

Civic Fund Guidelines

The Civic Fund welcomes applications from teams comprising of RCS students or alumni, staff members, and local charities or social enterprises, to co-create a project which will address one of the Innovation Studio Challenges: Green Recovery; Placemaking and Creative Health. The first round is focused on Green Recovery.

Bringing together diverse teams from the RCS and civic partners working beyond the creative arts will help develop unique perspectives on the challenges we face. We hope that by working together, side by side, with community and charitable organisations from the wider Scottish community we can develop innovative collaborative processes with meaningful results and impact.

The Civic Fund will be a two-phase process, to encourage the development of ideas and allow time to build relationships with our civic partners.

The Civic Fund is intended to help guide your team through a learning and development process together, to access support through Innovation Studio, find new ways to create collaborative work and have the space and time to explore early-stage ideas, sharing experience and expertise and discovering the innovative possibilities of working together.

We are interested in bringing together people with different perspectives. Within the teams, staff members may provide advice and supervision, but they may also be equal collaborators throughout the project development. The Civic Fund hopes to foster interdisciplinary and non-hierarchical forms of exchange, and the unusual team structure presented here is an experiment in co-creation. We encourage you to think creatively about your working methodology and processes of collaboration.

In the spirit of the Innovation Studio Pilot, we want to see what happens and what you can build with your partners. We will welcome your feedback and suggestions on the fund itself throughout this process.

There are up to 3 awards of £4,000 per Challenge Round. The challenges are as follows:

Round 1 – Green Recovery (Spring 2022)

Round 2 – Placemaking (Autumn 2022)

Round 3 – Creative Health (Spring 2023)

There is therefore a total of up to 9 awards available over the 2-year pilot.

The Funding will be distributed in two phases, subject to approval of project plans and milestones.

Phase 1

£750 of each award is intended for a Research & Development phase and will be released to the project team once a contract has been signed. Projects may be required to submit a proposal to the RCS Ethics Committee for approval before project to commence.

Phase 2

The remaining project funds of £3,250 will be released on submission of a detailed project plan, timeline, and budget.

A Note on Green Recovery

Green Recovery: a process of healing from the devastating impacts of Covid-19 that prioritises people, place, and planet.

How can we, as a community of artists, work with others to imagine and co-create positive change?

The devastating impact of Covid-19 and the climate emergency have brought immense changes to our day-to-day lives. It has also impressed a sense of urgency to find new solutions, influence policy, and work together in new ways.

The term Green Recovery brings with it a wide range of associations and can prompt many responses. We encourage you to interrogate the resonances of this in a way that is most suitable for you and your research partners.

The ethos of Innovation Studio is to enable participants to shape and influence the programme and, therefore, we invite you to bring your own experiences, perspectives, and critiques to your project.

Eligibility

Eligible proposals will need to meet the following criteria to be considered:

1. Teams must include: at least one RCS staff member (including FT, PT or PTHP); at least one RCS Student or Graduate from the last 24 months; and a civic partner working outside the creative arts.
2. Civic partners may include: charities, social enterprises, community interest companies and not for profit community organisations in Scotland outside of the arts. (Civic Partner organisations must not involve political campaigning or the advancement of religion).
3. Project proposals must demonstrate how they align with the relevant Innovation Studio Challenge.
4. Civic Partners must have a registered company and a background check will be completed before project funds are released.
5. Every member of the team must have the right to reside in the UK.*
6. Projects must be completed within 1 year of commencement.

**Please note that where the payment of fees is concerned, the successful team members are responsible for their own tax and therefore must be able to be registered as self-employed in the UK. If students are not registered as self-employed and have some time-related costs in the budget, these can be distributed by RCS via the PAYE route instead. Team members will be required to provide proof of address and UK bank account.*

If you have an idea and need help identifying potential civic community partners, or partners from our RCS staff, student and graduate community, please contact us at innovationstudio@rcs.ac.uk.

The Innovation Studio and Civic Fund are in a pilot stage. We may contact you for feedback on your experience with the fund to help us evaluate the programme and make improvements for the future.

If this opportunity is of interest to you, please email us at innovationstudio@rcs.ac.uk with the subject line 'Civic Fund Note of Interest' and we will follow up with the application form and further detail on the assessment and criteria for projects.

Before submitting this application, please be aware that The Research & Knowledge Exchange Department and The Royal Conservatoire expect you to act as leader on your project and that all responsibilities and accountabilities for its administration are devolved to you.

By submitting an application, you are agreeing to take ownership of your project.

We take your privacy very seriously. Please find a copy of our privacy notice at:
www.rcs.ac.uk/policy/privacy