



Open Call: Everyday Culture Micro Commissions

What does culture look like to you and your community? Do you have a story to tell or a snapshot of everyday life that deserves to be seen and heard?

Bristol City Council is developing a new Cultural Strategy.

As part of this process, we're inviting Bristol-based creative individuals, collectives, and community groups to apply for one of eight micro-commissions worth up to £500 each to create a snapshot of what everyday culture means to you. These commissions will feed into the new Cultural Strategy and also feature online on our Strategy website.

What do we mean by everyday culture?

Everyday culture is the moments of connection and creativity in the everyday. Commissions are an opportunity for you to develop and deliver a project that showcases what culture means to you and/or your community, in your own words, spaces and styles. This could include:

- An artform or activity that you practice and experiment with (for example, producing music, or creating street art in your neighbourhood).
- An artform or activity that connects you with others and allows you to learn, collaborate and share (for example, skateboarding, BMX culture, spoken word and open mic nights).
- A space in the city which is special to you and others, a place you can connect and build community (for example, a community hub with creative programming, a youth centre, a skate park, a green space where you can perform).

You do not need to be a professional artist or have previous experience of funding. We're looking for authentic voices and ideas that reflect the richness of everyday life.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for small-scale creative interventions that celebrate everyday culture. This is an open call, which means we're not looking for a set format or outcome - it is up to you to decide how your project takes shape. Your project piece must be able to be shared online afterwards. Your project piece could be:

- A short film, podcast or audio recording

- Written pieces, poetry or zines
- A digital story or photo essay
- Or anything else that captures and shares your cultural experience

Your project must be delivered within 8 weeks and finish by 15th June 2026. Your final project piece will feature online on a new Culture Strategy site.

You can apply for funding between £100-£500

Key dates

Applications open: Friday 14th November 2025

Applications close: Monday 12th January 2026, 5pm

Funding applications are assessed: January – February 2026

Applicants notified of decisions: End of February 2026

Applicants submit detailed project timeline and budget breakdown: Early March 2026

Funding agreements issued: March 2026

Projects activity begin: 13th April 2026

Project activity close: 15th June 2026

Who can apply?

- You must be based in Bristol. For individuals, this means you either live in or have a studio/workspace in Bristol City Council's local authority area. You can check if you are within the area by typing your postcode into www.gov.uk/find-local-council
- Artists and Creative Practitioners over 18 years old
- Students in full-time education over 18 years old
- A non-affiliated organisation e.g. Community group, collective or organisations who do not have a formal constitution.

We cannot accept applications from these organisations:

- A Non-for-profit organisation, e.g. registered charity or Community Interest Company.
- Schools
- Housing associations and Registered Social Landlords
- Public-sector organisations, for example, NHS Trusts or Historic England
- Private Sector & Profit-making companies
- Organisations with a person on their Board who may get money or other benefits from the funding

Our decision-making process

There are two stages to our decision-making process for awarding funding.

Stage 1 – Assessment

Applications will be assessed by members of Bristol City Council's Arts Development team using a clear scoring system. Answers will be given a score between 0–3, based on how well the question has been answered. The scores are added together to give a total score.

Stage 2 – Balancing the investment

A decision-making panel will review and discuss the highest scoring applications. The panel includes members of the Arts Development team and may include other council officers with relevant expertise in the areas of Community Engagement, Equalities, Legal and Business/Finance. We may also invite other people with relevant expertise to take part.

The panel will consider the highest scoring applications in relation to our balancing criteria. We do this in order to consider the spread of investment that we want to make. Our intention is each fund will be as representative as possible in terms of diversity, range of art forms, geographical location and the communities they serve.

We will consider applications against the following balancing criteria:

- Geographical location (with a particular focus on Bristol City Council's priority areas)
- Range of art forms (visual art, music, dance, theatre, festivals etc.)
- Evidence of working with groups with protected characteristics

Applicants will be informed if their application has been successful or not in in February 2026.

How to apply

Please submit your application via our [online form](#). Please note you need to fill in your application in one session. You cannot save your application and come back later to submit it.

We recommend you create a draft of your application using the [application form and guidance template](#) before you start the online form. You can then copy your text across. All the prompts for the questions are within the guidance template.

Preparing your application

Some of the questions in the application form have a word count limit. These questions are clearly on the application form template.

The online form will not allow you to exceed the word limit so please use a word count checker when drafting your application.

If you can answer the question as fully as possible in less than the maximum word count that's fine also; you won't be penalised. You are welcome to use bullet points in your answers.

Completing your application form

You will need to confirm your eligibility at the beginning of the application.

You must complete your application by 5pm on Monday 12th January 2026.

Support

If you have any challenges or specific access requirements for filling in your application, please do get in touch with the Arts Development Team by emailing us at cityartsfunds@bristol.gov.uk

Thank you for considering applying to Bristol City Council's Open Call for the Everyday Culture Micro Commissions.