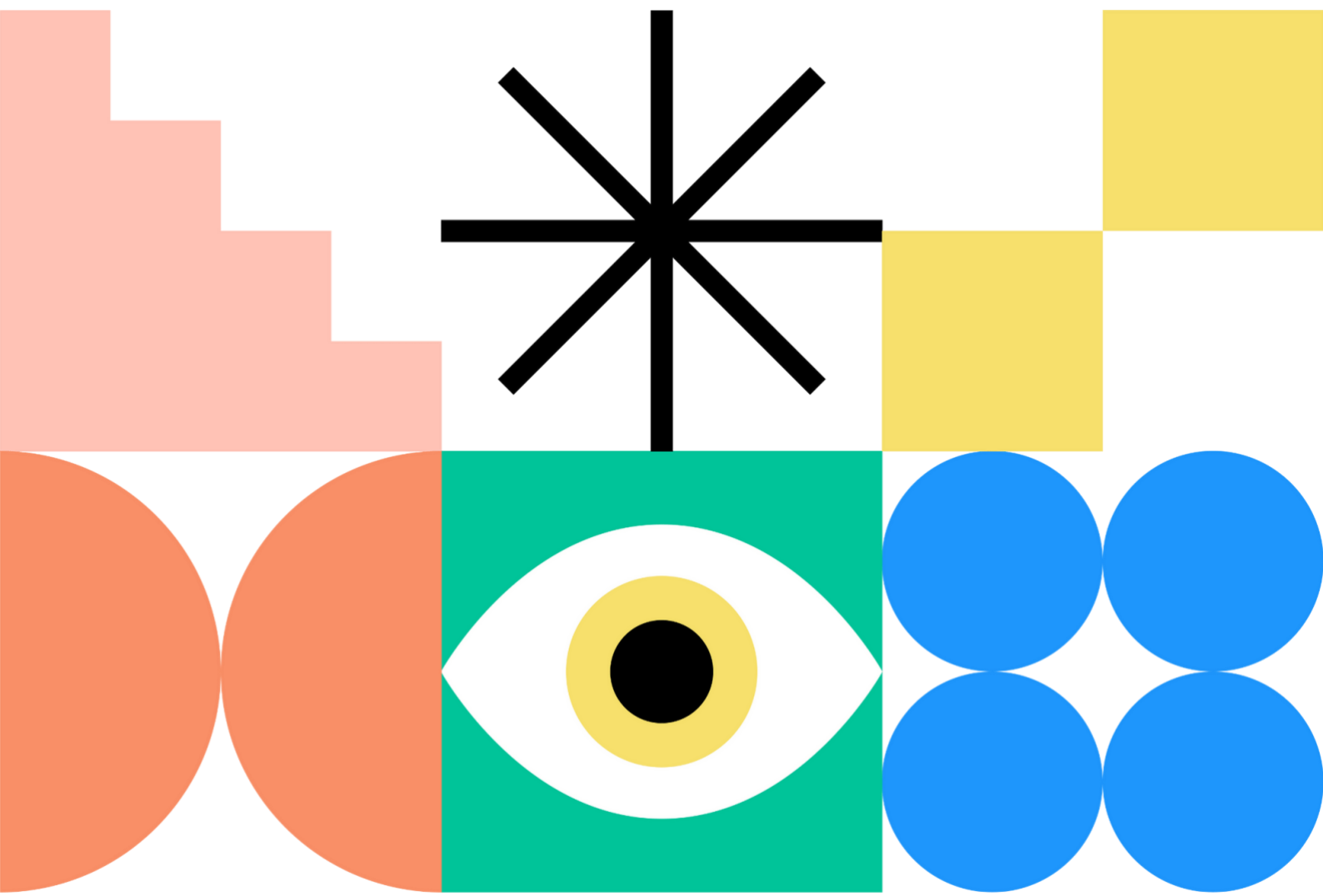


Grants for Organisations

Application Guidance



The Chance to See Fund

Grants for Organisations

In the face of a cost-of-living crisis, creativity stands as a powerful source of hope. It is capable of dispelling stress, worry, and social isolation. It brings with it opportunities for talents to grow, for skills to be honed and for dreams to be kindled.

The Chance To See Fund is a collaboration between Wigan-based charity, Curious Minds, and chart-topping rock band, The Lathums.

The Fund supports local organisations that are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of Wigan Borough's young people, by broadening their access to diverse experiences and improving their quality of life through creativity. It accepts applications for grants of between £500 and £2,000.

Your organisation can apply for funding to develop existing activities, to test something new or to give the children and young people you work with the chance to experience extraordinary cultural venues or events. Our funding panel prioritises activities that open doors for young individuals whose opportunities are constrained by economic, social or health inequalities.

All proposed activities should align with the Chance To See Fund's core purpose:

To bring joy, positivity and hope to the lives of Wigan Borough's children and young people through the transformative power of creative and cultural experiences.

In addition, applicants' organisational purpose should align with at least one of these key priorities:

- Ensuring more children and young people in Wigan Borough can access arts and cultural opportunities, no matter what their background or financial situation.
- Expanding the variety of cultural and creative opportunities readily available to Wigan Borough's children and young people.



Key details

Location:	Wigan Borough
Suitable for:	Registered charities, constituted groups or clubs, not-for-profit companies or Community Interest Companies.
Grant size:	£500 to £2,000
Timeline:	Activities must complete before 31 August 2026.
Apply by:	There are three application deadlines in 2025 – Wednesday 25 th June, Wednesday 24 th September and Wednesday 31 st December.



Eligibility

You can apply for a grant if your organisation:

- Is based in Wigan borough.
- Is a registered charity, constituted group or club, not-for-profit company or Community Interest Company.
- Is an arts organisation, or is proposing to work creatively with an artist or arts organization.
- Is proposing activity that will complete before 31 August 2026.
- Has at least two board or committee members who are not related by marriage, civil partnership, long-term relationship, through a partner, living at the same address, or by blood.
- Has an up-to-date safeguarding policy in place.
- Holds appropriate insurance cover, including:
 - Public Liability Insurance of at least £1 million.
 - Employers' Liability Insurance of at least £5 million, where applicable.

N.B. Evidence of insurance cover will be requested prior to issuing funding agreements. Applicants who do not currently meet these thresholds should confirm how they intend to secure the required cover if successful.

And commits to:

- Actively participate in the Chance To See Community - a small group of grant recipients - by sharing stories, successes, and challenges with peers and Curious Minds in one online meet up each quarter.
- Regularly document funded activities through photos or videos and share this with Curious Minds. This will help us showcase your work, the fund's impact and aid future Chance To See fundraising efforts.
- Obtaining and documenting all necessary permissions for photo and video content involving participants, especially minors, and adhering to data protection laws and guidelines. Consents must extend to the use of images and recordings by Curious Minds and its funders, with the purpose of promoting the Chance to See Fund as well as our wider work in advancing the cause of cultural and arts education.

How to Apply

To apply, simply [complete the online application form via this link](#).



If it is difficult or impossible for you to complete an online application form, we're happy to talk about other ways for you to tell us about your proposed activities.

You can contact us by email at Louise.Hesketh@Curiousminds.org.uk.

Application Timeline and Deadlines

Please note the following timelines when preparing your application. Aligning submissions with the decision-making schedule can help with planning your activities.

Round One	Round Two	Round Three
Applications open: Thursday 17 th April 2025	Applications open: Thursday 3 rd July 2025	Applications open: Thursday 2 nd October 2025
Submit by: Midday on Wednesday 25 th June 2025	Submit by: Midday on Wednesday 24 th September 2025	Submit by: Midday on Wednesday 31 st December 2025
You'll hear about our decision on: Friday 1 st August 2025	You'll hear about our decision on: Friday 31 st October 2025	You'll hear about our decision on: Friday 6 th February 2026

Decision Making

All applications are discussed by Curious Minds Young Associates and then ratified by Curious Minds' Board of Trustees.

Ready to apply?

Complete the [online application form](#) now

FAQs

How much can my organisation apply for?

Organisations which meet the eligibility criteria can apply for grants between a minimum of £500 and a maximum of £2,000.

May I be offered an amount that is lower than applied for?

Given the limited funds available and the expected high demand, we might offer grants smaller than the amount requested. This is so we can support as many fantastic projects as possible. If you receive a smaller grant it's meant to help fund your project, understanding



that you may need to scale down your plans accordingly. We trust you to adapt your project to fit the grant amount provided.

Will we receive feedback?

We are able to provide concise feedback for applications that are not successful. The ongoing nature of the application process means there is opportunity to refine and resubmit applications.

What is the Chance To See Community?

In applying for a grant from the Chance To See Fund, applicants agree to actively participate in quarterly *Chance To See Community* meetings (online) with a small group of other grant recipients. Together, we share stories, successes, and challenges.

Taking part in the *Chance To See Community* allows you to connect with like-minded organisations, discover new opportunities, and access peer support. It's also a chance to contribute to and benefit from wider awareness of the fund's impact, inspiring further advocacy and contributing to fundraising efforts to continue our support for this vital work with children and young people in Wigan borough.

We encourage applicants to include estimated costs for participating in the *Chance To See Community's* quarterly online meetings when listing the costs associated with their proposed activities.

What evaluation is expected?

We're keen to help you capture the spirit and success of your activities without bogging you down in paperwork. Here's how you can keep us in the loop, especially during our *Chance To See Community* online meetings:

- Documenting on the go: Capture your activity's moments with photos and videos. Focus on clarity and quality, but don't worry too much about professional standards - the authenticity of the moment is more valuable.
- Capturing the authentic voices of children and young people: Take the time to listen to the children and young people you're working with. Share their thoughts and feelings through written quotes or short video clips. Their authentic voices bring the story of your project to life.
- Keeping It light: When your project wraps-up, we'll ask for a straightforward reflection via a simple form, with a breakdown of how you spent the funding. This isn't about exhaustive details but more about your perspective on the project's impact and your experiences.

Documenting, sharing, and learning from your proposed activities is important to the Chance To See Fund. In the application form, there is an opportunity to share where you might need support, ensuring not only that your project succeeds but also enriches the *Chance To See Fund Community* with valuable lessons and experiences.



Why are applications to the Chance To See Fund reviewed by Curious Minds' Young Associates?

The Chance To See Fund is deeply invested in nurturing the aspirations of our younger generation. As such, we prioritise their involvement in the heart of our decision-making processes.

Curious Minds' Young Associates are a dynamic group of early career professionals, aged between 18 and 25, who are supported to build the skills and attributes to become the next generation of leaders and changemakers in cultural education. They play a critical role in reviewing applications and making recommendations for funding, which are subsequently ratified by Curious Minds' Board of Trustees.

As we look towards the future, we remain open to evolving our decision-making processes to ensure they embody the perfect blend of integrity, oversight, and the inclusion of local voices.

Creativity as a lifeline

The story behind the Chance to See Fund

Creativity serves as a critical lifeline for the development and wellbeing of young people. In Wigan Borough, the Chance To See Fund - a collaboration between The Lathums and cultural education charity, Curious Minds - embodies this principle.

Inspired by a lyric from The Lathums' 2021 single *'How Beautiful Life Can Be'*, this fund emerged in response to the escalating cost-of-living crisis which has disproportionately affected families, limiting their access to enriching creative and cultural experiences.

“Some people can’t get their hands on a guitar or encounter any other form of creativity and the idea of never having that opportunity breaks our hearts. When attention is rightly on heating and eating right now, by starting this fund with Curious Minds we’d also like to take care of some of the other things that make life worth living.”

Alex Moore, The Lathums

The Lathums, with their roots deeply embedded in Wigan’s community, felt a strong calling to give back to the place that shaped their own creative journey. Their generosity, coupled with Curious Minds expertise, has paved the way for a brighter, more creative future for the children and young people of Wigan.

Support us! Whether you're an individual moved by the power of art, an organisation looking to make a meaningful impact, or a business eager to give back to the community, your support can help The Chance To See Fund continue this vital work. [Donate today via JustGiving.](#)

