

Oxford University Museums NPO Associates Scheme 2025-2026

Criteria and guidelines

Oxford University Museums Partnership (OUMP) is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (NPO). As part of that investment, OUMP is pleased to launch the Associates Scheme, a total of £50,000 in funding available for museums in Oxfordshire to work in partnership to create high quality cultural experiences for underserved communities in the local area.

About this grant

This Scheme supports the ‘[Cultural Communities](#)’ outcome in the Arts Council England *Let’s Create* strategy 2020-2030 by enabling museums to use creativity and culture to create thriving places to work, live, study and visit. Grants ranging from £5,000 - £15,000 will be awarded. Due to the expected demand on the Scheme, partial contributions to projects may be offered. A decision to fund a project does not mean that a project of that nature will be automatically supported in any future rounds of funding. However, the grant is likely to be renewed in 2026-27 and you will be asked in the application form if you would be interesting continuing or extending your programme.

Eligibility

Applicant museums:

- must be located in Oxfordshire
- must be within the Accreditation scheme (Full Accreditation, Provisional Accreditation or Working Towards Accreditation).
- *must not* be in receipt of Arts Council’s National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding.

A proposal will be eligible for a grant if it demonstrates the ability to achieve the following criteria:

- Provides meaningful and measurable benefit to one or more underserved local communities.
- Delivers its activity in partnership.

- Ensures all activity is provided free for participants.

We encourage applicants to work collaboratively with one or more partners to deliver their programme. The partnership can be with a third sector organisation (e.g. charitable organisation, community group, CIC or social enterprise) or a local business. Please note that the applicant must be the lead partner (the museum).

We particularly welcome proposals that articulate a clear need and prioritise health and wellbeing, widen participation or address inequalities in the local area.

All applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by a panel from the Divisional Office of Oxford University’s Gardens, Libraries and Museums.

Managing a grant

Funding can be provided for running costs (e.g. additional staff costs, equipment) directly related to the delivery of the programme. Capital projects would not normally be supported.

Successful grantees will be expected to highlight their programmes to relevant communities. They will also be required to submit short quarterly reports – in line with the duration of the project - to OUMP in line with our Arts Council Investment reporting schedule. We will provide the template for this. Invoices detailing expenditure should also be submitted on a quarterly basis.

How to apply

Please apply by completing a [grant application form](#). All applications must be submitted by **9am on Monday 17th**

February 2025. Grantees will be notified by Monday 3rd March. Funded activity can be of any duration but must be delivered by 31 March 2026.

If you have any queries, please contact outreach@glam.ox.ac.uk.



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