

## **BRIGHT SPARKS FUND GUIDELINES 2021 / 2022**

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### **PURPOSE – WHAT WE WANT TO SUPPORT**

*“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.”*

**Scott Adams**

We believe artists and creative practitioners play a necessary and important role in contributing to the overall health, development, and well-being of our society. They can challenge our view of the world and also help us understand it better. They can bring beauty, excitement and joy to our lives. They can inspire and provoke in equal measures.

DG Unlimited (DGU) recognises the valuable role of creative practitioners and the Bright Sparks Fund aims to support practitioners from any discipline to create innovative and ambitious new work.

Bright Sparks is part of Creatives Unlimited, a 2-year programme, developed by DGU after careful consultation with stakeholders, that aims to support creative practitioners to raise ambition, stimulate growth and help fulfil their potential. Specifically, Bright Sparks aims to:

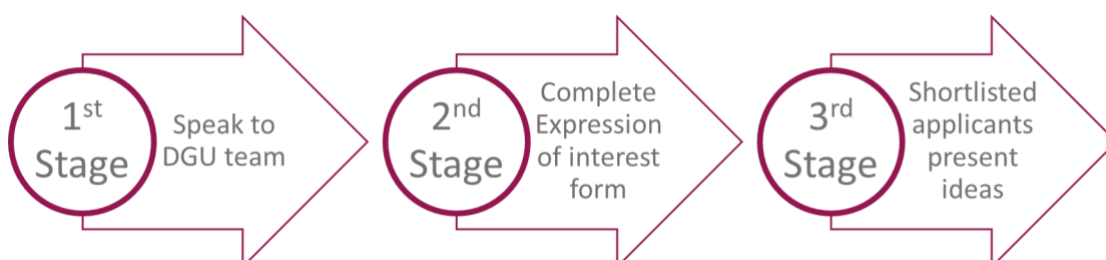
- enable artists to take creative risks in the pursuit of furthering their creative practice;
- fund creative ideas that inspire people, filling them with energy and enthusiasm to experience the arts in Dumfries and Galloway.

### **WHO CAN APPLY**

We want to hear from established creative practitioners who have at least 3yrs experience operating as a professional practitioner and can demonstrate a good track record.

### **BRIGHT SPARKS FUND: KEY POINTS**

- The core purpose of Bright Sparks is to support creative risk-taking and excellence.
- We want to hear from creative practitioners, including practitioners collaborating together, based in Dumfries and Galloway, who have innovative and original ideas.
- Simple application process:



- Discuss your idea with one of the DGU team; if it fits with the aims of Bright Sparks, you will be emailed an Expression of Interest Form to complete,
- Shortlisted applicants present their ideas to the awards panel in a method of their choice; for example, discussion, film, powerpoint presentation, performance, audio recording,
- We have no predetermined view on the types of ideas that we will support,
- No match-funding is required,
- We anticipate funding 3 or 4 ideas at around £3,000 – £4,000 each,
- The total amount of funding available for Bright Sparks is £12,000,
- Creative ideas **MUST** be completed by **31<sup>th</sup> July 2022**.

## **PRIORITIES**

Bright Sparks will prioritise proposals which evidence:

1. How and why the creative idea is new and ambitious.
2. A track record to support claims that the work will be of high quality.
3. How and why the creative idea will enable applicants to move their professional practice to the next level.
4. How the idea will be implemented.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Stage**

- Read these guidelines,
- Contact the DGU team ([comms.dgu@gmail.com](mailto:comms.dgu@gmail.com)) to arrange a time to discuss your idea,
- If your idea is eligible, we will email you an Expression of Interest form which should be submitted **by Midnight on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021**.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Stage**

- Awards panel shortlist Expression of Interests on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021**
- Decisions communicated on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Stage**

- Shortlisted applicants present their idea to awards panel on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021**
- Award decisions communicated on Wednesday **22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021**

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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<http://www.dgunlimited.com/>