

Call-out for applications: Platforming Under-represented Writers

**Professional development opportunity for Wales-based writers from
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, and writers with
a disability or illness (mental or physical)**

Deadline: 5.00 pm, Wednesday 21 August 2019

What is it?

Literature Wales has announced a brand new funding scheme for Wales-based writers from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, and writers with a disability or illness (mental or physical).

Literature Wales is the national company for the development of literature. Our vision is a Wales where literature empowers, improves and brightens lives. Our new [Strategic Plan for 2019-2022](#) outlines Representation and Equality as one of Literature Wales' main tactical priorities. We believe that every person, regardless of their background, should feel included and free to navigate, contribute and take ownership of the literature scene in Wales.

Platforming Under-represented Writers is a pilot funding scheme offering grants of between £50-£1000 for a professional development opportunity (relating to literature) of your choice. The scheme aims to encourage writers from under-represented backgrounds to develop their professional and artistic potential and to create opportunities to kick-start their career.

If there is a community that you would like to work with, an event or conference that you are eager to attend, or an individual in a professional setting that you would be interested in shadowing for training and development purposes, then this could be the opportunity for you.

The **Platforming Under-Represented Writers** funding scheme is now open for applications. Full details can be found below.

Who can apply?

Writers and literary practitioners from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background and writers with a disability or illness (mental and physical) are welcome to apply. Applicants must be based in Wales. The Literature Wales Strategic Plan (2019-22) is available [here](#). We recommend reading this in advance of submitting your application.

Literature Wales is part of the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries programme, which supports arts organisations to expand their approach to diverse recruitment and talent development. We are committed to welcoming candidates from a wide range of backgrounds, which includes assessing applications on the strength of potential.

What is on offer?

Platforming Under-represented Writers is a pilot funding scheme offering grants of between £50-£1000 for a professional development opportunity (relating to literature) of your choice.

Please note: Successful applicants may be offered less than the sum applied for.

When and where can activity take place?

Successful applicants will be informed in early September 2019. Professional development activity and evaluation requirements must be completed by Friday 27 March 2020.

Activity can be delivered in any part of Wales, in any language. Professional development opportunities outside of Wales (including attending events/conferences etc.) will be considered, however travel and accommodation costs must be factored into the budget.

What do you mean by professional development activity?

We mean an activity relating to writing and literature that will contribute to your professional development, so essentially your career as a literary artist.

The activity should increase your skillset and enable you to hone your expertise in your literary form. It should have a clear impact on your career and wider goals and enhance your knowledge as a writer.

Below are some examples of eligible activity to give you an idea, but the emphasis on this scheme is that you, as a literary artist, are in charge of this.

What type activity can be supported?

These grants are intended to support the professional development of your artistic career. The scheme seeks to support the development of new skills, knowledge and networks that will benefit you in the short and long term. It could also support an activity; this could be a series of workshops delivered to a community of your choice.

Eligible activity may include, but is not limited to:

- Programming and delivering a workshop, or series of literary workshops, to an audience of your choice. [Here's a few examples](#) of projects that have been writer-led in the past
- Shadowing an individual, or a team in a professional context, for the purpose of training and development
- Curating and delivering a piece of creative writing. This could include creating a literature-inspired mural in a targeted community or researching and exploring inspiration materials
- Development costs for a new way of working or collaborating
- Attending a conference or event (with proof of event), and taking advantage of networking opportunities relevant to literature and/or creative writing in Wales and beyond
- Reasonable fees to cover loss of earning (up to 2 working days) to attend, or programme, a literary activity. For example, if you would like to attend a full-day event and are required to take a day of annual leave, you can apply for funding equivalent to your working day rate.
- Reasonable fees to cover (up to 2 days of) childcare or other caring responsibilities to attend, or programme, a literary activity.
- Reasonable fees for your own time for a literary activity.

Please note:

Personal Assistants (PA)/ scribes / an individual offering support, and any travel and accommodation costs should be factored into your budget.

Activity can be delivered in any part of Wales and in any language, however relevant translation costs should be factored into your budget.

Activity that cannot be supported:

- Applications made only for goods and services
- Applications that request financial support towards academic courses, time off employment or contributions to an agreement made with another body e.g. a publishing agreement

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Requirements

Receiving a grant comes with an obligation to complete two short activities for evaluation and reporting purposes. If your application is successful you will be required to:

1. Complete an **evaluation questionnaire** before your activity starts, and again after it is completed.
2. Produce a **300-word blog** or **2-3-minute video** about your activity to share learning and progress with the literary community. The content will be posted publicly on the Literature Wales website (www.literaturewales.org/blog/) and shared via our social media channels. Blogs/videos must be submitted within 3 weeks of the project coming to an end.

Promotion and Marketing Requirements and Opportunities

Successful applicants will be required to provide a short biography (150-200 words), and a recent high-resolution photo, for use on the Literature Wales website and social media channels.

Successful applicants will also be encouraged to write blog posts, create videos and share information on their professional development opportunity on their own social media channels (where relevant), as the project develops. Literature Wales staff will be available to offer guidance and advice on how best to promote and amplify your professional development opportunity should you wish to do so.

Payment information

Development Activities Under £500: 75% of the payment will be released ahead of the start of your professional development activity. The remaining 25% will be released after the evaluation activities are completed.

Development Activities Over £500: The payment schedule will be discussed and agreed pending format of the activity.

How to apply

To apply, please send the following information to post@literaturewales.org with the subject **Platforming Under-Represented Writers Application**:

- **Proposal:** A letter (one side of A4 only) OR video* describing the professional development activity you would like to undertake, how it relates to literature, and how it will help you increase your skillset in relation to your career.
- **A budget outline** not exceeding **£1,000** which should include fees for yourself and any other practitioners, personal assistants, scribes, workshop materials, room hire, travel costs and any project outcomes. Please use the [budget template and guidance notes](#) provided to complete your budget outline.
- **A current CV**, if you have one (non-essential)
- **An Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form** ([available here](#)).

*Videos should be no longer than 2 minutes, provided as a Dropbox or WeTransfer link. If sending your application in video form, please also send an email including your Equality and Diversity Monitoring form and confirming your contact details.

We welcome applications in either the Welsh or English language.

The deadline for applications is:

5.00 pm, Wednesday 21 August 2019

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss your application before submitting, please contact Literature Wales, on:

post@literaturewales.org / 029 2047 2266