

NEW CALL FOR THE ANNUAL FUNDING GUIDELINES 2026 – 2027

OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	OUTCOMES DATE
02 February 2026	13 March 2026	29 May 2026

NB: It is compulsory to read and understand these guidelines before completing the application on GMS.

These guidelines have been compiled to assist applicants who wish to apply for funding from the NAC annual call that is available to the arts sector to be disbursed via the National Arts Council (NAC).

The NAC Annual Project Funding is an annual invitation to individuals, organisations and institutions active in the art and culture sector, to submit an art or culture project proposal.

It is an open call for funding in the disciplines of Music, Dance, Literature, Theatre, Multi-disciplines, Crafts and Visual Arts.

The following are the funding guidelines applicants need to adhere to when making an application.

1. Who is eligible for funding?

Individuals, organisations and institutions active in the arts are eligible to apply.

Individuals	Registered Organisations / Companies / Institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Individual applications are for a single applicant who is undertaking an arts project. ➤ This is meant to benefit individual arts practitioners, for example, choreographers, composers, crafters, visual artists, writers, etc. ➤ In cases where several people are working collaboratively on a project, one member of the group should take the lead in applying. ➤ All applicants must be South African citizens and over 18 years of age. ➤ Projects can be implemented in SA, across the continent or abroad. ➤ Applications from individuals working for government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applications from formally registered organisations, and institutions are acceptable. ➤ All applicants must be South African citizens and over 18 years of age. ➤ Projects can be implemented in SA, across the continent or abroad. ➤ Applications from organisations/companies or institutions led or owned by individuals working for government departments and public entities will not be accepted. ➤ Individuals under the Government Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Community Work Program (CWP) Internships or Learnerships will be eligible to apply.

Individuals	Registered Organisations / Companies / Institutions
<p>departments and entities will not be accepted.</p> <p>➤ Individuals under the Government Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Community Work Program (CWP), Internships / Learnerships will be eligible to apply.</p>	

2. Funding Focus approach

2.1 Disciplines eligible for funding:	
Craft, Dance, Literature, Multidiscipline, Music, Theatre/Drama including Musical Theatre, and Visual Arts.	
2.2 Types of projects to be considered (included but not limited to):	
Applicants are encouraged to apply for all types of arts projects such as creation, composition, workshops, showcases, exhibitions, script writing, residencies, performances, and other art-related activities e.g. Amapiano.	
Applications presenting content and offering training in South African Indigenous art forms and intellectual property are encouraged to apply. Proposed projects must demonstrate impact and value for the communities in which they are implemented.	
Animation/multimedia design	Music concerts
Art teaching at the community level	Musical theatre productions

Arts and culture-related publications	Public art
Capacity building / skills development projects	Storytelling
Community outreach arts and culture projects	Puppetry
Creation of new works / products such as ceramics, pottery, wood carving, embroidery, applique, tapestry, weaving and textile design, new choreographic works, scriptwriting for theatre, photography and music recordings	Publishing subsidies for book publishing houses (applicable only to creative writing publications)
Creative writing (writing and research grants, including autobiographies / biographies, novels, short stories, drama books folklore / storytelling, poetry, and children’s literature)	Running costs will be supported in association with the relevant artistic programme costs (not to exceed 15% the of budget)
Residencies	Script development research for theatre
Self-publishing by established prolific authors	Dance performances / productions
Exhibitions	Theatre/Drama productions
Fashion design with a cultural element	Festivals including literary festivals or book fairs (these will be considered only if they have a community participation component)

Any other arts related activities that can demonstrate the creation of work opportunities and economic stimulus are eligible for consideration.

2.3 Application assessment criteria:

- **Project impact** - The proposed projects must have the capability to address at least two (2) of the six **(6) critical focus areas** as indicated in the call for funding.
- **Access to markets and audiences** - A project that opens new markets and expands community reach, locally and abroad, whilst capitalising on existing markets.
- **Youth** - The ability of the project to contribute to youth employment.
- **Project sustainability** - How the organisation or practitioner aims to continue the project beyond this project funding and/or in the absence of a grant.
- **Sustaining and attracting new** partnerships - A project that attracts partnerships and collaborations that are sustainable over a long period of time, through shared resources and funding
- **Capacity to deliver** - Resources and organisational/individual capacity
- **Financial Management** - Provision of clear and realistic budget; Demonstrate capacity to account for funds received; Alignment of the budget and the schedule of activities.

3. Categories of projects and/or items that are not funded.

Architecture	Purchasing of equipment
Church choirs (spiritual music groups may register a separate organisation specifically for their music projects or apply as individuals)	Running costs not associated with the project applied for
Competitions / Award ceremonies	Purchasing of musical instruments
General magazines	Purchasing of stage equipment
Novice writers applying for publishing	Seed funding
Infrastructure costs	Vanity press publishing
Interior design	Video and film productions

Music arrangement without the permission of the copyright holder	Writing in other subjects that are not of a creative writing genre
Personal commissions and commissions by other institutions	Purchasing of books

4. Project Budgets for NAC Year 2026 Annual Call

Due to budgetary constraints, the NAC may not be able to fund the full budget of a project. Applicants are therefore encouraged to seek additional funding from other sources. Applicants must declare any other sources of funding.

4.1 Applicants can apply considering the following threshold:

TYPE OF PHASE	PROJECT AMOUNT THRESHOLD	MINIMUM NUMBER OF JOBS TO BE CREATED
Organisations and Individuals	R350 000	Applications will be assessed based on the artistic merit of the project at the discretion of panel members and are encouraged to focus on creating employment opportunities for youth and vulnerable groups as beneficiaries of the project.

4.2 Applications requesting more than the maximum allocation budget as indicated above NAC Annual Call will not be considered and will automatically be disqualified.

4.3 The allocation will be in line with the redress and transformation imperatives of the NAC.

4.4 Running costs will be supported in association with the relevant artistic programme costs but should not exceed 15% of the budget. Running costs of an organisation are the ongoing expenses needed to keep it operating. These include salaries, rent, utilities, office supplies, maintenance, and other day-to-day costs required for its functions.

5. Compulsory support / compliance documentation required

The following compliance documents will be required for an application to be considered before being forwarded to the adjudication panel:

NB: Note that no information or documents will be requested after the closing date. Incomplete applications will be automatically declined.

Individuals	Organisations
A certified copy of SA ID of the applicant (not older than 12 months). The document must be clear and visible.	Two certified copies of SA ID (not older than 12 months) of (two) office bearers of the organisation. The document must be clear and visible.
Confirmation of bank details (NB: Bank statement / bank letter reflecting name of applicant).	Confirmation of bank details (NB: Bank statement/bank letter must have the name of organisation).

Individuals	Organisations
Proof of residence of the applicant not older than 3 months in a form of a utility bill or police affidavit where applicable.	Proof of residence of the organisation not older than 3 months in a form of a utility bill or police affidavit where applicable.
Full Curriculum Vitae of the applicant	Two full Curriculum Vitae of the lead applicant and one Senior office bearer (i.e., one other manager occupying a management position in the organisation. Curriculum Vitae must detail their artistic profile and credentials)
Examples of your previous work or involvement in the arts in the form of photographs, videos and social media links, brochures, or other published/printed materials and videos.	Copy of the organisation's registration certificate
Two reference letters (signed and dated) from arts organisations, artists community leaders, sector bodies, and/or public bodies (including their full address and contact details) validating your work or involvement in the arts sector (not older than 18 months). <i>NB Electronically and Digitally signed letters are acceptable</i>	Examples of your organisation's previous work or involvement in the arts in the form of videos, photographs, online links, brochures, or other published/printed materials and videos. (The GMS cannot accept files that are more than 10MB)

Individuals	Organisations
	<p>Two reference letters (signed and dated) from arts organisations, artists community leaders, sector bodies, and/or public bodies (including their full address and contact details) validating your work or involvement in the arts sector (not older than 18 months). <i>NB Electronically and Digitally signed letters are acceptable – DO NOT JUST WRITE SIGNED.</i></p> <p>Organisations must comply with SARS, Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, NPO Act and Company Act.</p>
<p>Its compulsory for applicants proposing capacity building projects to submit a training manual, CV of the facilitator/s and number of people to be trained.</p>	

6. Financial Reporting Requirements

Funding allocation amount	Reporting expected
R350 000 000	Projects that are granted funding for amounts less than R350 000 are expected to submit income and expenditure report prepared by the accountant signed by the applicant and accountant.
<p>Supporting documentation would be images and video clips of the project including proof of marketing conducted for the funded project. All reporting is to be done on GMS.</p>	

7. Administration compliance

Applicants must submit/upload all compulsory documents listed in the application form via the online platform, GMS, or via manual applications (see below).

Incomplete applications will **not** be considered and will automatically be disqualified.

8. Closing date for applications

The closing date for applications is **13 March 2026** at **11h59**.

9. General information

- Only one project per beneficiary may be funded per year.
- Applicants can only be funded once per financial year as per NAC Regulations (1999).
- Only one application will be supported by both a natural person (individual) and juristic person (organisation/company). The lead applicant of an organisation application cannot be funded as an individual applicant.
- Applications for touring projects may be considered during this call for applications implement locally or abroad.
- Projects that foster cultural exchange and dialogues between citizens of South Africa and other countries may be considered.

- Applicants who have been invited to perform abroad should have some form of financial support from the host country/organisation, for example Eg accommodation.
- The host country/organisation should send proof of costs that they will cover such as accommodation, food, daily subsistence allowance and transport within the country.
- A letter of invitation from the host organisation should also accompany the application to the NAC. The letter of invitation from the foreign host organisation should not be older than 18 months, signed with full address and contact details of the host organisation.
- Any financial support from other sponsors/hosts must be declared.
- Residencies may be supported when an artist is invited by an institution to participate in a residency.
- A letter of invitation for the residency must support the application.
- Applications for workshops should show evidence that the participants will acquire skills and clear objectives of the workshop should be stated.
- A detailed programme outline/content for the workshop is required; a biography of the facilitator/s and targeted participants/ audience should be clearly outlined.
- The requirement for audited financial statements and tax clearance certificates at the time of applying has been removed from the compliance requirement list, however a valid tax clearance certificate remains a requirement for approved beneficiaries before entering a contract with NAC.
- Only successful beneficiaries will be required to submit a tax clearance certificate after receipt of a grant award letter.
- Any change of address or contact details must be communicated via email to the NAC offices within seven (7) days of such a change.

- All successful projects must be concluded before **31 March 2027**.
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10. Safeguarding of Children and Persons with Disabilities

All applicants whose projects involve contact with children and/or persons with disabilities must ensure that all staff, volunteers, facilitators, or service providers:

Provide valid vetting clearance, including:

- South African Police Service (SAPS) Police Clearance Certificate.
- National Child Protection Register (Part B) and/or National Register for Sex Offenders checks, where legally required.
- **Provide written consent** for any checks conducted in compliance with the **Children's Act, 2005**, the **Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007**, and the **Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (PoPIA)**.

Demonstrate competence to work with persons with disabilities, through experience, training, or relevant qualifications

Declaration by applicant:

By submitting an application involving vulnerable groups, the applicant confirms that all individuals involved in the project have complied with the above requirements. Failure to provide required clearances, consent, or proof of competence may result in disqualification or withdrawal of funding.

11. Submission of applications

Applicants must apply **online** through the Grants Management System on <https://nac.praxisgms.co.za/>.

Manual applications will also be made available via email at info@nac.org.za, from NAC offices or call 011 010 8886 for applicants who lack resources to apply through GMS.

Manual applicants will be required to sign a register when delivering manual applications. Posted or couriered applications are accepted only if the post or courier is dated on or before 13 March 2026 17h00pm.

Late submissions past the deadline date and time will not be accepted.

ADVISORY PANEL AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE NAC ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE.

11. Reservation of rights

The NAC reserves the right to allocate funds according to its priorities and budget limitations.

No applicant is automatically entitled to funding. All funding is at the discretion of the NAC.

No applicant is entitled to funding based exclusively on its history or service delivery outputs.

The NAC will make financial awards to support a project if the goals and objectives are in line with Council's specifications.

The procedure followed by the NAC in handling applications up until the processing of payments is the same across the different categories or disciplines.

The adjudication and selection of projects are the responsibility of the Advisory Panels of experts who determine the success of each project application, subject to final approval by the Council.

12. Appeals

All NAC funding decisions are subject to appeal.

In terms of section 12 (1) of the NAC Act, any person who feels aggrieved by any action or decision that the Council has taken or made in terms of the Act may within 30 days from the date on which the action or decision in question was made known by the Council, appeal to the **Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture**. The appellant shall, within 30 days from the date on which the action or decision in question was made known by the Council, give notice in writing to the Council of his/her intention to appeal and deliver the notice by registered or hand-delivered post. The notice shall contain:

- The name and address of the appellant.
- The grievance.
- The reasons for the grievance.

Once the Department has finalised its appeals process, a list of 'successful' appeals is sent to the NAC for reconsideration.

13. Disclaimer

All applicants who failed to comply with the NAC funding guidelines for this call will receive their Non-Compliance Decline Letters before the official outcomes date to allow them to solicit other funding opportunities.

The letter will not contain the specific reason for the decline. The letter will however contain contact details of the relevant Arts Development Officers to assist in providing specific reasons for the decline.

Applicants who will require a specific reason for their Non-Compliance Decline Letters are thus requested to contact the Arts Development Officer who will be cited in the letter to assist them with detailed reasons for the decline of their application.

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