

Artist Development

This document sets out our approach to supporting artist and creatives.

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We are committed to ensuring fair and equal access to our opportunities. If you require this document in a different format, please contact us.

About us

Mansfield District Council own and operate Mansfield Palace Theatre and Mansfield Museum. Both venues are over one hundred years old and have been central to the cultural identity and civic life of the town.

Since 2023, we have received additional investment from Arts Council England as part of their National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme.

The Palace Theatre is a receiving house operating a wide range of commercial theatre and music acts. With NPO investment the offer is diversifying to include new writing, opera and dance.

Mansfield Museum and Art Gallery has several galleries, including permanent and temporary exhibitions. Our 'World of Birds' permanent exhibition opened in May 2024 and highlights our nationally significant natural history collection.

Our Aims

Through supporting a wide range of artists and creatives our aims are that:

1. Mansfield and district is seen as a place where creatives can have a productive experience and help develop successful careers.
2. Mansfield and district is seen as part of a wider cultural landscape; locally, regionally, nationally, internationally.
3. Mansfield and district residents have an opportunity to shape, participate in, and view new creative work



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4. Mansfield and district residents have an opportunity to be inspired by new creative work and can also develop their own creative skills.
5. We generate additional external investment into Mansfield and district.
6. We support work made with Mansfield and district at its heart. For example, work that is made in, about, with or for Mansfield and district communities.

How will we do this?

For artists and creatives, we will provide:

1. Access to our expertise and networks
2. Access to our inspirational museum collection
3. Access to our spaces and facilities for rehearsal and research and development activities.
4. Connections to our communities, audiences, and residents

Accessing our expertise, networks, and resources

We have a wide range of expertise across our teams, including:

1. Digital development
2. Photography
3. Data analysis
4. Working with young people
5. Inclusive practise
6. Partnership development
7. Engagement and participation
8. Community engagement
9. Leadership
10. Marketing
11. Audience development
12. Technical theatre
13. Customer service
14. Hospitality
15. Fundraising
16. Business Development and sales
17. Conservation and curatorial practice
18. Heritage and collections interpretation
19. Trauma informed practice
20. Anti-racist practice and decolonisation

We benefit from being part of extensive networks, at local, regional, and national level helping us sustain and grow our expertise. To discuss how accessing our expertise and connecting to our networks can benefit your creative development please contact us.

Accessing our inspirational museum collection

Our museum collection is an eclectic and interesting mixture of artefacts and archives, representing the history of the Mansfield area from the earliest times to the present day. It includes archaeology, geology, fine art, decorative arts, social history, industrial history, costume and textiles, coins, natural sciences, and various other items which can help tell the fascinating stories of our communities in the past and the present.

Highlights of our collection include:

1. A nationally important and internationally significant natural history collection, particularly of taxidermy bird specimens. Our new (2024), permanent exhibition 'A World of Birds', funded by Arts Council England, highlights this collection.
2. A fine art collection, including an extensive bequest of [A.S Buxton watercolours](#)
3. Archaeological finds revealing the ancient history of the area, including items from the Mansfield Woodhouse Roman villa, and the archives of the Sherwood Archaeological Society.
4. A large collection of objects, printed material, and photographs detailing the lives and social history of the people of Mansfield, including the archive of negatives from the local newspaper 'The Chad,' for which we hold the copyright.
5. Items reflecting social history and the industrial heritage of Mansfield, including products, designs, and catalogues from several important local businesses (notably Metal Box Company, Mansfield Shoe Company, and Mansfield Brewery) as well as objects reflecting wider local industries, such as mining.
6. A small collection of decorative ceramic items, including examples of work by renowned artist William Billingsley, from his time in Mansfield in the early 19th century, and a donation of interesting lustreware items bequeathed by a local collector in the 1960s.

Accessing our Spaces

We have a range of spaces at both Mansfield Palace Theatre and Mansfield Museum, which are suitable for artists and creatives to use to develop their work.

1. Dance Studio (Mansfield Palace Theatre)
2. Lounge (Mansfield Palace Theatre)

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3. Rehearsal Room (Mansfield Palace Theatre)
4. Long Room (Mansfield Palace Theatre)
5. Education Room (Mansfield Museum)
6. Lecture Hall (Mansfield Museum)
7. Buxton Gallery (Mansfield Museum)
8. Bailey Gallery (Mansfield Museum)
9. Informal learning spaces (Mansfield Museum)

Please see our separate specification sheets for each of these spaces. If these are unavailable, please contact us on the details given.

As part of Mansfield District Council other community venues, non-traditional art spaces and outdoor spaces may also be available subject to discussion.

These spaces are used for a multitude of different activities, and we will balance our commitment to these activities with the availability of spaces for the research, development, and rehearsal of artist projects. To do this we will consider the potential for the artist project to meet our wider [aims](#) alongside operational considerations and impact on regular planned activities.

Connecting to our Communities

We work closely with place-based communities and communities of interest across our district. We are an essential connector helping communities use their voices for creativity.

Please contact us to discuss how we can connect you with our communities, residents, and audiences to help inform your creative development.

Fees

Our spaces normally incur a hire fee. We are open to discussions about partnerships and how our spaces can be used to attract additional external investment to Mansfield.

Please see Appendix 1 for more details on our fees.



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Our commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

We recognise that some artists and creatives may face additional barriers to making work and achieving their potential. We want to change this. To do this we will:

- Operate Mansfield District Council's Equality Diversity and Inclusion policies and procedures.
- Consult with potential users to understand their access and inclusion needs.
- Ask for equality data from artists using our spaces.
- Use this data to monitor and evaluate this area of our service.
- Take necessary action to address barriers to access.
- Individually and collectively recognise our privileged positions as paid employees of Mansfield District Council

Appendix 1

Example room hire fees per hour*:

Theatre	Amateur	Professional	Dance-school
<i>Lounge</i>	18.00	26.00	20.00
<i>Rehearsal Room</i>	13.00	18.00	15.00
<i>Studio</i>	18.00	26.00	20.00
Museum	Non-commercial/charity	Professional	
<i>Room Hire</i>	18.00	26.00	
<i>Gallery</i>	30.00		

*additional charges may apply per hour after 5pm and Bank Holidays

Please view our current fees, in detail [here](#)