



HOW DO WE PAY FOR OUR FUN PALACE?

Many Fun Palaces have found funding locally. Fun Palaces are LOCAL. Ask around. Some of them explain how it was for them [here](#).

What some Fun Palaces have done in the past:

Brockwell Lido Fun Palace asked local businesses for sponsorship, raising money and loads of help in kind as well.

In 2014 Whitstable Museum of Fun went to a local council meeting and made a speech asking for money to cover workshop costs – and they got it.

In 2015 BedPop Fun Palaces had sponsorship from a local company and many local venues provided their spaces for free.

Lambeth Libraries Fun Palaces received ACE Grants for the Arts funding to support their 11 hyper-local Fun Palaces.

Some Fun Palaces received small local government grants, others had help from local venues or were housed in venues that covered the costs themselves.

Dragon's Den Fun Palace in Sittingbourne had support from their local Rotary group to help provide water and electricity to their facilities-free venue.

Farnham Fun Palace cost less than £20 in 2014 – a free venue, recycled materials, and local people working together to create for their own community. Twenty quid. Priceless.

Your Local Council

Yes, local councils are hard-pushed, but Fun Palaces ticks loads of their boxes: local people, local engagement, local learning. Talk to your councillors, invite them to your meetings. There are always funds they know about that we don't – there might be a few hoops to jump through (funding is very hoopy) but they could be well worth it. Getting to know local politicians is always valuable, they wouldn't do the job if they didn't care – show them that you care too.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Great news! They don't only restore old theatres, prop up Roman walls, and fund that huge museum in your city centre. They love local stuff, thrive on engagement, embrace digital AND they're lovely to talk to. If what you're doing has a heritage angle – that's local history, as-yet-untold life stories, the background to the building or park where your Fun Palace will be, then they're definitely worth talking to. If you're working on a digital stuff to do with heritage they like that too. We've found the HLF to be really friendly and very supportive. They get what we're doing AND they're prepared to have a conversation.

Here they are : [Heritage Lottery Fund](#)

Their smaller grants also have a nice, fast turnaround.

Arts Councils – ACE, ACW, CS, ACNI

Ignore this bit if you've been getting funding from an Arts Council for years – you probably know more than we do.

However, if you are a musician, a painter, a theatre maker, a community worker, a street artist



or anyone who uses 'the arts in their work' – that's how ACE puts it – and have never considered an Arts Council as a potential funder for your work - this might be the time to do so. All the UK's Arts Councils believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience and be inspired by the arts – which is very Fun Palaces. So if your idea challenges and strengthens the work that you make, if it embraces community, if how you make it and with whom is as important as what you create – please have a look at the guidelines on their websites.

(nb - we think big, already-funded-venue Fun Palaces might find it difficult to get this kind of funding, we suspect it might be more likely that they'll like the community-led, less-already-programmed projects. But hey, give it a go anyway?!)

[Arts Council England](#)

[Arts Council Northern Ireland](#)

[Arts Council Wales](#)

[Creative Scotland](#)

One piece of advice - try to get a meeting or at least a phone call with a relationship manager in your Arts Council regional office. It's always good to make a connection, but also you'll also get useful advice. Remember to tell them that you're part of the Fun Palaces campaign – being part of a larger national project makes talking about impact that much easier.

People's Postcode Trust

Have a look at their guidelines, they're not for everyone, but if you're thinking of your Fun Palace as an ongoing thing (and several are, we know), something that will join in the October event and keep up the community engagement and involvement throughout the year as well, they might be for you :

[People's Postcode Trust](#)

Voluntary Arts

Not a funding body themselves, Voluntary Arts have useful and regularly updated information about funding and resources here

[Voluntary Arts](#)