

# Wicklow County Arts Office

## Arts Act Funding 2026

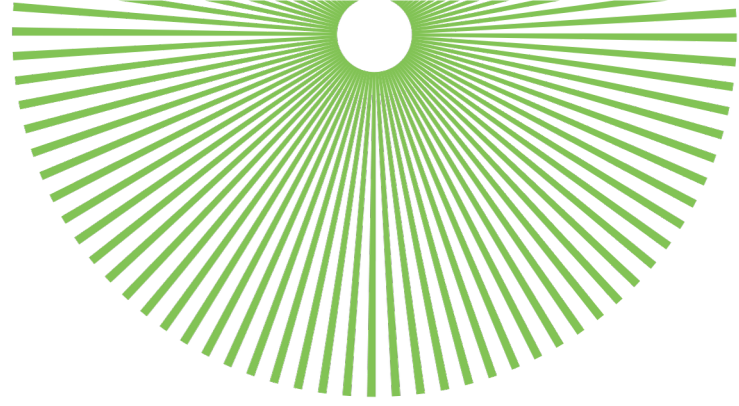
Artist Award Scheme  
Artist & Community Collaboration Award Scheme  
Arts Festival Award Scheme

Funding Clinic  
Thursday 11th December 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council





## Arts Act Funding 2026

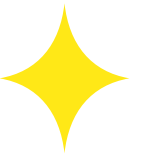
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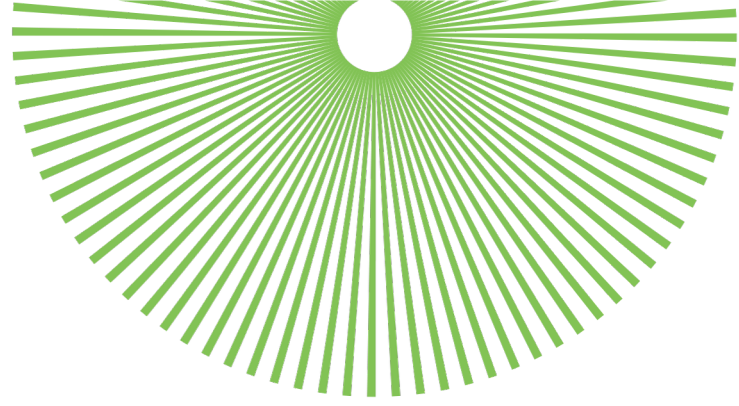
Deadline:

Thursday 5th February 2026 at 4pm



# Introduction

- Welcome!
- This session is being recorded and will be posted on the [Wicklow Arts Office YouTube channel](#)
- Housekeeping:
  - Webinar format
  - Questions are welcome via the chat box - Q&A session at the end
- Agenda
  - Overview of Arts Act funding opportunities 2026
  - Eligibility
  - Tips for application writing
  - Budgeting
  - How to apply
  - Documentation & Evaluation
  - Q&A



**Arts Act Funding 2026**

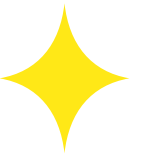
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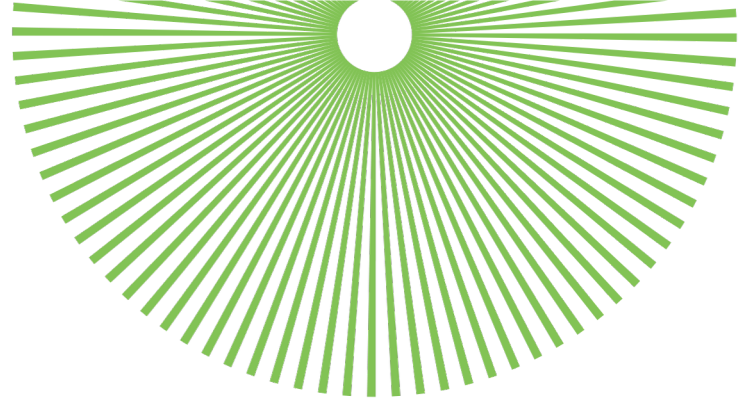
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## Arts Office funding opportunities

- Wicklow County Council Arts Office established these funding schemes in 2013, which are designed to support artists, arts participation, artform development, community groups, creative engagement and arts festivals
- These schemes form part of a wider set of actions initiated and developed by Wicklow Council Council Arts Office directed at developing quality practice and public participation in the arts throughout the county
- Applications are welcome from all artforms including film, music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature, architecture, animation, performance, circus, traditional arts and drama



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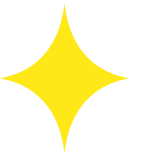
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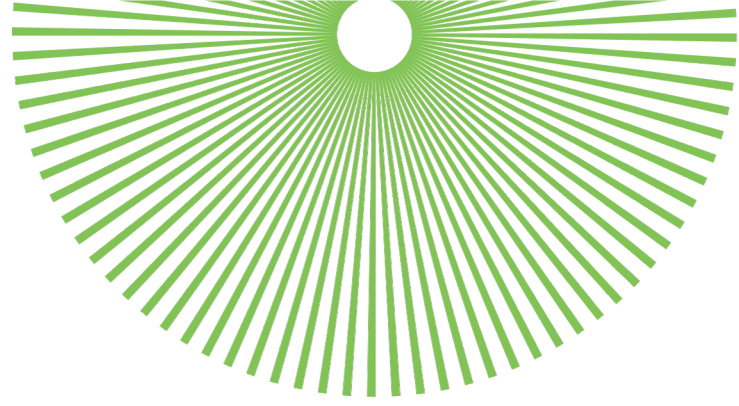
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# Overview and purpose of the schemes

- The Artist Award Scheme supports professional practising artists to develop or realise a particular body of work or to undertake professional development. Maximum funding available: €5,000, although awards are often made for lesser amounts
- The Artist & Community Collaboration Award Scheme supports artists and communities to engage in arts programmes, explore their creativity, interact and exchange ideas with others and embark on new learning journeys. Professional artists and community groups are invited to apply for this scheme. Maximum funding available: €5,000
- The Arts Festival Award Scheme seeks to assist Festival development plans and / or programmes. Maximum funding available: €15,000





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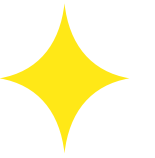
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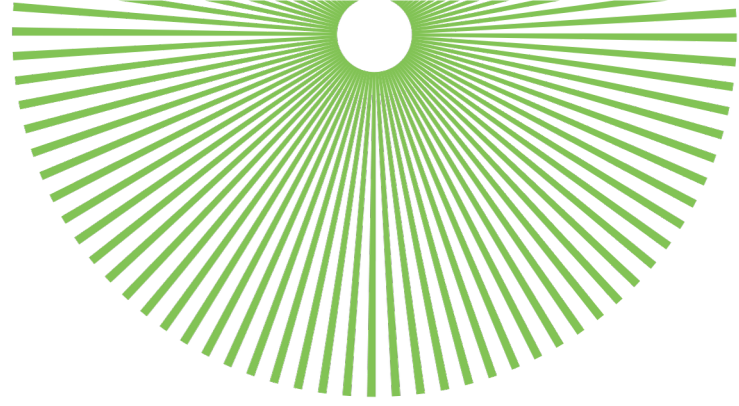
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## Eligibility

- The Artist Award Scheme is open to professional artists at all stages of their careers that are from Co. Wicklow or residing in Co. Wicklow for the past 3 consecutive years
- The Artist & Community Collaboration Scheme - the community group must be based in Co. Wicklow and the project must take place in Co. Wicklow. Written confirmation from both the artist and the community group of their commitment to the proposal **must be obtained** in advance of applying. Any licences / permissions needed for the project must be sought and approved in advance of applying
- The Arts Festival Scheme is open to established arts festivals that take place in Co. Wicklow and demonstrate a strong track record of delivery



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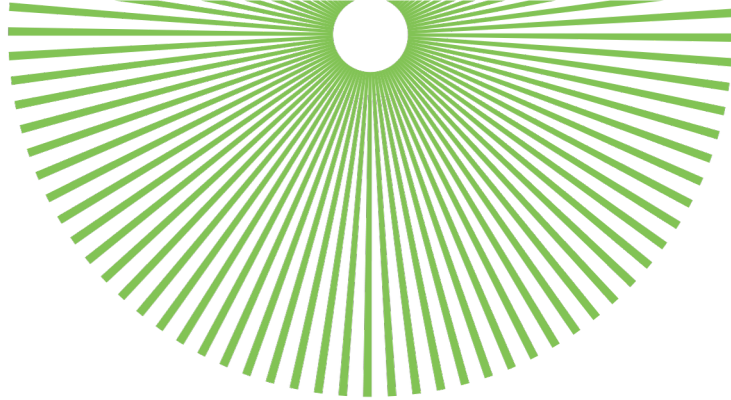
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## Tips for application writing

### Application Checklist

- ✓ Strong project idea that clearly aligns with the award guidelines and criteria
- ✓ Provide clear, concise answers to all questions
- ✓ Clear outcomes: who benefits, what changes, how impact will be measured
- ✓ Audience engagement plan: how you will reach and involve people (if applicable)
- ✓ Detailed, realistic budget listing all items, costs and services. Pay attention to ineligible expenses
- ✓ Evidence of capacity: relevant experience, partners, governance
- ✓ Clear timeline or phased delivery plan
- ✓ Evaluation plan (feedback, participant / audience numbers, case studies, WCC accreditation)
- ✓ Strong letters of support that show real commitment and relevance to the proposal
- ✓ Supporting CV and high quality examples of past work which support your specific proposal
- ✓ Proofread: all documents, word counts, and requirements are checked
- ✓ Submit applications at least 24 hours before the deadline. **Do not leave it to the last minute**




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Budgeting



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin  
Wicklow County Council



Wicklow County  
Arts Office



the arts  
council  
comhairle  
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funding  
the arts

BUDGET - REQUIRED AS PART OF Wicklow County Arts Office Online Arts Grant Application 2026

Please complete Income & Expenditure Sheet below

1. Insert figures where applicable

2. Specify if you are receiving any income from any other Wicklow County Council department

3. You must also indicate sources of funding which are unconfirmed

4. Income and expenditure amounts should match

5. Add extra lines as needed

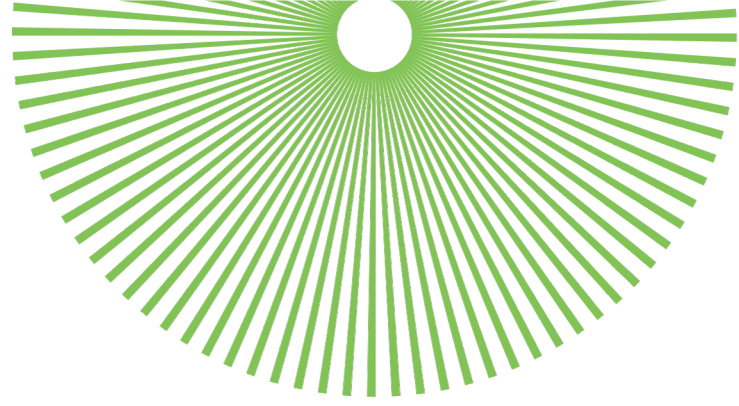
APPLICANT NAME:	John Smith	
INCOME	*2025 (Actual)	2026 (Projected)
Wicklow County Arts Office Arts Grant (amount requested in your application)	€3000	€3000
Arts Council Grant		€1000
Other Wicklow County Council Department		
Other Grant Income (such as Creative Ireland, Creative Europe, etc.)		€1000
EARNED INCOME	*2025 (Actual)	2026 (Projected)
Sponsorship/ Donations		
Box office		
Sales	€100	
Other earned Income (give details)		
TOTAL INCOME	€3,100	€5,000

EXPENDITURE	*2025 (Actual)	2026 (Projected)
Lead Artists Fees	€1500	€1500
Other Fees (such as collaborating artists, producer, creative practitioner, sound engineer, photographer, videographer, etc.)		€1000
Training	€500	
Administration Costs		
Marketing & PR	€100	€500
Materials	€600	€800
Equipment Hire	€200	€100
Rent/Venue Hire	€100	€500
Insurance		
Printing/ Postage/ Stationery		€100
Telephone		
Bank Charges		
Travel/ Accommodation	€100	€500
Other Costs (such as production related costs, accountancy or legal fees relating to your application)		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	€3,100	€5,000

\*2025 (Actual): Please include details and figures from last year which supports your proposal this year. This gives the assessment panel an understanding of your track record and experience with managing a budget and should be used as an opportunity to reinforce your application for this year.

Template budget available to download in Excel format from Wicklow Arts Office funding opportunities page. You **must** use this budget template with your application





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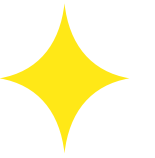
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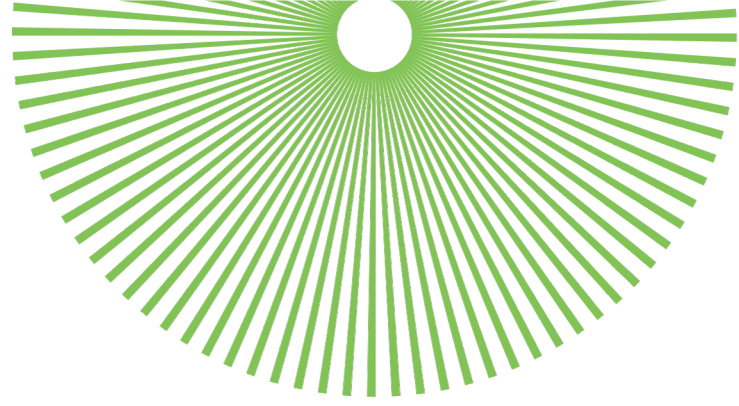


## Budgeting

### Budget tips

- ✓ Income and expenditure totals must match
- ✓ Detailed, realistic budget with all items, costs and services listed
- ✓ Clearly indicate all artist fees, including the number of days or hours associated with the fee and the daily / hourly rate. Wicklow County Council is committed to the fair and equitable payment of artists. Applications that do not align with this commitment will be deemed ineligible
- ✓ If you expect to receive in-kind support, you must assign it a financial value so that the contribution it makes to the real value of your proposal is clear. In-kind support refers to non-monetary contributions towards the realisation of your project i.e. free / reduced cost venue hire, marketing support, equipment hire, etc





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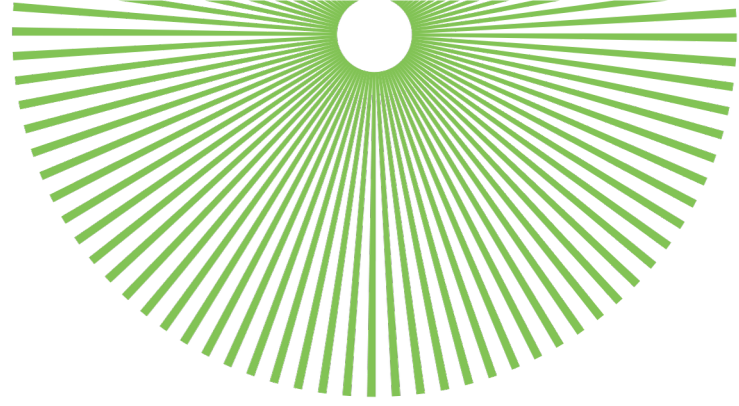
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## How to apply

- Read all documentation carefully
- Applications can only be submitted online via the **Submittable platform**
- Enter all relevant details on the online application form
- Upload the completed budget template available on the Wicklow Arts Office website
- Upload supporting documentation (CV, up to 5 examples of past work, supporting letters, etc.)



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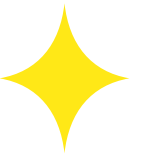
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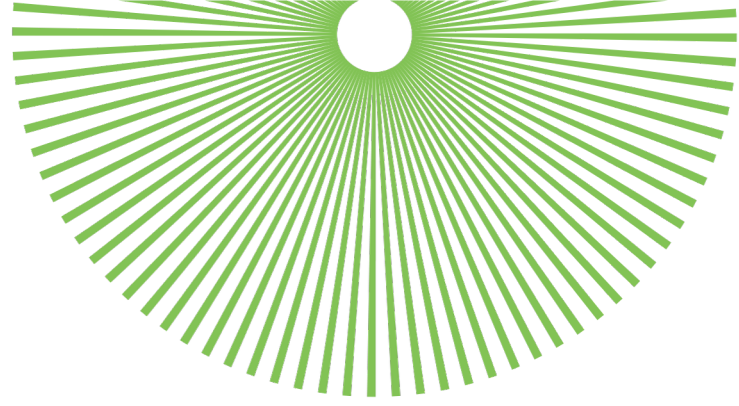
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## Documentation & Evaluation

- Successful projects must be documented throughout the duration of the project
- The final report submitted to Wicklow Arts Office upon completion of the project **must** include:
  - Evaluation report including a reflection of the overall experience
  - A short report detailing how the award was spent (i.e. project details, cost, timeframe, etc.)
  - An expenditure report detailing a breakdown of costs along with proof of expenditure i.e. paid invoices / detailed supplier receipts to the value of the award: receipts / paid invoices must be dated from the time of award acceptance
  - A visual record (images / video) of the main stages of the project (Wicklow County Council may use this content for publicity relating to the funding schemes). Signed image consent forms are required for all individuals captured in images / video
  - Evidence of your recognition / accreditation of Wicklow County Council's financial contribution to the project



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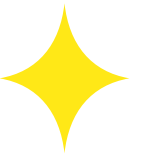
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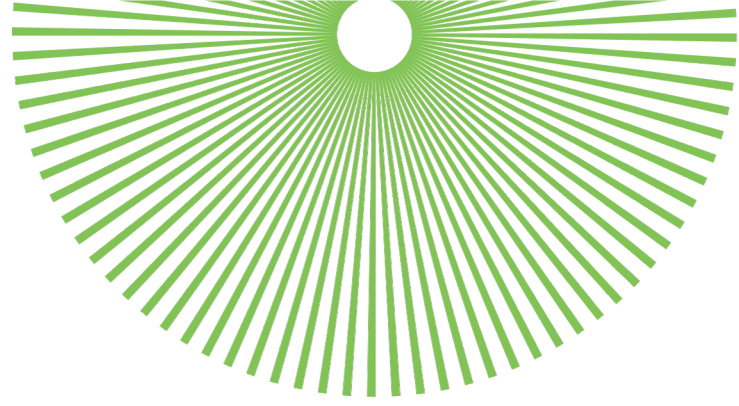
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## Documentation & Evaluation

- Think about what your project aims to achieve:
  - Develop your artistic practice
  - Work with specific communities
  - Increase audience reach
  - Other objectives
- How will you evaluate the project?
- How will you determine the success of your project?
  - Data capture
  - Participant / audience feedback
  - Social media / press feedback
  - Anecdotal evidence
- Why have you selected that method and why is it important?
- Encouraging you to think critically, strategically, and with an eye to the future





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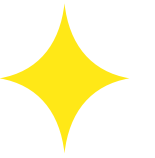
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# Thank you!

- A list of FAQs based on the questions asked during the live clinic and presentation will be made available on the [Wicklow Arts Office funding opportunities page](#)
- For any questions or requests for application support, contact [wao@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wao@wicklowcoco.ie)
- Reminder of application deadline: **Thursday 5th February 2026 at 4pm**
- Sign up to the Wicklow Arts Office newsletter [here](#)