WILLIAM GRANT FOUNDATION

Feedback results report June 25 - May 26

Your experience of working with the William Grant Foundation.

About these results

We collect your feedback to help us understand if we're doing well and to help us discover how we could do better as a funder.

We ask you to complete short online surveys at key points in our relationship.

This report is based on responses from June 2025 to May 2026. It shares some of what we heard and actions we're taking in response to your feedback.

Who completed the surveys

50 feedback surveys were completed in this batch of responses.

14 from new grantees after award

15 from repeat grantees after award/annual report

16 from grantees after interim reporting

4 from grantees at the end of their grant

1 from an unsuccessful applicant



What’s working well

Relationships and communication

Organisations told us they value timely and personal communication, alongside an open and respectful approach. Clear and honest conversations continue to be important, and this includes when grant funding levels are reducing or when we are ending a funding relationship. We're committed to being open about our budgets and decision-making, and it’s helpful to hear feedback about how this can enable grantees to plan and adapt.

Flexibility and understanding

Organisations also said they appreciated that our approach is responsive to their circumstances, grounded in an understanding of the realities facing the sector, and focused on working together to find solutions. Unrestricted and core funding continue to be particularly valued, giving organisations greater flexibility to respond to changing needs and priorities.

Reporting

Feedback on reporting continues to be very positive. Organisations value a reporting relationship that feels constructive and worthwhile. People said that they appreciate being trusted to share information in ways that suit their work, alongside clear guidance about what is needed. We’re encouraged to see continued improvements in survey results following an interim report, particularly around the extent to which organisations feel we engage constructively with their reports and updates.

What needs our attention

Explaining our priorities and approach

Some organisations told us they would value a clearer understanding of our funding interests and priorities. Feedback suggests we could do more to explain how individual grants relate to our wider areas of interest and decision-making. We're reviewing how we communicate this through our website, grant materials and conversations with organisations we support, as well as how we ask about this in our feedback surveys.

Making better use of the information you share

Feedback highlighted a continued interest in understanding of how we use the information and learning grantees share with us. While scores have improved in some survey groups, this remains an area we're paying attention to in our grant management and how we communicate and share our learning openly.

Connecting with others

We heard that some people would welcome more opportunities for conversation and connection, both with the Foundation and with their peers. This includes connecting with others working on similar issues, as well as across the different fields we support. We're exploring opportunities for engagement that are useful, proportionate and add value.

WGF gave as much as they could, in reality we needed a bit more for core, but it was explained in advance this might not be possible, the support is still significant.

Perhaps just comparatively...why us and not others? What did the William Grant Foundation see as our point of difference/why did we stand out?

Currently one of the most practical and relevant reporting methods that we experience.

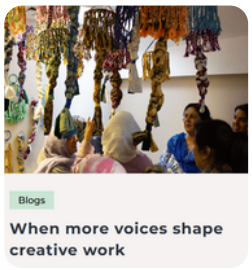
Maybe say more about how our grant connects with the Foundation's overarching purpose.

What we've started doing

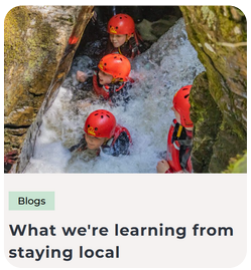
Providing more meaningful feedback

Where possible, we're providing more detailed feedback on reports and updates from grantees, including how information is being used, who it's being shared with and where it's informing our work. For example, insights shared by funded organisations are central to thematic blogs published on our website - click on the images below for examples.









Supporting peer learning

Alongside our ongoing quarterly Foundation Forum - an online space where grantees come together to share learning - we're creating additional opportunities for peer connection. Participants from our organisational strengthening bursary pilot recently came together to share experiences and help shape our future support offer. We're also facilitating a new Climate Learning and Action Group for grantees to learn alongside peers and take practical action on climate and nature.

Explaining our interests

When we make a grant, organisations receive an overview of the Foundation. We're refreshing this information to provide a clearer explanation of our giving groups, areas of interest and approach to grant-making, helping organisations better understand how individual grants connect to our wider priorities.

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Thanks to those who've taken part so far and to those who'll complete future surveys.

Our feedback system is one way we keep an open dialogue with partners.

We're always happy to hear from you at any time.

If you'd like to share something or feed back please email us: foundation@wgrant.com

