



Getting Skateboarding Projects Funded

Skateboarding has an awesome tradition of community organising, from the self-built skatepark of Burnside in Portland, Oregon (started in 1990), to the world-changing activism of the Long Live Southbank campaign (who secured the long-term future of the Southbank Undercroft in 2014), to Bournbrook DIY (Birmingham) and Hackney Bumps more recently. Girl Skate UK have been a force to be reckoned with since 2014, playing a huge part in skateboarding's increasing diversity and inclusivity, whilst international activism extends from building skateparks with lower income communities (Concrete Jungle Foundation and Make Life Skate Life) to delivering safe and inspiring skate sessions to marginalised children in some of the most challenging circumstances (Skateistan, SkatePal and Free Movement Skateboarding).

The energy and DIY spirit of skateboarding are superpowers for getting amazing things done. But funding can often feel like the biggest challenge. The following guide for UK-based skate projects aims to get you started with some of the key steps, language and approaches that will help you finance your amazing ideas.

What are the Main Types of funding?

Broadly speaking, there are three main types or categories of funding that you can access as a community skate project in the UK:

- 1. Crowdfunding and donations.** Often the first step in getting a DIY or other grassroots project, such as a film night, exhibition or inclusive skate session, is asking for donations. You can find out about how to go about collecting donations and things like Gift Aid [here](#). In recent years, crowdfunding websites have made it much easier for individuals and organisations to raise funding through donations or 'pledges'. Skateboard GB are very pleased to announce a partnership with Crowdfunder UK which you can read about [here](#).
- 2. Grant funding.** Government bodies, such as Sport England or the Arts Council, charitable organisations and Local Government all provide 'grants' to eligible organisations. A grant is a sum of money, usually accessed through a competitive application process, that is then held in trust by your organisation to be spent on the activities you describe in the application, delivering against a series of agreed targets (e.g., a minimum number of participants) that you will need to record, monitor and report against. When you accept a grant award you will be agreeing to a legally binding contract. It is not 'free money', you will have to deliver what you set out in the application, although many funders do allow you to make changes as long as you notify them. There are a large number of grants that align perfectly with skateboarding and skaters' activities. There are two main types of grants:
 - a. Capital grants** fund physical 'things', such as facilities, building works and materials. If you want to fund a new skatepark, or get an existing skatepark repaired or updated, you will need capital grant funding.
 - b. Revenue grants** fund activities, people and time. If you want to deliver skate sessions, or workshops, or an exhibition, or fund 'operating' costs (sometimes known as 'core costs', such as rent, membership costs, Public Liability insurance, IT subscriptions

etc.), you will need revenue grant funding. Often the Terms & Conditions you agree to in a revenue grant will only allow you to spend a set proportion of the total grant on capital costs, whilst a capital grant may not allow you to spend anything on revenue costs.

- 3. Service delivery.** This may or may not be supported by a grant held by a third party, but this is when a Local Authority, school, company, charity or Government body pays you to deliver a given service, such as a certain number of skate sessions to a stated target group (e.g., councils may have funding from Sport England from the This Girl Can programme which will enable them to commission community organisations to deliver sessions and events that aim to get more women and girls active). In this case you may need to sign a services contract or Service Level Agreement, and then you will be paid for delivering the agreed services – either up front or in instalments.

How Can Our Project Access Funding?

Crowdfunding, at first glance, seems easiest. You can set up a Crowdfunder UK or Go Fund Me page and start fundraising. However, doing this successfully and hitting your funding target requires a lot of thought and planning. Check out our toolkit with Crowdfunder UK, which gives you an idea of how to get started and information on potential ‘match funding’, which are programmes that will match every pound you raise from your supporters, up to a certain amount - if your project meets the match funder’s eligibility criteria. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/skateboarding>

For grant funding and service delivery you will need to establish a legal entity that funders can trust. Your ‘governance’ structure will reassure funders that you will be able to deliver against their objectives and will have appropriate processes in place, including to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, to ensure data protection and confidentiality and to operate in line with equality and diversity legislation and guidance. The minimum level of governance is usually at least three named individuals, who are not related by birth or marriage.

Establishing an appropriate entity also protects you as individuals from ‘liability’ (meaning that if the organisation ceases trading, you are only exposed to a limited amount of liability for any losses). Broadly speaking, you have three choices:

- You can be an **unincorporated community group or small charity**. This means you simply need a constitution and then you can open a bank account. You need to make and retain records, but you do not need to register with anyone. A model small charity constitution can be downloaded [here](#). However, this entity is not separate to you as individuals, and if it were to fail, everyone named in the constitution would be liable for all losses - which means that small charities are usually limited to being able to receive no more than £5,000 income in any given year.
- You can incorporate as a charity, a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** with the Charity Commission. This means you need a constitution and a set of Trustees, which you then submit to the Charity Commission in an application to be a CIO. If your application is successful, you will then need to have regular meetings and issue an annual report (sent to the Charity Commission). The advantages of being a CIO include tax exemption and eligibility for a wide range of grants, as well as Gift Aid on donations.
- You can incorporate as a social enterprise, a **Community Interest Company (CIC)** with Companies House. You need to create Articles of Association that demonstrate you have

community 'objects', against which you will invest all profits, alongside at least three CIC Directors who are not related by birth or marriage. You will have to issue annual accounts and a CIC report to Companies House every year and you may have to pay Corporation Tax, depending on your income, expenditure and profits. The advantage of being a CIC is that it is flexible and relatively light touch in terms of governance, whilst you are still eligible for a wide range of grants. Many of the skate orgs listed at the end of this guide are incorporated as CICs.

A fourth model is a **Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)**, which may be optimum if you are taking on a facility. You can read more about that [here](#).

After you have decided what organisational form is best for you – and there is no right answer, different projects will suit different models – you can start looking for funding. At Skateboard GB, we are always happy to chat to skate organisations about funding, offer advice, provide letters of support and comment on draft applications. We can also connect you to other organisations that you may be able to partner with, increasing the size of resource that you may be able to access whilst also sharing costs and learning from each other. Give us a shout on info@skateboardgb.org and we'll do our best to help you.

Of the capital and revenue funding sources currently available, you could investigate:

- **Section 106 funding.** Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Local Government (i.e., councils) can require developers to contribute towards the costs of additional infrastructure and services that results from a planned development taking place. For example, in the case of residential housing, council planning officers estimate the additional number of families occupying the new housing and whether this requires more recreational facilities, additional school places, increased pressure on GP services, etc., and can levy contributions toward these costs from the developer responsible for that housing. Skateparks can be identified as recreational facilities funded by Section 106, but it is the councils' decision how they spend this funding. Councils' decisions can be influenced through petitions, attendance at public council meetings and ward surgeries or building trusting relationships with officers in relevant departments (e.g., parks, sport and leisure etc.) who will then identify any Section 106 monies available for a skatepark project.
- **Landfill funds**, which follow the introduction of the Landfill Tax under which waste disposal and recycling companies have to pay a fee for every tonne of waste that goes into a landfill site. Landfill operators receive a credit for a proportion of the tax that they send to the UK Government. This can then be donated to organisations that have been set up to distribute funding. For many years, Landfill funds have been *the* main source of capital funding for skateparks. Many skateparks across the UK have been partly or wholly financed by this source. Landfill grants are quite often large (for example, up to £100,000) but have stringent eligibility criteria and applications can only be submitted at certain times of the year, linked to when the funders' decision-making committees meet. They also often will only accept applications submitted by the leaseholder of the land (in most cases Local Government), so your Council's planning or parks department may have to submit the application on your behalf. Some funders also require planning permission in principal *and* a full quote and indicative design - so there can be a significant cost before an application can be submitted, requiring crowdfunding, other donations, revenue grant capture and/or Section 106 contributions from the council. Examples of Landfill funders include:
 - Entrust
 - Biffa

- Veolia
- FCC
- Small and medium-sized revenue grants, backed by the National Lottery and lottery players. There are three revenue grants that are perfect for skateboarding projects that you could consider. All require you to be incorporated as a CIO, CIC or CASC and also to have an appropriate bank account (that enables at least two signatories, unrelated by birth or marriage). Once you have incorporated and have a bank account, you could consider:
 - The National Lottery Community Fund's 'Awards for All' programme. This is one of the smallest grant packages in the National Lottery's suite of community funding programmes, offering fairly flexible awards of up to £10,000, to be spent within 12 months, funding most things that meaningfully contribute to one of the Lottery's three objectives: building strong relationships in and across communities; improving the places and spaces that matter to communities, and; helping more people reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage. AFA is a great way to fund a range of skate-related projects, from beginners' sessions, to arts, technology and construction workshops, to 'legal DIY' micro-builds to larger-scale activities linked to another source of funding. AFA will fund 'core' costs like rent, subscriptions, insurance etc. AFA is a rolling programme, meaning that there is no deadline for applications – you can submit your idea at any time during the year. Read all about AFA here: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england>
 - Sport England's small grants programme, with revenue funding also up to £10,000. This grant programme is great for skateboarding projects, and will fund both equipment and the activity itself (including coaching costs) but it is very strict in terms of what the funder calls 'additionality': only costs for activities that are additional to your usual delivery will be considered for funding – so if you are already delivering sessions, the grant will fund more (increased number of sessions, larger group sizes, etc.) or different kinds of sessions (e.g. for women or girls, the LGBTQ+ community, etc.). It will not fund any costs linked to anything that you are already doing. This includes things like rent, storage costs, Public Liability, IT subscriptions or membership costs – any of those listed in a Sport England application would result in it being rejected. The current Sport England small grant programme is for the Queens' Platinum Jubilee, and you can read all about it here: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/queens-platinum-jubilee-activity-fund>
 - Arts Council England (ACE) Project Grants go up to £30,000 (although you will have more chance of success if you already have some funding for your project – i.e., 'match' funding – for a larger sized grant). This will fund activity for up to 3 years that engages under-represented groups with the arts and creative practice. This would fund exhibitions, creative workshops, zine projects and skateable sculptures and other installations. Project Grants will also fund 'core' costs as long as they are directly related to your project. This includes labour/staff time and volunteering costs. Like AFA, this is a rolling grant that you can apply for at any time during the year. You can find out more about Project Grants here: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/ProjectGrants>

There are a large number of other smaller grants available at any one time, ranging from a few hundred pounds to around £5,000, some of which have very light-touch application processes, often through your Local Authority (your council) or an Active Partnership. Active Partnerships are the sports bodies in each local area that work on behalf of Sport England to grow the community sports sector. You can find out who your Active Partnership is here: <https://www.activepartnerships.org/active-partnerships>

There are also a range of larger grants, including those provided by the National Lottery. Many of these have a multi-stage application process, which often starts with an enquiry or proforma. A regional funding manager would then contact you if your project looks viable, with the application being more of an iterative process (guided by the funding manager) rather than a single stage submission of an online form. You would be very unlikely to secure a larger grant (in excess of £10,000) without a track record of smaller grant delivery, so funding sources like Awards for All are a really good place to start, establishing your grant management processes and generating evidence on your impact.

To get an idea of the kinds of projects you can get funded and what it takes to do so, we recommend you check out some of the trailblazer UK non-profits that are on the way to establishing a track record of grant capture and delivery, alongside other forms of income generation (including service delivery). Great examples include:

- ABC Skateboarding School, St Albans
- Skate Nottingham CIC, Nottingham
- Shred the North CIC, the North East
- Skate Southampton
- Skate Manchester CIC
- Projekts MCR (covered concrete skatepark under the Mancunian Way in Manchester City with a great track record of grant delivery and outreach)
- Skate Suffolk CIO, Ipswich and the wider Suffolk area
- Birmingham Skate Spaces CIC (responsible for Bournbrook DIY, Birmingham)
- The Undercover Skatepark Project (responsible for the forthcoming Pitt Street Skatepark, Portsmouth)
- South Coast Skate Club, Worthing
- The Brighton and Hove Skatepark Association
- The Bristol Skateparks Collective
- Long Live Southbank
- Everyone on Boards, Walthamstow
- John Cattle's Skate Club, the Isle of Wight
- Concrete Jungle Foundation (worldwide)
- Free Movement Skateboarding (Athens)

At Skateboard GB we're leading the way amongst international skateboarding NGBs in establishing a community skateboard network and infrastructure, which will include shared tools and resources. We're always here to provide advice and link you up to projects who might share your objectives. Email us on info@skateboardgb.org