



Hearts for the Arts FAQs

About Hearts for the Arts

What is Hearts for The Arts?

Hearts for the Arts is an awards initiative which recognises and celebrates exceptional local government support for the arts. Some local authorities really understand the importance of the arts to the wellbeing of local communities and the value this small but crucial investment brings, even in financially challenging times. Hearts for the Arts says thank you to the councils, councillors and council officers supporting the arts.

When did Hearts for the Arts start?

Hearts for the Arts began in October 2016. It is now in its third year.

Who is involved?

Hearts for the Arts is an initiative run by the [National Campaign for the Arts](#), delivered by [UK Theatre](#). Our partners for 2019 are [Culture Counts](#), [Local Government Association](#), [TheatreNI](#), [Voluntary Arts Wales](#), [Wales Council for Voluntary Action](#) and [What Next?](#).

How is it funded?

The costs associated with the awards are covered by the National Campaign for the Arts, which is a registered charity funded by donations from the public and arts industry organisations. Support in kind is provided by [UK Theatre](#) and other partner organisations.

What are the award categories?

There are four award categories:

1. Best Local Authority Arts Initiative
2. Best Local Authority Arts Project Encouraging Community Cohesion
3. Best Local Authority Arts Champion – Councillor
4. Best Local Authority Arts Champion – Officer

What geographical areas are covered?

The awards cover initiatives, projects, councillors and officers working in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

What are the key dates for this year's awards?

Nominations open on Wednesday 12 September 2018 and close at midnight on Friday 2 November 2018.

The shortlist will be announced on Wednesday 23 January 2019, and the final winners will be announced on Thursday 14 February 2019 – Valentine's Day – so we can show our winners some love!

Nominations

Who can be nominated?

For Best Local Authority Arts Initiative and Best Local Authority Arts Project Encouraging Community Cohesion: an initiative or project created or delivered by a county, district, borough, city council or cultural trust.



For Best Local Authority Arts Champion: an individual whose work influences and encourages arts activities within their council area. The work you are nominating them for must have been undertaken as a direct part of their employment with a county, district, borough, city council or cultural trust (including cultural trusts delivering on behalf of their local authority).

Who can nominate? / Is there anyone that can't nominate?

Anyone can make a nomination.

For example, you could be a member of the public who has seen or been part of a great local authority project; an employee of a local authority running an initiative; or a colleague of someone you think deserves an award.

How do I nominate?

You can nominate a project or person by filling out a nomination form at: [http://forthearts.org.uk/campaigns/hearts-for-the-arts/](http://forthearts.org.uk/campaigns/ hearts-for-the-arts/)

Nominations open on Wednesday 12 September 2018 and close at midnight on Friday 2 November 2018.

Can I make more than one nomination?

There is no limit to the number of nominations you can make. You just need to make sure you submit a separate nomination form for each one.

Judging the Awards

What is the judging process?

Officers from the National Campaign for the Arts will create a longlist of nominees. Our judges will consider the merits of each longlisted nominee and will score each entry based upon the criteria set out in the nomination form, determining the shortlist and winner for each category.

Who are the judges?

The judges are Samuel West, actor and Chair of the National Campaign for the Arts, and a panel of esteemed figures in the arts (to be announced).

Previous judges have included Maria Balshaw, Deborah Bull CBE, AL Kennedy, David Lan, Josie Long, Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE, Phillip Pullman, Bob & Roberta Smith and Roy Williams OBE.

The Winners

How will the winners be recognised?

The awards will be presented by Samuel West, actor and Chair of the National Campaign for the Arts, at the Local Government Association's Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference. Winners will be offered a complimentary place at the conference, which is the largest annual gathering of councilors and officers involved with culture, tourism and sport.

In addition, Samuel West has offered to speak at a Council meeting of each recipient, accompanied by a celebrated fellow creative with a local connection.

Who are previous winners?

You can read all about last year's winners [here](#).

Further Support



How can I or my organisation help?

You can really help us by getting the message about the awards out there. We want lots of nominations from all UK nations, and following the shortlist and winners' announcements, we want to make a big song and dance about the fantastic work they do.

Make sure you follow us on Twitter [@weareforthearts](https://twitter.com/weareforthearts) and on the hashtag #HeartsfortheArts, and on Facebook facebook.com/weareforthearts to share their good news.

You can also support the awards and the campaigning work of National Campaign for the Arts by joining our supporters' scheme at forthearts.org.uk/support-us or get in touch with us on hello@forthearts.org.uk if you want to help in any other way.

Contact Information

Who should I contact for more information about Hearts for the Arts?

If you have any questions or need further information about the Hearts for the Arts awards, please email annie@soltukt.co.uk.

Who should I contact for more information about the National Campaign for the Arts?

For further information about the work of the National Campaign for the Arts, visit forthearts.org.uk and you can email hello@forthearts.org.uk.

Where can I find Hearts for the Arts on social media?

We are on Twitter at [@weareforthearts](https://twitter.com/weareforthearts) and #HeartsfortheArts.

You can follow Hearts for the Arts on Facebook at facebook.com/weareforthearts

How can I stay updated?

[Join our mailing list here](#) for occasional updates on the Hearts for the Arts Awards and National Campaign for the Arts campaigns.