ALNMOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL CIC

This policy sets out Alnmouth Arts Festival CIC’s position with regard to the award of grants in the financial year ending March 21st each year.

**Introduction**

In accordance with the aims set out in the Alnmouth Arts Festival (AAF) community interest statement AAF CIC, sets aside a sum of money each year which can be applied for by local individuals and organisations for arts projects and activities which will benefit the artistic practice of the applicant and/or the community of Alnmouth and its surrounding areas.

Examples of arts projects and activities in this context include visual arts (including ceramics, drawing, filmmaking, painting, photography etc), literary arts (including fiction, drama, poetry and prose) and performing arts (including dance, music and theatre).

This document sets out AAF CIC’s policy and procedure for grants with the aim of ensuring that all its award making activity is open, transparent, fair and supports local individuals and organisations.

The AAF CIC’s awards are open to established voluntary or community groups and individuals living or working in the County of Northumberland.

The maximum grant available for each organisation or individual (on each annual application) is £500.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

To be eligible for the award of a grant an individual or organisation must:

1. Be for artistic practice, charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational or philanthropic purposes. Local groups affiliated to regional or national organisations will qualify provided the local group operates substantially as an independent financial unit and can demonstrate a benefit to the County of Northumberland.
2. The individual or organisation should live or work (or have a strong connection) to the County of Northumberland.
3. Have a bank account into which grant funds can be paid.

**What can be funded?**

1. The project, service or activity should be something which benefits the local arts community or individual/group artistic practice.
2. Projects/activities which have already been completed or will have been completed by the time the grant is made can be funded retrospectively, but the project/activity must have started no laterr than 6 months before the application date.
3. Each group or individual may make one application per financial year.

**The following are not eligible**

1. Projects/activities which improve or benefit privately owned land or property.
2. Support for the promotion of political or religious beliefs.

**Application requirements**

1. You must use the AAF CIC’s application form and describe how the project will benefit the arts or community in the County of Northumberland or an individual’s/group’s artistic practice.
2. You will need to confirm receipt of the funds for AAF CIC’s audit purposes.
3. You must spend the grant on the purpose agreed with AAF CIC.
4. If your project/service/activity costs are more than you anticipated on your application any shortfall must be met by you.

**When to apply**

1. The AAF CIC committee considers applications on an annual basis at its meeting in March each year.
2. Send your application to AAF CIC by the closing date, which is the last day of February each year.
3. AAF CIC will not consider any applications received after the closing date.

**How decisions will be made**

1. All applications will be assessed each year in March after the closing date.
2. Awards will be made as soon as possible by AAF CIC with its decision being final.
3. Unfortunately, AAF CIC may not be able to fund all requests for support, as there may be more applications than there is money available. However, all applications will be considered carefully.
4. A full list of successful applications will be published on the AAF CIC website.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually at the AAF CIC Annual General Meeting in April.

**How to apply**

Please apply on the attached application form.

Please email your completed application form to info@alnmouthartsfestival.org.uk