Guidance for Young People Starting a Business in the Creative Sector

If you're a young person in the UK looking to start your own business or work as a freelancer in the creative arts, there are several organisations that can provide valuable guidance, support, and resources. Here are some key organisations to consider:

Creative Industries Federation (CIF)

- What They Offer: CIF represents the UK's creative industries and provides networking, advocacy, and support.
- Services: Policy updates, business advice, access to resources and events.
- Website: Creative Industries Federation

Arts Council England

- What They Offer: Supports and funds the arts and culture sector in England.
- Services: Various funding programs, grants, and resources for artists and creative businesses.
- Website: Arts Council England

British Library Business & IP Centre

- What They Offer: Free access to business and intellectual property information.
- Services: Workshops, one-on-one advice sessions, market research databases, and resources tailored to creative industries.
- Website: British Library Business & IP Centre

Creative Entrepreneurs

- What They Offer: Supports creative individuals in turning ideas into successful businesses.
- Services: Resources, networking opportunities, events, and access to mentors and experts.
- Website: Creative Entrepreneurs

Creative United

- What They Offer: Helps artists and creative businesses access finance and develop sustainable business models.

- Services: Loans, crowdfunding support, and business development programs.
- Website: Creative United

Design Trust

- What They Offer: Supports designers, makers, and creative entrepreneurs.
- Services: Business training, mentorship, networking events, and resources.
- Website: Design Trust

Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)

- What They Offer: Supports and represents small businesses across various sectors, including the creative arts.
- Services: Advice, resources, events, and networking opportunities.
- Website: Federation of Small Businesses

UK Government's Business Support Helpline

- What They Offer: Guidance and information on starting and running a business.
- Services: Advice on legal requirements, tax regulations, financing, and other aspects of setting up as a sole trader or freelancer.
- Website: Business Support Helpline

Regional Organisations

Don't forget to explore regional or local organisations specific to your area, which provide tailored support and resources:

- Creative Scotland
- Creative Wales
- Creative Industries Federation Northern Ireland

Tips for Success

- Research: Visit the websites of these organisations to explore their offerings, eligibility criteria, and application processes for funding or support programs.
- Network: Attend industry events, conferences, and workshops to connect with other creative professionals and entrepreneurs.

- Stay Informed: Keep up with industry news and updates through newsletters and forums.

1. Startup Accelerators and Incubators

These programs provide mentorship, office space, and funding to startups in exchange for equity.

- Seedcamp: seedcamp.com
- Entrepreneur First: joinef.com
- Techstars London: techstars.com/programs/london-program/
- Wayra UK: wayra.uk

2. Venture Capital Firms

Venture capital firms invest in high-growth startups and provide strategic advice.

- Balderton Capital: balderton.com
- Index Ventures: indexventures.com
- Octopus Ventures: octopusventures.com
- Accel: accel.com

3. Angel Investors Networks

Angel investors are wealthy individuals who invest their personal capital in startups.

- UK Business Angels Association (UKBAA): ukbaa.org.uk
- Angels Den: angelsden.com
- Cambridge Angels: cambridgeangels.com

4. Crowdfunding Platforms

These platforms allow startups to raise small amounts of capital from a large number of people.

- Crowdcube: crowdcube.com
- Seedrs: seedrs.com

- SyndicateRoom: syndicateroom.com

5. Government Programs and Grants

The UK government offers several grants and support programs for startups.

- Innovate UK: innovateuk.ukri.org
- British Business Bank: british-business-bank.co.uk
- UK Export Finance: great.gov.uk/get-finance/

6. Startup Communities and Networks

Joining a community can provide valuable networking opportunities and access to resources.

- Tech Nation: technation.io
- Startup Grind UK: startupgrind.com/united-kingdom
- London Startup Network: meetup.com/London-Startup-Network/

7. Online Resources and Courses

Educational platforms can provide guidance and best practices for starting a business.

- Coursera: coursera.org
- Udemy: udemy.com
- FutureLearn: futurelearn.com
- The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme: princes-trust.org.uk

8. Legal and Financial Advisors

Professional advice is crucial for legal and financial planning.

- LegalZoom UK: legalzoom.co.uk
- Rocket Lawyer UK: rocketlawyer.com/gb/en
- KPMG Private Enterprise: home.kpmg/xx/en/home/services/enterprise.html

9. Local and Regional Startup Hubs

Local hubs can offer tailored advice and support based on the regional ecosystem.

- Silicon Roundabout (Tech City): techcityuk.com
- Manchester Tech Hub: mspl.co.uk
- Bristol & Bath Science Park: bbsp.co.uk

10. Networking Events and Conferences

Participating in events can help in building connections and finding investors.

- London Tech Week: londontechweek.com
- Startup Grind Europe Conference: startupgrind.com/europe
- The Business Show: greatbritishbusinessshow.co.uk