



Good Design Grant Round July 2025

Applicant Information Pack

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Welcome

Designing a better future for our children and young people

Brian M. Davis AM (1930-2021) was one of Australia's most successful entrepreneurs and built the Décor company into a household name. Through decades of product innovation, he improved people's lives in immeasurable ways.

He was also generous, engaging in a range of philanthropic activity for which he sought no recognition, only results. It is Brian's entrepreneurial spirit, creative thinking, and determination that we bring to our grant making.

The intent of the **inaugural Brian M. Davis Good Design Grant Round** is to support the child and family welfare and youth sectors with the time and resources to be creative and collaborate, specifically using good design principles, processes and systems thinking to improve the lives of Australian children and young people (ages 7 - 25) impacted by marginalisation, abuse, discrimination, and poverty.

Successful collaborations will receive grants **up to \$250,000 per year for up to 5 years**.

We encourage you to read this information pack in full before applying.

The Brian M. Davis Good Design Grant Round at a glance

Youth focus, youth agency



Enhancing sector collaboration



Learning and creativity



About The Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation

Mission and Values

OUR MISSION. Lasting transformational change for children and young people impacted by poverty, abuse, marginalisation and discrimination in Australia.

OUR VISION. Every child and young person is safe and thriving.

OUR VALUES. We are a values-driven organisation that 'walks the talk' and drives our values through all aspects of our granting. In practice this means working with:

- *Empathy* – We will take the time to listen deeply and seek to understand the perspectives and experiences of others with interest and compassion.
- *Bravery* – We will have the courage to act with integrity, speak up, and take risks — even when it's uncomfortable.
- *Humility* – We will undertake our work with humility, actively learning from the lived experience and expertise of others, valuing trust and collaboration.
- *Curiosity* – We will create a culture of learning, openness and connectedness in our work. We will use questions to build bridges, challenge systems and catalyse meaningful change.

Giving Principles

We believe that the way we give is as important as what we give to. Our principles-based approach to giving includes:

- *Targeted focus* – We focus on young people facing life challenges, with two key groups: 7 - 14 year olds and 15 - 25 year olds.
- *Trusted partnerships* – We work with and through organisations, trusting in the leadership and expertise held in place and on the ground.
- *Cross-cutting impact* – We support a diverse mix of organisations at multiple levels of the sector.
- *Practical responses* – We address critical gaps in the system in a timely, responsive and practical way.
- *Emphasis on amplifying others* – We amplify impact by building on what works and making connections. We do this through collaboration and bringing people together in the system to leverage networks, build sector capacity and extend its reach to support more young people.

Impact Lens

GOOD DESIGN - VALUING KEY INGREDIENTS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL SOCIAL CHANGE

We value **youth voices**, **First People's knowledge and wisdom**, and **data and evidence** as key ingredients into good design. We support organisations with **time**, **connections** and the **capacity** to leverage, advocate and support transformational change to young people's lives.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE - GOING DEEP ON THE BIG ISSUES

We believe in backing solutions to complex problems. This means going all in and supporting organisations to tackle the big systemic issues and dive deep into the root causes.

AUTHENTIC GIVING - SUPPORTING BESPOKE SOLUTIONS & OVERCOMING BARRIERS

We support organisations that **elevate grass roots voices and lived experience** to inform and shape solutions. To effectively change the life trajectory of young people for the better, we invest in **reducing the financial, social and physical barriers** that prevent young people accessing the quality support needed to enable them to thrive in life.

About the Good Design Grant Round

What is 'Good Design'?

Design UK describes good design as “...a skillset and a mindset for making imagination a reality - we describe it as the head: creative problem solving; the heart: empathy for people and planet; and the hand: making ideas into action. Good design is an inclusive process that is brilliant at bringing together a diverse group of people from different backgrounds and working together to creatively solve a common problem or achieve a common dream.”

What is the focus of this grant round?

The Brian M. Davis Foundation has four strategic priorities. This 'Good Design' grant round focuses on **safe spaces / safe relationships** which focuses on every child and young person having safe places to live, learn, and play as well as safe relationships to thrive (e.g., safe and appropriate housing, family unification, addressing child abuse/neglect). Specifically, we are looking to fund collaborative initiatives that use 'good design' for social impact across the Child and Family Welfare and Youth sectors.

What is the Foundation interested in accomplishing with this grant round?

- The extent to which the idea or initiative is focused on creating a preferable future rather than reinforcing the status quo – asking the 'what if' questions. We want to support the capability and capacity of organisations and collaborations that look to improve and disrupt systems.
- Shared learnings, with a focus on evidence and evaluation
- Diverse perspectives and voices informing problem solving
- Fostering creativity

What are the key assessment criteria?

BMDCF will use the following assessment criteria to assess expressions of interest and applications:

1. Identifies a problem and demonstrates hypothesis that can be addressed through innovative design and partnership
2. Involves a robust coalition of partners who will work together on design, planning, social processes, convening and implementation
3. In accordance with the Convention to the Rights of the Child, prioritises participation of children and young people in planning, design, delivery and accountability
4. Includes a strong learning culture which drives iteration and adaption and agree to share all lessons, findings and resources to facilitate replication / sharing
5. Champions scaling or spreading the design and practice beyond the grant period
6. Works with and for the most disadvantaged and marginalised children

Why collaborations?

We know that no one service, sector or system can provide what is required, so this 'Good Design' Grant Round aims to build the capacity of services to work more collaboratively and elegantly to ensure safer spaces and safer relationships for children and young people to thrive.

Will you consider peak bodies and/or sector networks as collaboration?

Peak bodies and existing sector networks are welcome to apply as sole applicants (if you have DGR-1 status), however, Expressions of Interest coming from multiple partners will receive a higher score for “robust coalition.”

Practicalities

What will the timeline be?

- From **1 July 2025 to 31 July 2025, Expressions of Interest are open** for grants of **\$250,000 per year** over a period of up to five years. Interested Applicant organisations can submit an expression of interest (EOI) on behalf of the collaboration.
- BMDCF will assess the EOIs based on the criteria outlined above. On 1 September 2025, shortlisted applicants will be **invited to compile a full application by 30 September 2025**.
- Decisions will be made late November 2025, with funding to be dispersed in early December 2025.

The grant is for the work of an entire group. Please nominate **one** organisation in your collaboration to complete an Expression of Interest and to receive the funds on behalf of your collaboration.

How much can we apply for?

Successful collaborations will receive grants up to \$250,000 per year for up to 5 years. BMDCF estimates that 3 - 4 collaborations will receive grants this grant round.

What can we use the funding for?

Funds may be used for the following purposes:

- ***Building or Supporting Collaborative Efforts*** – providing organisations with the resources to have the time and space to convene and collaborate
- ***Capacity Building*** – strengthening the collaborations management and governance to be more impactful, efficient, and effective
- ***Pilot initiatives*** – a small-scale, short-term test or trial that helps an organisation learn how a large-scale collaboration might work in practice

Can organisations outside of Victoria apply?

Our primary geographic focus is Victoria however the Foundation will consider funding interstate organisations as part of this grant round if the initiative has a national focus.

Can I apply as part of more than one collaboration?

An organisation may be a part of more than one collaboration and may receive funding under this Grant Round. However, BMDCF can only accept one application per applicant organisation. This means that one organisation cannot be the applicant organisation for more than one collaboration.

Does our request have to be for a completely new initiative?

No. BMDCF is happy to fund early-stage ideas/designs/initiatives that need design expertise and support to be further developed or a good design idea/initiative that needs support to prove/improve/deepen impact.

Is my organisation eligible to be the lead applicant if we do not have DGR-1 status?

No. The lead applicant in the collaborative must be registered with the ACNC and have DGR-1 status.

Application process

How long should I spend on my application?

The Expression of Interest is designed to take less than two hours. As a guideline, and to encourage you to minimise the time spent on the application, we spend approximately 20 - 30 minutes reviewing each Expression of Interest.

If selected for Stage 2, we estimate that it will take approximately eight hours to prepare the full application.

I am already a BMDCF partner, can I apply?

Yes.

Do all collaboration members need to be ACNC registered?

No. Only the funded organisation is required to be registered with the ACNC.

What if I have a question that has not been covered?

You may also contact us via email applications@brianmdavis.org.au. A team member will be in touch within three business days to discuss your question.

Where do I go to begin my application?

You can begin your application on the YourCause grant portal [here](#). Please note you may need to register a new account for your organisation.

During the grant period

Can we change how the money is spent?

BMDCF intentionally provides large scale, flexible, multiyear grants to meet organisational and workforce needs in a timely manner. We understand circumstances can change, and do not require any notification, unless it will alter the proposed outcomes of the grant. We do ask, where feasible, that changes are shared with the Foundation and the sector as opportunities for learning and improvement.

Can the collaboration change membership?

We understand that circumstances can change. Once the collaboration has been funded, you must notify BMDCF of any membership changes during the grant period, and BMDCF will consider these changes prior to making further payments. In considering changes to collaborations during the Grant Round, BMDCF is required to ensure compliance with its charitable purpose and obligations.

What happens if the collaboration experiences conflict?

BMDCF cannot play a mediation role between collaboration members. We will not be involved in making decisions about the implementation of the grant or decisions about collaboration membership.

What reporting will be expected?

We will work with your collaboration to create a reporting plan, typically involving an annual progress report against 1 – 2 core outcomes and key learnings/challenges. We will also aim to meet each grantee twice annually – this may be dedicated meetings, or us being invited to existing events/network meetings.

Learning, evaluation and dissemination

Is learning, evaluating and reporting expected?

Yes. BMDCF values using the insights from the measurement and evaluation activity to adjust and improve. We encourage applicants who progress to the **full application stage** to include costs of collecting necessary data, convening learning meetings, disseminating learning/challenges to the broader sector and reporting on progress. This may look like funding for internal analysts and/or a facilitator or external data expertise (i.e., an annual Social Network Analysis).

Will the Foundation support these costs?

We are happy to assist **full-stage applicants** in estimating costs (please reach out via email to applications@brianmdavis.org.au). For successful applicants, BMDCF staff will hold an inception meeting in early 2026 to work with collaborations to establish data systems that embed reflective learning and improvement through the grant. This level of detail is **not required at the Expression of Interest stage**.

What is your Foundation's Theory of Change?

As a summary, a short 'narrative' of our story of impact:

We use our grants to create lasting transformational change in children and young people's lives. With a focus on good design, disrupting systems and meeting critical needs, we seek to break cycles of poverty, abuse, marginalisation and discrimination so that all children and young people can thrive.

How do you evaluate the impact of your granting?

To ensure that the measurement and evaluation of the work contribute value and enhance practices, we have implemented a two-part evaluation strategy.

1. We work with each collaboration at the beginning of the funding partnership to identify and agree on an appropriate set of measurements and milestones that will:
 - Be meaningful and informative to the progression of the work and learnings
 - Be realistic, practical and achievable to collect, analyse and disseminate
2. Through anecdotal feedback and data analysis, we seek to:
 - Understand whether our strategic priorities and giving approaches are reflective and responsive to the needs of the community.
 - Understand to what extent we are implementing our values and giving principles

What are your Foundation's key evaluation questions?

1. To what extent has BMDCF's grant making enabled our grant partners to create lasting transformational change for children and young people impacted by poverty, abuse, marginalisation, and discrimination in Australia? Are we/they achieving the impact we/they expected to achieve?
2. To what extent has our focus on good design and disrupting systems enabled organisations and collectives that we fund to break cycles of poverty, abuse, marginalisation and discrimination?
3. To what extent is BMDCF demonstrating commitment to our values and giving principles?

Will our learnings be publicised?

Yes. To contribute to sector wide learning, BMDCF aims to share and create the conditions for our grantees to network and learn from each other.