



Catalyst Guidelines

**funding and expertise
for Fellow-led projects**

Turning ideas into action

RSA Fellows work together to achieve an enlightened society of inspired, resourceful and fulfilled people. RSA Catalyst helps Fellows develop and test new ideas; not just in theory, but in practice.



Saturday Art Academy: One of the pieces of work produced by the group. It currently hangs in the school's entrance

Saturday Art Academy: One of the parents who has been volunteering on the project



Case studies

What kind of projects are we looking for?

The following Fellow-led projects have already benefited from RSA Catalyst. The latest Catalyst-supported projects are available at www.thersa.org/fellowship/fellowship-news

Saturday Art Academy, Chattanooga, USA

Awarded £1,575 for equipment for a volunteer-led art evening and weekend academy a group of around a dozen Fellows were awarded Catalyst funds for a project to run evening and weekend art classes in an inner-city state school. The city is ranked as a top US arts destination, but visual arts is not part of the school's curriculum and the urgent need for improvements to state education was the top priority in a recent survey of 25,000 Chattanooga citizens. The Fellows have enlisted local volunteers and the project has delivered over six months of regular classes thanks in part to the funds which paid for equipment. We have also put the project team in touch with inner-city and art education specialists as well as urban renewal experts.

Breakout Media Academy, London

Awarded £1,800 and matched to Fellows working in online marketing and with experience of training ex-offenders to pilot an online-marketing social enterprise for young ex-offenders. Project leader Heather Wilkinson FRSA said: "The grant paid for equipment that we desperately needed to get started... It gave other funders confidence to invest in us and as a result we have secured funding for the training, office costs and insurance... We have also met with a number of RSA Fellows that we are looking to contract with, that have shared contacts and we have also learned more from the RSA's Learning Prison Report."

Negowaste, London

Given **RSA SkillsBank help** to develop a business plan for a check-out tool to calculate the cost of packaging, with the aim of eliminating unnecessary waste from packaging

Maria Ana Botelho Neves is collaborating with a business school academic who registered with SkillsBank to produce a business plan for a project to create a calculator which aims to inform consumers of the total cost (in production and disposal) of the materials in products. We are also helping put Maria in touch with waste industry experts to help with the project.

Breakout media: the group assemble before their training



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What is available?

Funding:

- Initial grants of £1,000-£2,000
- Additional grants of £5,000

Each year we award a total of £100,000 to Fellows' projects.

Resources:

- SkillsBank which matches you to Fellows who have volunteered their time
- RSA Staff target Fellows to participate
- Subject expertise from RSA staff and Fellows
- Help to raise awareness of your project through our public platforms
- An online directory of Fellows

Fellows are encouraged to apply for Catalyst resources even where funding is not required.

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we award
£100,000**

RSA

The RSA

The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce is a charity that aims to build a progressive, inclusive and capable society.

We inspire public discourse and critical debate by providing a space to share new ideas on contemporary issues; our projects enable practical change by generating new models to tackle the social challenges of today; and we support individuals wanting to be part of the solution by fostering a connected Fellowship community.

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www.thersa.org

RSA

Fellowship

The RSA Fellowship is an international community of over 27,000 achievers and influencers from a wide array of backgrounds and professions.

Fellows come from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines: business and social enterprise, public services and community leadership, science and the arts, engineering and architecture.

United through a set of shared values and a commitment to improve the prospects of our communities and build a better society, our Fellows' involvement, activity, interdisciplinary expertise and annual donation is at the heart of our ability to achieve these aims.

To find out more about the opportunities available to Fellows and how to apply please see our website www.thersa.org/fellowship/apply, email us at fellowship@rsa.org.uk, or give us a call on +44(0)20 7451 6896.

Criteria

Catalyst will only support ideas and projects that are new or in their early stages, and have an RSA Fellow as part of the team leading the project. We will prioritise ideas that:

- **have yet to be tried out**
- **offer a solution to tackle a pressing social problem**
- **can be sustained beyond their initial Catalyst award**
- **can involve the wider Fellowship in the development or delivery of the project**
- **have a passionate and relevantly skilled team**
- **have a feasible and economical plan for delivering stated outputs which would be difficult to deliver without the help of Catalyst**



How does it work?

You submit your idea or project by completing a short application form. Designed to help you articulate your proposal, the form will be assessed by a panel with representation from senior RSA staff and the Fellowship Council.

The panel meets every six weeks and you will hear back from us within four weeks of the [stated deadlines](#). Our response will include:

- **feedback on your proposal**
- **offers of relevant expertise**
- **a decision on funding**

What next?

You can download the application form online.

Guidance on completing the application form, including a model application form, is also available online.

If you would like more information about Catalyst, please contact fellowship.fund@rsa.org.uk or telephone Alex Watson on 020 7451 6856