

ENDLESS DIFFERENT WAYS: MURIEL SPARK 100

SMALL GRANTS FUND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

“The true novelist is one who understands the work as a continuous poem, is a myth-maker, and the wonder of the art resides in the endless different ways of telling a story.”



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



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Overview: What is ‘Endless Different Ways’, the Muriel Spark Small Grants Fund?

Endless Different Ways, the Muriel Spark Small Grants Fund will offer small funding awards to individual writers, artists and groups who are looking to celebrate the work, contribution or legacy of Muriel Spark.

12 awards of up to £1,500 are available to support people and projects across a range of art forms.

Funding can be used to create new work; explore some aspect of Muriel’s life; travel and/or undertake a residency linked to places or ideas which were significant to Muriel; or to develop and deliver other ideas inspired by Muriel and which emerge from the artistic and creative community in Scotland.

The primary purpose of all activity being supported is to allow for new work to be created alongside the foregrounding and discussion of Muriel Sparks’ own contribution.

The deadline for proposals is **4 December 2017**, with selected projects being announced in early 2018. Recipients would be expected to develop and deliver their activity during 2018.

Who was Muriel Spark, and what is the Muriel Spark 100 project?

Dame Muriel Sarah Spark was a Scottish novelist, short story writer, poet and essayist. She was named by *The Times* as being in the Top 10 of their list of 'the 50 greatest British writers since 1945'. *The Telegraph* said her novel *The Girl of Slender Means* was one of the '20 best British novels of all time'. *The Guardian* listed *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* as one of the 100 best novels ever written in the English language.

But to many she was much more than that.

She was an extraordinary, extravagant, thoroughly modern individual who reinvented herself continually. Glamorous, a stylist in her art and fashion, a traveller, an internationalist, a poet, a writer, a huge talent, and someone with a ferocious imagination.

The centenary of her birth falls on February 1, 2018. It is both a landmark moment, and an unparalleled opportunity, to showcase and celebrate the way in which this leading figure of Scotland's cultural history features in the public imagination.

Muriel Spark 100 is the name of the campaign to showcase and celebrate the life, work and influence of Muriel Spark. It will take place from late 2017 and throughout 2018, and include a wide variety of events, exhibitions, publications and creative activity.

Many Scottish organisations and institutions are working on Spark-related programming throughout 2018, spanning a wide range of activity. This includes a major exhibition of Spark's work at the National Library of Scotland centering on her archive, which is the single most extensive archive the NLS holds in its entire collection; an international symposium at the University of Glasgow, a complete set of newly designed editions of her 22 novels with introductions from contemporary writers she has influenced, a large scale public event presented by the Edinburgh International Book Festival, a new commissioned BBC documentary about Muriel, and an exhibition of Muriel's fashion and costumes from theatre and film adaptations. It is anticipated that a wide range of further organisations and artists across the UK will present work during the centenary year.

For more information on Muriel Spark 100, the programme of activity and who is involved go to www.murielspark100.com

What will the fund support?

The purpose of the fund is to support projects and activity which celebrates the life, work, contribution or legacy of Muriel Spark.

This could be direct or tangential:

- an artistic exploration of one aspect of her life or work
- a new piece of work inspired by themes explored or questions raised in one of her texts
- a proposal to travel or undertake a residency linked to places or ideas which were of significance to Muriel Spark herself
- or it could be to help develop and deliver other ideas and projects inspired by Muriel and which emerge from the artistic and creative community in Scotland.

We would like to support a range of projects across art forms and disciplines.

The primary purpose is to allow for new work to be created alongside the foregrounding and discussion of Muriel Sparks' own contribution.

We would encourage applicants to consider some form of public presentation as one of the outcomes of their project – which could then take place as part of the Muriel Spark 100 programme.

Who can apply?

We would like to support individual writers, artists, creative practitioners, groups and organisations through the fund.

We are keen to support ideas and projects from artists at every stage of their career – but applicants must be outwith full time education, including any postgraduate study, before the date of submission.

Individuals and organisations already in receipt of Creative Scotland Funding can apply, but you need to clearly demonstrate that this funding is for a new discrete project, and is not being used as co-funding for other activity.

All applicants should be based in Scotland.

How much funding is available?

We are hoping to award in the region of 12 awards of up to £1,500 each.

How to apply?

All applications must be made on the Muriel Spark 100 application form which can be found on our website here: www.creativescotland.com/murielspark100

Do you need additional support making your application?

Creative Scotland is committed to offering clear and accessible application processes and programmes that are open to everyone. On request this information is available in alternative formats including translations.

We offer access support to disabled applicants, tailored to individual requests. Support includes Sign Language Interpreters for meetings and scribing support for dyslexic applicants. Officers can offer advice to new applicants and support them to make an application.

The Equalities Team can offer additional one-to-one support to applicants with access requirements. Please note we will accept applications and supporting materials which are written in English, Gaelic or Scots. If you have any general enquiries about the application process, Guidance or Application Form, please contact our Enquiries Service.

Application deadline, timeline and decision-making process

The deadline for applications is 4 December 2017.

Completed application forms should be submitted by email to:
murielspark100@creativescotland.com

On submission you will receive an electronic notification of receipt. We will review your application and log it on to our system. Logged applications will be assessed by relevant Creative Scotland officers and members of the Muriel Spark 100 project.

Fund opens for applications: **26 October 2017**

Deadline for applications: **4 December 2017**

Assessment process: **Between December 2017 and January 2018**

Announcement of recipients: **1 February 2018** (the 10th anniversary of Muriel Spark's birth)

Projects should aim to then take place during 2018.

How will we assess an application?

All applications will be assessed on the basis of the information provided, and considered against what the fund will support and who can apply (as outlined on page 4).

We will judge all applications on the basis of the following considerations:

- **Quality:** The creative merits of the suggested project or idea
- **Relevance:** The degree to which the application fits the fund and particularly how it relates to the life, work and legacy of Muriel Spark
- **Clarity:** A clearly presented view of the proposed activity
- **Impact:** The anticipated benefits of the project and how it might broaden interest in, and awareness of, Muriel Spark.
- **Budget:** The appropriate allocation of the funding available.

Further advice and information

If you require support, have any general enquiries, about the application process or would like to discuss your idea with someone before preparing your application, please contact our Enquiries Service in the first instance.

Our Enquiries Team will be able to advise you or will put you in contact with one of our Officers.

You can contact us by phone, email or through our website.

Call **0345 603 6000***

Email **enquiries@creativescotland.com**

Web **www.creativescotland.com/contact-us**

Phone lines are open from 10am-12pm and 2-4pm, Mon-Fri, with voicemail outwith these hours.

If you are a deaf BSL user, you can access our services with the Contact Scotland-BSL programme. Go to **www.contactscotland-bsl.org/public** for more information.

* Please note: Calls to our 0345 number are charged at the same rate as calling national 01 or 02 numbers. Approximate charges are up to 9p per minute from landlines and between 3p – 55p per minute from mobiles. However, calls to this number are also part of inclusive allowances. Please check with your phone line provider for exact charges.

Looking for Inspiration?

Listed below are a selection of websites, archives and resources about Muriel Spark:

The Muriel Spark 100 project website murielspark100.com

A new website, dedicated to promoting the centenary of Muriel Spark's birth. Includes a growing programme of Muriel Spark related events and activity taking place throughout the year.

National Library of Scotland **Muriel Spark website** digital.nls.uk/murielspark

Muriel's archive is amongst the largest and most comprehensive held by the National Library of Scotland, and this website gives an introduction to the writer through some of the items in the collection.

Muriel Spark Society themurielsparkociety.blogspot.co.uk

Established with the author's blessing in 2001, the Muriel Spark Society exist to 'promote the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Muriel Spark's work, and to provide opportunities to meet, discuss her work and learn more about her wide range of interests including art, music and fashion.'

The Guardian overview of **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**

As part of their '100 greatest novels written in the English language' here is the Guardian's view:

'Short and bittersweet, Muriel Spark's tale of the downfall of a Scottish schoolmistress is a masterpiece of narrative fiction.'

The Scottish Poetry Library overview of Muriel Spark:

www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poetry/poets/muriel-spark

A biography of the writer along with examples of her poetry and further reading suggestions.

BBC Two Writing Scotland biography of Muriel Spark

A further biography, summary of her works and detailed further reading lists.

Publishing Scotland/Books from Scotland – Muriel Spark overview booksfromscotland.com/bfs-author/muriel-spark

Books from Scotland is a curated collection of the best of Scottish writing. The site contains a full collection of her work, with links through to each book, its publisher and publication details.

Birlinn republished versions www.birlinn.co.uk/Muriel-Spark

Due for publication shortly, Birlinn are republishing all 22 of her novels in newly designed hardback editions to mark the one-hundredth anniversary of her birth, placing her books at the heart of the programme of national celebrations.