

APPLICATION FORM FOR GRANT 25/26

Please read the policy on pages 1, 2 and 3 **before** filling in the form.

1. Name/Address of Organisation:

Activate Performing Arts, 7-9 The Little Keep, Barrack Road, Dorchester DT1 1SQ

Name of person making the application: Dom Kippin

Position in organisation: Producer (Outdoor Arts, Festival, Touring)

Contact phone number: provided

Email address: provided

2. About Your Organisation

Does your organisation:	Yes/No
Have its own bank account, with two unrelated people to authorise cheques and make withdrawals	Yes
Have at least three members on its management committee	Yes
Have a constitution, terms of reference or set of rules (<i>please contact for help with this if needed</i>)	Yes
Is your organisation:	Yes/No
a voluntary organisation without any paid members	No
a registered charity? (include charity number) 1069622	Yes
part of, or affiliated to, a larger organisation? (name)	No

3. Aims and objectives of your organisation; What does your organisation do and how does it benefit the residents of Weymouth?

Activate works with artists and communities to create extraordinary experiences in Dorset and across the UK – touching the lives of many. We produce programmes that change lives, create unforgettable memories, and celebrate our unique part of the world.

Based in Dorset for more than 30 years as a charitable company and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, we are an ambitious, hard-working and committed organisation, delivering social justice through the arts and nurturing the rich talent and venue development that supports the county.

We are a trusted local organisation and have delivered large-scale projects that put Dorset on the map, such as *Danny Boyle's Pages of the Sea* with 14–18 NOW, which took place on Weymouth Beach and in Lyme Regis in 2018, and as lead partner of the Dorset Festivals Consortium producing *Dorset Moon* to mark the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing. The closing weekend event at Nothe Fort was produced in collaboration with Portland's b-side Festival.

Since 2005, our Inside Out Dorset festival programme and signature events have presented high-quality, large-scale outdoor arts to hundreds of thousands of people, engaging them through an extensive learning and community outreach programme. Inside Out Dorset brings together remarkable artistic work and inspiring locations across the county, having a profound impact on wellbeing, encouraging pride of place, and enabling everyone to take part.

Past events in Weymouth include Teatr Podrozy at Nothe Fort in 2007; *Vel e Vents* at Bowleaze Cove in 2008 (to launch the Cultural Olympiad); *Battle for the Winds* in 2012; Ray Lee's *Chorus* outside Weymouth Pavilion in 2016; Mark Anderson's *Furious Folly* at Mount Pleasant Park & Ride in 2018 (also part of 14–18 NOW); *Sense of Unity* in 2021; and *Poupées Géantes* in 2023, which was seen by over 12,000 people across three performances. We have also delivered popular events outside of the festival, including Cirque du Platzak at North Quay during the 2017 Pommery Dorset Seafood Festival, and *Peixos* by Sarruga in 2022.

Activate has worked with **Weymouth College** on Youth Performance Platforms, served on their industry panel, and engaged students in performance projects through *Street in the Park* in Dorchester, connecting it to Giles Peterson's high-profile *We Out Here* music festival and, most recently in 2024, via workshops and the world premiere of *Fireflies* by renowned percussion ensemble Worldbeaters.

The Remix and Premix, our inclusive youth performance groups for children and young people aged 7–19, many of whom have disabilities, sensory impairments, or are neurodivergent, offer regular free workshops and performance opportunities in dance and theatre, including to members from Weymouth.

We are committed to challenging perceptions that the arts are elitist or inaccessible. We aim to remove barriers to participation—particularly for underrepresented groups—and champion the arts for their inherent value and their proven impact on wellbeing. We support Dorset-based artists through CPD, bespoke mentoring and, currently, a free course helping young and emerging artists learn how to create events.

We also work closely with social housing providers like **Abri** and community schemes such as the **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** programme to deliver free creative workshops for children on free school meals, including recent work in **Littlemoor**.

As part of the Towns of Culture Reveal 2025 initiative, Activate is proud to be supporting both Weymouth and Portland councils in developing their ambitions, contributing both programming, resource development, and expertise to help ensure culture is placed at the heart of their shared future.

Additional Information:	
How many members does your organisation have?	n/a
How many people will benefit from this funding?	8,000
How many of these are Weymouth Town Council area residents?	100%
How much funding are you applying for?	£5,000
What is the total cost of your project?	£108,240
Has the project that you want the funding for already happened?	No
Will you be passing the funding on to any other groups (except to pay for goods and services)?	No

- Briefly describe the project or purchase you would like the funding for. Please include how will the funding benefit the community or residents of Weymouth? How do you know that the groups you work with, or the local community, want this project to take place? How will this funding lead to greater self-sufficiency and lessen the need for future applications?

Activate Performing Arts is seeking support towards *Sonnet of Samsara*—a new international outdoor performance that will be the **headline finale of Inside Out Dorset 2025**, the closing event of the national **Beach of Dreams** project, and a centrepiece of **Reveal Portland and Weymouth's year as Dorset Towns of Culture**. Taking place on **Weymouth seafront, the Esplanade, Town Bridge, and surrounding harbour area** on **19 & 20 September 2025**, it will bring together professional artists from India and the UK, local dancers, community groups, and even **a flotilla of gig rowing boats** in a large-scale, participatory event exploring themes of migration, memory, and water.

This is a **one-off, flagship event of significant regional, national and international profile**, fully rooted in the identity and stories of Weymouth. It is free to attend and explicitly designed to be inclusive of all ages and abilities—ensuring that **residents from low-income backgrounds or those facing barriers to traditional arts spaces** can engage and participate.

The Council's grant will go towards supporting:

- **Workshops** with more than 100 participants from local community groups across Weymouth;
- A **targeted callout and open public invitation** for residents to join on the day of the performance, learn simple routines, and take part—we anticipate **up to 100 additional participants per performance**;
- Two **free, accessible performances** for **an estimated 7,000–8,000 audience members**, spanning multiple areas of the town, including the beach, Esplanade, and harbour;
- **Meaningful skills development and volunteering opportunities** for young people, emerging artists, stewards, and crew.

We believe this request meets the Town Council's exceptional criteria. In addition to the scale of public benefit, the **exceptional circumstances** include:

- The fact that *Sonnet of Samsara* is among **the most high-profile cultural events of the year** in Weymouth;
- The high level of inclusion, free access, and direct benefit to underrepresented and low-income groups;
- The once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate Weymouth's identity through the Town of Culture 2025 programme;
- The ongoing need for more visible and inclusive cultural opportunities in Weymouth, which this project addresses through large-scale participation and celebration.

The **total budget is £108,240**, of which **£73,576 is already confirmed (68%)** from partners including We Are Weymouth, Sport England, D'Oyly Carte Trust, funding via national partner Kinetika and Activate's own investment (via Arts Council England and Dorset Council). This grant will not only directly support local engagement, but also potentially help us **unlock additional support**, by demonstrating local commitment to the project.

While this request is for a one-off event, it is part of Activate's long-term commitment to Weymouth. We have worked with the town's young people, artists, and communities for over 20 years, and are active partners in the **Dorset Towns of Culture 2025** initiative, Reveal. The relationships, confidence and skills built through this project will continue into future festival editions and local cultural development.

5. How will you spend the money you are applying for?

Item	Amount
Accommodation in Weymouth for artistic team	£3,500
Costume allowance for local community performers	£500
Contribution to travel & refreshment allowance for local volunteers	£500
Contribution for access provision for local community performers and audience members	£500
Total	£5,000

6. How else are you funding your project? Have you applied for any other funds/grants towards the cost of this project or purchase? Please include details below and include grants from other organisations, fund raising and existing reserves:

Source	£	Confirmed?
Activate (via Arts Council England & Dorset Council)	26,034	Yes
We Are Weymouth	15,000	Yes
Kinetika	15,000	Yes
Foyle Foundation	29,664	No
Sport England	12,292	Yes
D'Oyly Carte Trust	5,250	Yes
Total		

7. If your project focusses on a particular area of Weymouth, please give the name of the Councillor who is supporting your application?

Our work takes place across multiple areas of Weymouth, including the beach, town centre, Esplanade, and harbour, depending on the specific requirements of each project. While no formal conversation has taken place with a ward councillor specifically to endorse this application, **Cllr Claudia Webb has recently met with our Executive Director, Kate Wood, and is aware of this project and our wider role in the Town of Culture 2025 programme.**

In addition, **Cllr Howard Atkinson may also be aware of the project**, as We Are Weymouth (Weymouth BID), of which he is a director, are a major funder. As an organisation with a long-standing presence in the town, many current Councillors will have experienced our previous work in Weymouth—through high-profile events such as *Fireflies*, *Poupées Géantes*, and *Sense of Unity*, or our engagement work in areas across the town.

8. How is your organisation normally funded? Not applicable to new organisations:

Our turnover can range between c. £500,000 in a non-festival year to c. £650,000 in a festival year, with funding coming from a range of sources. For example, in 2022/23, this was: Arts Council England: 52%, Earned Income: 30%, Other Public Grants: 3%, Local Authority Funding: 12%, Trusts and Foundations: 2.75%. Donations: 0.25%

9. The Council wishes to ensure that its limited grant budget goes to help those most in need. The Council will not normally fund events or activities for which a charge is made

e.g. tickets for a dinner or a fee to attend a club. If it is intended to have a charge, please let us know how much people will be charged to access this project and what steps are to be put in place to ensure as many people as possible from Weymouth are able to access the project.

If a surplus is to be made please detail how and when these funds will benefit the communities in Weymouth:

All elements of *Sonnet of Samsara*—from workshops and rehearsals to the final performances—will be **free to access and participate in**, with **no charges to audience members or participants** at any stage.

The £5,000 grant we are requesting from Weymouth Town Council will directly support measures that ensure **maximum accessibility and inclusion** for local residents, particularly those from lower-income households, older people, young people, and individuals facing barriers to cultural engagement.

Specifically, this funding will contribute to:

- **Costume provision** for local community performers (£500), ensuring no participant is excluded for financial reasons;
- **Accommodation costs for artists** staying in Weymouth with local providers (£3,500), enabling high-quality international work to be delivered locally;
- **Volunteer travel and refreshment allowances** (£500), to remove logistical and financial barriers to participation for local volunteers;
- **Access provision** for audience and performers (£500), supporting measures such as wheelchair tracking, visual stories, and accessible viewing areas.

These costs directly support **free and equitable access** to a major, town-wide celebration during Portland and Weymouth's Dorset Town of Culture year. They ensure that no one is excluded from taking part or attending due to financial, physical, or logistical barriers.

There will be **no surplus generated** from the project. All grant funding received will be used entirely to benefit the Weymouth community and support delivery of this significant event.

10. What fund-raising activities took place in the **last** 12 months and what fund-raising activities are planned for the **next** 12 months, if any? Anticipated income/expenditure for the next 12 months?

All staff at Activate contribute to fundraising efforts, working within an organisation-wide Fundraising Strategy that underpins all of our projects. Our Board of Trustees includes a dedicated Income Generation and Fundraising Sub-Group, which meets quarterly to review and support fundraising plans.

In the financial year ending March 31, 2024, Activate Performing Arts reported a total income of £672,747, raised from a mix of sources including **Arts Council England, local authority grants, Trusts and Foundations**, other **public sector funding, donations**, and **earned income from contracts and services**.

For **2025/26**, our projected turnover is **£691,000**, with **72%** of that already confirmed. The remainder is being pursued through ongoing grant applications, donation campaigns, and earned income activities related to specific project delivery.

11. Details of any grants (including from non-local authority) or financial support received from local authorities including Weymouth Town Council in the past three years with dates:

Please see attached PDF – 'LA Grants 22-25'

12. If the funding is for security measures do you have the support of the local police and/or crime reduction officer? No

Crime Reduction Officers Name:.....

13. If the funding is for work with vulnerable adults or children, do you have the support of either Adult Social Care or Children's Services at Dorset Council? No

Dorset Council Employee Name:.....

Please give us details of the bank account that the grant should be paid into if approved (this cannot be a building society passbook account):

Name of Account: **provided**

Account number: **provided**

Sort Code: **provided**

Please ensure you have read the policy on pages 1 - 3 before signing the form.

Checklist (please tick the appropriate boxes)

Have you submitted the following?

- ☒ Your most recent bank account statement that relates to the bank account into which the grant will be paid;
- ☒ A copy of your constitution / terms of reference / set of rules;
- ☒ A copy of the minutes from your last Annual General Meeting;
- ☒ Details of your organisation's officers;
- ☒ A copy of your safeguarding policy if your group works with vulnerable adults, or children;
- ☒ A copy of your adopted equal opportunities policy or statement;
- ☒ Any other documentation you feel may help in assessing your application.
- ☐ 3 quotes for building works

Privacy Notice

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), I/We agree that Weymouth Town Council will process and hold personal information about me/us and my/our group or organisation only in relation to this grant application. I/We consent to my/our personal information, including that contained in this form, being stored manually and/or electronically by Weymouth Town Council. It will be held securely and treated confidentially for six years after an application is made. I/We understand that it will only be accessed by authorised staff members to manage the grant application process.

I also understand that Weymouth Town Council may pass details onto an official organisation where required to do so by law or contract. I/We understand that my/our data will be disposed of securely six years after the application and that I/we have the right to correct the information at any time. I/We have been made aware of my/our rights under GDPR.

Declaration:

I/We declare that the information confirmed in this application is correct and that any grant received will be applied as detailed in the request.

I/We declare that we have read the policy on pages 1 - 3 and that our application complies with the policy.

I/We declare that I/we have included all the requested information.

I/We fully understand that if I/we do not include the requested information and/or if mine/our application does not comply with the policy, the application may be rejected.

I/We fully understand that we will need to attend a Finance and Governance Committee meeting to present our request.

Signed: provided

Name: D Kippin

Date: 28/04/25

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Grant applications must be checked against the following criteria. Any questions where the answer is no must be reported to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting where the application is being considered and must form part of the formal agenda items list for that meeting.

Yes	No (investigate)	
Yes		The grant will result in a benefit for the area covered by the Town Council and will contribute positively to the area of Weymouth?
Yes		Does the grant exclude ongoing running costs?
n/a		If the application is for running costs has the applicant included plans for where future running costs will be found from?
Yes		Is the grant for a group and not for individuals or organisations whose function is primarily undertaken by the health authority or Dorset Council's Social Services?
Yes		Is the grant for non-political or non-quasi-political organisations or projects?
	No	Is the grant application for £3,000 or less?
Yes		For applications between £3,000 or £5,000, has the applicant fully detailed the exceptional circumstances?
Yes		Does the application include the required financial and organisational information?
Yes		Is this the only application in this financial year from this group or organisation?
Yes		Is the applicant based in the Town Council area? If not, has the applicant detailed what proportion of beneficiaries of the grant reside in the area?
Yes		Is the application for future funding? (i.e. not retrospective)
Yes		Is the grant for the sole use of the applying group and not to pass on money?
	No	Has the applicant demonstrated how one-off grant funding will lead to greater self-sufficiency and lessen the need for future applications?
n/a		For applications for funds for security measures, does the applicant have the support of the local police or crime reduction officer?
n/a		For projects involving vulnerable children or adults, do the organisers have the support of Adult Social Care or Children's Services at Dorset Council?
Unknown		Will a representative be attending Finance & Governance Committee?
n/a		Scoring matrix approved by the Grant Subgroup?

Assessing officer: Helen Legg

Date of assessment: 03/06/25

Decision (delete as applicable): proceed to F&G Cllrs

Approved as agenda item for the Finance and Governance meeting on: tbc