

HOW DO WE PAY FOR OUR FUN PALACE?

Many Fun Palaces have found funding locally, over 70% of Fun Palaces in 2017 raised no additional funds to create their Fun Palace. Fun Palaces are hyper-local, so ask around locally. Some previous Makers explain how it was for them [here](#).

Below are some ideas for thinking creatively around funding and local partnerships plus some information about organisations that offer funding.

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.

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.

BedPop Fun Palace in Bedford 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.

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.

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

Your Local Council

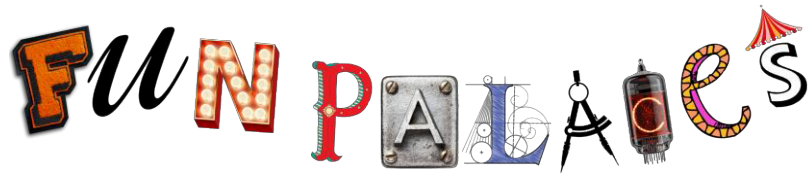
Yes, local councils are hard-pushed, but Fun Palaces ticks loads of their boxes: local people, local engagement, local learning. Talk to your councillors, invite them to your meetings. There are always funds they know about that we don't – there might be a few hoops to jump through (funding is very hoopy) 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 theatremaker, 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 of Northern Ireland](#)

[Arts Council of 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

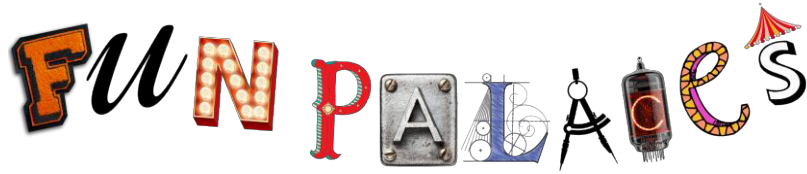
Have a look at their guidelines, they're not for everyone, but if you're thinking of your Fun Palace as an ongoing thing (and several are, we know), something that will join in the October event and keep up the community engagement and involvement throughout the year as well, they might be for you:

[People's Postcode Trust](#)

People's Health Trust

People's Health Trust have a funding programme called Active Communities for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, with an income of less than £350,000 a year or an average of £350,000 over two years. It's for projects seeking investment of between £5,000 and £50,000 for projects lasting up to two years. They're looking for small and local projects, genuinely designed and run by local people (which sounds very Fun Palace-y to us!). By small, they mean just a small group of people on an estate, in a few streets or villages. They're also looking for great ideas from communities of interest. By this they mean a group of people who have things in common and wish to come together to address something that is important to them. These ideas could be based in one neighbourhood, or cover a wider area.

They are open in different areas at different times. [Find out more here.](#)



The Aviva Community Fund

The Aviva Community Fund offers you the chance to get funding for an important cause in your community – such as your Fun Palace. It's open to everyone. You can enter a project on behalf of your community and tell them what a difference these much-needed funds could make. Get enough votes from friends, family and supporters in your community and your project could be entered into the Finals, where a judging panel will award the funds.

[Find out more](#)

National Lottery Awards for All

National Lottery Awards for All offers funding from £300 to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities in England. It has three funding priorities: (1) to bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities; (2) to improve the places and spaces that matter to communities; and (3) to enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

[Find out more](#)

Fund for Wales

A campaign of the Community Foundation in Wales, the Fund for Wales supports underfunded areas and grass roots projects across Wales. The grants programme opens twice a year and give out grants of £500 - £1000 to small, volunteer-driven community organisations that aim to deliver the following outcomes: (1) People have better chances in life – with better access to training and development to improve their life skills; (2) Stronger communities – with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems; (3) Improved rural and urban environment – which communities are better able to access and enjoy; and (4) Healthier and more active people and communities.

[Find out more](#)

Voluntary Arts

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

[Voluntary Arts](#)