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| **Theme** | **Question** | **Answer** |
|  | Who is considered a “culture, heritage, and creative organisation”, and does this have to encompass all of their work? For example, can a university or health and social care organisation that runs creative cultural centres as part of their work apply?  | The primary activity of the lead partner organisation must be within the cultural, creative or heritage sector. Other partners within the consortia can be from other sectors. In the example given a health and social care organisation could be a partner organisation, but not a lead organisation. |
|  | Are projects that cost less than £25,000 eligible to apply?  | No, projects that cost less than £25,000 would not be eligible to apply.  |
|  | Can an organisation be a partner in more than one project, and can they be the lead on multiple applications? | An organisation cannot be a lead on multiple applications but can be a partner in more than one collaboration.  |
| **Eligibility** | Do CICs need to have more than two directors to apply?  | More than two directors are not needed in order to apply.  |
|  | Can existing formal consortia apply? | Yes, existing consortia can apply, but applications should demonstrate how Collaborate funding would enable activity that is not already ongoing.  |
|  | Can creative practitioners and freelancers be the lead applicant?  | Both freelancers and creative practitioners can be the lead. We would be looking for scale, it would be unlikely that one creative practitioner with one small organisation would be able to deliver the scale of impact we would like to support, whereas several practitioners working across a number of smaller organisations would be the scale of impact we’re looking to fund. |
|  | Does the project have to deliver something public facing with programmed activities, for example? | No, funded activity does not need to be public facing.  |
|  | Does activity need to take place across different Greater Manchester boroughs, or can the impact be concentrated in one?  | Consortia that deliver across multiple Greater Manchester boroughs are more likely to be successful than consortia that deliver exclusively in one borough.  |
|  | Can the consortium be made up of just arts organisations?  | Yes, consortia can be made up of just arts organisations, but those that include organisations from a variety of sectors are more likely to be successful. |
| **Timescales** | How long should the projects be? So, how long should they last and when should they be completed by?  | We would expect activity to be delivered by March 31st 2026.  |
| **Networking and contacts** | Will there be ongoing communication between different organisations that could potentially collaborate with each other?  | Establishing a network where people and organisations can reach out to each other is important, and we are looking into establishing an open forum for the application process and beyond.  |
|  | Is there a mailing list we can join?  | No, there is no Collaborate mailing list.  |
|  | How do we find out about the EOI process when it is released on 24th February?  | It will be announced on GMCA social media channels and emails will be sent to our networks and partners with information. |
|  | Are organisations who have previously applied or received GMCA culture funding eligible to apply? | Yes, Collaborate funding is also open to those who have previously applied for other funding from the GMCA, whether they were successful or unsuccessful.  |
| **Existing partnerships and funding** | Do you require match funding?  | While there is no requirement for match funding, projects that can demonstrate how they are able lever investment from other sources are likely to score more highly at full application stage. We will not be asking for this information at the expressions of interest stage. |
|  | Are there any partnership exclusions? For example, NPOs, Music Hubs, and organisations in the GMCA portfolio?  | There are no partnership exclusions. |
|  | Can the grant be in addition to Arts Council England Funding?  | Yes, it can. |
|  | Would applicants remain eligible for future GMCA funding | Yes, they would. |
|  | How will the GMCA assess each project? For example, will it be about the merit of each project’s impact or how well they balance with other projects?  | We expect to fund a portfolio of seven projects that deliver against each theme of the fund. At full application stage each project will be assessed on its alignment with the following criteria: * Sustainability through collaboration
* Interdisciplinary impact
* Cross-sector partnerships
* Regional representation
* Lead applicant must work within the culture, creative or heritage sectors
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|  | Will applications be assessed separately depending on how much funding they have applied for?  | No, all applications will be judged across the same set of five criteria regardless of the level of funding they have applied for. |
|  | What measures do you have in place to ensure a fair and inclusive process? Will there be an independent and diverse judging panel?  | We will include a question in the Expression of Interest stage asking how consortia will reflect and support diverse communities in Greater Manchester, with the full applications being discussed by a panel that reflects the diversity of our city-region. |
| **Criteria** | Will the lead applicant be entirely responsible for collaboration and delivery?  | The lead applicant will take control of project management and the overall steering of the collaboration, with partner organisations within the consortia providing support and capacity.  |
|  | Can a Manchester-based organisation collaborate with a national organisation? | Yes, but the application would need to demonstrate the impact this collaboration is going to have on Greater Manchester communities. For example, how are you going to make connections with communities in other districts if they are not there already? Strong applications will be able to demonstrate that they have these partnerships in place, ready to make impacts, which could be more challenging for national organisations that don’t already have links within the city region.  |
|  | Is a publicly shared creative outcome required at the end of a project?  | No, a publicly shared creative outcome is not required at the end of the project. |
|  | If the project could be delivered at different scales, with either a £25k or £50k grant, what approach would you recommend? Will you consider offering a smaller amount than that asked for? | It would be up to the organisations within the consortia to ascertain whether or not a specific project is suitable for a £25k or a £50k grant, but naturally we would expect higher ambition, scope and reach from a project receiving higher amounts of funding, with those seeking less much more focused on grassroots and community collaboration.  |