

2026 MASTERTON ARTS FUND INFORMATION SHEET

The intention is to be inclusive and includes but not limited to; visual arts, literature, pottery/ceramics, drama, music, dance, making of films and crafts.

History and heritage will be considered where the aim is to meet the criteria of the fund.

The Fund's Criteria

The fund is intended to make a difference to quality, scope, or participation in the arts sector and/or to the arts economy.

The primary emphasis would be on one or more of the following:

- increasing participation at local activities and public events
- improving the capacity of arts groups to reach an audience or expand membership
- developing skills of practitioners, as well as audience discernment and knowledge
- growing the arts economy
- promotion of youth involvement in the arts
- celebrating diversity
- supporting community celebration or commemoration of Masterton history and heritage

The **minimum application is \$2,000** and the project must be completed within twelve (12) months of funding being approved.

The Fund's Eligible Activities:

- Major performances/ events/ exhibitions by local people who could be supported by external performers in lead roles.
- Feasibility study for a major arts, culture or heritage project.
- All eligible activities for the Masterton District Creative Communities Scheme funding.
- Running workshops for artists or event organisers on how to grow the arts economy.
- Paying for an internal or external tutor for local master classes or workshops.
- Preservation of a significant historic artifact e.g., carvings or panels on a marae.

- Attendance at arts schools and workshops outside the region if the person or group teaches or leads local groups in our district and/or there is a demonstrated benefit to Masterton.
- A regional or national competition or exhibition (e.g., music, sculpture, or art) that will attract regional or national visitors to the district. An example would be an International Piano competition that attracts competitors from around the world. Funding could be for operational costs such as publicity and management. Prizes would be expected to be sponsored.
- Activities within Wairarapa but outside Masterton where there is demonstrated evidence of participation of Masterton District residents.
- Researching and recording Masterton historic stories and songs behind people, events, and artifacts.
- Fundraising projects for arts purposes such as public arts work or facility.
- Projects that support the council's plans for strengthening the arts economy.

The following may be considered in *exceptional circumstances*:

- Study fellowship or residency to a significant local practitioner or teacher
- Guarantees against loss on the presentation of a realistic break-even budget that carries some risk. (An example could be a drama group branching out into a different genre to test audience interest where the budgeted audience income may not be achieved)
- Equipment purchases e.g., musical instruments, costumes, uniforms, audio-visual equipment that will achieve the purposes of the fund
- Travel costs for a group of local performers to participate in a significant performance outside the district

The Fund's Ineligible Activities:

- Activities within the scope of other sectors or organisations e.g., part of the school curriculum, the delivery of outcomes for other sectors such as health and environment.
- Activities where arts are not the primary focus.
- Facility improvements and capital items - groups should apply to the Council's Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan.
- Payment of royalties.
- Retrospective project costs.
- Debt servicing.
- Purchasing artworks.
- Projects that have already been funded by Masterton District Council through its Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, Climate Fund, Community Events Fund or Community Wellbeing Grant, unless the Council has advised applicants to seek further funding from this source.

Who May Apply:

Preference will be given to charitable community organisations, but applications from individuals or commercial entities may be considered if they meet the criteria for the fund.

All applications should be made on the Masterton Arts Fund Application Form.

The Assessment Committee may initiate or commission a project with the approval of the Council.

Groups or organisations must provide a copy of their latest financial statement. This can be a copy of the audited accounts, an income and expenditure statement or a copy of the unaudited management accounts. Applications should have a balanced and realistic budget for the project with the inclusion of quotes.

Allocation of Funds

The funding amount is determined by the Council via the Annual Plan process each year and for 2026/27 it is \$12,545.

The fund is administered by the Masterton District Creative Communities Scheme Assessment Committee made up of members of the community with art backgrounds.

Applications to the fund are assessed at the same time as the first quarterly meeting of the Masterton District Creative Communities Scheme, i.e., closing in August of each funding year. Dependent on the applications and funding allocated there may be a second round in February for this fund.

Applications, at the discretion of the Assessment Committee, may be funded in full or in part from the Masterton Arts Fund (with a minimum of \$2,000) and the Masterton District Creative Communities Scheme. Conversely an application to the Masterton Arts Fund may be transferred to the Masterton District Creative Communities Scheme if it meets that scheme's criteria.

Funding from the Masterton Arts Fund is reported to Masterton District Council each year through the Chief Executive's Report and at the end of the year on the Council's website.

Accountability

Successful applicants will be required to complete a Project Completion Report Form within two months after the project is completed. The form will be provided with the outcome email or is available on the Funds and Grant page of the Council's website. New applications for projects will not be considered unless the Project Completion Report has been submitted.

Grants that have not been spent should be returned for reallocation for other project applications.

Review

The fund criteria will be reviewed at the Council's request.