



More Than Just Old Buildings

Introduction

This factsheet provides summary information on new measures to reach wider audiences and to increase awards in the Highlands & Islands. We hope it will be a useful reference source for those who may have a project in mind.

Background

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is one of five main lottery distributors in Scotland who use money from the National Lottery to support good causes.

We receive just under 5p from each lottery ticket which gives us an annual UK budget of approximately £300 million.

We help groups and organisations of all sizes and types to look after and enjoy the nation's heritage. Through the projects we support, we aim to:

- Encourage more people to be involved in and make decisions about their heritage;
- Conserve and enhance the UK's diverse heritage; and
- Ensure everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy their heritage.

Broadening Horizons of Heritage

Our Strategic Plan for 2002-2007 "*Broadening the Horizons of Heritage*" includes new measures to increase involvement and participation by simplifying procedures and broadening support for heritage.

Funding will be directed in some new ways to make heritage more accessible to a wider audience. Changes include:

- Supporting projects for *locally based heritage* i.e. heritage not necessarily designated or listed by national bodies and for 'intangible' heritage such as oral history and traditions.
- Providing funding for *training* to develop volunteers' heritage skills;
- Reducing the minimum levels of *partnership funding* required, with smaller projects able to provide whatever they can afford (cash or in kind);
- Lengthening the maximum period of support for *revenue projects* from three years to five;
- Introducing *Project Planning Grants* (up to £50,000) to help plan projects;
- Introducing a new grants programme "*Young Roots*" to encourage the involvement of young people in heritage.

New Development Team

Our Strategic Plan also aims to achieve a more even spread of grants across the UK. To help achieve this, we have established new Development Teams to reach communities and areas that have received least funding to date.

In Scotland, HLF has targeted priority areas for development work. We are therefore keen to raise awareness of HLF and encourage applications from these areas.

We have three development staff in our Edinburgh Office as well as a Heritage Development Officer based in Inverness (jointly funded with Highlands and Islands Enterprise) and a Young Roots Development Officer employed by YouthLink Scotland).

What is Heritage?

Our biggest challenge is changing a perception among communities that HLF and heritage are not relevant to them. Heritage is more than just old buildings. It includes the history and culture of local communities and can be used as a tool to promote involvement, develop new skills and create a sense of ownership and pride in local communities.

We fund a wide range of heritage activities which include: cultural and local traditions; heritage associated with language or dialect; oral history; historic buildings; museums; industrial, maritime and transport heritage; and countryside, parks and gardens.

Our Grant Programmes

We have three general grant programmes:

- **Awards for All:** grants of between £500 and £5,000;
- **Your Heritage:** grants of between £5,000 and £50,000;
- **Heritage Grants :** grants over £50,000

The following special funding initiatives will also be of interest:

- **Young Roots:** grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 to promote the involvement of young people (13-20 years) in heritage projects;
- **Public Parks:** grants over £50,000 for the restoration/regeneration of historic parks, squares, gardens and cemeteries;

- **Townscape Heritage Initiative:** grants of between £250,000 and £2million for partnership projects to regenerate historic areas of towns/cities in areas of social and economic need.

Contact Us

We can organise events in your area to raise awareness of HLF funding and provide support to potential applicants. Groups with ideas for projects can contact us for advice by phone, letter, email or by completing one of the "pre-application advice forms" which are included in all our application packs. For further information or to arrange an event, please contact us as follows:

Highlands and Islands

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