

Funding and Support for Museums to Respond to the Covid-19 Crisis

28th May 2020

Contents

Introduction.....	1
National Government Support for Business and Charities.....	2
Arts Council England (ACE) Support for Non-NPOs.....	3
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) Support for Heritage Organisations	3
Historic England.....	4
Association of Independent Museums (AIM)	4
Advice from the Charity Commission	4
Support from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.....	5
ACAS Advice for Employers.....	5
Funding and Investment Guide from <i>Good Finance</i>	5

Introduction

MDY has compiled this information sheet to identify **sources of funding and focused support** for regional museums here in Yorkshire and beyond. It is not comprehensive and does not include information about the important advocacy and lobbying initiatives being undertaken by the Museums Association (MA), National Museum Directors Conference (NMDC) and the Association of Independent Museums (AIM).

In addition to other support, MDY is reprofiling its work to help your museum respond to and recover from this crisis.

We are using our Small Grants Scheme to deliver 'Escaping Lockdown Grants' which are assessed weekly and focussed on helping your museum survive and prepare to reopen and relaunch your museum. We are encouraging projects of £500 to £1000, with NO match funding. We do require a clear project plan that addresses either:

- A key immediate issue that has resulted from the current lockdown
- Helps you connect with audiences while you are closed
- Helps you engage with volunteers and staff while your museum is closed
- The reopening and relaunching of your museum including measures to make your visitors and your staff and volunteers feel safer while on site

We require a clear action plan that relates to your museum's key purpose and, if possible, a timetable. We recognise that we are still in uncertain times so if the plan or timetable needs to change, we are prepared to be flexible as the situation develops.

We strongly advise you to speak to your Museum Development Officer before submitting your application at <http://bit.ly/MDY18SGApp>

National Government Support for Business and Charities

The government has set out a package of temporary and targeted measures to support organisations through this period of disruption caused by Covid-19.

For detail, please look at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-Covid-19/Covid-19-support-for-businesses>

The support measures of greatest interest to museums are in bold:

- **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**
 - Managed by HMRC
 - Reimbursement in arrears of 80% of furloughed workers' wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month
 - **The scheme will change in August until October to allow for PT working and with additional employer contributions**
 - Furloughed means that there is no work for the individual to complete and is an alternative to temporary redundancy
 - Furloughed staff can choose to engage in CPD and training providing that certain conditions are met
 - Workers must consent in writing/email to being furloughed
- Deferring VAT and Income Tax payments
- **Statutory Sick Pay relief package for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs)**
 - Employers can be reclaim SSP paid to employees for sickness starting on or after 13th March 2020 because of COVID-19
- **12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England**
 - This will apply to your next council tax bill in April 2020

- **Small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief**

- **Grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000**
 - Your local authority will be managing these funds
 - Museums may need to proactively approach their Local Authority
 - Properties with a rateable value of <£15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000
 - Properties with a rateable value £15,000-51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000
 - Some museums are experiencing difficulties due to the valuation method used

- **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank and Bounce Back Loans of £2-50k**
 - Talk to your bank about eligibility
 - Only available if your museum generates >50% of its income through earnings
 - Loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to 6 years
 - Government will cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied fees
 - Government will provide lenders with a guarantee of up to 100% on each loan

- Lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans

- HMRC Time To Pay Scheme

Arts Council England (ACE) Support for Non-NPOs

ACE is making available £50m, in grants of up to £35,000, to support business resilience and enable cultural organisations to develop new public-facing activity during the Covid-19 emergency.

- ACE will publish a list of successful applicants in June 2020

Museums can apply to and be offered funding by both ACE and NLHF. Funding can only be accepted from one organisation.

National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Support for Heritage Organisations

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is making £50m in grants of up to £250,000 available to the heritage sector. There are specific eligibility criteria so please ensure that your museum is able to apply.

- Guidance is available at <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/heritage-emergency-fund>
- Emergency grants of £3,000 to £50,000 to deal with immediate risks
- Emergency grants of £50,000 to £250,000 to help organisations that manage a heritage asset at risk over the next 4 months
- The final deadline is 30th June 2020

FAQs about the fund are being updated continually, see:

www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/heritage-emergency-fund-faqs

Museums can apply to and be offered funding by both ACE and NLHF. Funding can only be accepted from one organisation.

Historic England

Small heritage organisations can apply for grants of up to £25,000 to address financial difficulties arising from Coronavirus. Grants of up to £50,000 are also available for projects and activities that reduce risks to heritage by providing information, resources and skills.

- Guidance is available at <https://historicengland.org.uk/coronavirus/fund/>
- Deadline for applications is midnight 3rd May

Association of Independent Museums (AIM)

AIM has a directory of [support packages](#) that are available to museums at <https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/coronavirus-support-finance/>

AIM is offering [free online surgeries](#) for museums with its Prospering Boards consultants <https://www.aim-museums.co.uk/coronavirus-support-resources-online-advice-surgeries/>

This includes advice on finance, leadership and HR.

Advice from the Charity Commission

The Charity Commission is keen to support trustees and remain as flexible and pragmatic as possible.

Depending on the nature of the impact of the crisis on your museum, your charity may want to submit an interim Serious Incident Report. This might also be appropriate if a subordinate trading company is at risk of deficit trading.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-Covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector>

Support from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

NCVO has made all member-only resources free to everyone during the current situation. This includes specific guidance on responding to the Covid-19 crisis.

<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/site-homepage>

ACAS Advice for Employers

ACAS has a range of advice sheets, webinars and weekly Q&A's for employers.

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

Funding and Investment Guide from *Good Finance*

Good Finance is a collaborative project to help improve access to information on social investment for charities and social enterprises. The team have created a list of resources to support the financial resilience of charities and social enterprises.

<https://www.goodfinance.org.uk/covid-19-resource-hub-charities-social-enterprises>