

Luton Space to Create Fund

The new Luton Space to Create Fund will support small-scale projects that explore, test and learn from creative space, production and shared resources in Luton with a lasting benefit.

Why the Luton Space to Create Fund?

In 2025, cultural partners in Luton undertook a needs analysis to better understand the barriers and opportunities within Luton's cultural sector. One consistent message from creative practitioners was the need for better access to affordable and appropriate creative space.

In response, Luton Arts commissioned the **Luton Cultural Space Feasibility Study**, engaging practitioners and venue operators across the town. The study found that while Luton has a range of existing spaces, many people experience barriers relating to access, affordability, awareness, processes and the availability of suitable making, rehearsal and creative production spaces. The report concluded that improving access to space and testing new approaches should be prioritised ahead of major capital investment.

The report also identified the need for:

- More flexible and affordable opportunities for artists to experiment and develop work
- Greater access to shared equipment and resources
- Better use of existing assets and spaces
- Pilot activity to understand what works before longer-term investment is made

The **Luton Space to Create Fund** is being launched as an early response to these findings. Please see link for a [summary](#) and [full version](#) of the **Luton Cultural Space Feasibility Study**.

What is the Fund for?

Applicants are encouraged to use the fund to:

- Trial new ways of using **existing** creative spaces
- Pilot the use of a **new** space
- Create **temporary** rehearsal, studio, exhibition or making spaces
- Purchase **equipment** that can support activity, accessible to a range of creatives
- Make **time** or commission **expert** support to help develop the case for a related idea



Importantly any application must test an idea that:

- has a good chance of leading to longer-term activity, partnership or investment
- helps to address the needs identified and recommendations of the Creative Space Feasibility Study
- will benefit more than one individual or organisation
- generates learning that can inform future cultural infrastructure development in Luton
- can be delivered and completed in full between 1 November 2026 – 31 March 2027

Who can apply?

Individual creative practitioners, cultural organisations, community organisations delivering cultural activity, creative businesses, venues or space holders seeking to make existing spaces available for creative use. Collaborative approaches between partners are welcome, although there needs to be a lead applicant, taking responsibility for managing the grant awarded.

Applicants must be based in Luton or demonstrate a benefit to Luton's creative sector and communities. Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations or those in receipt of significant public investment are not eligible to apply, but can partner within a collaborative bid.

How much funding is available and how will it be awarded?

£30,000. Applicants can apply for up to £10,000. Between 3 to 10 grants will be made, depending on the nature of applications received. Grant agreements will run from 1 November 2026 and 31 March 2027, and instalments will be paid on signing of the agreement (75%), and completion of a final report sharing learning, data and evidencing expenditure (25%).

You don't need partnership funding in order to apply, although this is welcomed, but won't be a factor in decision making (unless it supports one of the criteria).

A panel from Revoluton Arts, Luton Arts, Luton Borough Council Economic Growth, Luton Arts & Culture Strategy Group and Luton Creates will meet on 28 October to review applications and make a decision, with funding offers made to successful applicants by 30 October.

Decisions about which applications to award grants to will be made based on 5 criteria: likelihood of longer-term impact; response to Creative Space feasibility



report; who will benefit; what learning might be generated and shared; ability to deliver within the 5-month period.

Information gathered through project reports will be used to identify opportunities and emerging models, shared widely and used to inform future cultural infrastructure planning.

How to apply?

Please complete the online application form linked [here](#). The questions will ask you:

- About yourself or your organisation.
- What would you want to do? Please describe the combination of activity, space, equipment, support etc involved in your project.
- Who will be involved in your project, including any partners or collaborators?
- How does your project respond to the needs identified and recommendations in the Luton Creative Space feasibility study?
- Which artists, creatives or communities in Luton will benefit from this project and how?
- What are you testing, exploring or hoping to learn?
- How will your project lead to longer term activity, investment or partnership?
- How will you ensure your project is delivered within the timescale available?

And you'll be asked to complete a budget table confirming the amount requested, breakdown of costs, and any other funding or in-kind support.

If you have questions about the fund or would like a discussion as you develop your application, contact Revoluton's consultant supporting the fund: Mathew Russell, mathewrussell@live.com

If you need any support with grant writing, the document linked [here](#), Luton Borough Council's Grant Writing Guide, is a really helpful tool.

The deadline for applications is midnight on **Sunday 25 October 2026**.

What will I need to do at the end of the project?

Throughout the project, we'll be asking you to complete a very short monthly reflection journal with 2 or 3 quick questions, via a web link, at the end of each month (e.g. November, December, January, February).



In March, you will be asked to complete a final report sharing learning, data and evidencing expenditure.

You will be asked to complete 5 questions that align with the Luton Arts Evaluation Framework.

1. To what extent has this fund allowed you to strengthen your offer to the local creative sector? (1-5, where 1 is 'not at all', and 5 is 'to a great extent')
2. Has it led to any positive change for you / your organisation? (Yes/No/Unsure). If yes, please give details.
3. Has this fund led to any new or improved collaborations with others? (Yes/No/Unsure). If yes, please give details.
4. Do you think this fund will lead to any further funding applications for you / your organisation? (Yes/No/Unsure). If yes, please give details
5. Has this fund led to any new opportunities more broadly? (e.g. reaching new audiences, being able to earn more income, developing new skills etc) (Yes/No/Unsure). If yes, please give details.

Your application forms will be shared with Luton Arts as part of the evaluation.

You will also be asked to write a short impact statement, to be used as a case study for the Luton Space to Create Fund and included within a summary evaluation report, that will capture and share the key learning from your project.