**2025 GM Arts Access Bursaries**

**for Rochdale based Creatives**

**(Round 3)**

**In partnership with Rochdale Borough Council and Rochdale Development Agency, GM Arts is offering bursaries between £100 - £250for freelance creative practitioners.**

These bursaries are here to support your growth by making it easier to attend workshops, training, networking, or access other professional development opportunities. Round 3: We have a total of £1,000 available between 11th August – 12th September 2025. To apply: please email this application form to [rbcn@cartwheelarts.org.uk](mailto:rbcn@cartwheelarts.org.uk) & write ‘GM Arts Access Bursary’ in the subject line of the email.

If you need support accessing or completing this document, please either email [rbcn@cartwheelarts.org.uk](mailto:rbcn@cartwheelarts.org.uk) or phone 01706 361300 and ask to speak to Hebe.

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**Key Dates:**

The deadline to apply for this round of the Rochdale GM Arts Access Bursary is:

**12th September 2025.**

You’ll hear back from Cartwheel Arts on whether we’re able to support your request for a bursary by:

**3rd October 2025**

Please consider these dates carefully when applying.

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**Section 1: Eligibility**

We recognise that financial barriers can significantly limit access to professional development opportunities for freelance creative practitioners. The Rochdale GM Arts Access Bursaries are designed to support those who find it challenging to cover the costs associated with attending networking, training or other professional development events. We aim to cover expenses that may be overlooked by other funding sources, including, but not limited to, the cost of taking time off work, travel, accommodation, and caregiving costs.

Our goal is to reduce financial pressures so that creative practitioners can focus on expanding skills and networks, irrespective of personal or economic circumstances.

**Please note**: Rochdale GM Arts Access Bursaries are designed to assist those who genuinely need financial support. If you are comfortably able to cover these costs without assistance, we kindly ask that you leave this opportunity for those who need it most. This ensures our resources support those for whom such financial assistance can make a significant difference in accessing professional development opportunities.

Individuals who have previously successfully applied for the following:

* GM Arts Bursary Rounds 1 or 2
* RBCN Small Grants 2025/2 Round 1

**are not eligible** to apply for the GM Arts Round 3.

The source of the GM Arts Spirit funding is from the [Greater Manchester Combined Authority Culture Fund](https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/culture/culture-and-social-impact-fund).

The Rochdale Borough Culture Network can only accept one application to the Rochdale GM Arts Bursary per applicant per round.

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**Please confirm:**

* I am a creative practitioner livingand/or working in Rochdale - YES / NO
* I meet the eligibility criteria outlined above and confirm that I have limited access to other funds / opportunities - YES / NO
* If successful, this will be my first grant from the Rochdale GM Arts Bursary or RBCN Small Grants (25/26) – YES / NO

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**Section 2: ABOUT YOU (Data kept in Districts)**

**Your First Name\***

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**Your Last Name\***

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**Your Email\***

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**Location:** Please enter your postcode:\*

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**\*please note only Rochdale based creatives are eligible for this funding**

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**Section 3: YOUR CREATIVE PRACTICE (Data shared with GM Arts)**

**Artform:** What kind of art or creative work are you involved in?

* Music
* Theatre
* Dance
* Visual arts
* Literature
* Combined arts
* Film, media & TV
* Something else

If you selected ‘something else’ or would like to describe your art form in a few words, please do so here:

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**About Your Practice:** Please tell us a little bit about your creative practice\*

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**Link:** If available, please provide a weblink to your portfolio or share your social media handles. This will offer us more insight into your creative work.

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**Section 4: YOUR BURSARY APPLICATION (Data shared with GM Arts)**

**Amount:** How much of a bursary are you applying for?\* (£100 - £250 available per person)

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| £ |

**Your development:** Please select the elements that you’re most interested in developing (select as many as apply)\*:

* Access and inclusion
* Artistic practice
* Audience development and engagement
* Career planning and strategy
* Confidence building
* Contracts, intellectual property and legal rights
* Digital skills and technologies
* Environmental sustainability
* Financial management
* Fundraising
* Leadership
* Marketing and/or social media
* Mental health and wellbeing
* Networks and connections
* Project management
* Written or verbal communication

Please select if the bursary will help you to attend or access any of the below:

* Access to specialised equipment or materials
* Collaboration opportunities with other artists or creatives
* Exhibition or performance opportunities
* Industry conferences and seminars
* Mentoring sessions
* Networking events
* Online courses and webinars
* Portfolio reviews
* Professional coaching
* Q&A sessions with industry experts
* Rehearsal or studio opportunities
* Research trips
* Residencies and artist retreats
* Training workshops or courses
* Something else

If you selected ‘Something else’ please expand here

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**Opportunity Details:** Please share brief information about the workshop, training, networking, or other professional development opportunity that the bursary would enable you to participate in or access.

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**What difference will the bursary make?**: Please share your thoughts on how receiving a bursary could positively influence your creative journey and career.

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***Communications***

* *I permit members of the Rochdale Borough Culture Network to contact me via email about creative events, surveys, and opportunities, including details on forthcoming rounds of GM Arts Access Bursaries.*

***Consent and Confirmation***

* I acknowledge that certain non-personal details of my application to Cartwheel Arts, on behalf of the Rochdale Borough Culture Network may be shared with GM Arts, Rochdale Borough Council and Rochdale Development Agency for the purpose of collaborative learning.
* I consent to being contacted via email by members of the Rochdale Borough Culture Network to be informed about the outcome of my bursary application and, if successful, to coordinate the bursary payment.
* If successful, I agree to provide Cartwheel Arts and the Rochdale Borough Culture Networkwith a short quote via email about how the bursary was used

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***Thank you***

Thank you for taking the time to apply for a Rochdale GM Arts Artist Access Bursary. We will be in touch soon about the outcome of your application.

Rochdale Creates, our creative sector directory website is set to unite the next generation of cultural pioneers –get in touch and set up your own profile for free here: [www.rochdalecreates.co.uk](http://www.rochdalecreates.co.uk) and connect with us on Instagram @rochdale.creates and Facebook @rochdalecreats.