



A Creative Mind

I have what you would call
A very creative mind
I have the ability
To think up amazing things

But who really cares
About what I create
And how I think
About the things of this world

But I keep on creating
As long as I can
Because that's what I do
Because that's who I am

Jerry Abrahamson





Youth-Led Creativity funding Q&A

7 February 2024, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

- Catherine Hillis, Director of A Fairer Future
- Laura Lines, Funding Manager Lead – A Fairer Future
- Aaliyah McLaughlin, Young Consultant
- Sam Purkis, Young Consultant
- Luna Dizon, Communications Manager (Q&A HOST/SUPPORT)

Welcome and plan for the session

- Introduction to Esmée and our Involving Young People Collective
- Why Youth-Led Creativity
- About the funding programme
- Application process
- Q&A



About us

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation is an independent grantmaker in the UK.

We aim to improve our natural world, secure a fairer future and strengthen the bonds in communities in the UK.

The **Involving Young People Collective** is a group of young people, connected by their drive for social change.

We work closely with Esmée helping to design and test ways to involve young people more directly with Esmée's work, and improve their funding practice.



Esmée's strategy



Aim:	A Fairer Future
Priority:	Arts and creativity making change
Long-term outcome:	Youth-led culture and creativity enhances young people's lives, and enables them to influence change in their communities or wider society.

What is Youth-Led Creativity?

Supporting young people with the resources, training and opportunities so they can lead and make change.



To me, it's about giving young people autonomy on creating change for things that affect them and their communities with support from others with experience.



Helping young people realise their potential and giving them the space, resources and support to flourish.



Why Youth-Led Creativity

- The programme builds on young people's power to make change
- It uses creativity as a tool to support young people to:
 - Make their lives better
 - Build up their careers
 - Change the world around them
- Our support will focus on work led by and for young people who are underrepresented in arts and culture.



Work we want to support

- Is **driven and shaped by young people** so they can build their confidence and skills. Most of the young people supported need to be aged 14 to 30.
- **Prioritises the joy and care** of young people.

- Uses art and creativity as **a tool for young people to use their voice and influence change** in their own lives and the world around them.
- Is **driving change for the future** either by doing something new, or by using tried and tested models to push things forward.
- Understands and can demonstrate a track record of **centering the voices of young people from communities underrepresented in arts and culture**. This includes young people who are:
 - D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent
 - From communities experiencing racial inequity
 - Are economically disadvantaged
 - Identify as LGBT+
 - have migration or care experience.



The funding and support available

8 to 12 grants, £1m in 2024

Learning Programme



We'll fund:

- Project and/or core costs
- Single or multi-year grants
- The maximum limit that can be applied for is £120k for up to three years.



- Co-designed by funded organisations and facilitated by a Learning Partner
- Runs alongside the funding to enable peer support and learning
- Organisations will be compensated to support participation



What we won't fund

- Organisations that cannot demonstrate strong youth leadership or have not yet started to become youth-led.
- Work that is part of the school curriculum.
- Work that is not legally charitable.
- Work that does not have a direct benefit in the UK.
- Organisations without at least three non-executive trustees or directors.
- Organisations without an asset lock or other way to ensure that the assets, including any profits generated, are used for the benefit of its community or to further its activities or mission (see our [FAQs](#) on [kinds of organisations we support](#)).
- Grants to individuals.
- Capital costs including building work, renovations, and equipment (the exclusion applies to grants only, we may make social investments for these).
- Academic research – unless it can demonstrate real potential for practical outcomes.
- Healthcare with a clinical basis, including medical research, hospices, counselling and therapy, arts therapy, education about and treatment for drug and alcohol misuse.
- Independent education – by this, we mean work which takes place or is delivered by fee-paying schools.
- Work that is primarily the responsibility of statutory authorities.
- The advancement of religion.



HOW TO APPLY

1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

This stage is for you to tell us that you are interested in applying for our funding. You can tell us a bit about your work. The closing date is 15 March 2024.

NOT GOOD FIT

We will get back to you in May 2024.

GOOD FIT

2 PROPOSAL

This is the full application stage. It includes a conversation with us so we can learn more about your work.

3

DUE DILIGENCE

4

DECISION

Most applications will not get past the Expression of Interest.

We will give you a decision in September 2024. If you're not successful, we will give you feedback.



Support and other resources



- [Accessibility-related support](#)
- Our online [FAQs](#)
- Information on [other funding sources](#) including a comprehensive guide to fundraising for small organisations and links to funding directories.
- [Useful sector resources](#) on a range of topics including fundraising, legal, campaigning, digital and safeguarding.

Email us: youthledcreativity@esmefairbairn.org.uk

