



the Bottle Yard
STUDIOS

Small Business Grant Fund; survey thanks; funding updates; sector latest

9 April 2020

Bristol update

Small Business Grant Fund

For attention of film/TV/media businesses: Small business grants of £10,000 are available for all businesses in receipt of small business rates relief. Bristol City Council is currently processing the grants and the first payments have been issued. To find out whether you are eligible, email business.rates@bristol.gov.uk. Alternatively, fill out [this simple form](#) on the Council website and the team will check your eligibility against Government guidance. You can also find further support for businesses on the BCC website [here](#).

Bristol surveys now closed

Thank you to the many freelancers and businesses who submitted responses to our surveys before yesterday's deadline. We really appreciate you taking the time to help us build a full picture of the challenges you are facing. We will be analysing your responses and will share the findings in due course. These, along with your comments, will be shared with Bristol City Council's Economic Development team, senior leaders, councillors, local MPs and local/national sector bodies.

Temporary driving opportunities

Bristol Waste is seeking LGV drivers to keep their essential services operating. If you, or any of your friends or family, are a qualified LGV driver looking for temporary driving work, you can express an interest by emailing training@bristolwastecompany.co.uk.

Location spotting in lockdown

In these unusual times where we're all staying indoors, Bristol Film Office has compiled a guide to some of the fantastic TV & film titles currently available to watch online that were filmed in or made in Bristol, for audiences to enjoy whilst they stay at home. [Read it here](#).

UK-wide update

BFI confirms £4.5m of Covid-19 support

Ben Roberts, Chief Executive of the the BFI, has today released a statement outlining how the organisation will support those the industry who have been hardest hit by Covid-19.

Measures include a £2m BFI Film Continuation Fund, £1.3m BFI FAN (Film Audience Network) COVID-19 Resilience Fund, £800,000 for BFI-funded features and flexibility for BFI-funded partners. Read more [here](#).

Read the [BFI's full screen sector Q&A](#) for up-to-date information for freelancers, self employed, productions, cinemas, exhibitors and SMEs.

Film & TV Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund now open

The Film & TV Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund, delivered by The Film & TV Charity in partnership with the BFI, is open for applications. One-off grants from £500 to £2,500 are available to active behind the scenes workers in film, TV and cinema facing significant financial hardship as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Applications close 6pm Wednesday 22nd April 2020. Applications are assessed based on need, not when they are received. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

Repayable Grants Scheme to open next week

A new Repayable Grants Scheme to support freelancers who are waiting for Government support payments will be opened by The Film & TV Charity on Wednesday 15 April. Applicants will have one week to make a claim. Interest free grants of up to £2,000 will be offered to those eligible for Self-employment Income Support but who are struggling with the wait for payments in June. Applicants do not need to provide any guarantees and there is no arrangement fee. Recipients will be asked to repay by the end of September. For more information, click [here](#).

Arts Council England Emergency Response Package now open

Arts Council England has today opened its financial support scheme for artists, creative practitioners and freelancers. In the first round, applicants need to register on Grantium by 13 April to apply before the deadline of 16 April. Up to £2,500 is available for those working in Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts, Literature, Combined Arts, Museums practice, Libraries. Work includes: choreographers, writers, translators, producers, editors, freelance educators in the disciplines and artforms we support, composers, directors, designers, artists, craft makers and curators. For more information click [here](#).

PSB measures in response to Covid-19

ITV has announced a [£500k development fund targeted at the independent sector](#) to help producers during the crisis. The BBC has announced a [package of measures to maintain the independent production sector](#).

Directors Charitable Foundation extends support

The Directors Charitable Foundation has expanded its support scheme to offer emergency help for out-of-work directors in acute need due to the coronavirus lockdown. Grants of up to £500 are available. Apply [here](#) or for more information click [here](#).

BECTU launches Film & TV 'Thought Exchange'

Bectu has launched two Thought Exchanges – one for film and TV and one for live events and theatre - to allow people to share their views, with questions on wages, benefits, hours and security. You can [participate here](#).

#ForgottenFreelancers campaign

A 90-second video, Forgotten Freelancers, has been launched online as part of a campaign to draw attention to the 2 million self-employed workers who are ineligible to benefit from the government's recently announced financial aid schemes. Watch it [here](#).

Bristol Film Office & The Bottle Yard Studios



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Our mailing address is:

TheBottleYardStudios

The Bottle Yard Studios

Whitchurch Lane

Bristol, Bristol BS14 0BH

United Kingdom

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