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Crafts Council receives lifeline grant from Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund

Crafts Council has been awarded **£353,846** as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure they have a sustainable future, the Culture Secretary has announced today.

Crafts Council is one of 1,385 cultural and creative organisations across the country receiving urgently needed support. £257 million of investment has been announced today as part of the very first round of the Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England. Further rounds of funding in the cultural and heritage sector are due to be announced over the coming weeks.

The Crafts Council, founded in 1971, supports the crafts sector through its work in market development, education, and advocacy and promotion of craft.

Based in Islington, London, the Crafts Council was days away from opening its new gallery when we went into lockdown back in March. The ACE recovery fund will enable us to open this gallery in a safe and secure way on November 19th, with a show, Future Edit, that showcases graduate talent from 2020.

The fund will also support digital enhancements and audience development plans to support the wider craft sector.

Like many cultural organisations, the Crafts Council has suffered a devastating loss of commercial income this year. The fund will help us close this gap and ensure we can continue to support the sector, offering vital advice and guidance to craft businesses during this challenging time, widen our participation activities so that more people can benefit from the therapeutic benefits of craft, and help secure our financial stability for this year.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

"This funding is a vital boost for the theatres, music venues, museums and cultural organisations that form the soul of our nation. It will protect these special places, save jobs and help the culture sector's recovery.

"These places and projects are cultural beacons the length and breadth of the country. This unprecedented investment in the arts is proof this government is here for culture, with further support to come in the days and weeks ahead so that the culture sector can bounce back strongly."

Chair, Arts Council England, Sir Nicholas Serota, said:



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“Theatres, museums, galleries, dance companies and music venues bring joy to people and life to our cities, towns and villages. This life-changing funding will save thousands of cultural spaces loved by local communities and international audiences. Further funding is still to be announced and we are working hard to support our sector during these challenging times.”

Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director said: ‘this is fantastic news. Like so many cultural organisations we have had to adapt our plans at pace and grapple with the loss of significant income this year. The recovery fund gives us some much-needed financial stability for this year which, in turn, allows us to focus on supporting the wider craft sector. We are grateful to the government and Arts Council England for this investment in us.

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Notes for Editors

About the Crafts Council

About the Crafts Council:

The Crafts Council is the national charity for craft. Founded in 1971, we believe craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals, and, in doing so, will change our world for the better.

We have three main aims. To inspire making through high quality editorial, exhibitions and events, to empower learning through our work across formal and informal education, and to nurture craft businesses by providing practical guidance, support and promotion.

Our work is made possible by the support of trusts and foundations, individual patrons, and corporate sponsors, and through public funding by Arts Council England.
www.craftscouncil.org.uk

Follow @craftscouncil on Instagram and @CraftsCouncilUK on Facebook and Twitter.

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund** and unprecedented support package of £1.57 for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19