



**culture
team**

Update from Bristol Council's Culture and Creative Industries Team May 2020

We continue to do all we can to understand and address the challenges being faced by Cultural and Creative Industries organisations, microbusinesses, sole traders and freelancers across Bristol.

Thank you to all of you who have found the time to complete our recent sector surveys; your responses, along with findings from Arts Council England, Creative England, and Film Offices around the country are helping make the case to DCMS at the Parliamentary Committee on 16 June. They will also inform our plans for how we as a service can support the sector in Bristol.

Details are still emerging about the relaxing of Covid-19 Lockdown measures following on from the National Government announcement. The government has set five task forces to focus on particular areas; one of which will focus on Tourism, Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Culture, led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Further details can be found [here](#).

We are now in Phase 3 of Lockdown relaxation measures, which effects Culture and Creative Industries including our own Bristol Museums, alongside Bristol Libraries. This will mean transitioning safely back to opening up buildings, sites, locations, as possible within social distancing measures and latest guidelines, from July. Earliest we can re-open is from 4 July but all dates are to be confirmed.

Finally, many creative businesses and freelancers have already made use of Bristol Council's new [Outset micro-business COVID-19 support programme](#) which is designed to help small businesses (10 employees or less) navigate the current crisis and think about both recovery and business development. The programme is on offer until end of June.

Jon Finch, Head of Culture and Creative Industries

Sector survey findings

We are collating findings from four recent surveys: Festivals and Events' organisers, Culture and Media organisations, Film and TV Production Companies and freelancers, and Creative Freelancers and Sole Traders. Headline findings [here](#). Detail on different sector findings in our June update.

New grant funding

[Small Business Grants Discretionary Fund](#)

New government fund developed by Bristol Council in collaboration with other West of England local authorities. Eligible businesses include small businesses in shared offices, regular market or street

traders, bed and breakfasts and charity properties receiving charitable business rates. Grants up to £5,000. **Apply by Mon 8 June (midnight).**

Gane Trust Hardship Fund

The Gane Trust in partnership with Tobacco Factory Theatres and The Cube Microplex are inviting applications from artists and arts-workers living in the Bristol area who are currently experiencing financial hardship due to Covid-19. Grants up to £500. **Apply by Tues 9 June.**

See our [Covid-19 Resource Bank](#) for other wider resources and support currently available.

Events and Festivals update

13 May Councillor Asher Craig hosted a meeting with around 80 people working in the events and festivals sector. We discussed:

- Challenges
- Enablers for Recovery
- How can we move beyond where we were before?

We will continue the conversation at a second meeting on Monday 1st June 1-2.30pm. To attend the meeting please book [here](#)

Events 2020

Based on current government advice, an Autumn 2020 calendar for Bristol events and festivals is in process. Proposed dates will come with a number of caveats around adhering to, and adapting to, latest government guidance and the interest of public health and safety.

Events 2021

The Site Permissions Team are in the process of contacting the organisers of returning events for 2021. Please note these will depend on latest government guidance. We are also open to new events proposals, again as per latest government guidance. If you would like to discuss an event or date in 2021 please contact: **site.permissions@bristol.gov.uk**

Filming & TV Production update

Bristol Film Office (BFO) is working with Creative England and Film Offices across the UK to develop a uniform approach to managing public health and safety on location, and enable filming activity to re-start. We are using national industry guidance for managing COVID-19 to influence local filming codes of practice and production insurance requirements and expect these to be in place by mid-June 2020.

We continue to work closely with The Bottle Yard Studios to advise and support production companies and enable filming to take place in Bristol. Together, we are expecting the production industry to be one of the first to resume work, albeit with new and strict working practices in place. Over the coming weeks BFO will continue to consult with Producers, Location Managers and other production personnel to find ways to meet production requirements whilst prioritising public health and safety.

For regular updates about further resources and updates from Bristol City Council please sign up for the [Coronavirus Information and advice letter](#) and follow this link for the council's latest [guidance on Covid-19](#).

If you have other questions about coronavirus which are not answered by the information above or on our social media channels, you can email coronavirus@bristol.gov.uk