

## Newcastle Culture and Creative Zone

### Other Funding Opportunities

#### *North East Create Growth Programme*

Creative UK will be working with partners in 3 regions (including the North East of England) as part of the Create Growth Programme.

A key aim of the programme is to support creative businesses to explore and secure commercial investment opportunities. To this end, each of the selected regions will have a Programme of activity that will enable businesses to be ready for investment and facilitate access to additional funding from Innovate UK and commercial investors in 2023 and beyond.

High Growth Sectors are:

IT software & computer services

Design/designer & Fashion

Publishing

Film & TV

A link to further information a business enquiry form can be found at:

<https://www.wearecreative.uk/create-growth-programmes/>

#### *Innovate UK Competition*

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will invest approximately £3 million in innovation projects. This funding is from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) Create Growth Programme for six appointed regions in England, including the North East.

The programme support package will comprise of three complementary strands:

- Business support targeted at the creative industries
- Finance
- Investor capacity building activities

The aim of this competition is to provide a package of targeted support to high-growth creative businesses to scale, build investor networks and reach their potential. This funding is designed to help creative businesses explore new innovation projects as a stimulus for growth.

Proposals must:

- be from the creative industries
- be from a micro, small or medium size enterprise registered in a DCMS Create Growth Programme region

- focus on a clear growth opportunity and the proposed innovation to address it
- demonstrate the impact funding and support can have on the growth plan of your business
- engage with the regional support if your application is successful

More details, including opening and closing dates, can be found at: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1394/overview/2b029a32-ac25-457d-9f36-786b3ef746bc>

## **Other Opportunities**

### *Redesigning Freelancing*

Creative UK have launched Redesigning Freelancing, a collective initiative shaped by members and partners across the UK creative landscape to empower freelance workers and organisations to drive change and build greater equality into the freelance workforce. The initiative is working in partnership with nine Combined Authorities to reach creative communities across the UK and to understand the challenges that freelancers face locally as well as nationally. More information can be found at:

<https://www.wearecreative.uk/creative-uk-launches-redesigning-freelancing/>

### *Freelance Champions*

Creative UK is establishing a small diverse group of “Freelance Champions” that will shape and guide activity as they work together with industry and government to strengthen collective voices and act on opportunities for impact on behalf of our sector’s vital freelance community. Freelance Champions will bring their diverse perspectives to the table to ensure systemic change that responds to and reflects everyone’s experience.

Freelance Champions will be expected to:

- Be an advocate for the freelance community in their subsector or place.
- Link their work on the ground with our UK-wide and sector-wide voice, ensuring that campaigns make every effort to give profile and visibility to the diversity and needs of creative freelancers and entrepreneurs.
- Develop ideas for a refreshed set of values for the creative industries, which gives support to all parts of the ecosystem, as well as sharing thoughts on where policy and advocacy efforts are best focused.
- Be a leader for change within their community. Freelance Champions have the relationships and influence to leverage change, the sensitivity and empathy to lead difficult conversations, and the ability to lend their time and intellect to a minimum year-long activity.

Champion freelancers will be paid a day rate of £150 (up to 8 hours) to cover attendance at meetings and time for engaging broader industry networks.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact Sarah Gregory at Creative UK, [sarah.gregory@wearecreative.uk](mailto:sarah.gregory@wearecreative.uk) or Judith Nunn at the North of Tyne Combined Authority, [Judith.nunn@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Judith.nunn@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk)