



Festival of Science and Curiosity 2025 Community Grants Programme

Background

The Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity has been running since 2013, delivering a two-week festival each February that aims to engage new audiences across Nottinghamshire with science and curiosity, change perceptions of science in our everyday lives, stimulate innovation and creativity and facilitate dialogue between scientists, researchers and civil society.

The Festival is a registered charity and commissions Nottingham-based education charity Ignite! to deliver its programme each year.

By working as a partnership with a wide range of organisations, including universities, schools, libraries, community and cultural organisations, the festival has reached far and wide into the county, taking activities out into community spaces where everyone can interact, engage and express their curiosity.

However, we recognise that more can be done to engage with specific audiences that are currently not directly involved. During the 2024 festival, we piloted a **Community Grants Programme** that sought to:

- increase engagement with community groups in Nottinghamshire, with a focus on audiences that don't usually take part in the festival
- increase awareness of the festival beyond our usual partners and communities
- support organisations and groups to engage with the festival via funding and access to networks
- include more events in the festival programme that are co-created by communities and are guided by their interests

As a result of the impact of this pilot programme, we are repeating this programme for the 2025 festival.

Brief

The intention is to fund three projects with grants of up to £500 each.

The festival is looking for groups or organisations who are interested in engaging their audiences with science and curiosity through a project or event during the 2025 Festival (10-21 February).

At the point of application, organisations don't need to have a fully-formed idea of what they'd like to do as part of the festival, although if they do that's great.

Once the outline applications have been reviewed and the grants awarded, the Ignite! team will work with groups to explore the kinds of events and science topics



that could work and will support them to make the project happen. This could include, for example, pairing organisations with groups of scientists and researchers involved in the festival or connecting groups with a local scientific/cultural organisation to visit their site.

Criteria

Priority Audiences:

- Children & Families who are Black and Black British
- Children & Families who are disabled
- Children & Families who live in areas that are remote or areas that are in lowest 30% in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (search [here](#) for more information)

(These priorities are based on data from the 2024 festival as well as the Festival’s EDI goals).

Organisations we’ll support:

- Charitable Organisations, including Charitable Companies, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, Charitable Trust, Unincorporated Charitable Organisations, Community Interest Companies
- For-Profit Companies, individuals and informal organisations (where it is clearly demonstrable that this organisation/person/group can reach its intended audience)
- Parent Teacher Associations

The Festival’s Trustees will make the decisions on which organisations are successful. They’ll be assessing applications using the following questions:

- Is the intended audience one of our priority groups?
- Is this organisation best-placed to engage with the intended audience?
- Do we see potential in working with this organisation to create an impactful event?
- Do we see potential in working with this organisation longer term?
- Have we got a broad spread of types of audience we’re supporting as well as geographical locations across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire?

Timeline

Monday 15 July 2024	Applications open
July - September 2024	Applicants can arrange calls to discuss their application with the Ignite! team
Sunday 13 October 2024	Applications close
w/c 21 October 2024	FOSAC Trustees meet to assess applications



w/c 28 October 2024	Applicants notified of the outcome of their application
w/c 4 November 2024	Grantees will meet with the Ignite! team . Payments will be made following this meeting.
November 2023 - January 2024	Ignite! team work with the grantees to develop plans for their projects.
Monday 10 - Friday 21 February 2025	The projects take place during the festival
w/c 3 March 2025	Feedback meetings will take place between the Ignite! team and grantees
w/c 17 March 2025	FOSAC Trustees and Ignite! team meet to assess the programme

Application Form

Your Name

Your Email address

Your Group/Organisation

Tell us about the status of your organisation

Postcode of where your organisation is based or where the project will take place (if different)

Tell us about the audience your organisation works with

Tell us about why you'd like to get involved with FOSAC

Tell us about any initial ideas you have for the project

Anything else you would like to tell us at this stage

Applications answering the above questions via video or audio recording of no more than 5 minutes are accepted.

Please submit your application via this [online form](#).

Notes to Applicants

We're not asking how you'd spend the grant of £500 at this stage because we know it will change as we work together. However, it may be useful to know that we will fund core costs, contributions to staff salaries, overheads, freelance fees, refreshments, venue hire, equipment, transport costs, volunteer expenses. We will ask for receipts for any spend over £200.



We encourage applicants to get in touch to discuss their application with the Ignite! team before applying. The team will not be involved in the decision-making process, but will be able to help you organise your thoughts and answer any queries.

You don't need to know about science to apply. We're more interested in how your organisation is best placed to deliver a project that engages with your target audience. We will work with you on the science!

Contact: Megan Shore, Ignite! Programmes Manager, megan@ignitefutures.org.uk

We ask all funded projects to work with us on collecting feedback forms from participants at events in order to evaluate this programme.

Internal Process

Trustees will assess applications using a scoring system against our 5 criteria questions.

Trustees will meet and discuss the applications and their scores and decide which applications to fund.

Previously funded projects

In the 2024 festival, we funded:

- The Lenton Centre to run a full day of workshops for local children, linked up via the Festival with University of Nottingham neuroscience researchers
- Oasis Community Centre to run an evening of activities all about the science of liquorice, a local heritage crop
- Footprints CIC to run a series of workshops for children and families to develop new ideas and inventions for technology to improve the lives of disabled children

