



Women of the World, Arts, Nepal

WOW Grants 2022

28 January 2022

Introduction

The British Council has been organising [Women of the World Festival](#) in Nepal since 2017. The Festival is now in its fifth edition. For the 2022 edition we are following hybrid model which will see festival activities organised virtually in March and a one-day physical festival in Lumbini Park, Lumbini, the following month. The edition of the festival will focus on gender issues, challenges as well as promote the stories of women and girls from all over Nepal with a focus on stories from Lumbini Province.

[You can learn more about WOW Festivals in Nepal here](#)

Women of the World Festival is a programme by [WOW Foundation](#) in the UK and is organised by the British Council in South Asia.

Guideline

What is a grant?

Grants are monetary and/or non-financial award to an individual or institution to support their exemplary work in a particular cause. Grantees usually go through an open and competitive process which requires application and submission of supporting documents.

British Council provides grants year around to encourage the use of arts and culture in important social discourses and interventions. British Council grants usually comprise of financial, mentoring and platform support. A grant contract outlining the specifications of support and the proposed activity/project is required to process the distribution of the award.

What is offered from WOW Grants?

We are announcing multiple grants to support arts/culture and media-based activities that are gender focused. Grants include financial and in-kind contributions to produce, package and disseminate proposed activities and outputs with relevant audiences and stakeholders. Grants cover the range of activities which make up the WOW Festival strands* and grant amounts vary. Financial awards are decided on a case-by-case basis through a budget submitted by the applicant

WOW strands are the festival's core programming which are common in all WOW Festivals across the world. These include pre-festival activities like WOW Think In and mandatory WOW events like Talks, Bites, Speed Mentoring and more. You can learn more about WOW strands by browsing our past WOW programme maps [here](#).

Are the grants for digital engagements only?

This call is for both digital and physical activities/outputs for WOW Festival. There are dedicated grants to cover digital content and those for our Lumbini Province focused physical event. You can let us know what you are applying for through the application form.

What are the grants that can be applied for?

The table below lists the category of grant, the range of the financial award and provides additional notes on coverage. Please use this table to establish your preferred grant type (should be dependent on the activity/output being proposed).

*Grant amounts in NPR

SN	Grant Category	Available grants	Award Range	Notes
1	Workshops - Digital	3-4	25k – 100k	Covers facilitation fees, should include costs for stationary and other material required. Can include participant fees but with adequate reasoning.
2	Workshops - Physical	4-5	50k – 100k	Covers facilitation fees, should include costs for stationary and other material required. Can include participant fees (local transportation, refreshments and lunch boxes, incidentals etc.) Venue and equipment covered by British Council directly
3	Performances – Digital outputs	3	100k each	Performance may include: dance, theatre, literature and multidisciplinary forms – these can be traditional or contemporary – British Council will support recording of the performance
4	Performances – Physical showcase	3	150k each	Performance may include: dance, theatre, literature and multidisciplinary forms – these can be traditional or contemporary – British Council will provide a platform to present the performance at Lumbini Park
5	Music (presentation)	1	Up to 450,000	To produce a showcase of musical forms and acts – foremost for digital but physical replication will be considered for event at Lumbini Park
6	Nepal – UK Co-application	2-4	1500 – 3000 GBP	These grants require co-applicants, one applying party has to be based in the UK. UK diaspora and organisations can apply alone.
7	Lumbini-based Project	multiple	100k – 400k	These grants are for Lumbini Province based activities, outputs and people involved in the process should be physically located in Lumbini Province
8	Research grant	1	250k	To research and report on impact of arts/culture/media-based approaches applied within WOW and by collaborating partners/grantees. See below question.
9	Under 18s (digital/physical)	2	50k – 200k	One grant each to run a mass activity for children on gender roles, digital and physical options available
10	Men/boys (digital only)	1	Up to 100k	To run a mass activity for men/boys on gender topic – should aim to change behaviours/perceptions

*Grants in Red are Lumbini based

Proposals can be on the following artforms: craft, design, fashion, architecture, literature, music, dance, theatre, visual arts. Gender equality outcomes from the proposed is a requirement.

What can I include in my budget breakdown?

Please include all expected costs involved in the delivery of your proposed activity. This could include artist/facilitator fees, cost for stationary or production material, venue cost, refreshment for participants, coordination cost, for example.

Please include any matched or in-kind support provided by other parties or the grant applicant.

[Here is a quick guide on budgeting for art projects](#)

What to include in a video application?

If you would like to send us a video application, instead of filling out the online or offline form, you could do so by sharing your video to arts@britishcouncil.org.np. Please share via a link or through a transfer system. Email inbox space is limited so your video might not come through when sent directly.

With the video, we would like you to tell us the story of your proposed activity. It could have a

- Beginning: Provide Background and context. Why does the proposed activity need to be done now? What is the story that you want to tell?
- Middle: What are you doing? Here you can elaborate on your project and how you are planning on implementing. What activities will take place?
- End: What will be the output? What will be the outcome? What impact will your project have?

Language: You can submit the application in English, Nepali, an ethnic Nepali language or in National Sign Language. For lesser practiced languages, we will need to seek help from a translator/interpreter which will take slightly longer to access.

What is the Research Grant?

Impact from arts/culture/media-based interventions are difficult to measure and often require complex methodologies and multi-disciplinary thinking. Evidence however is necessary to both adapt future programming, so that these are more impactful and to support the creative sectors with insights and data that can be useful in a range of strategic decisions (like audience development, monitoring and development, stakeholder management etc.).

We are offering a singular grant to relevant professional(s) or organisations who would like to review arts/culture/media based approaches supported by this call and applied by WOW collaborators, grantees, partners to produce a report on potential and delivered impact.

If you are applying for this grant, you will need to propose the overall research approach. WOW partnerships and events will be active between February – April 2022. This is the duration of the research period. Report is expected by 15 May 2022. A terms of responsibility will be agreed with the grantee after the application process to establish deliverables and roles. Travel may be required for research of physically-planned activities (for Lumbini Park) – costs thereof will be borne by the British Council directly.

[You can access WOW pages in our website to get a better understanding of the programme](#)

Who do we expect to apply for these grants?

The British Council expects applications to come from those individuals and/or institutions who are committed to gender equality actions. Applicants should be able to clearly outline a purpose for their participation in WOW Nepal festival. Reasons for working with WOW Nepal may include:

- To connect with new audiences, collaborators and stakeholders on diverse gender actions
- To apply arts, culture and media innovatively to create behaviour/perception change outcomes
- To support the agency of women/girls who otherwise do not have access to platforms like WOW
- To benefit long-term individual (professional) or institutional goals
- To develop new insights and data around creative and narrative approaches in gender advocacy

Can existing British Council grantees apply for this opportunity?

If you have received a WOW Nepal grant before (in 2020 or 2021) then you are not eligible to apply as a lead applicant. Those working on an active British Council Nepal grant are not eligible to apply as a lead applicant. If you are working with a global British Council grant, you are eligible to apply. Past and active grantees may still apply together with a lead applicant.

Are there any terms of the grants that are non-negotiable?

There are few requirements that all proposals should account for:

1. Digital outputs will have to be presented with WOW Nepal Virtual between 8 – 20 March 2022
2. Physical outputs will be required for the WOW Nepal Lumbini event planned for 23/24 April 2022
3. Grant awards do not mean rights to using the WOW intellectual property (IP); grantees must work with the British Council to develop and administer their outreach and promotional activities through a mutually agreed communication plan that will be in the WOW Festival brand. Each edition works with a new woman artist to develop the Festival visuals
4. Preparation and production of activities must abide by Covid-19 safety guidelines instituted by the Government of Nepal. The assessment panel will consider physical events (with social distancing arrangements). The in-person venue at Lumbini may be provided by the British Council for activity delivery
5. Proposed budget should not include more than 10% overhead. This does not include artist fees

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6. British Council grants are not tax deductible but for applicants who are VAT registered, please make sure your budget is VAT inclusive
 7. Grantee needs to enter a contract with the British Council and then follow its vendor creation process to receive the grant award. The contract will record details of proposed, terms and conditions as well as details of project contributions
 8. Grantee shall cooperate and work with a British Council appointed evaluator to apply feedback tools and mechanisms to document the impact of their activity and are required to submit a summary report on the activity along with any audio-visual documentation of delivery
 9. Grantee shall participate in an action review of their activity/outputs within 30 days of delivery

What if the advertised grants amounts are insufficient for my project?

Our grants aim to enable creative and strategic actions from a range of actors. We do not encourage creating activities solely for WOW participation. If you have a proposal that requires additional funding, consider:

- Approaching other partners (there are no restrictions to how many partners can support the proposed activity/output)
- Secure in-kind contributions from collaborators and supporters
- Consider not applying – if there is not a match, then there just is not. We do not recommend compromising vision nor taking an exploitative approach (eg. asking professionals to volunteer their time/effort)
- Consider applying and making your case for additional funding – if the proposal is strong, innovative, impactful and can lead to strong legacy or feed into a longer-term initiative/programme then we are happy to consider the proposal for additional support

Having matched contributions from the applicant or another source is not an assessment criterion. However, such commitments can create scale and wider reach which is considered in the panel's final judgement. If you are approaching other potential partners for funding, please mention them in your proposal.

It says additional support will be provided for both digital and physical content, what will this be?

For digital activities:

- Language Interpretation and/or Sign Language
- Communication and promotions planning – includes graphic design services to produce promotional materials
- Action Review and Evaluation
- Orientation and training on project management, value-based approaches and other topics
- Digital platforms (video sharing applications like MS Teams, Zoom etc.)

For digital outputs:

- Language Interpretation and/or Sign Language
- Communication and promotions planning – includes graphic design services to produce promotional materials
- Action Review and Evaluation
- Orientation and training on project management, value-based approaches and other topics
- Professional production team to pre-record and produce branded/packaged outputs for digital publication
- Promotion of outputs as a WOW Grants programme on all British Council digital platforms

For physical outputs/activities:

- Language interpretation and/or Sign Language
- Communication and promotions planning – includes graphic design services to produce promotional materials
- Action Review and Evaluation
- Orientation and training on project management, value-based approaches and other topics
- Professional production team to pre-record and produce branded/packaged outputs for digital publication
- Venue and logistics (in partnership with Lumbini Development Trust)
- Fabrication and production management support (if required)
- Digital and in-venue pre-and-post promotion as WOW Festival programme

Who should we target with our proposed activity?

Gender inequality is a global challenge. Almost all people are required and should feel responsible for making strides towards a more equal and equitable world.

British Council expects people who understand the need and urgency of gender equality to apply for these grants. At a minimum we expect applicants to have a clear understanding of who their demographic is. If you are unsure you can use the following to establish this:

- Whether they are delivering virtually? Digital divide is real and digital inequality will affect reach of virtual programming. Please do make sure your channels are able to reach the audience you have decided
- What is your objective? We have covered some of the purposes that have been observed from past collaborators above. If you are clear on your objective then you should decide your audience based on strategy and the ability to achieve impact as desired with them. For example, if you are interested in impacting policies impacting women/girls then naturally your audience should be policymakers, advocates, lobbyists and other actors who can make decisions favourable to your objectives.
- If you are delivering a physical activity? You have to be focused on Lumbini Province's contexts, issues, challenges and opportunities. While the final output is also applicable to wider national audiences, for physical projects the audience should be primarily based in Lumbini Province. Please see our Thinkin report for more details (below)

Past editions of WOW Nepal have averaged a 70/30 split in gender distribution with gender minorities represented as speakers, performers, presenters. The biggest demographic is women between the ages of 19 and 35. Editions also tend to have dedicated activities for men/boys and children under the age of 18.

In the application you will be required to define your audience. Please make sure to account for intersectional barriers in your definition. Generic answers based solely on gender, age, qualification etc. will not be as successful with the judges.

Are there any essential values I need to uphold in my proposed activity?

The British Council encourages its partners, vendors and grantees to account for the following in their work with the organisation:

- Data Protection: processing personal and sensitive information only as required by the project deliverables (disposing of information after project is concluded). [Learn more here](#)
- Environment: commitment to monitoring and minimising impact of proposed activities on the environment
- Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) : As a cultural relations organisation, EDI is at the heart of all the work that we do. [You can learn more about our EDI value area here.](#)
- Safeguarding: With all British Council work and activities we aim to create and provide a safe environment for young people and adults who are at potential risk. [You can learn more about our Safeguarding policy statement here](#)

*Awarded grantees will be required to attend webinar on British Council value areas.

Can I propose a project with people under the age of 18?

Project proposals involving activities with young people under the age of 18 is supported through two dedicated grants. Such projects will need to abide by the British Council's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct – we have a zero-tolerance policy on any abusive/exploitative behaviour for vulnerable groups including children and adults at risk. Applicants working with vulnerable groups need to comply with our mandated processes including filling out, signing and submitting the following:

- Photo/video/text consent form: To be signed by guardian of young person if photo/video/text documentation of personal information is made
- Self-declaration of adults regarding their official criminal record
- Government issued Police Clearance Certificate. [Apply here](#)
- Parental and Medical form: To be signed by guardian of young person
- Programme Participation consent form: To be signed by guardian of young person
- Child protection declaration form: To be filled out by accompanying teacher/guardian of child in case travelling is involved

*All document templates will be provided by the British Council. Government issued Police report needs to be applied for by applicant.

Are there any priority themes for WOW Nepal 2022?

Our Lumbini Province event will consider proposals that account for insights we collected through our WOW Thinkins in Parsa and Nepalgunj. You can read a summary of responses from local [stakeholders here](#). Please access section 2, (WOW Thinkin 2022: Findings)

How do I apply?

You can apply through this [online form](#)

The form can be filled out in Nepali or English.

Here are the things that you need to prepare before you start filling out the form:

- A proposal containing Project Details, Objectives and Outcomes, Audience, Business Case (why this activity is creative and relevant) and Budget requires to be uploaded in the form.
- If you would like to review the questions before starting on the form, please see: [Offline questions](#)

What is the application process like?

We have made grant writing as simple as possible to be accessible to a wide demographic. Our application form will ask you to submit basic personal and/or institutional information, a proposal covering key details of your project with a budget table and questions on alignment with WOW Nepal and its objectives. You will be required to elaborate the people involved in delivery and how the target audience for the output/activity is going to be.

The form is digital and is available in English and Nepali. If you still feel unsure about the process we can also accept video applications. Please write to arts@britishcouncil.org.np to enquire about this option.

How will our proposal be assessed?

If a proposal meets our eligibility criteria then a panel of judges will review the application for the following:

- Strong alignment with British Council's and WOW Nepal's Objectives – 25%
- Creativity and innovation in the proposed activity, its design and approach – 25%
- Institutional/Individual portfolio (relevant experience/background) of the applicant – 25%
- Exhibited values (see below for British Council values that grantees will have to uphold) -25%

In case of clarification requests, the panel will be in touch with the applicant directly to source additional information as required for the final decision.

When will we hear if our application has been successful?

We hope to confirm grantees on a rolling basis. Applications will be appraised as they come in till the grant pool runs out. You can expect decision on your proposal within 7 working days (doesn't include Saturday/Sunday). Communication will be carried out through emails (to successful applicants).

The grant call will end on 29 February 2022.

Do I need to be registered company or organisation to apply?

No registration is not compulsory. Individuals applicants should have a PAN number. Both VAT, PAN registered organisations (for profit or non-profit) are eligible to apply. The following documents will be required to process the grant award:

- PAN or Company Registration
- Void check or bank statement (to confirm bank account)
- Filled out bank declaration form – Will be provided by the British Council

Do I need to be a Nepali national to apply?

The application call is for Nepalis and Nepali Diaspora. You are welcome to apply if you do not have a Nepali citizenship but identify as a Nepali. UK citizens can apply with a Nepali collaborator. Please reach out to us at arts@britishcouncil.org.np, if you are unsure and would like to talk to us before applying

How will I receive the grant award?

If you are successful with your application, we will be in touch with guidance on the next steps. To receive the WOW Commission Grants, we will have to enter a grant contract specifying the concerned proposal's details. This includes the project contributions where we can record the financial assistance being awarded to support delivery.

The payment process is summarised below:

Step 1: Application filled out and submitted

Step 2: Panel reviews and makes a decision

Step 3: Grantee notified and documents requested for processing

Step 4: British Council Arts team provides orientation on organisation values, the Arts portfolio and the expectations from a WOW 2022 collaborator

Step 4: Vendor creation started (internal process) – takes up to two weeks

Step 5: Purchase order raised – invoice or letter requested from grantee for release of funds

Step 6: Bank to bank payment scheduled – may take two weeks for processing

Step 7: Grant award received via bank transfer on Tuesday/Wednesday each week
Please note this is the process involved in the payment of the financial awards only.

Will tax be deducted from my grant?

British Council grants are tax exempt, however, those applicants who are VAT registered should include 13% VAT in the overall budget submitted.

Where do I learn more about WOW Festivals?

To learn about The WOW Foundation and WOW - Women of the World events and festivals, you can visit: www.thewowfoundation.com

Details and reports from past editions of WOW in Nepal can be found at www.britishcouncil.org.np/wowfestival