



# The Ulrike Michal Foundation for the Arts

Grants Criteria (Artistic Merit and  
Educational Standards Policy) for  
the Core & Student Grant Schemes

Charity Reg. No. 1188685

2020

## **Artistic Merit and Educational Standards – The Ulrike Michal Foundation for the Arts**

The trustees will use an agreed set of criteria to ensure that all projects that are supported meet an artistic merit threshold and the necessary educational standards in relation to the project's artistic activities and outcomes.

These criteria will relate directly to the foundation's aim

**“to promote, encourage and extend the love, appreciation, enjoyment, understanding and practice of fine, decorative and applied arts among people of all ages through experiences at museums, art galleries, historic properties and in the community at large, both as individuals and communally, as participants and spectators.”**

*Initially this will be achieved through the relevant grant application judging criteria:*

**Artistic skills & development** – *Traditional skills of arts and crafts e.g. drawing, painting, original printmaking, and sculpting and modelling clay, stone, metal and other physical materials. The trustees will focus on how these traditional skills are developed in the artist(s) and the participants during the project.*

**Artistic content and originality** – *This is the actual art content of a project. Originality is the trust's recognition of something new in a particular project*

**Artistic benefit** – *This criterion is based on the foundation's wish to see projects that 'promote, encourage and extend the love, appreciation, enjoyment, understanding... of the fine, decorative and applied arts'. The benefit can be to the artists, the participants, and /or the spectators.*

**Wider Artistic Legacy** – *This includes what will be left behind after the project finishes and how it helps to contribute over the long term to the achievement of the foundation's aim to 'promote, encourage and extend the love, appreciation, enjoyment, understanding and practice of fine, decorative and applied arts among people of all ages' within our region.*

*Then depending on the type of application, the following factors would be taken into consideration:*

**Individual artists** – *application, portfolio of previous artwork, references, reputation*

*and the nature of the project*

**Workshop, residencies and activities** – application, the feasibility of the idea, artistic skills of the workshop leader, learning opportunities and outcomes, potential audience, and cost

**Museum and art gallery exhibitions and displays** – application, reputation of the museum or art gallery, accreditation status, staff experience/qualifications/record, mystery shopper site visit, contact external parties for references, exhibition interpretative plans, and associated educational programme and outcomes.

**Art conservation** – application, provenance of the artwork, and collection significance: <https://gov.wales/museum-collection-significance-guidance-museums>

**Research projects** – research track record, references, nature of research, subject of research, planned outputs and benefits of the research, feasibility and opportunity cost.

**Students' Art Materials Bursaries** – track record at art college, portfolio, references, use of traditional skills and practices in fine, decorative and applied arts and financial status and need.

**Acquisitions of artworks for the public realm** – artistic quality (academic support and curatorial support), example of traditional artistic skills, local relevance/importance and historical links to the region, level of community support, attitude of other funding bodies, public benefit and wider artistic legacy, and community well being and sense of place.

The trustees expect to review the thresholds in relation to artistic merit and educational standards taking into account best practice in the arts and heritage sector, as well as the experience gained during each funding round, as set out by such organizations as Arts Council England, Arts Council Wales, the Museum Association, the Association of Independent Museums, the Collections Trust, and the Group for Education in Museums and Galleries (GEM).