



The Arts Society Oxford

The Arts Society Member No. 349

Registered Charity No. 1175875

Charitable Giving Policy

Overview

The Arts Society Oxford (TASO) is an Oxford based Society and registered charity. We recognise a responsibility to support, welcome and encourage applications from local community groups/organisations who put forward relevant projects with an artistic focus. This policy sets out the factors that influence the Society's donation decisions and explains how such decisions are made. It will enable groups and projects seeking funding to understand the process and to submit applications in the required form, with the necessary information. It reflects the objectives of the Society as set out in its constitution which are "the promotion and advancement of the aesthetic education of the public, the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative, fine and other arts and the giving of aid to the preservation of our national artistic heritage for the benefit of the public".

Oversight Responsibility

Trustees carry overall responsibility for allocation of funding and set the annual budget for charitable giving each year, in consultation with the Community Arts Projects Committee (CAPC). The CAPC will review the bids received and select a shortlist for consideration by the Board of Trustees (BoT). The CAPC discussions and recommendations will be sent as a written report annexing the application forms received with a financial breakdown) with a brief explanation of any rejections and a brief account for the selection of those projects the CAPC recommends for funding. The ultimate decision regarding approval of the funding of projects will lie with the BoT. Following the approval of successful bids by the BoT, the CAPC will respond to all applicants, advising them of the decision. They will also review the progress of projects funded by TASO and report back to the BoT with an evaluation of outcomes at the end of the project.

Criteria for Eligibility

When submitting applications for funding, organisations should bear in mind the following principles that influence the Society's grant-giving.

1. All applications must have an arts and/or artistic heritage focus.
2. Any project taking into account the needs of particular groups (young people and adults) for whom arts-based activities provide enjoyment, stimulation and learning is welcomed.
3. Projects involving the preservation of our national artistic heritage for the benefit of the public will be considered.
4. Part of TASO's annual funding will always be made available for projects aimed at the young (under 18 years of age) if suitable applications are received.
5. Any project in the immediate Oxford area will be considered although TASO aims to help small groups with modest grants. It is recognised that many projects will draw on a wider Oxfordshire area through museums, galleries, hospitals etc.
6. TASO funding supports the direct costs of projects, typically materials and fees of artists/facilitators, and we will consider including the cost of essential equipment, but will not support the overhead costs of host organisations. Receipts for direct purchases on behalf of small groups can be considered.
7. TASO is open to projects which are match funded.
8. TASO recognises the importance of supporting causes that find it difficult to attract funds.



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Exclusions

Requests for funding from individuals will not be considered.

Requests from outside of the Oxfordshire area will not be considered (see point 5 in previous section).

Requests from organisations conducting fundraising on behalf of others (third party giving) will not be considered.

Requests for funds for capital expenditure will not be considered, however the Trustees will consider sympathetically requests for equipment for projects that meet other criteria e.g. direct purchases for a group with no assets.

Request Procedure

The CAPC will normally meet twice a year to discuss project applications: the end of March and September. Nevertheless, some flexibility will be allowed for smaller projects (any amount less than £500) and these may be considered outside of these application windows.

Applications for funding must be made on the TASO Application Form which is available on the website – www.theartsocietyoxford.org.uk. They must be submitted by email to tasoxford@gmail.com.

All applications will be acknowledged and all applicants will be informed of the outcome of their applications. The BoT meets every two months and therefore applicants should be informed of the outcome within a maximum of 4 months of receipt of the application.