

THEATRE FUNDING GUIDE

When it comes to theatre funding, the majority comes via the Art Council England and the Lottery.

Arts Council England (ACE) – <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-artforms/theatre/>

ACE provides funding on a national basis, supporting theatre that serves communities and is targeted for specific audiences. According to their website, they “champion artistic collaborations and ideas that increase opportunities for a wide range of artists and participants to experience the transformative powers of theatre.” They also provide funding over a three year period through the National portfolio.

The Lottery

The National Lottery provides a range of funding with various criteria and objectives. You can search the funds using this [funding finder tool](#) or read more on the main funds below.

Big Lottery Fund www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

There are a number of different funding opportunities available via the Big Lottery Fund. For small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000, ‘**Awards for All England**’ supports voluntary or community organisations. Funding is available for ‘putting on an event, activity or performance’ to benefit the local community.

Heritage Lottery Fund <http://www.hlf.org.uk>

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) offers awards between £10,000 and £100,000 for projects that preserve heritage or increase people's understanding of it. This includes helping local groups preserve local traditions and culture. There is also the Young Roots programme that funds projects helping young people (aged 11 – 25) to understand and take part in their heritage.

FUNDING FOR THEATRES

The Theatres Trust – <http://www.theatrust.org.uk/grants>

With a mission to protect theatres for everyone, the Theatre Trust offers grants of up to £5000 for theatres run by charities and not-for-profit groups to carry out capital improvements to enhance their work within the local community. Applications for the Theatre Protection Fund Small Grants scheme can be submitted at any time.

The Garfield Weston Foundation – www.garfieldweston.org

The Garfield Weston Foundation supports a wide range of organisations across the country including theatres by providing grants for 'capital projects to improve the visitor experience.' The Foundation supports small community theatre groups and those organisations that engage with a variety of audiences.

SITA Trust – www.sitatrust.org.uk

The Community Fund offers grants of up to £50,000 to 'not for profit organisations wishing to improve leisure and recreation facilities' like theatres. The funds are split into two – the Smaller Projects Fund (up to £20K) and Primary Fund (up to £50K). To qualify you have to be based within one of SITA UK's active funding zones, which exist within a 3 mile radius of a qualifying SITA site.

GRANTS AND FUNDING FOR THEATRE COMPANIES

Digital R&D Fund for the Arts www.artsdigitalrnd.org.uk

This £7 million Fund supports theatre projects that use digital technology to enhance audience reach and engagement. It also provides for those organisations in the arts sector looking to explore new business models, including collaborations with technology providers.

Foyle Foundation – <http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/main-grants-scheme-arts/>

The Foundation supports performing arts projects, with an emphasis on education and 'encouraging new work and supporting young and emerging artists.' They are interested in projects that develop new audiences, providing funding for tours and festivals to facilitate this. They also consider applications for core funding from smaller organisations as well as building projects that improve existing arts venues.

Lloyds TSB Foundation for England & Wales Community Programme

– www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

The Lloyds Community Programme provides support to underfunded charities (12 months reserves or less) working to tackle disadvantage.

FUNDING FOR THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Esme Fairbairn Foundation – <http://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/what-we-fund/arts>

The Foundation offers funding to arts organisations that help improve the quality of life for people and communities, and lead to genuine social change. They are interested in emerging talent and unusual and innovative projects. The average grant is £64,000.

Stage One – <http://stageone.uk.com/>

Stage One offer a start-up fund to support new producers and productions with the overall aim to sustain the future of quality commercial theatre in the U.K.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation –
<http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com/>

The Foundation offers grants to promote the arts as well as funding 10 musical theatre course scholarships each year at UK musical theatre colleges.

The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award –
<http://www.osbttrust.com/award.html>

The Trust aims to help the development of bold, challenging and innovative performance and encourage the new generation of creative artists.

The Award is open for a company or individual to create a show either for the Pit Theatre, Barbican or a site-responsive, non-traditional show to take place in East London.

The Peter De Haan Charitable Trust – <http://www.pdhct.org.uk/arts/>

The Trust aims to improve the quality of life for people and communities in the UK through its work with arts organisations. With the closure of IdeasTap in June, future funding is unknown.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation – <http://www.phf.org.uk/>

An independent funder with an interest in putting into practice new and innovative ideas to increase people's experience, enjoyment and involvement in the arts in the UK.

Children in Need –
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1N4ddmFHns8VPKjyp3PMYwn/apply-for-a-grant>

Provides funding for projects that support children and young people experiencing disadvantage. Small grants are under £10,000 whereas main grants are over £10,000.

NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) –
<http://www.nesta.org.uk/>

Encouraging and supporting invention and innovation in the arts, NESTA offers awards from £3,000 to £75,000 that can last up to three years. The awards are designed to give talented people time, space, resources and support to develop their ideas.

Wellcome Trust– <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Public-engagement/index.htm>

The Wellcome Trust supports projects that bring biology and medicine to new audiences. The Arts Awards are designed to help develop imaginative and experimental projects that investigate biomedical science.

Jerwood Charitable Foundation – <http://jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org/>

The Jerwood Charitable Foundation (JCF) provides funding to enable arts organisations to thrive by developing their skills and encouraging creativity. They focus on supporting emerging talent and excellence amongst organisations and individuals.

The Odin Charitable Trust – <http://opencharities.org/charities/1027521>

The Trust provides grants and funds for projects relating to arts and culture.

Theatres Trust – <http://www.theatrestrust.org.uk/grants>

The Trust provides small grants scheme for charities and theatres run by charities and not for profits of up to £5000.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEATRE PERFORMERS

Mercers Company – <http://www.mercers.co.uk/heritage-and-arts>

Mercers Company Provides grants to UK registered charities to promote the arts with a focus on supporting young professional performers at the start of their careers.

The John Fernald Award – <http://www.equitycharitabletrust.org.uk/award.php>

The Award focuses specifically on providing opportunities for trainee assistant theatre directors.

Mackintosh Foundation – <http://opencharities.org/charities/327751>

The Foundation awards scholarships to promote and develop theatre and the performing arts.

The Noel Coward Foundation – <http://www.noelcoward.org/>

The Foundation provides funding primarily for the education of students in the arts of drama and the theatre.

The Actors Children's Trust – www.tactactors.org

The Trust provides funding to students who have a parent who is an actor.

The Fenton Arts Trust – www.fentonartstrust.org.uk

The Trust focuses its efforts specifically on the support of artists and actors at the beginning of their careers. Each year there are 25-30 beneficiaries.

Garrick Trust – http://www.garrickclub.co.uk/charitable_trust

The Garrick Trust aims to encourage theatre by focussing on helping professional organisations in need of financial support. They have a particular interest in helping actors, directors, writers, musicians, composers and choreographers in the early stages of their careers.

ACTORS IN NEED OF SUPPORT

Equity Trust Fund – www.equitycharitabletrust.org.uk

The Trust is designed to help professional actors and performers in need of 'emergency financial help' or looking to explore different career paths.

Evelyn Norris Trust –

<http://www.equitycharitabletrust.org.uk/evelynnorris.php>

Evelyn Norris Trust provides grants to help with rest, recovery and recuperation for performers who are injured, ill, or infirm.

The Actors' Benevolent Fund – <http://www.actorsbenevolentfund.co.uk/>

The Actors' Benevolent Fund exists to help members of the theatrical profession who are in need because of accident, illness or old age.

The Royal Theatrical Fund – <http://www.trtf.com>

The Fund offers support for people of all ages who have worked in the entertainment industry and need assistance due to illness, accident or old age.

GENERAL FUNDING RESOURCES

Funding Central – www.fundingcentral.org.uk

A free website that provides details on funding and finance opportunities, alongside tools and resources for charities.

Creative Industries Federation –

<http://www.creativeindustriesfederation.com>

The national membership organisation for the public arts, cultural education and creative industries helps bridge the gap between commercial companies and publicly funded cultural organisations to ensure creative excellence.

OTHER IDEAS FOR THEATRE FUNDRAISING

COLLABORATION

The potential for collaboration is huge. If you are a smaller company or an individual performer by teaming up with bigger institutions you can benefit from a great amount of support and extend your reach. This article in the Guardian explores the [potential benefits](#).

CROWD FUNDING

Crowd funding is a big thing nowadays. As other forms of funding and revenue become harder to secure, it can be more effective to pitch your project directly to the people and allow them to fund your production in return for a reward.

Some of the main crowd funding platforms include

[IndieGoGO](#)

[Kickstarter](#)

[Crowd Funder](#) – you can view existing projects under [film and theatre](#)
