



## Festival of Science and Curiosity 2024 Community Grants Programme

### Background

The Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity has been running since 2013, delivering a two-week festival each February that aims to engage new audiences across Nottinghamshire with science and curiosity. We change perceptions of science in our everyday lives, stimulate innovation and creativity and facilitate dialogue between scientists, researchers and civil society.

The Festival is a registered charity and commissions Nottingham-based education charity Ignite! to deliver its programme each year.

By working as a partnership with a wide range of organisations, including universities, schools, libraries, community and cultural organisations, the festival has reached far and wide into Nottinghamshire, taking activities out into community spaces where everyone can interact, engage and express their curiosity.

However, we recognise that more can be done to engage with specific audiences that are currently not directly involved. For the 2024 festival, we will pilot a

**Community Grants Programme** that seeks to:

- increase engagement with community groups in Nottinghamshire, with a focus on audiences that don't usually take part in the festival
- support organisations and groups to engage with the festival via funding and access to networks
- increase awareness of the festival beyond our usual partners and communities
- include more events in the festival programme that are co-created by communities and are guided by their interests.

### Brief

The intention for this first year is to fund three projects that meet the objectives above with grants of up to £500 each.

The festival is looking for groups or organisations who are interested in engaging their audiences with science and curiosity through a project or event during the 2024 Festival (5-16 February).

At the point of application, organisations don't need to have a fully-formed idea of what they'd like to do as part of the festival, they just need an outline of what they think they would like to develop.

Once the outline applications have been reviewed and the grants awarded, the Ignite! team will work with groups to explore and further develop the ideas proposed in the application. This could include, for example, pairing organisations with groups of scientists and researchers involved in the festival or connecting groups with a local scientific/cultural organisation to make a visit.



### Criteria

#### Priority Audiences:

- Children & Families who are of Black/Black British heritage
- Children who are disabled
- Children & Families who live in areas that are remote or areas of disadvantage

(These priorities have been informed by an analysis of audience data collected at the 2023 festival as well as the Festival's EDI goals).

#### Organisations we'll support:

- Charitable Organisations, including Charitable Companies, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Charitable Trusts, Unincorporated Charitable Organisations, Community Interest Companies
- For-Profit Companies (where it is clearly demonstrable that this organisation can reach its intended audience and where a clear case for funding is made)
- Parent School Associations and other local community groups

The Festival's Trustees will make the decisions on which organisations are successful. They'll be assessing applications considering the four objectives of the project and using the following questions:

- Is the intended audience one of our priority groups?
- Would this organisation not otherwise engage with the Festival?
- Is this organisation best-placed to engage with the intended audience?
- Do we see potential in working with this organisation to create an impactful event?
- Is the idea for the project interesting, different from the festival's usual events and have a strong potential for community co-creation?
- Across the range of awards, have we reached a broad spread of types of audience we're supporting as well as geographical locations across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire?

### Timeline

Monday 7 August 2023	Applications open
August - September 2023	Applicants can arrange calls to discuss their application with the Ignite! team
Sunday 24 September 2023	Applications close at midnight
w/c 25 September 2023	FOSAC Trustees meet to assess applications
w/c 2 October 2023	Applicants notified of the outcome of their application



w/c 16 October 2023	Grantees will meet with the Ignite! team to develop plans for their projects, including working up a budget
October 2023	Budgets are agreed and payments are made
November 2023 - January 2024	Ignite! team work with the grantees to put plans in place for their projects
Monday 5 - Friday 16 February 2024	The projects take place during the festival
w/c 26 February 2024	Feedback meetings will take place between the Ignite! team and grantees
w/c 4 March 2024	Grantee receipts are submitted
w/c 11 March 2024	FOSAC Trustees and Ignite! team meet to assess the pilot programme



## Application Questions

Applications must be made via the [Google Form](#).

Applications answering the same points via video or audio recording of no more than 5 minutes are accepted. Please send these to: [sarah@ignitefutures.org.uk](mailto:sarah@ignitefutures.org.uk)

Your Name

Your Email address

Your Group/Organisation

Please tell us about the status of your organisation; for example, is it a charitable organisation, community interest company, Parent School Association, club, or local community group (or other, please explain) ?

Postcode of where your organisation is based

Tell us about the audience your organisation works with

Tell us about why you'd like to get involved with The Festival of Science and Curiosity.

Tell us about any initial ideas you have for the project; for example, a question you would like to explore, a topic of local interest, some idea raised by your members?

Anything else you would like to tell us at this stage?



## Notes to Applicants

We're not asking how you'd spend the grant of £500 at this stage because we know it will change as we work together. However, it may be useful to know that we will fund core costs, contributions to staff salaries, overheads, freelance fees, refreshments, venue hire, equipment, transport costs, volunteer expenses. We will ask for receipts for any spend over £50. Grants will be paid in one payment once a budget has been agreed.

We encourage applicants to get in touch to discuss their application with the Ignite! team before applying. The Ignite! team will not be involved in the decision-making process, but will be able to help you organise your thoughts and answer any queries. Please contact Megan Shore ([megan@ignitefutures.org.uk](mailto:megan@ignitefutures.org.uk)).

You don't need to know about science to apply. We're more interested in how your organisation is best placed to deliver a project that engages with your target audience. We will work with you on the science!

## Internal Process

Trustees will assess applications using a scoring system against our 6 criteria questions.

Trustees will meet and discuss the applications and their scores and decide which applications to fund.