

BARN PHASE 2 GROWTH FUND APPLICATION GUIDANCE



ABOUT THE FUND

The **Growth Fund** will offer 4 awards of £1,000 to individual theatre-makers and/or companies in Somerset to go towards the creation of a live theatre piece. This could include supporting R&D or as a contribution to full production costs by using it as match funding for other applications.

In short, the funding is to help you grow a particular piece of work, particularly if that growth has been stunted over the last 15 months.

We don't want to be too prescriptive about how the money can be used; we're open to all sorts of ideas and are particularly keen to support work that is inventive, flexible and involves audiences in the making process, as well enabling them to experience live theatre in either indoor and/or outdoor settings.

Ideally the work should start (but not necessarily finish) by 31 March 2022, particularly if it is part of a larger project that you will be applying for match funding from other sources to support. We're not necessarily after 'quick wins' and are keen to invest in medium term projects.

Some examples of work the fund could support are

- research and development of a new show;
- redevelopment of an existing work / touring a previous show (particularly if a tour had to be curtailed due to lockdown);
- work made for small-scale festivals and events which audiences can enjoy at a local level.

We're less keen to use the Growth Fund to support professional development activity or exclusively online work through this fund. These are ideas, however, that BARN Seed Fund may support; more details about this will be available on our website soon.

We particularly welcome applications from early career theatre-makers (ie. no more than 6 years' professional activity); D/deaf and disabled theatre-makers; theatre-makers from minority ethnic backgrounds; LGBTQ+ theatre-makers; and any theatre-makers from other underrepresented backgrounds.

We work closely with our colleagues at [Theatre Orchard](#) and [Culture Weston](#) in North Somerset and often share funding opportunities between us. However, as they have plans to launch a commissioning programme later this year, we've decided not to merge our respective funding pots on this occasion. This Growth Fund, therefore, is only available to theatre-makers in Somerset. Please see the FAQs below for the definition of what we mean by this.

If you'd like to know more about the plans in North Somerset, please contact [Fiona Matthews](#) at Theatre Orchard or [Tom Newman](#) at Culture Weston.

CRITERIA

We've tried to make the application process as clear and light-touch as possible, but we're sure you appreciate that we need to ask a few questions. Although we don't want to limit the scope, imagination and creativity of your ideas, there are several criteria that we will take into consideration (along with the application questions) to help us assess who best to support, including:

- Are you living, or making work, in Somerset?
- How might the project enable you to sustain your/your company's development, artistically and financially, longer term?
- Does the work strive for excellence with high aesthetic values?
- What element of risk is involved: artistic, financial? How could that be supported and/or mitigated?
- How might audiences be involved in the making process?
- What is the likelihood of the project happening without BARN's support? Are there other opportunities that may be more appropriate?
- Collectively, do the projects offer a geographical spread across Somerset?

FAQs

These two FAQs are particularly relevant to clarify who we're able to support through the Growth Fund. We **strongly recommend you also read** the main **BARN FAQs** for more information, downloadable from <https://takeart.org/barn>

Who will BARN support?

BARN is for anyone with a demonstrable commitment to theatre-making in Somerset; who aspires to grow and sustain their practice, artistically and financially; wants to work collectively with other professional colleagues and audiences to build the county's theatre infrastructure; and buys into the spirit of BARN's intentions.

What do you mean by Somerset?

BARN supports theatre-making in the area currently administered by Somerset County Council, which includes the four district councils of South Somerset; Mendip; Sedgemoor; Somerset West and Taunton. In partnership with [Theatre Orchard](#) and [Culture Weston](#), we are often able to extend BARN's support to the unitary authority of North Somerset but NOT to Bristol or B&NES (or to North Somerset on this occasion, as previously explained).

TO APPLY

If you would like to apply, please complete this [online application form](#)

Please note that the form will not automatically save your responses. So we recommend creating draft answers on a word document and then copy and pasting them when you are ready to complete the form in one go. To help with this, you can find all the main questions on the next page.

The deadline is **5pm on Friday 16 July 2021**. We aim to let you know the outcome by early August.

If you require a word document version of the application form, please email theatre@takeart.org

SUMMARY OF MAIN QUESTIONS

In addition to contact and diversity information, the other questions you will need to answer on the application form are below.

The word count on some of the questions is for guidance; don't worry if you need a few more, or less words, to explain what you want to do. We're interested in your ideas, not your editing skills!

Project Name:

Do you require any additional access support to help make the project happen?

Yes / No

If yes, please tell us what support you might need as we may be able to help with this (in addition to the £1,000 on offer)

Project Summary

Please give a short summary of **what** you would like the Growth Fund to support; **who** will be involved; **who** the audience is; **when** and **where** it will happen; and **why** you want to do it? (about 200 words)

What will you spend the £1,000 on?

How will the money be spent? eg venue hire; marketing; R&D costs; production costs.

We don't need a detailed budget breakdown, just a ballpark idea of how you will allocate the money.

Do you have, or intend to apply for, match funding to support this work?

Yes / No

If so, tell us briefly about your plans. (about 100 words)

What difference will the Growth Fund make?

Briefly outline what it will enable you to do that otherwise may not be possible / difficult. (about 150 words)

How will your plans contribute more widely to the growth and sustainability of Somerset's emergent theatre-making sector?

For example, do you have any longer-term aspirations for this project and/or other partners / companies / venues you plan to collaborate with? (about 150 words)