Wicklow County Arts Office and Wicklow County Council announces the closing date and criteria for its three funding streams in 2018:

* **Artist Support Awards Scheme 2018**
* **Arts Groups / Organisations Awards Scheme 2018**
* **Arts Festival Awards Scheme 2018**

The Arts Grants are offered each year to develop and deliver festivals and arts programmes of high quality and impact. These will enhance and complement the strategic development of the arts in the County. This call is open to artists, arts festival and to arts groups and organisations across all arts disciplines. Proposals should add significant value to arts practice, experience and/or participation in the arts in County Wicklow and support the Council’s strategic goals for the arts.

It is our intention through the extension of these schemes that a diverse range of creative projects will be cultivated for the county, which will nurture artists practice, create connectivity, generate new perspectives and voices within the cultural life of the county and support a myriad of high calibre arts events.

The closing date for all applications is **Monday 19th February 2018 at 12 noon**. Decisions will be made by Wicklow County Arts Office during March 2018 and applicants will be notified of the Arts Office.

**IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:**

As with the other years, in 2018 there will be a merged countywide application process for these funds. This is to reflect the strategic shift in local government in the development of Municipal Districts in place of Town Councils. This means that where previously individual artists and arts organisations may have applied to a Town Council or both Wicklow County Council and a Town Council, funding from all of the previous Town Council areas for the arts has now been centralised through Wicklow Arts Office. Budgets and funding have been adjusted accordingly to reflect this. There is now one streamlined application process to take place in January & February of 2018 for all applicants. This includes individual artists, arts organisations and arts festivals.

**Artist Support Awards Scheme:**

The objective of the **Artist Support Awards Scheme,** established in 2013, is to assist artists to develop their arts practice.  The award should make a significant contribution to the professional life or development of artists from, or living in, County Wicklow.  The purpose of the scheme is to allow artists working in any context to realise a specific body of work or training that will enhance their arts practice development.  This could include their participation in short-term courses, specialist workshops, mentorships etc, but is not intended to fund undergraduate third-level or ongoing study.  The intention is to offer artists time to undertake residencies, or buy time to research a new body of work with a particular focus on career development.  Professional practicing artists working in any artform are eligible to apply for this scheme.  Due to increased demand for funding the maximum amount any proposal can request is €5,000.

Any further queries can be directed to wao@wicklowcoco.ie Please use Artist Supports 2018 in the subject line. You can download the information from our website <http://www.wicklow.ie/arts-act-funding>. Or call the Programme Coordinator Annette Moloney 086 842 9928.

**Arts Groups / Organisations Awards Scheme:**

The objective of this award scheme is to support arts groups/organisations in the realisation of an arts project or programme which will support their artistic development. It is the intention of this award to fund in total or in part a project/programme, which sees the realisation/showcasing of new work. Applications can be for a research and development phase of a new initiative or for the production/ implementation of a new arts project or programme for 2018. Where the realisation of the proposed project/programme requires additional financial resources over and above €3,000, which is the maximum amount available to any one group under this award, evidence of confirmed funding is required from identified sources.

Any further queries can be directed to wao@wicklowcoco.ie Please use Arts Groups / Organisations 2018 in the subject line. You can download the information from our website <http://www.wicklow.ie/arts-act-funding>. Or call the Programme Coordinator Liz Kelly 086 3522227

**Arts Festival Awards Scheme:**

The objective of this award scheme is to support programming and development of Arts Festivals in County Wicklow. It is the intention of this award to fund, in full or in part, a particular aspect of a Festivals development plan or programme for 2018. In the case of Arts Festivals, applications can be for: the production/commissioning of new work for the Festival; the engagement of professional ensembles as part of the Festival programme; the engagement of audiences; or the development of new strategies and/or approaches to the delivery of the Festival. The maximum amount that a festival can apply for in 2018 is €5,000.

Any further queries can be directed to wao@wicklowcoco.ie Please use Arts Festivals 2018 in the subject line. You can download the information from our website <http://www.wicklow.ie/arts-act-funding>. Or call the Programme Coordinator Liz Kelly 086 352 2227.