



St Hugh's Foundation for the Arts - Artists Respond Grants 2021

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 made over 100 awards to artists and arts organisations in the City of Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire (including North and North East Lincolnshire).

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

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

Context for the Artist Respond Grants 2021

In 2020, we were sad to announce that [we were not able to proceed with our usual 'main' and 'development' Arts Awards programme](#). However, following on from that decision, Trustees began discussions about an alternative offer we could make to artists in order to sustain our commitment to responding to the needs of artists in our area of benefit.

Through our work in the region, discussions with some of the artists who have received awards from us in the past and general engagement with new kinds of cultural offers being made in this era of social distancing, we observed the capacity for artists locally (and across the UK and the world) to respond to these most unfathomable of times with imagination, authenticity, courage, humour and a genuine desire to find new ways to connect and communicate.

In November 2020 [we announced our first 8 'Artists Respond' grants](#), which were awarded to photographer and musician **Stewart Baxter** from Hull; musician and lens-based artist **Quentin Budworth** from Bridlington; graphic artist and designer **Lydia Caprani** from Hull; **Annie Kirkman** from **She Productions**, an all-female collective based in Hull and East Yorkshire; theatre director and creative event maker **Madeleine O'Reilly** from Cottingham; designer **Ruth Piggott** from Gainsborough; urban artist **Lynsey Powles** from Grimsby and writer **Laura Turner** from Tattershall.

In 2021, we want to offer **4 additional 'Artists Respond' grants of £750 to selected artists** to enable them to engage with their practice in whichever form feels most relevant at this time, without the need to produce a final output (although artists are of course welcome to do so if they wish).

The deadline for applications for our next round of Artists Respond grants will be **Friday 9th April 2021 at 5pm**. Please read on for further application details.

Artists Respond Grants - An invitation

Tell us how you would use one of our 'Artists Respond' grants.

What would you do with a little time out from the noise of everything happening; time to focus on your practice, reflect on the impact of recent events and consider what your next steps/response might be?

We will be offering 4 grants of £750 each, which we hope might afford you the opportunity to:

- spend some time in the studio
- buy resources specifically designed to support you in making adaptations to your practice
- write a new business strategy or spend some time testing new ways of staying in touch with the individuals or communities with whom you work
- work with a coach or mentor to support your thinking/transition at this time
- spend a few mornings chatting with others – other artists, possible collaborators, local venues or other arts partners – to provide new perspectives or clarify your thinking

Please note that this is *not* an exhaustive list - we would like you to tell us what you think would be helpful to you at this time, so even if we haven't mentioned it here, tell us more about it and why you think it would be useful to you.

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

- we do not expect you to spend the grant on making something, unless it feels appropriate for you to do so;
- the work that you do/time that you spend practicing your art with our support does not have to include, or be aimed at a particular audience group (although it can be if that is helpful to you).

Although your plans for the Artists Respond grant may be geared more towards thinking than making time, we would like to be able to share a little something from each of our selected artists during, or at the end of your proposed activity. The format for this can be determined when we know more about the nature of the work we are supporting. It might include something as simple as sharing an image from your work-in-progress and a short description via [our blog](#), or writing something about what you are doing on your own blog and sharing that with us. When it is safe to do so, we may invite all selected artists to come together to share experiences in person, or to facilitate the group coming together online in some way, subject to everyone being happy to do so.

To be clear, in this instance we would not expect an extensive evaluation report at the end of the funded period, just a glimpse of your process/project as part of our overall attempt to capture a community of artistic response, and to give hope.

Criteria

Given the current situation, the criteria against which Trustees will assess applications for Artists Respond funding cannot be the same criteria we would usually use for our Arts Award Programme. Instead we will be considering applications using 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 applicants to the Artists Respond fund will be applying due to a need brought about because of the pandemic, so tell us about this in your application. We will aim to prioritise those who demonstrate that the current situation 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 relevant requirements of social distancing and other [coronavirus precautions](#) at the time the activity takes place.
- We will support artists seeking to work from home, in a studio or other venue (as long as it is safe to be open at this time), embracing possibilities of digital and/or making live connections in an era of social-distancing - tell us about the context within which your activity will need to take place.
- We realise the significant impact lockdown has had on artists. However we are not in a position to be able to offer the kinds of emergency support that have been made available by other organisations including [Arts Council England](#). Given the level of the grants we are able to offer, we ask that you think about using these grants to support you engaging in your practice in some way at this time, rather than applying for support to cover core costs such as rent.

How to apply:

To apply for one of our Artists Respond grants, please complete the form available here

<https://forms.gle/5cP9ryYRNvgmTSgL8>

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 [you can also read the questions on the form as a Word document here](#). Please note you won't be able to save your information in the online application form as you go along, so you can also use this Word doc to prepare your responses in advance and then submit them online 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 Funding' 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 Respond Grants, so please contact us (sthughscharity@gmail.com) if you would like us to provide the information requested in our application form in another format.

For example, we will accept video applications (up to 5 minutes). If making a video application, please make sure your video includes all the information requested in the application form including your 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 - Friday 9th April 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 9th April 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

March 5th 2021 - Artists Respond Grants – second round - announced

Friday 9th April 2021 - Deadline for applications (by 5pm)

End of April 2021 - Trustees will come together to discuss all applications

End of May 2021 - Award recipients to be notified

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 team.

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 (expected May 2021)

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](#)
- [Equity](#)
- [ITC](#)
- [a-n – The Artists Information Company](#)

or another relevant industry body.

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).

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.

All correspondence about the Artists Respond grants should be **via our email address** sthughscharity@gmail.com but please note that we cannot answer questions regarding the content of specific projects.