



Sound Connections' Investment Programme for Music Education Hubs

Programme Guidelines

About Sound Connections' Investment Programmes

Sound Connections is a development organisation championing young people's music-making, with inclusivity, youth voice and social justice at the heart. We facilitate Wired4Music, a network for creatives aged 16-25 powered by youth voice; we run a dynamic programme of professional development; and we lead ground-breaking research, advocacy and change programmes.

Our investment programmes (Generate, Innovate and Activate) are designed to support young people, practitioners and organisations to:

- Explore and experiment with new ideas
- Develop skills, confidence and knowledge for working inclusively with children and young people through music
- Build networks and professional contacts
- Develop project development skills, such as fundraising, project management and evaluation skills

Purpose of the ACTIVATE Fund

Activate is our investment programme for **London-based Music Education Hubs to develop and embed youth voice in their work**. We are keen to support and invest in Hubs that already have a demonstrable commitment to, and practice of, youth voice.

What is on offer?

1. £2,000 towards your project
2. Mentoring sessions with Youth Voice specialists
3. Two free places on the Essential Youth Voice training course in 22-23 academic year
4. A supported process throughout the lifespan of the investment cycle

What types of activity can the fund support?

We are particularly keen to support activities that need financial support to meet their young people's needs. The sorts of things you might want to apply for can include:

- Providing your Youth Collective/Council/Forum etc. with a pot of money to programme their own activity
- Setting-up a micro-bursary scheme for young people
- Facilitating a youth-led event
- Investing in training-up some of your young leaders so that they can take on more responsibility

Whatever it is, it needs to be youth-led, meeting the needs of your young people and supporting your organisation to take your next steps in deepening your youth voice practice.

Eligibility and what we need from you and your project

1. The project needs to start in Autumn Term 2022 and be complete by 31 July 2023.
2. You need to be a London based Music Education Hub Lead Organisation benefiting young Londoners. We welcome partnership working.
3. Youth voice and participation needs to be essential to the project.
4. We ask you to demonstrate that you are already committed to youth voice and/or youth voice is already part of your work in some way. You need to show that this investment will take your youth voice work further.
5. You need to demonstrate how this investment will support you to continue to develop and embed youth voice in your work; in order to do this we want to see evidence there is senior-leadership buy-in.
6. You need to match-fund the project by 50% i.e. a maximum of £1,000 which can be a combination of in-kind and/or cash.
7. Your score on the [Youth Engagement Equaliser](#).
8. You commit to attending Essential Youth Voice Training (dates tbc.)
9. You commit to reporting on your activity by the end of August 2023.

How to apply

1. Book in for a 30-minute chat with Liz Coomb on 24 May - [book here](#) (optional)
2. Complete the [Youth Engagement Equaliser](#) and take a note of your score
3. [Complete and submit your application](#), along with uploading a budget form, by 5pm Friday 1 July 2022. You can find the application questions in one place [here](#).

Timeline

1. Applications open – Thursday 21 April 2022
2. Applications close – 5pm, Friday 1 July 2022
3. Announcements made – by Friday 15 July 2022
4. Projects start – Autumn 2022 onwards
5. Projects complete – end of July 2023
6. Reporting complete – end of August 2023