



CultureDale Connect Fund:

Bringing people together through shared cultural activity

Summer 2025



**Funded by
UK Government**

Calderdale
Council

 **COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
FOR CALDERDALE**

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Context

CultureDale is a vibrant celebration of what makes Calderdale unique—its history, creativity, places, and people—bringing everyone together for a memorable year of cultural expression.

While Calderdale's Year of Culture 2024 came to a close in April 2025, the memory of the fantastic events and activities and the new relationships forged through shared cultural activity, will live on for a long time. As part of leaving a legacy for Calderdale, and working towards the councils Vision for 2034 Calderdale Council are launching ***CultureDale Connect Fund: Bringing people together through shared cultural activity.***

The emphasis of this fund is to build social cohesion in Calderdale, through cultural activities. Social cohesion happens when people from different backgrounds meet, mix and get along. The work of cohesion and integration is about developing neighbourhoods, workplaces, institutions and social spaces where difference is welcomed and celebrated. It is about creating opportunities where empathy and curiosity about people 'not like me' are encouraged. When this happens, we can move beyond 'us' and 'them' towards ideas of kindness, trust and social cohesion between groups of people.

How much can you apply for?

- The maximum you can apply for is **£5000** for the period September 2025-end September 2026. There is a total of £50,000 available.

The funders hope to see a range of applications and will prioritize the following:

- Applications made in partnership
- Smaller grassroots organisations or collaborating artists

What can you spend the money on?

Funding can support any costs directly related to the successful delivery of your project including core costs like staffing, transport, hiring equipment and venues, printing costs, consumables such as materials or refreshments. If you have any questions, please contact culturedale@calderdale.gov.uk.

Who can apply?

Examples of eligible applicants include:

- Individual artists or artistic cooperatives
- Freelance practitioners
- Community groups

- Charities or trusts
- Community interest companies (CICs)
- Social enterprises
- Public sector organisations (not local authorities)
- Private sector organisations
- Organisations that are part of a local authority's direct provision will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- Applicants must live or be based in Calderdale

Partnerships are welcome to apply to this fund. Please identify a lead applicant to apply. This applicant will be responsible for funds received and monitoring on behalf of the partnership.

The fund is open to all applicants who meet the criteria. Funded activities must take place in Calderdale and be for the benefit of the communities of Calderdale.

Grants will not be made for the purposes of:

- The promotion of faith
- The promotion of political ideals
- The reinstatement of reserve funds
- Retrospective payments

For both organisations and sole trader artists/cultural practitioners, the fund will not support:

- Fundraising events where there is private gain.
- Applications from students unless the project is separate from or does not form part of their studies.
- Prize money.
- Applications for support towards the cost of attending courses in Further or Higher Education.
- Purchases of large items of equipment or assets.
- Touring productions.
- Capital works, renovation, or conservation projects will not be supported by the scheme. Reasonable and proportionate materials and equipment can be supported and will need to be justified in the application.
- Projects in deficit.
- Projects which have taken place.
- Projects for commercial gain.
- School projects that are part of the school's curriculum activity. Any schools work will need to be extra-curricular.

Supporting Documents

As part of due diligence checks, **organisations** applying should supply the following **at the time of application**:

1. constitution, terms of reference, or relevant governance document.

2. a recent bank statement (within the last 3 months)
3. annual accounts and evidence of the ability to track all financial transactions
4. a written policy for safeguarding (children, young people and/or vulnerable adults)
5. an equalities and diversity policy
6. insurance certificates - public liability and employers liability (where appropriate)
7. A list of trustees/management committee members/directors – we do not need their contact details, a list of names will suffice
8. If your project involves food preparation and handling, please supply evidence of food safety training and registration with Environmental Health

If you have applied to CFFC for funds within the last 6 months we will be able to **re-use some of your existing documents** as part of our checks e.g. policies, trustee information and constitution. We always require an **up-to-date bank statement and set of accounts** to be sent with each application for due diligence purposes.

If you are not applying as an organisation, please supply what you can to demonstrate a) financial viability, b) working practices (including safeguarding) and c) community benefit. These documents could include:

- a) bank statement in the name of the applicant/business (from within the last 3 months)
- b) personal bank account with business transactions highlighted
- c) online presence: Facebook, Instagram, website or similar which clearly shows the business activities/promotions
- d) a tax return.

This list is not exhaustive.

Please do not let the request for documentation prevent you from applying. If you are unsure about documentation, please get in touch grants@cffc.co.uk 01422 349700 and we will work with you to find appropriate documents to help demonstrate your reliability to hold public funds.

Eligibility

CultureDale aims to **connect people**, foster new partnerships, spotlight local talent, and support creative development across the borough. Please share how you meet the eligibility criteria below in your application for funds:

Eligibility		For example
Cultural activity	This grant scheme will support organisations and practitioners to deliver a broad and exciting range of work and activity to engage people across the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance the area with public art or murals ➤ Provide new skills or opportunities for residents ➤ Improve <u>access</u> to culture, heritage, sport and arts
Growth	As a Cohesion Fund, the funders are looking for applications which show clearly that groups are being more connected, expanding their audiences, breaking down barriers and developing. If you're applying for something you already do, you'll need to show why you need funds to develop your activity e.g. reach new audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support volunteering, co-creation and active participation ➤ Demonstrate clear partnership and collaborative working ➤ Engage new audiences ➤ Support the growth of the cultural community ➤ Demonstrate that projects/activity could not happen without funding or that the funding will significantly enhance the scope of quality of your event/activity
Cohesion	Build integration and cohesion in our communities through cultural activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bring people from different social groups together that would not normally meet to participate in a joint creative endeavour. ➤ Provide opportunity for empathy and curiosity about people 'not like me', to be encouraged ➤ Help foster a sense of local pride and belonging ➤ Demonstrate a clear understanding of the needs, interests and barriers faced by audiences when engaging with creative and cultural activity ➤ Demonstrate inclusive and accessible ways of working

What should be included in an application?

At the heart of this fund is building integration and social cohesion. Please include evidence that you can and will do this within your proposed activity. The funders are looking for activities that expand and grow your work and enhance the lives of Calderdale residents.

Scoring

- a) **Documentation** - the documents you need to send with your application are listed above and include things like your constitution, recent audited accounts, equality & diversity policy, evidence of insurance etc. We use these documents to check applicants (or lead applicants) are eligible for funding. If you're not applying as an organisation, you can supply other information, as listed above and email or ring for support if you need to.
- b) **Project budget** – assessors will be looking to see the project budget is reasonable and based on worked-out costs. Provide any quotes/statistics as evidence for your budget if you can. Please remember that your budget will be compared to all other applicants.
- c) **Compliance** - for former applicants to CFFC, we will review your compliance with monitoring and marketing and any other agreed requirements, from previous applications.
- d) **Financial stability** – we will be looking at the financial position of the applicant/lead applicant to ensure any grants awarded from public money are not at risk
- e) **Social cohesion** – applicants who demonstrate how their work will contribute to greater social cohesion in Calderdale, will be scored higher

Monitoring

Funded projects will be asked to:

- Collect data that complies with funder evaluation requirements
- Monitor the equality and diversity of their project
- Provide a full breakdown of spending.
- Organisations awarded a grant will be required to complete two sets of funding monitoring: 1) an online monitoring form within 6 weeks of the end of their project and 2) Social Cohesion project monitoring – more detail and data collection forms will be made available to successful applicants for this aspect of the monitoring.

Please keep all receipts and budgetary information for submission with your monitoring.

How to Apply

This programme is managed by the Community Foundation for Calderdale, on behalf of Calderdale Council.

You can access the application form via this link: [Apply to CultureDale Connect Fund](#)

Under certain circumstances we can accept applications by video. [Please click here for more information](#)

Help to Apply

If you have any questions about the CultureDale Connect Fund please contact Joanna.Fullman@calderdale.gov.uk

If you have any questions about the application process or need some help completing your application form, please get in touch with rachelb@cffc.co.uk 01422 349700

We invite all interested applicants to attend an online launch event for the **CultureDale Connect Fund** on **Thursday 7th August 11am-12pm**. Please click here to join the meeting: [Join the meeting now](#)

[Please click here to view top tips on applying for grants](#)

Timescales

You can apply to the **CultureDale Connect Fund** from **Tuesday 5th August 2025**. The deadline for invited applications is **10am Tuesday 2nd September 2025**. Project delivery will be **September 2025 – September 2026**

Please note that applications submitted at the last minute, may not meet the deadline. A surge in submissions can result in a delay in processing. These applications **will not be accepted**. As most funds are oversubscribed, priority is given to applications submitted on time. To be sure of your application arriving before the deadline, apply a minimum of a day beforehand.

What Happens Next?

1. **Application submission online** – please submit your application to CFFC a minimum of a day before the deadline, to ensure it is received on time.
2. **Due diligence check** – the CFFC team review your policies, procedures, finances to ensure that any public funds awarded to you are in safe hands. Please send in any requested documents by the deadline. Your application can

be rejected if not accompanied by the correct documents. If you are worried you don't have the right documents, contact grants@cffc.co.uk as we can work with you on this to find evidence to support your application.

3. **Eligibility check** – the CFFC team perform an initial review of your eligibility and score your application to help the Panel assess your application
4. **Panel assessment** – Funders and independent CFFC Panel members review all applications to make funding decisions. This Panel uses a secure online platform to share and discuss applications.
5. **Funding panel recommendations** – the Panel sends CFFC recommendations for funding
6. **Applicants receive decision** – CFFC will email you with a decision on your application
7. **Payment** – if successful, payment will follow by BACS shortly after your notification email. If there are outstanding documents for your application, you could receive a conditional offer. This would mean payment will be released when your documents have been received and checked.
8. **Promotion** – please help raise awareness of the work you will be delivering and the funders using 'Funded by UK Government', Culturedale and Council logos.

Good luck with your application.

Glossary

BACS –	Bank Transfer
CFFC –	Community Foundation for Calderdale
CIC –	Community Interest Company
CIO –	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
e.g. –	For Example