advisor or training provider.</p>
<i>What is NOT funded</i>	There are some costs that we can't support, and these are set out in our National Lottery Funding Guidelines, available on our website. We also can't fund full-time or part-time undergraduate or postgraduate courses in further or higher education institutions, individual tuition, lessons or vocational training.
<i>How to apply</i>	<p>One of our Development Officers will be happy to talk to you about your project idea and help you decide if this is the right programme to apply to. Applications should be made through our funding portal portal.arts.wales</p> <p>We can accept applications in Welsh or English. If you'd like any more information or need help please contact the Grants and Information Team in the first instance, by email grants@arts.wales or by phone on 03301 242733.</p>
<i>Key dates</i>	Applications for Small Grants (£10,000 and under) can be made at any time. There are usually four deadlines for Large Grant applications (£10,001 and over) each year. Please check the website for upcoming deadlines.
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	All applications are acknowledged.
<i>Notes</i>	Information and advice is available from the Information Team: 03301 242733
<i>Apply to</i>	Arts Council of Wales , via the funding portal

**Organisation****Creative Scotland****Website**www.creativescotland.com**Who can apply**

Creative Scotland has a range of different funding strands, open to both individuals and organisations working in the arts, screen and creative industries. For the Open Fund for Individuals, you can apply if you are a freelance or self-employed artist or creative practitioner living in Scotland who is at least 18 years old. You must have a UK bank account in your name.

What can be funded

The Open Fund can support a wide range of creative activity such as a period of research, development and/or delivery of creative activity for up to 24 months. We will ask you to tell us the start and end date for this activity and to describe the outcomes, benefits and impacts that you wish to achieve.

How to apply

Read the fund's guidance and FAQs for full information on the eligibility criteria and priorities. Also watch our application walkthrough:

www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/open-fund/open-fund-for-individuals

Once you're ready, you can apply using our online application portal.

If you want to clarify whether your project fits within Creative Scotland eligibility, or get some general advice, please contact the Creative Scotland Enquiries Service. You can do this by email or through the Creative Scotland website.

Key dates

For the Open Fund for Individuals applications can be made at any time throughout the year and there are no deadlines.

Acknowledgement

All enquiries and applications are acknowledged. For more information go to **www.creativescotland.com/servicestandards**

Notes

If you are considering making an application to one of our funds, we would encourage you first to check the specific fund guidance and associated FAQs. These helpful documents provide useful details about the individual funds, including what each fund can and can't support; who can and can't apply; and how much funding can be applied for at any one time.

Apply to**Creative Scotland Enquiry Service**

enquiries@ceativescotland.com

www.creativescotland.com/contact-us

If you want us to call you back, give us your number and we will arrange to come back you as soon as possible.



Organisation	Arvon
Name of programme	Creative Writing
Website	www.arvon.org
Who can apply	Our residential and online creative writing courses are open to everyone, of every level and experience. Our residential courses (2–7 days) would suit prison leavers who are looking for a peaceful sense of community. We place community and friendship at the heart of our courses. You won't just find helpful allies in our expert tutors, you will also find camaraderie among your fellow writers, many of whom are taking their first writing steps or looking for human connection in a world that is fast-paced or played online.
What can be funded	Up to £880 bursary to cover the cost of a writing course. Our residential writing courses that take place in peaceful West Yorkshire, the rolling hills of Devon or sleepy Shropshire, present people with a home away from home. A quiet place of solitude where they can meet others from all walks of life. By spending time together, many of our writing groups continue friendships and their own writing groups well after the course ends. The most important thing Arvon can give you though, is this: a personal development framework by which you can tell your story, the story only you can tell. Courses range from weekend getaways to whole week workshops. And the best part? You needn't worry about food or cooking because we provide everything, allowing you time to walk in the countryside, attend workshops and make connections.
How to apply	<p>You can apply by visiting the website and clicking on our course search. Courses range from £80 to £880. For every residential course you can apply for a grant that covers the full cost. These do not have to be paid back. We want our courses to be for everyone, regardless of their financial situation.</p> <p>Or you can email national@arvon.org requesting more information and we'll get back to you with suggested courses or workshops that might suit you.</p>
Key dates	We run courses throughout the year. And unless a particular course sells out, it will be available to book up until the night before.
Notes	In addition to our residential courses, we also run online courses that can be completed on any kind of internet-capable device (laptop, smartphone etc). These include 2-hour Masterclass workshops, weekend courses, writing weeks, and evening courses that consist of one evening workshop a week for 5 weeks.
Apply to	Arvon national@arvon.org

<i>Organisation</i>	The Burnbake Prison Art Project
<i>Name of programme</i>	Art Packs
<i>Who can apply</i>	Anyone who is currently detained within the prison services who has an interest in art or crafts. They must not have more than £50 in their prison account and must have more than 10 months left of their sentence.
<i>What can be funded</i>	Individual art and craft packs, choices of acrylic painting, watercolours, aqua colour pencils, graphite pencils, pastels and matchstick craft.
<i>What is NOT funded</i>	Anything that is not art or craft related. We will assess all applications individually.
<i>How to apply</i>	Apply in writing and if an individual is likely to be eligible an application form will be sent. Grant applications must be supported by the Head of Learning and Skills. All requested information must be filled in and a reference of the Head of Learning and Skills authorising the application endorsed by a rubber stamp or written on a headed letterhead or compliment slip.
<i>Key dates</i>	May apply any time during the year.
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	We are unable to answer all letters received so only eligible applicants will hear from us within a month and be offered an application form.
<i>Notes</i>	The Burnbake Prison Art Project supplies art packs to successful candidates. These materials are supplied for in-cell recreation or as part of an education programme. As part of the agreement, applicants send their art to us which we put on our website and exhibit. When a work is sold, 70% of the sale price is credited to the artist enabling them to purchase more materials to sustain their own work.
<i>Apply to</i>	Eva Hogendoorn The Burnbake Prison Art Project 29 North Street Wilton Salisbury Wiltshire SP2 0HE

CLEAN BREAK

<i>Organisation</i>	Clean Break Theatre Company
<i>Website</i>	www.cleanbreak.org.uk
<i>Number of prisoners/ prison leavers helped</i>	Each year we reach around 70 women through our own Members Programme of theatre making and holistic support. We also reach around 50 women per year through our work with women's centres and prisons.
<i>Specific geographical area</i>	Our Members Programme is held in our women-only building in Kentish Town, North London. We work in women's prisons across the UK.
<i>Who can apply</i>	Our Members Programme is open to women who have any direct lived experience of the criminal justice system or are at risk of coming into contact with it. When we say 'at risk of coming into contact with it' this could be because of challenges such as mental health or drug use issues, which puts women in circumstances that make interaction with the criminal justice system difficult to avoid.
<i>What can be funded</i>	<p>All activities on our Members Programme are free, this includes regular weekly workshops in theatre skills, playwriting, creativity, and health and wellbeing run by women artists. The programme offers reimbursement for travel expenses in Greater London, as well as free lunch, theatre trips, counselling, one-to-one support and contributions to childcare.</p> <p>We also provide opportunities to engage in professional, public facing performance and creative projects, as well as volunteering.</p>
<i>How to apply</i>	Applications to our Members Programme can be made directly by women who would like to apply, or by a keyworker or referral partner. To find out how to apply, or if you work for a women's centre or a prison and would like to enquire about our work, please contact our team using the details below.
<i>Key dates</i>	Our Members Programme takes place over three seasons each year in Autumn, Spring and Summer, with a one week break in the middle of each season and a longer break between seasons. Women are welcome to apply for the programme at any time.
<i>Notes</i>	Clean Break is a safe, women-only space with support staff on site, and our practice is trauma informed. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England. We are enormously grateful to all our funders for their crucial support to our ongoing work. You can find out more on our website: www.cleanbreak.org.uk/support/
<i>Apply to</i>	<p>Clean Break Theatre Company</p> <p>020 7482 8600 participation@cleanbreak.org.uk</p>

THE MATTHEW TRUST

**Organisation****The Matthew Trust****Website**

www.matthewtrust.org

**Number of prisoners/
prison leavers helped**

Maximum number of grants made in a year: around 20.

Who can apply

Prisoners with mental illness. Twenty grants are made to prisoners each year.

What can be funded

A grant of around £20 for hobby materials.

What is NOT funded

Lawyer's fees.

How to apply

Write in with details and reasons for the grant, along with an endorsement from a health professional.

Apply to**Mrs Annabel Thompson**Matthew Trust
PO Box 604
London
SW6 3AG0207 736 5976
amt@matthewtrust.org

I've been in the Healthcare unit for 6 weeks, as I became quite unwell and as soon as I received my art materials, from the £20 you sent me, I used some to make some decorations for Christmas, because they only had a Xmas tree. I quite enjoyed it, keeping busy and creative, after all it's the time to share. I thank you once again for your help."



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*Working on the National Prison Radio station.
HMP Brixton*