



## 2026 Fringe Artist Grants Application Guide

Dunedin Fringe is committed to supporting the development and presentation of new work. If you meet the eligibility criteria, we encourage you to apply for a grant or micro-grant to support your Fringe project. Demand is always high so we advise artists to apply for funding from several different sources to support their projects and are happy to provide additional advice.

Read through this guide and contact the Fringe team if you have any questions or would like to troubleshoot your idea. We **HIGHLY** recommend that you get in touch with us for a conversation before sending your application. Artists who reach out for support before applying are significantly more likely to get a successful outcome!

### Important dates

- Applications via our online application form close at **Midnight Monday 27 October 2025**. Email any supporting material to [kate@dunedinfringe.nz](mailto:kate@dunedinfringe.nz)
- Application decisions notified **Tuesday 11 November 2025**.
- Please note: You must finalise registration by the registration deadline of **Sunday 30 November 2025** to be eligible for a grant. This is only two weeks after notification so don't delay! If you receive a grant you are still required to pay a registration fee.



### Introduction

If you meet the eligibility and assessment criteria below, we encourage you to apply. There are three pools of funding this year:

#### **Fringe Artist Micro-grants - APPLY [HERE](#)**

Artists working in any artform can apply for a micro-grant of \$500.00 to support their event. Applicants must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and the work you're seeking funding for must not have been presented in Ōtepoti previously. For a micro-grant the application process is straightforward, and no budget is required.

#### **Fringe Māori Artist Grants - APPLY [HERE](#)**

Fringe Māori Artist Grants: a funding pool to support Māori artists and/or Māori-led projects to participate in the festival. Māori artists from anywhere in Aotearoa are welcome to apply. [Kaupapa Māori](#) projects will be prioritised. For a grant of \$1000.00 or more, a budget must be supplied.

## Fringe Moana Artist Grants - APPLY [HERE](#)

Thanks to the [Creative New Zealand Pacific team](#), we have an \$18,000 pool of funding available to support Moana artists to create and present work in the Dunedin Fringe Festival, with the goal of raising the visibility of Moana arts in Aotearoa New Zealand. Any Moana artist who resides anywhere in Aotearoa is eligible to apply. For a grant of \$1000.00 or more, a budget must be supplied.

Note: as the Moana Artist Grant funding is sourced from Pacific Team at Creative New Zealand (CNZ), you cannot receive a Moana Artist Grant and another CNZ Grant (including Creative Communities) for the same project. Use of a Moana Artist Grant to present work in Dunedin that has been developed by previous CNZ funding is fine, providing the Dunedin presentation was not part of the other funding agreement.

## Eligibility Criteria for all grants

1. You must be a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident.
2. You can only apply for one of the Dunedin Fringe grant pools for your event.
3. You must submit your application by the deadlines above.
4. You must register an event with the Dunedin Fringe Festival 2025 and pay the registration fee by the due date (Sunday 30 November 2025).
5. You must agree with the [Festival Terms & Conditions](#) as part of the registration process and as outlined in the [Artist Registration Pack](#) document.
6. Artists applying for a Grant must not have already received or applied for other Creative NZ funding to present or tour the same work in Dunedin (including [Creative Communities Scheme](#)).
7. The work must be a Dunedin premiere (not performed in Dunedin previously). Events which utilise a previously used name but are substantively different in content from the earlier event are eligible (eg. an annual group visual art show with a different theme, contributing artists, etc)
8. All questions must be answered unless otherwise stated.

## Assessment Criteria

Grants: The Festival office will appoint a panel of industry and artform representatives from the relevant community to assess the funding applications, for example applications for the Moana artist grant will also be assessed by Moana community members and applications for the Māori artist grant will be assessed by tangata whenua and mana whenua community members.

Micro-grants: The General artist micro-grant will be assessed by the Fringe leadership team. You will be assessed on how well your event addresses one of the following criteria, as nominated in your application.

- **Content Diversity** – The work will add to a broad and diverse festival programme. Applications from under-represented artforms (such as dance) or from historically excluded or marginalised groups are the priority.
- **Access** – The work offers opportunities for members of disabled or D/deaf communities to participate in the arts as practitioners and/or audience.

# Tips For Your Application

**These are generalised tips. For the best possible chance at success, get in touch with the Fringe team ASAP to talk about your application and ask for any advice you might need, then we can tailor it to your skill level and your event.**

Keep it succinct. Our panellists **love** bullet points with short paragraphs rather than a full page of text.

For each section of your application, **ask yourself: What, Who, How and Why?**

**What** is the event? As in, what will literally be happening? What is it called? Are you working in a particular artform? Is there a script, is it a devised piece? Is it an exhibition, a performance, or harder to define? Is it free or ticketed? Tell us what we can expect from your project.

**Who** is involved with the project, what is their role, what skills or experience do they have? Who will benefit from the funding being awarded? Who will come to see this event, is it aimed at a particular audience or group? How will you market it and make sure your target audience knows it's happening?

**How** will your event come together, what is the timeline? How much will it cost, and how will you pay for the various elements needed to make your project really sing?

**Why** do you need funding? Which element(s) of your project will the funding support and why is this important to you and to the 'success' of your project? It also helps to have a clear idea of what 'success' means to you for your project. Is it bums on seats/ticket sales? Is it connecting with a new community? Is it trying out a new work in front of an audience for the first time and getting that real time feedback?

## Do

- Balance your budget. If you have a large loss the panel will be unlikely to support your application. If you have a large surplus but all your costs are covered (and have not clearly articulated a profit share arrangement) the panel will question why you require the grant.  
The Fringe team can help you with this! We know budgets are really intimidating and we're happy to work with you.
- Tell us how many performances you plan to do, or how many days your event will be open to the public. Remember that more is not always better.
- Reach out to the Fringe team **well before the deadline** if you would like help with your application. We are happy to walk through the application process alongside you, including how to put together a budget, how to talk about your event, and more. It's our job!

## Don't

- Overwhelm the panel with supporting documents. **Be strategic.** What is absolutely critical that you get across to them?
- Say that your event 'is for everyone' when we ask about your target audience. Whilst we understand that often it's true, what we want to know is who you are trying to attract and that you will be thoughtful about how you promote your event.
- Get in touch with Fringe staff the day before the application is due to ask for support. Come on now!

## More Information & Support

Please feel free to contact Festival Co-Director Kate with any questions or for a chat and advice prior to submitting an application.

**Kate Schrader, Festival Co-Director & Creative Producer**

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