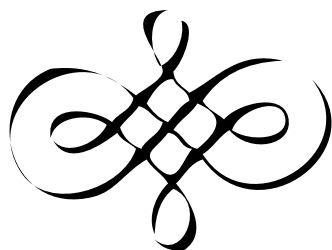


# Funding a ritual



*Order of Service*





A ceremony for community groups, cultural organisations, artists and charities, to submit a funding application to the gods and pray for its success.

To be performed by a Celebrant and Congregation. A lay Celebrant may be drawn from the application team, and the Congregation may comprise the application team, colleagues, friends and family, and a supportive public.

Ceremonial material: a bonfire, brazier, or large beeswax candle; a brass bowl; a printed copy of the funding application; required ingredients (see Evaluation); and water to extinguish the flames.

Dress code: business casual.

**Benediction:** to welcome the Congregation and introduce their application.

**Supplication:** to review the application checklist and beseech the gods.

**Application:** to submit the application to the flames and reaffirm commitment.

**Evaluation:** to consider the impacts and prepare the formula.

**Inscription:** to anoint the Applicants.

**Valediction:** to summarise the application and its merit.

**Conclusion:** to exit.

*Note: this ritual is theologically agnostic and thus adaptable to all belief systems. In all instances, “gods” may be replaced by “Amun-Ra”, “God”, “the spirits”, “the North Sea”, and so on. Ritual modifications may be performed as necessitated by the parent theology, but success is never guaranteed.*



# Benediction



## CELEBRANT:

We gather together  
Applicants and Supporters  
Supplicants all  
Under the monitoring of the gods  
To submit this application  
**[The name of the application is spoken]**  
To commend this application  
To those who are funders of us all  
To offer this application to the fire  
To inscribe this application as we are all inscribed  
In the wisdom of the economy

We give thanks for the labour of the Applicants  
We give comfort to the hopes of the Congregation

And we submit ourselves to be assessed.

## CONGREGATION:

*May our assessment be true.*



# Supplication

## CELEBRANT:

We have outlined the vision

## CONGREGATION:

*The vision has been outlined*

We have engaged the stakeholders

*The stakeholders have been engaged*

We have defined the impact

*The impact has been defined*

We have ensured accessibility

*Accessibility has been ensured*

We have effective management of delivery

*Delivery will be managed effectively*

We have allocated sufficient resources

*Resources will be allocated sufficiently*

We have assessed the risks

*There will be additional control upon additional control, and the residual risk will be low*

We have planned monitoring and evaluation

*Comprehensive reports will be  
delivered in line with expected  
targets*

We have established partnerships

*Partnerships have been established*

We have balanced the budget

*The budget is in balance*

All is in balance  
and so we submit  
this application to the gods  
in sure knowledge  
of its quality and viability  
so that it might return  
with funding

*May the funding return*

And so shall it be.

*And so shall it be.*

# *Application*

## **CELEBRANT:**

We now invite the Applicants  
to offer their pages to the fire  
so that the gods might hear  
their words of commitment.

**Each member of the application team is invited to deliver to the fire a page of the application, with a spoken reason for their commitment. Frequent commitments given are:**

## **APPLICANT:**

*For job security*  
*For cultural significance*  
*For art*  
*For community cohesion*  
*For the community*  
*For public services*  
*For our common wealth*

**Commitments take a non-standard form and may vary widely from ceremony to ceremony.**

**After each commitment:**

## **CELEBRANT:**

And so shall it be.

## **CONGREGATION:**

*And so shall it be.*



**Once all pages have been submitted to the fire:**

We now offer a space  
for silent contemplation  
in which each may evaluate their impact  
and the size of our funding  
and the strength of our desire  
for further funding  
and the strength of our application  
for further funding  
as we prepare to inscribe  
our strength, our desire  
and our application.

# *Evaluation*



The CELEBRANT now places a brass bowl over the fire, brazier or candle.

Into the bowl the CELEBRANT gently places:

A drop of water for each member of the application team,  
for their sweat and tears

A drop of ink for each thousand words of the application,  
for their labour

For capital grants, a crushed sprig of rosemary

For operational grants, a crushed sprig of thyme

For core funding, five cumin seeds

For project funding, five coriander seeds

For regular funding, five mustard seeds

For state funding, lemon rind

For private funding, lime rind

To bind the formula, a single coin

The formula is stirred once counter-clockwise for each thousand in the currency applied for, and then removed from the flame.

# Inscription

The CELEBRANT takes the brass bowl and stands before each member of the application team, using a forefinger to inscribe the symbol of national currency on their forehead. With each inscription:

CELEBRANT:

We have applied ourselves.

APPLICANT:

*May our application bear fruit.*

When each APPLICANT has been inscribed, the CELEBRANT empties the remainder of the formula into the flame.

# Valediction



## CELEBRANT:

We have inscribed our capital as we have inscribed our desire  
We have submitted our application to the flames of need  
We have entrusted our funding to the mercy of the gods

In the sure knowledge that it might be transformed  
Into assets and wages  
Into projects and supplies  
Into creation and destruction  
And that as a seed it might grow  
Sustainably  
Into further funding  
Now and hereafter

And we join together  
In the true hope  
That the austere tides will recede  
And that there shall be flourishing  
Upon flourishing  
Now and hereafter

And so shall it be.

## CONGREGATION:

*And so shall it be.*

# Conclusion

Appropriate music may be played.

The CELEBRANT pours water onto the flames until they are fully extinguished.

The CONGREGATION proceeds to the exit.

All await the result of the application, and the final assessment.



*Funding a Ritual* has been recorded in its authorised version by Harry Giles, who is available to conduct ceremonies from [www.harrygiles.org](http://www.harrygiles.org). It was written as a response to ACE's Catalyst Arts Programme for Artsadmin, and designed by James T Harding.

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We would welcome records and notifications of ceremonies performed using this text.

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“All is in balance  
and so we submit  
this application to the gods”

