



FestivalConnect Questions - Updated 20 January 2020

These questions are derived from both our FestivalConnect webinars held on the 13th of December 2019 ([view webinar here](#)) and 15th January 2020 ([view webinar here](#)) respectively. *Text in italics indicate additional information from the 15 Jan webinar.*

Main themes of questions:

A. Can I apply as an artist/creative?

The application for this opportunity needs to be led by a Festival either across SSA OR the UK so individual artists or creatives interested in the Festival Connect call out are recommended to get in touch with a festival of interest

B. Will BC initiate partnerships for us? Or must we have existing relationships?

Applicants are required to have existing relationships with their partners. British Council will not be able to facilitate these connections.

C. What is a project in a festival? And how does it differ from funding the festival?

British Council will not award a grant for the delivery of your entire festival; however, will award a grant for an element of your festival programme.

Other frequent questions:

- **I already have a local festival and I am hoping to take it to the national level next year with a new name. If I am able to make a meaningful contact with a festival in the UK, can I apply using the new name of the festival?**

Applying festivals need to have had at least 3 iterations for annual festivals, and at least 2 iterations for biennales. *We will accept proposals from festivals that have had three iterations but have changed names. Please make it clear in your proposal.*

- **What if you want to attend a festival as an organiser to learn from them, as professional development?**

This opportunity is for creation and/or sharing of work, there will be other opportunities designed specifically for professional develop. Please see our opportunity page for mobility. *Your project may however be an exchange of professionals between festivals, or skills, such as curatorship or programmers designing aspects of each other's festival. This can be seen as cross-pollinating Festivals or Professional Development opportunities, and you may propose this*

- **I want international creative and visual artists to attend my festival for next year - will this be seen as a project?**

The grant is to support an existing idea for a collaboration with an artist – you would need to demonstrate what work the creatives and/or visual artists are creating within the festival. *The grant is not a quick-fix for festival programming.*

*If you are proposing to programme artists, the artists need to come from reciprocating countries.

- **Could a young person curate/programme a stage or performance area within a festival/carnival or exchange that could benefit several young people/ participants or would that be seen as touring? Does the disability grant include a support worker/ access costs on top of the grant?**

Festival Connect is open to all Festivals, biennales, art fairs, large-scale exhibitions and seasons to lead on the application. *The applicants do not have to be 18-35 but the main recipients of the work including the artists involved and the audiences do need to be 18-35.*

For the disability grant, applicants need to list their requirements and align that with the amount requested. Therefore, it can include support for worker and access costs.

Project funding

Can the funding help to fund the festival or is it restricted to the collaborative element?

What can the funding cover?

Can the requested amount be under £10k or over £20k?

How many grants are you looking to award?

Are levels of Match-Funding considered / weighted in the submission process?

What is the turnaround time from when grant is given?

The funding request is for project should be between £10k and £20k. This should cover the proposed activity within your festival, but is not intended to resource the running of the festival. It is understood and accepted that if you have specific technical, marketing and fee costs related to the activity, you can include them in the proposal, so long as they relate to the project. If your project cost is over 20k you need to indicate how the festival will cover the shortfall. Success of your proposal will not be determined whether or not you have match/additional funding. Please check

the Open Call timeline for details on turn around. Activity must take place between May 2020 and May 2021.

Project Activity/Application

Can festivals make multiple applications?

Does the collaborative event have to hold in only SSA especially for festival to festival?

For Festival / Festival Is there an expectation for both festivals to benefit from the grant?

Can we make a reciprocal visit in the time frame?

Does the absence of previous collaboration with the British Council influence the selection decision?

Festivals can make multiple applications. Activity does not have to take place at both collaborating festivals, but it can if you desire. However, there must be some form of collaboration, exchange or engagement between the festivals. You do not have to have engaged with British Council previously to apply to this Open Call, nor will that have any influence over the success of your proposal.

Partnerships

Can the partnership be between multiple artists and across different art forms?

If we are from SSA can we work with artists from other African regions/West Africa and not just the UK?

If we run one-day music events in the UK and then our festival in Ghana does this count as a UK and SSA festival partnership?

We have reached out to festivals but still not had a response from them, is there anything we can do?

The project must be an international partnership with a minimum of two partners, one partner must be from the UK and one must be from SSA. We are unable to make introductions or recommendations due to the time and synergy required to make a meaningful partnership. If you do not already have a partnership conversation going we recommend you do not apply for this round and you contact your local arts team after the deadline has passed for recommendations and advice for the next round.

Visas

What help can you provide?

If your festival is successful we can provide a letter of invitation for a traveling artists to support their application. We have no influence or connection with the visa offices what so ever, so appropriate time must be given for applications of visas. We can offer guidance and advise as to what visas are best to apply for.