

## **AUE Solidarity Fund Criteria and Guidelines**

### **Purpose of the Fund**

The environment for many working in the visual arts is challenging and precarious. The AUE Solidarity Fund has been set up to provide one-off support to AUE members who are experiencing severe need.

### **Who can apply to the Solidarity Fund?**

Any AUE member with a minimum of three months membership and whose AUE membership fees are paid and up-to-date.

### **How much can I apply for?**

All awards will be £100, in order to be able to help as many applicants as possible.

### **What can the Solidarity Fund be used for?**

The AUE Solidarity Fund is to help AUE members who are experiencing severe need with a one-off grant to assist with living expenses. The Solidarity Fund can be used for household costs, for example a utility bill or food, as a contribution to rent or mortgage payments, for costs associated with childcare or caring responsibilities.

The Solidarity Fund cannot be used to support costs directly associated with your practice; for example, to purchase materials, contribute to travel costs, professional development fees or used to pay AUE membership fees.

### **How do I apply?**

An Application Form and Equality Monitoring form are both available via [www.artistsunionengland.org.uk](http://www.artistsunionengland.org.uk) to complete online. For accessibility a word copy of both forms are available on request from [solidarityfund@artistsunionengland.org.uk](mailto:solidarityfund@artistsunionengland.org.uk)

Tell us as much as you can about your current circumstances. For example, how your practice as an artist is affected but also, are you the main or only income earner in your household? Do you have other sources of income, in addition to any income from your art practice, such as part-time employment or from benefits like Universal Credit, Personal Independent Payment, Employment Support Allowance or if you are a carer, Carers Allowance. We particularly want to support BAME, LGBTQ+ AUE members and members who have a disability, because of the additional discrimination they can experience. We would like to know too, what difference a Solidarity Fund award will make to you.

## **Funding Rounds**

Funding rounds will be announced towards the end of each month. Deadline for receipt of applications will be the first Thursday of the following month at 5pm.

The Trustees will meet the following 2nd Thursday of the month for deliberation and aim to allocate funds a week later.

Please be aware that the Solidarity Fund is new and is currently a modest and limited resource. We are working hard to grow the size of the Fund so that we can meet the demand from members for support. We aim to help 5 artists each month.

## **How many times can I apply?**

If you are awarded a grant you cannot re-apply to the Solidarity Fund again for a period of 6 months from the award date. If your application has been unsuccessful you can apply again at any time.

## **Who decides on Hardship Fund applications?**

The Trustees assess all Solidarity Fund applications and make a report to the Executive Committee each call-out on the number of applications received and approved. The current Trustees are AUE members: Katriona Beales, Theresa Eason, Martin Gollan, Jo Howell and Vanessa Maurice-Williams. You can contact the Trustees by emailing [solidarityfund@artistsunionengland.org.uk](mailto:solidarityfund@artistsunionengland.org.uk)

## **Appeals procedure**

The funds available to the Solidarity Fund are limited and it is unlikely that the Solidarity Fund Panel will be able to fund every application it receives

If your application to the Solidarity Fund has not been approved, you can appeal the decision by writing to the AUE Executive at [info@artistsunionengland.org.uk](mailto:info@artistsunionengland.org.uk) setting out why you think your application should have been supported and how it meets the Solidarity Fund criteria.

If you want to appeal against a decision by the Solidarity Fund Panel you must submit your letter within 7 days of receiving notice about your application. The Executive will acknowledge your appeal, carry out an investigation and write to you, within 14 days, with the outcome of its investigation