



THE EMERGENCY ART WORKERS SUPPORT FUND

The Emergency Art Workers Support Fund

In light of recent events, it was clear we needed to come together collectively in solidarity to help our creative community and support freelance Creative Practitioners at this difficult time. In response to the uncertainty and loss of work caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Visual Arts Scotland has initiated the Emergency Art Workers Support Fund (EAWSF), a temporary relief fund that aims to support Creative Practitioners who have been impacted by COVID-19. This fund's aim is to ensure micro grants will go to individuals who have no other current financial support or savings, who are facing an immediate loss of income from their creative freelance work, to help cover losses incurred by cancelled or postponed work in recent weeks.

There are many other support initiatives of varying size and scale being built and sustained by our incredibly vibrant creative community here in Scotland. We are hopeful these collective efforts can address the needs of our community.

The EAWSF is supported by arts organisations across Scotland. If you would like to contribute to the fund as a Partner or Supporter, get in touch. The fund shall exist for as long as we have donations to support it. We have been working hard with our team of volunteers to create this fund as quickly as possible. We hope this can offer some temporary support for some individuals facing extreme financial hardship due to lost freelance work in the arts.

In solidarity,
The VAS team and Supporters of EAWSF

What is The Emergency Art Workers Support Fund (EAWSF)?

The EAWSF is a temporary relief fund that has been created by a collective of arts organisations across Scotland to help provide immediate support in these unprecedented times. This fund was initiated by Visual Arts Scotland who administer and manage it. As many freelancers in the arts do not have contracts and are not eligible for statutory sick pay or other financial support, we want to address this issue collectively. We will award micro grants of £250 per individual to help meet immediate financial need. We aim to help as many people as possible until the fund is depleted. We will release the funds in rounds. In Round 1, £7,500 was raised by supporters of the fund; The Inches Carr Trust, The Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust, Creative Edinburgh, and Art North and we awarded over 30 micro grants.

Round 2 is collectively supported by: VAS (proceeds from the B!D fundraising auction in collaboration with John Ayscough), Craft Scotland, Applied Arts Scotland, MAKE, Glasgow Antiques and Fine Arts Society and private donations from those who wish to remain anonymous.

Our deepest thanks to the above listed organisations and donors as well as to those who supported B!D where we collectively raised £20,000 to go into supporting this fund. We thank everyone for their quick responses to help come together to build and support this temporary fund, without whom it wouldn't exist.

Eligibility

This fund is for individual Creative Practitioners (Artists, Makers, Curators, Technicians, Art Educators) working and living in Scotland, experiencing severe financial hardship as a result of cancelled/postponed work and/or further working restrictions brought on by COVID-19.

Please only apply for this fund if you require **immediate financial support** and you meet our Eligibility criteria (listed below). We have a finite amount available and want to use this fund to help those most needing help in the creative community.

We realise there will be high numbers of people applying for this fund. We ask that you read the eligibility carefully and only apply if this fund meets your situation to ensure we can help those in our community that need it most. For other funds that may be more applicable to your specific needs, please visit this compilation of funds put together by Creative Scotland [HERE](#).

The EAWSF fund is available in rounds. Due to its size, we can only award this fund to those who are most in need of immediate aid. This grant exists as a temporary support to help towards any monthly expenses. We can only offer this support to each individual once.

The requirements for eligibility are:

- *Freelance / self employed individuals who qualify as Creative Practitioners (Artists, Makers, Curators, Technicians, Art Educators)*
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- *You must be living and working in Scotland at the time of application unless you are a Visual Arts Scotland Member from March 2020, where your application will be considered regardless of your location.*
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- *Individuals experiencing a significant loss of immediate income from March 16th 2020 onwards due to the virus*
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- *Individuals unable to work due to sickness or confinement or due to taking on additional care needs of others as of March 16th 2020*
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- *Individuals with at least one of the following: Less than £1000 in bank account/no additional savings/ no additional financial support at this time*
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- *Individuals who freelance or are self employed in the creative sector and receive more than 30% of their total annual income through self-employed work*
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- *Applicants must be able to provide evidence of work directly affected, be that due to postponement or cancellation, as a result of the virus. This work affected must be related to your freelance/industry specific role.*

This fund is available only to individuals, not organisations, committees or charities. Partner organisations who support organisations as well as individuals will be supporting these in different ways; this fund acknowledges the immediate pressure on individuals and is just one part of wider actions.

How to apply?

Follow the link [HERE](#). This will take you to our online application form.

What do I need to include?

We ask that applicants supply details of how the virus has affected their work and or ability to work at this time and include evidence as images/documentation that give context to the loss of immediate income. We will ask you for an up to date CV to give context to your working background in the Creative Industries.

Can you clarify how you will determine what is evidence?

We ask that you send up to 5 attachments within a PDF/Doc. We ask that you name the PDF in the following way; 'YOUR NAME_evidence_EAWSF'. We ask that you reference under each image/document included in the PDF/Doc to add context to the image. If your evidence is not named in this way we may not be able to include it in the review of your application.

Evidence can be screenshots of emails/images of letters/anything you would consider to relate directly to your situation. Please do not send sensitive information such as National Insurance Numbers or Bank Account Details in your evidence. We only want to clarify the relationship between your statement regarding your situation and need for the fund with your attachments. Please ensure the JPEG format is at a high enough quality to be read. Please include images/attachments that relate directly to your application. Please refer to them in your application to give context. We understand that many artists and art workers operate as sole traders for their work and some of their 'evidence' may be from a different source to their 'individual' status. If you are able to signpost through your website link, and at various points in your application it will be useful to us when reviewing.

How much is available?

We currently have a pot of £22,000 available from the donations and money raised by our EAWSF supporters but we may move some of this fund to a third round depending on the volume of applications we receive for Round 2. An individual award of £250 will be granted to each successful applicant.

If I have applied in Round 1 but wasn't successful, do I have to apply again?

No, your application will be considered for Round 2, you do not have to apply again unless there has been a considerable change in your circumstances that changes your eligibility for the fund significantly or you feel we need to be informed about a change of circumstance. If you do decide to apply again, please sign post this in your new application. Your most recent application will be considered and your previous application disregarded.

What is the review process for the EAWSF?

Round 2 of this fund will open for application on **Wednesday May 6th 2020** and close on **Friday 15th 2020 at Midnight**. The VAS Council will then review applications for Round 2 and notifications will be sent on **Tuesday 19th May**. We will then try to process successful payments as quickly as possible. Please keep an eye out for announcements regarding a further round should more partners join in supporting the EAWSF.

What's the time frame from being notified of a successful application to being awarded the micro grant?

We will aim to process applications, from award notification to receipt of funds, within 1-3 days following receipt of your finance form complete with your bank details/preferred method of payment for the micro grant. We are aware that time is of the essence and will try to process the applications as quickly as possible. Please be aware that Visual Arts Scotland is a voluntary run organisation so we will be processing applications as fast as our voluntary team are able to.

What do you require as a follow up?

Successful applicants of Round 2 will be contacted on Tuesday 19th May 2020 and asked to send through their bank details in a finance form. After receiving payment details, we shall transfer the micro grant directly to their bank/ building society account within 1-3 days of the notification. Confirmation of receipt of the fund will be required and that is all. We will not ask for further reports on what applicants specifically require the funds for. We will not ask applicants to disclose this information to us upon receipt of the micro grant or hold this on record for any reason.

When you run out of money to award will the EAWSF cease to exist?

We encourage more organisations to partner with us to help support the EAWSF but we will only be able to offer the fund for as long as we have partners supporting it. We encourage everyone to look to alternatives for longer term support and we will share these on our socials along with other arts organisations. This is the second round available of the EAWSF and we shall respond to the volume of applicants and further supporters coming forward to determine whether we are able to deliver a third round.

What else are you doing to support Creatives?

We have a year round supportive role, creating exhibitions and year round events for our membership. We are currently building a sister project connected to the fund, where we hope to offer free memberships to those who cannot otherwise afford to sign up to membership this year but who would benefit from a VAS membership. We hope this project can develop with supporters and we shall announce further news if we are able to launch. To find more about our membership and how to get involved, check out our website. We are also currently busy creating new opportunities for our membership at this time and creating further opportunities with other arts organisations. Please follow us on our social media channels to get all the updates or sign up to our newsletter that you can find on our website [here](#).

I want to be a supporter, how can I help?

We are currently accepting offers of support in the form of contributions to the fund and the sister free membership support scheme. Please contact info@visualartsscotland.org if you wish to join our collective of partner organisations or donate anonymously.

Privacy Policy

Visual Arts Scotland requires some personal information from you in order that we process your application to EAWSF. Without this information we are unable to consider your application for this fund. We have only asked for information that will help us determine who will most benefit from EAWSF. We will not retain your personal information or use it for any purpose other than to process your application. Upon receiving notification of your application, we shall safely delete your information from our records. Any information disclosed in your application shall be held in the strictest confidence and will be considered only in this context for this specific fund.