**Rochdale Borough Culture Network – Small Grants Fund**

**Priority: Artist Development**

The Rochdale Borough Culture Network aims to support individual artists & arts organisations, as well as voluntary groups, faith and social enterprises that widen access to arts & culture in the borough.

Round 1 of the Small Grants Fund in 2025/26 is aimed at:

* Artists and individuals whose work is based in Rochdale Borough
* Artists and individuals who are seeking to develop their creative practice
* Widening access to creativity including engaging traditionally under-served communities, including, but not exclusive to communities at risk of racial inequalities, disabled, LGBTQ+ and communities experiencing poverty

Criteria:

We will assess applications ability to develop their creative practice through the following criteria:

* Building new networks
* Experimenting with new collaborators or partners
* Travelling or engaging with new opportunities
* Undertaking training or working with a mentor
* Research and development time
* Purchasing materials or equipment to support their practice

Please note, RBCN are committed to ensuring artists are paid fairly and adequately for their work. We are open to applications that support artists to be artists, including paying an adequate fee, investing in development as well as materials and equipment.

Balancing:

Alongside scoring individual applications, we will also strive to ensure that we fund a range of diverse art-forms, practitioners and reaches individuals from all 4 townships of the borough.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 30th June 2025 at 10am**

How to Apply

To apply, please complete the attached application form and return it to Cartwheel Arts, who will administrate this Small Grants Fund. You may apply in any of the following ways:

**Word Document**: Download the word document and return via email to rbcn@cartwheelarts.org.uk

**WhatsApp Voice Note Application**: You can complete the application form via WhatsApp Voice-note. To do this, please first telephone 01706 361300 and ask to speak to Hebe Reilly, and we will provide you with a mobile number to send Voice Notes to for this application.

If you require any additional support with the application, please contact Gil via rbcn@cartwheelarts.org.uk

**Terms & Conditions**

This funding is aimed at artists and individuals whose work is based in Rochdale Borough. Please note, applicants whose work predominately takes place outside of Rochdale Borough will not be eligible.

Each applicant can apply for a maximum of £800. We have a total of £3,200 in the Small Grants Fund to distribute. Applicants are welcome to apply for less than £800.

Applicants may only submit 1 application to the Small Grants Fund Round 1. We will not fund the same project twice

As RBCN only have limited funds to distribute each year, and the Small Grants fund is aimed at artists and organisations who may not have access to other arts funding, our criteria is as follows:

* Applicants who have been successfully awarded a Small Grants Fund since 1st January 2025 will not be eligible to apply for the Small Grants in 2025/26. If your previous application was unsuccessful, you are welcome to re-apply.
* Applicants who are successfully awarded an Arts Council Project Grant Match Fund by RBCN in this financial year (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026) will not be eligible to apply for the Small Grants Fund
* Applicants who are successful for a Small Grants Fund are eligible to apply for an Arts Council Project Grant Match Fund in the same financial year (as we hope to support your progression)
* You may apply and be successful with both the RBCN Small Grants & the GM Arts Bursary in one financial year

The RBCN Small Grants fund is made possible thanks to support from the Rochdale Borough Council and Your Trust. The funds are managed by Cartwheel on behalf of the Rochdale Borough Culture Network.

**Time-Frame:**

Deadline: Monday 30th June 2025

Results: End July 2025

Contact & Completed Forms: Gil via rbcn@cartwheelarts.org.uk

Reporting Deadline: 31st December 2025 (a simple monitoring & report form will be provided to successful applicants)