

Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund Guidelines

What the Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund is

The Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund is a £250,000 grant fund to support community, cultural and sporting organisations, and artists to deliver local events and projects across Glasgow in the lead-up to, and for the duration of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games ((23 May – 9 August 2026)).

The fund seeks to showcase Glasgow's cultural, sporting and community strengths in alignment with the vision and values of the Commonwealth Games, creating a vibrant and inclusive experience for residents and visitors during summer 2026.

Objectives of the Fund

The objectives of the Festival Fund align with the city's strategic priorities in areas of culture, events, physical activity and sport.

- Showcase and celebrate the diversity of the city and the Commonwealth.
- Create exciting, inclusive and safe experiences for residents and visitors.
- Increase participation in sport and culture, particularly among underserved communities.
- Engage people and communities in projects that build mental and physical wellbeing.
- Engage people and communities in projects that build civic pride.

Who can apply

The following organisations, groups and individuals can apply if all or the majority of funding is directed to benefit Glasgow's communities and citizens:

- Community or Voluntary Organisations
- Cultural Organisations, Artists Collectives and Artists
- Community Sport Hubs and Sports Clubs
- Creative Industries and Social Enterprises

What you can use the funding for

The Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund supports projects and events that encourages engagement and participation in cultural, heritage and sporting activities across Glasgow. Areas of activity include:

- Movement, Wellbeing and Physical Activity
- Sport Development
- Arts, Heritage, and Cultural Events
- Music
- Performances
- Installations
- Events / Pop-Ups

- Other opportunities for residents and visitors to Glasgow to engage with arts, heritage, culture, and sport

Projects the Fund is unable to support

The Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund is unable to support:

- Proposals that are not related to arts, heritage, culture, and sport.
- Applications that do not benefit or engage people in Glasgow.
- Projects/Activities that start before 9 March 2026.
- Projects/Activities that take place out with the Glasgow 2026 Games Festival period (23 May – 9 August 2026).
- Proposals for ongoing running costs or repairs or any capital costs.
- Proposals where members of the community are excluded on the grounds of race, faith, gender, disability, sexuality.
- Proposals for services that an organisation has a legal responsibility to provide.

Themes

Applicants are required to respond to at least one of the following themes:

- **Gathering:** Responding to the role of the Commonwealth, culture and sport in bringing people together.
- **Social justice:** Creating space to discuss the complex historic and contemporary relationships of the Commonwealth and to explore routes to a just future.
- **Celebration:** Celebrating sporting endeavour and the diverse culture and heritage of the nations and territories participating in the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Criteria

Applicants should consider how their proposal responds to the following criterion:

- Alignment with the Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund objectives
- To one or more of the Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund's themes.
- Effective management
- Financial viability
- Local engagement and impact

Applicants should comply with the Scottish Government's Fair Work First guidance – see [here](#) for details.

If applicable, ensure the relevant permissions, licenses, and safety measures are in place for the proposed activity.

All applications will be assessed against the above criteria with recommendations put forward to a selection panel. The selection panel will consist of representatives from Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow 2026 Ltd. and Commonwealth Sport.

Level of Support

The Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund has three entry points for funding which are:

- £300 - £1,000
- £1,001 - £5,000
- £5,001 – £10,000

Glasgow 2026 Ltd. and Glasgow Life reserve the right to award an additional uplift of £5,000 to an exceptional application.

As a competitive fund, it is anticipated that demand will outweigh the resources available. Applicants are therefore encouraged to only request the appropriate sum required based on the application submitted.

If successful, you may not receive the full level of funding as stated in your application and the selection panel reserves the right to offer a different amount to that requested.

How to Apply

Please download and complete the official Application Form. Applications should be submitted **by email** by the closing date (see below) to glasgow2026festivalfund@glasgowlife.org.uk

The subject title of the email should be **Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund Application**. When submitting your application, please ensure that you send it as an **email attachment** rather than via a web hosting service.

Glasgow Life cannot accept any application sent by post. Incomplete applications will be deemed as ineligible and will not be assessed. It is advised that applicants keep a copy of their application on file.

Closing Date

The deadline for submission of applications is **Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 5.00pm**.

We are unable to accept late applications.

Your application will be acknowledged within five working days from submission. If you do not receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application after five days from date of submission, you must email glasgow2026festivalfund@glasgowlife.org.uk for confirmation of receipt.

General

For more information about the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, please go to: <https://www.glasgow2026.com>

If you have any queries or would like to discuss your application with a member of the Festival team prior to submission, please submit your contact details to the following email: glasgow2026festivalfund@glasgowlife.org.uk

Access

Applicants are required to take reasonable steps to ensure their activities can be made available for as broad a range of people as possible and that positive measures are put in place to remove any barriers to access.

Privacy Notice

The Glasgow Life Privacy Notice forms part of these guidelines and relates to the information you provide in your application and how Glasgow Life processes it. The form asks for personal details about you, individuals within your organisation, and people working on the project. By signing the form, you are confirming that you have the authority to provide these details on behalf of the named individuals. It is suggested that you should read this notice before submitting your application. www.glasgowlife.org.uk/the-small-print/privacy-glasgow-life

Glasgow 2026 Limited

The Glasgow 2026 Festival is being developed and delivered by Glasgow Life on behalf of Glasgow 2026, the organising company for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.

The Festival is being funded through an investment from Commonwealth Sport. Glasgow Life is responsible for managing and monitoring awards for this funding programme.