



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council



Wicklow Arts Plan 2026-2030





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Previous Plan – 4 Core Goals to 2025

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, which shut down all venues, and arts activities, we achieved growth across our goals, specifically:

Goal 1: Increased Investment in artists and engagement.

Goal 1: Increased spatial balance across locations for investment.

Goal 2: Increased Partnership.

Goal 2: Enhanced Infrastructure.



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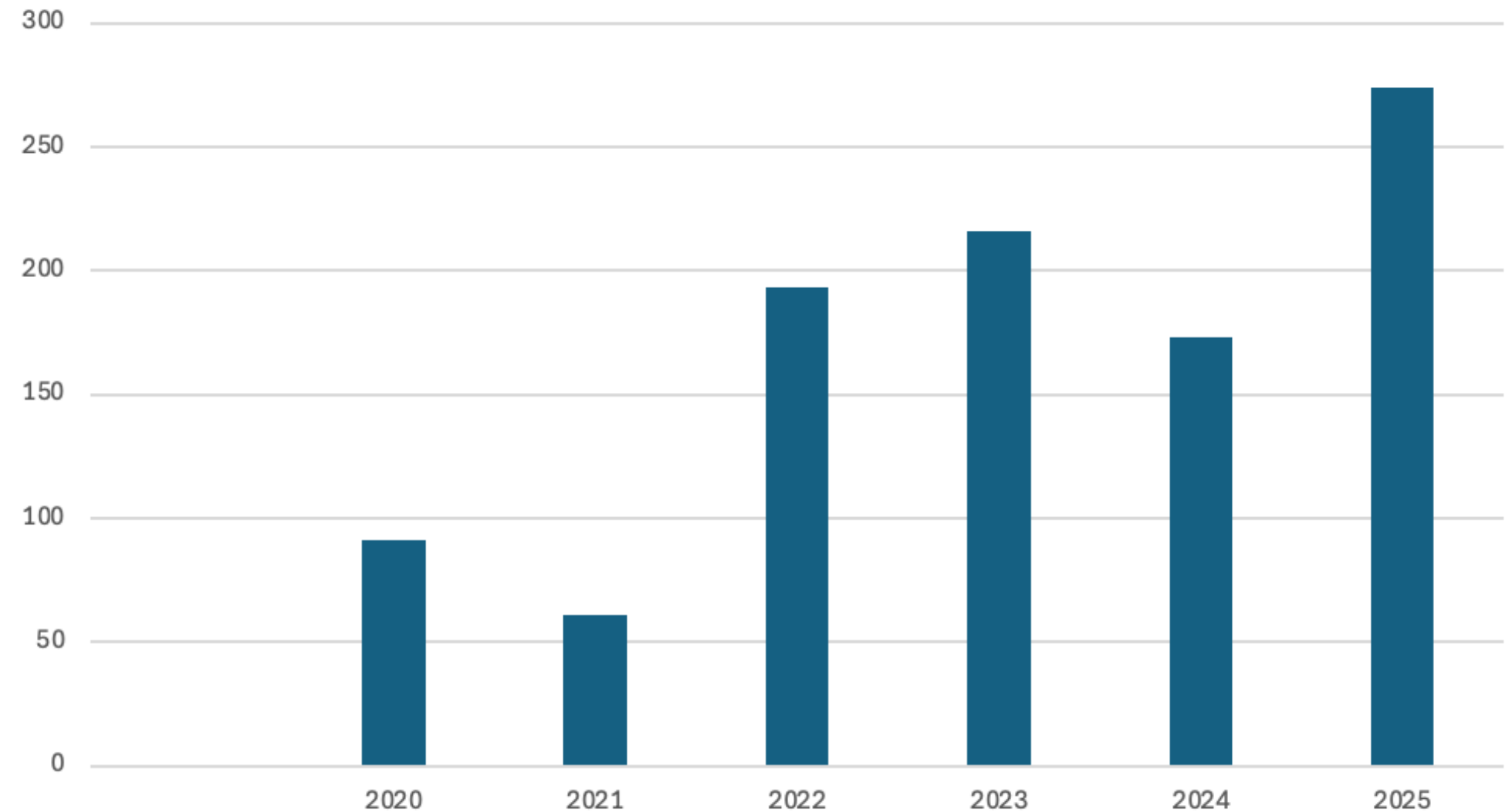
2020-2025

Goal 1: Increased Investment.

More Artists, Higher Support.

This to continue in the Arts
Plan 2026-2030.

Creative Ireland - Artists Grant Supports 2020-2025





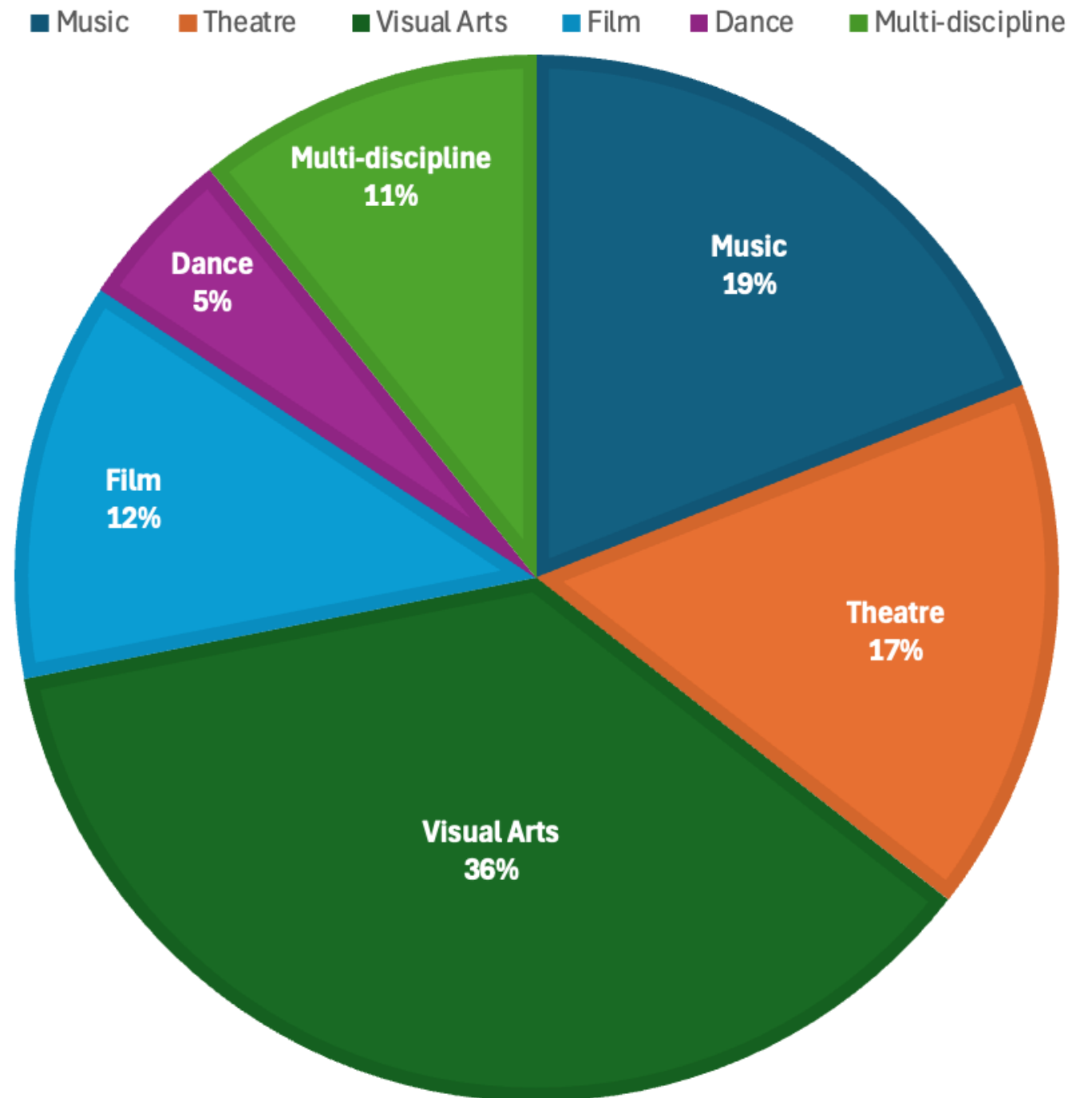
2020-2025

Goal 1: Increased Investment.

More Artists, Higher Support.

Focus on empowerment to expand and develop the artform strengths in Wicklow over the next Arts Plan.

ARTS ACT INDIVIDUAL GRANTS 2020-2025

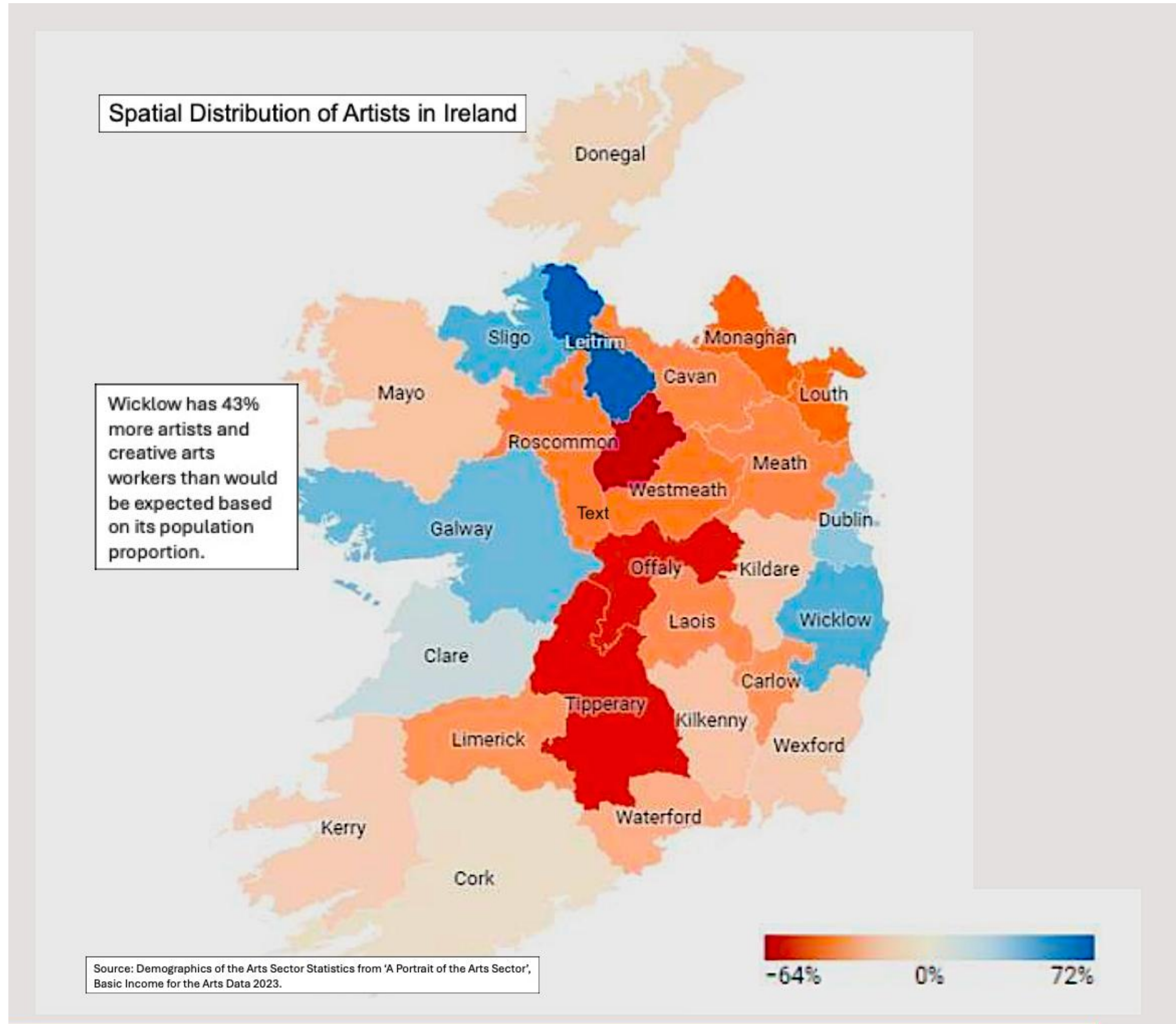




2020-2025

Basic Income for the Arts,
Dept of Arts Data, 2023

Wicklow has 43% more artists than would be expected based on population.





2020-2025

Arts Council Data

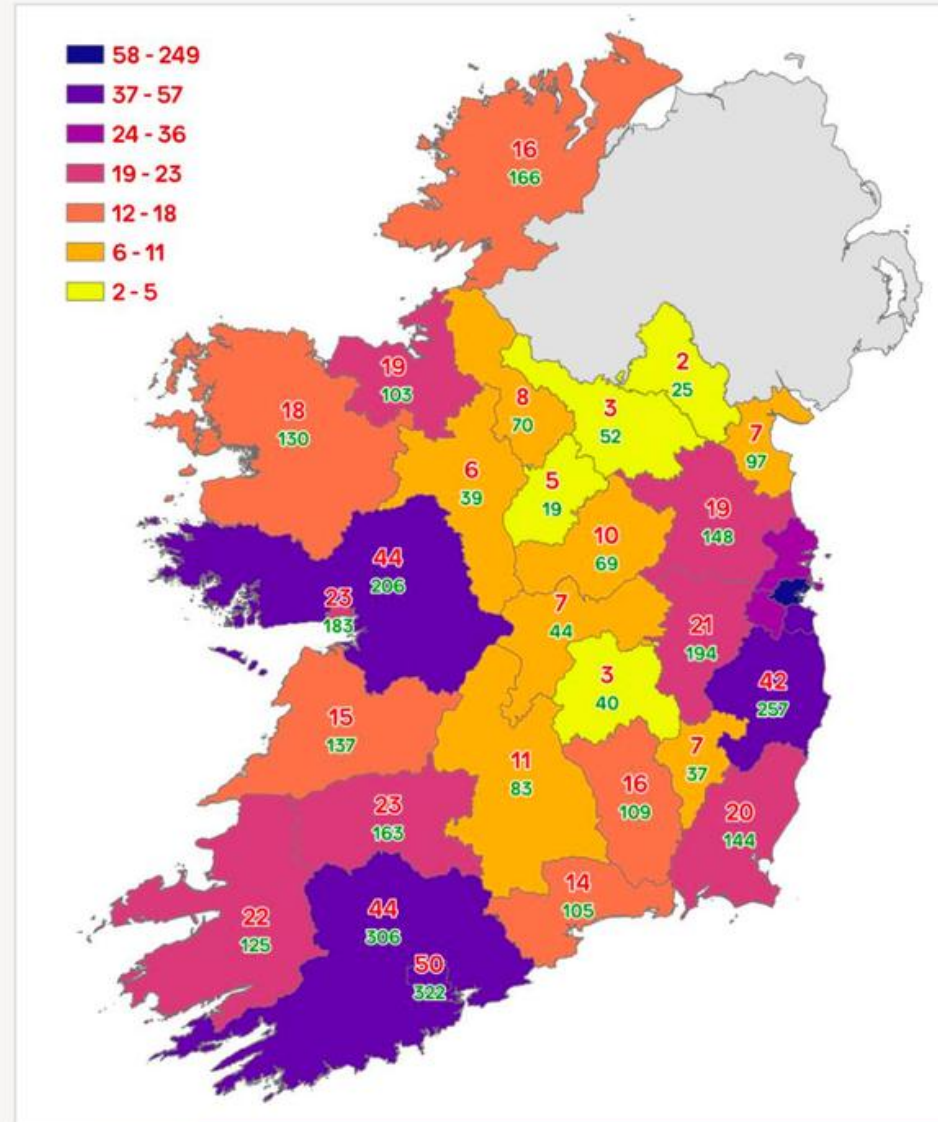
Wicklow Artists:

Quality and Capacity

Artists Capacity

Key Goal for the next Arts Plan.

Spatial Distribution: Number of applications to the arts council



2025 ARTIST Applications

Red figures indicate Successful Applications

Green figures indicate Total Applications

Wicklow artists (individual, with organisations removed) had the highest success rate in Arts Council applications (after Dublin, Cork and Galway).

The data illustrates both the quality of Wicklow artists, and their acumen at communicating their art process.

5,874 applications*

892 successful applications*

(*Includes 191 N.I. and International applications of which 44 were successful)

€97,389,276 was requested*

€18,159,055 was awarded*

(*Includes €3,929,762 N.I. and International requested of which €858,141 was awarded)



Source: Arts Council Application data.



2020-2025

Wicklow Festivals have doubled since 2020.

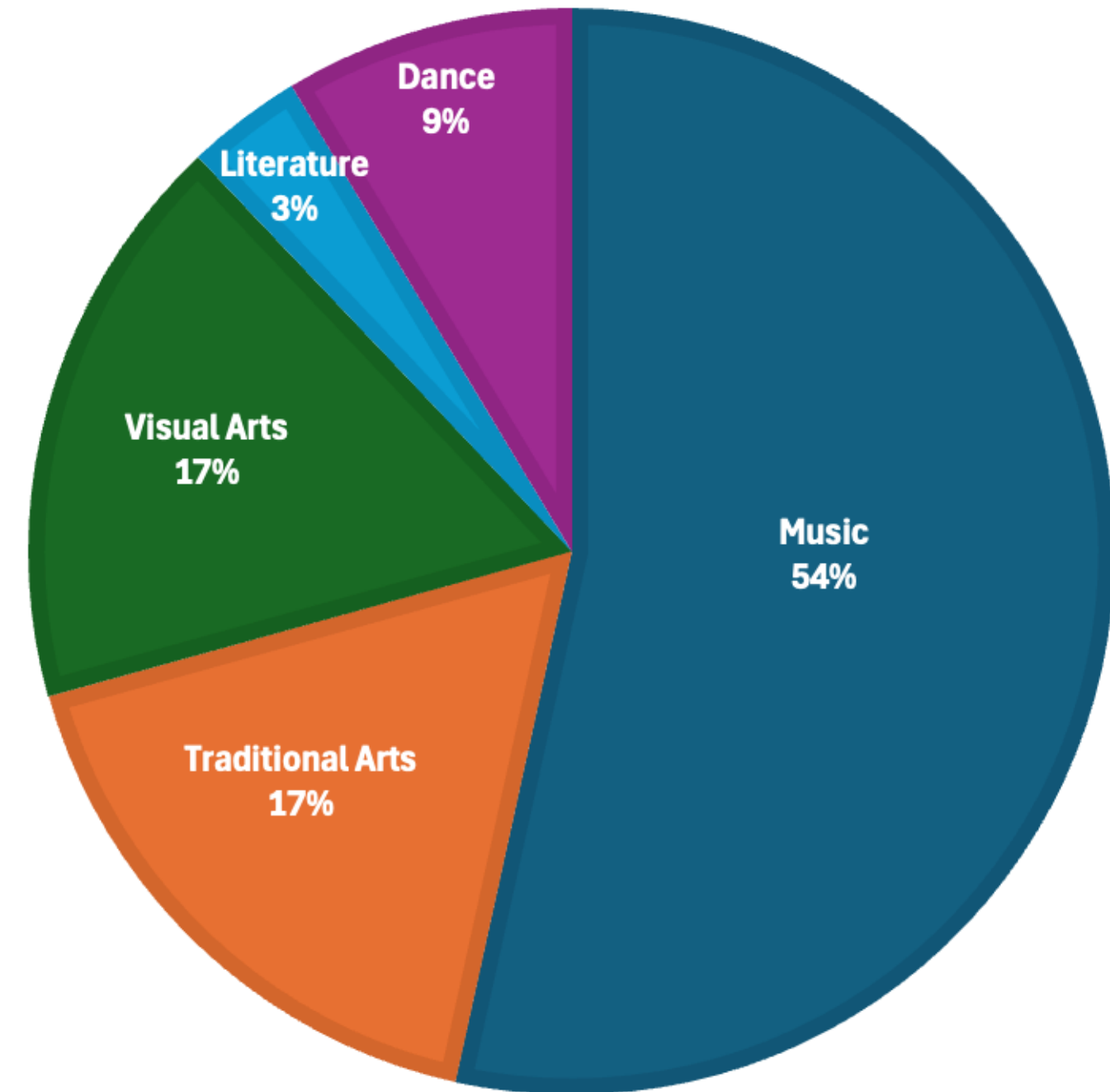
Wicklow LOVES Music and Traditional Arts in Festivals.

Wicklow is also an exemplar for visual arts.

Key Goal to empower more Festivals.

ARTS ACT FESTIVALS 2020-2025

■ Music ■ Traditional Arts ■ Visual Arts ■ Literature ■ Dance





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Platform 31
Led by Wicklow Arts Office
31 Local Authorities 2021
31 Local Authorities 2022
31 Artists: €8,000 each
31 Artists: Mentorship

Platform 31: Wicklow Arts Office Led - Curated Programme 2021 and 2022:

What the Arts Council said about the project:

Platform 31 is overseen by a **Steering Group** composed of seven Local Authority Arts Officers and the Arts Council’s Head of Local Arts. The Steering Group’s primary purpose is to guide, inform and advocate about the Platform 31 scheme, and they meet regularly with the **Project Team** in this regard.

National Objective:

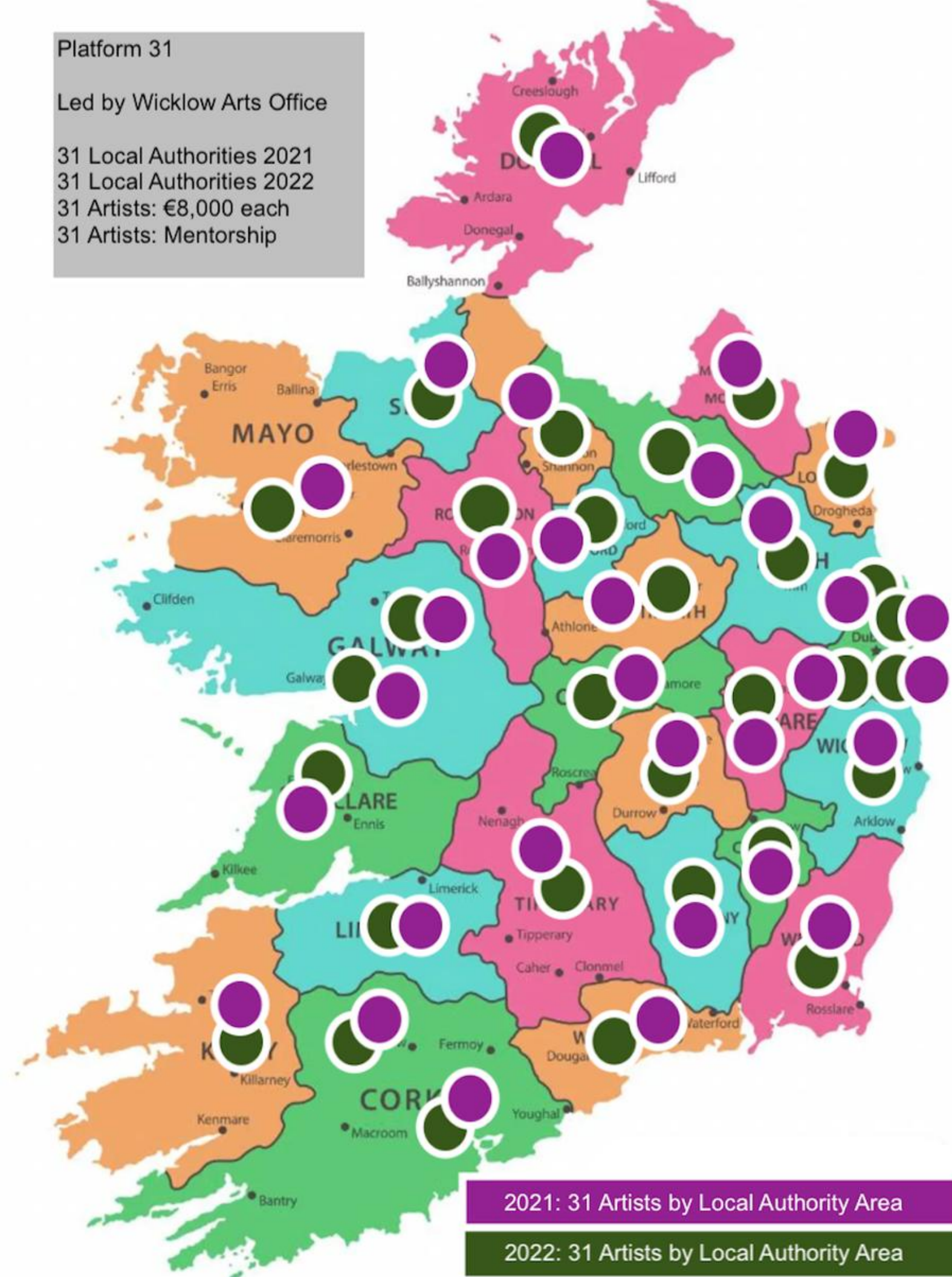
Support 31 artists with bursaries worth €8,000 (one in each county/city) to test new ways of working and collaborating to adapt their work in a post Covid-19 pandemic context.

Outcome:

75% of artists felt the programme was very beneficial to their practice. A further 33% found it was beneficial. No artists scored the programme, as lacking benefit.

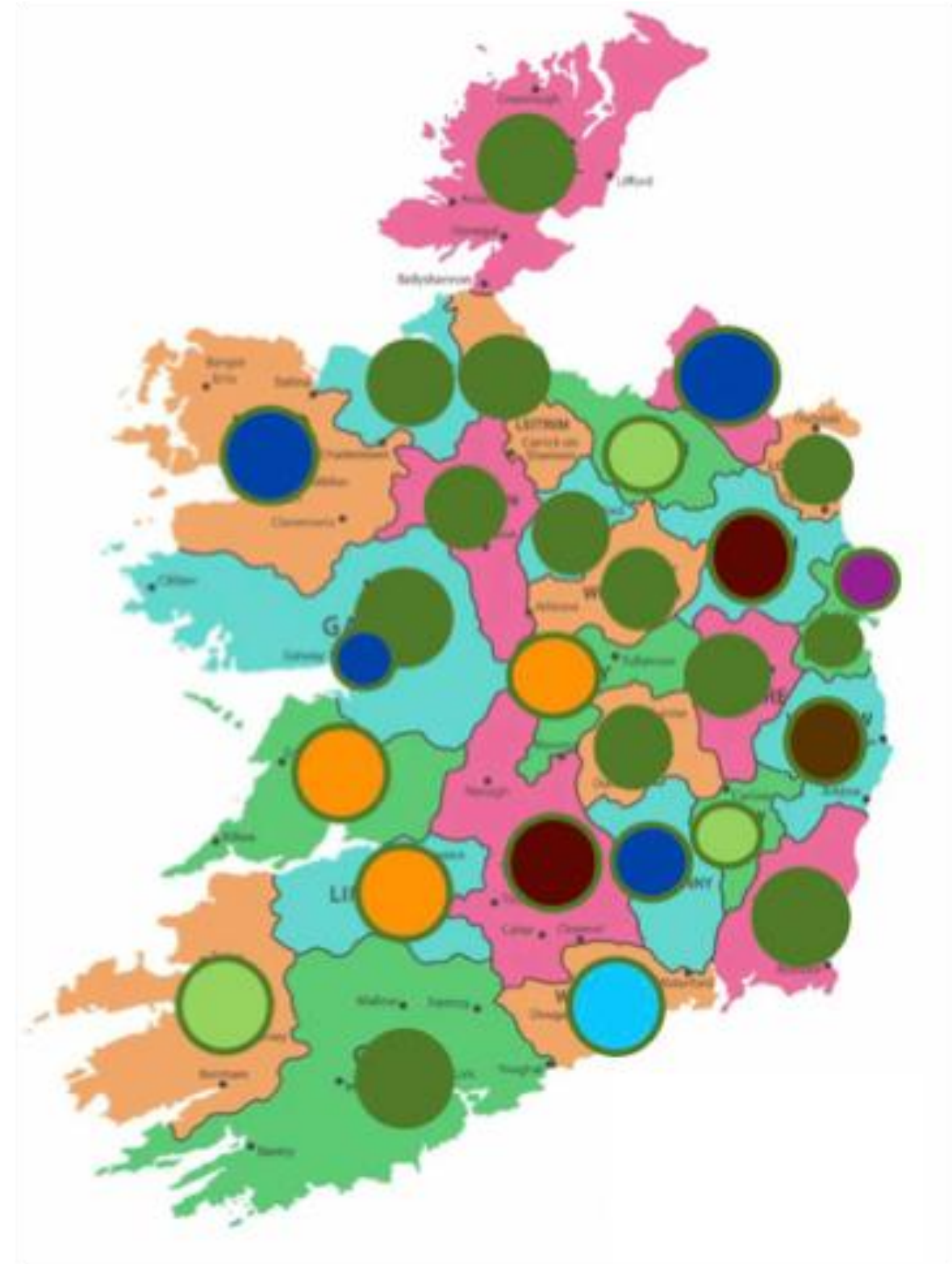
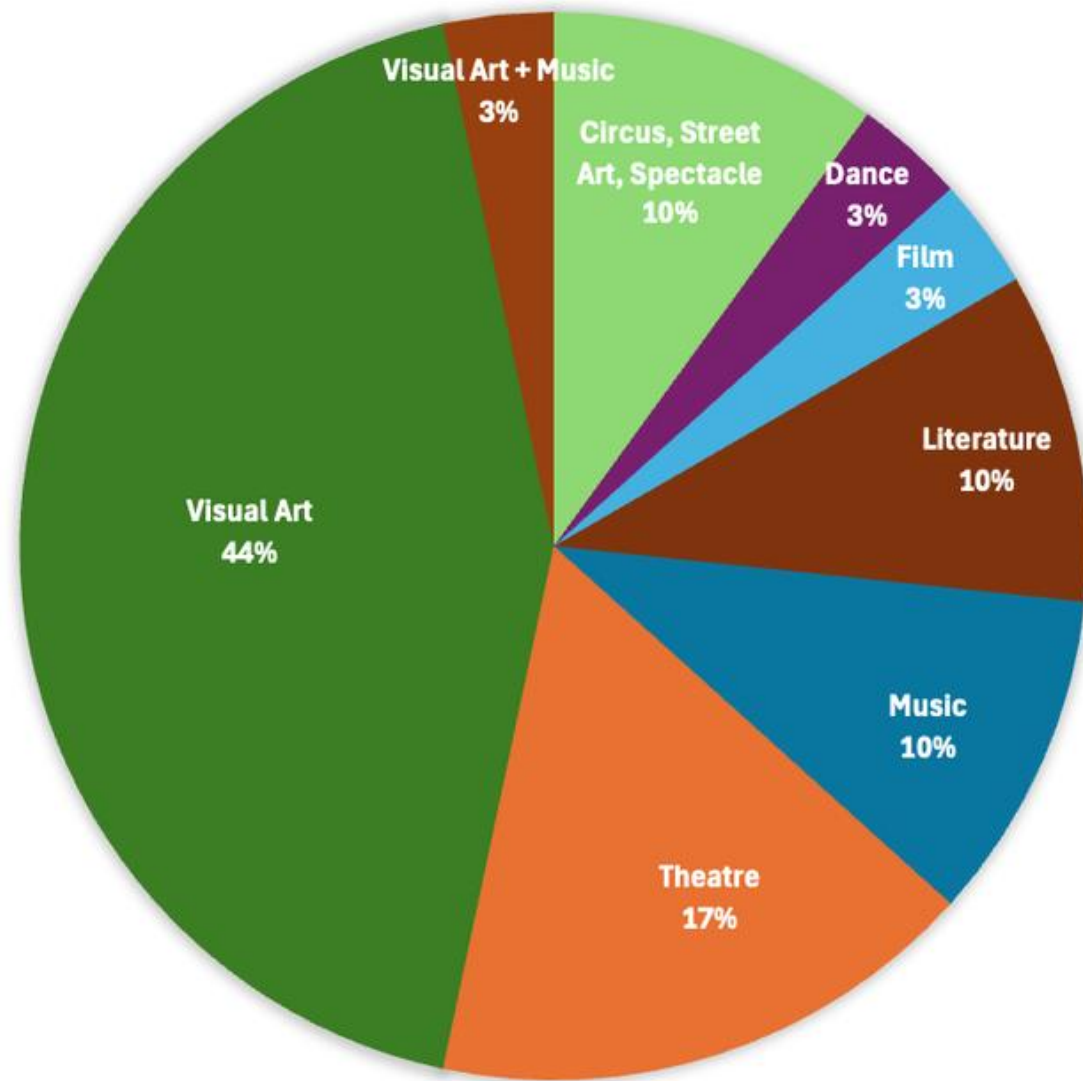
Overall Cost:

2021: €316,536 (€248,000 artist bursaries, and €68,536 mentorship supports)
2022: €324,273 (€248,000 artist bursaries, and €76,536 mentorship supports)



Wicklow Arts Office Curated National Local Live Performance Programming Scheme 2021

COVID 19 WCC CURATED NATIONAL LOCAL LIVE PERFORMANCE SCHEME





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This study identifies cultural infrastructure as:
“the buildings, structures and places/spaces where culture is either consumer or produced”

HARD INFRASTRUCTURE:

buildings, structures, places and spaces.

SOFT INFRASTRUCTURE:

supports for those buildings, structures, places and spaces, such as funding mechanisms, specialist staff, fluid users of spaces such as festivals.



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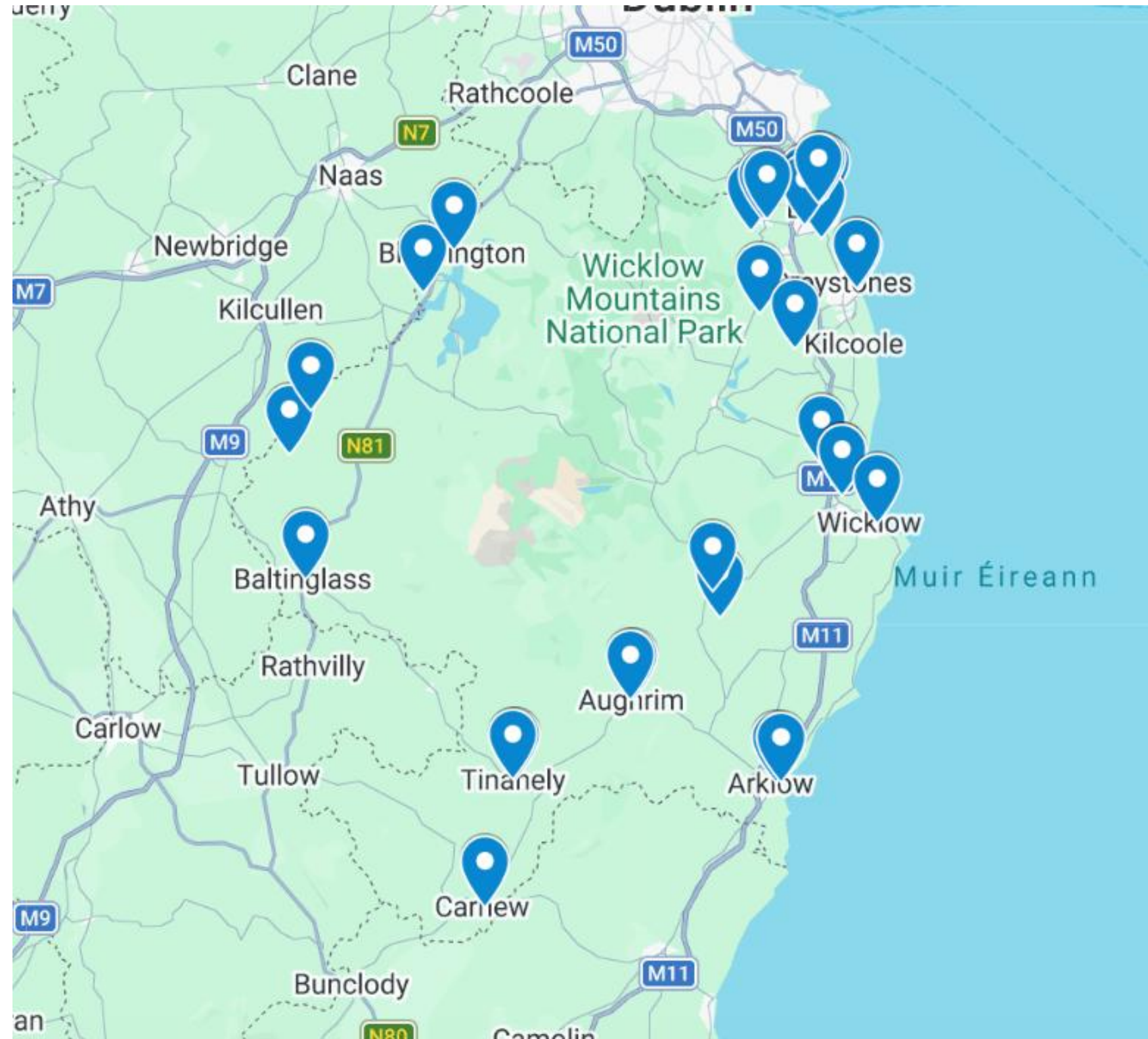
2020-2025

Goal 1:

Spatial Balance Across
Locations in County.

Wicklow Hard Infrastructure

Key Goal for the next Arts Plan:
Developing Spaces for the Arts,
Strategically.





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Wicklow County
Arts Office

2020-2025

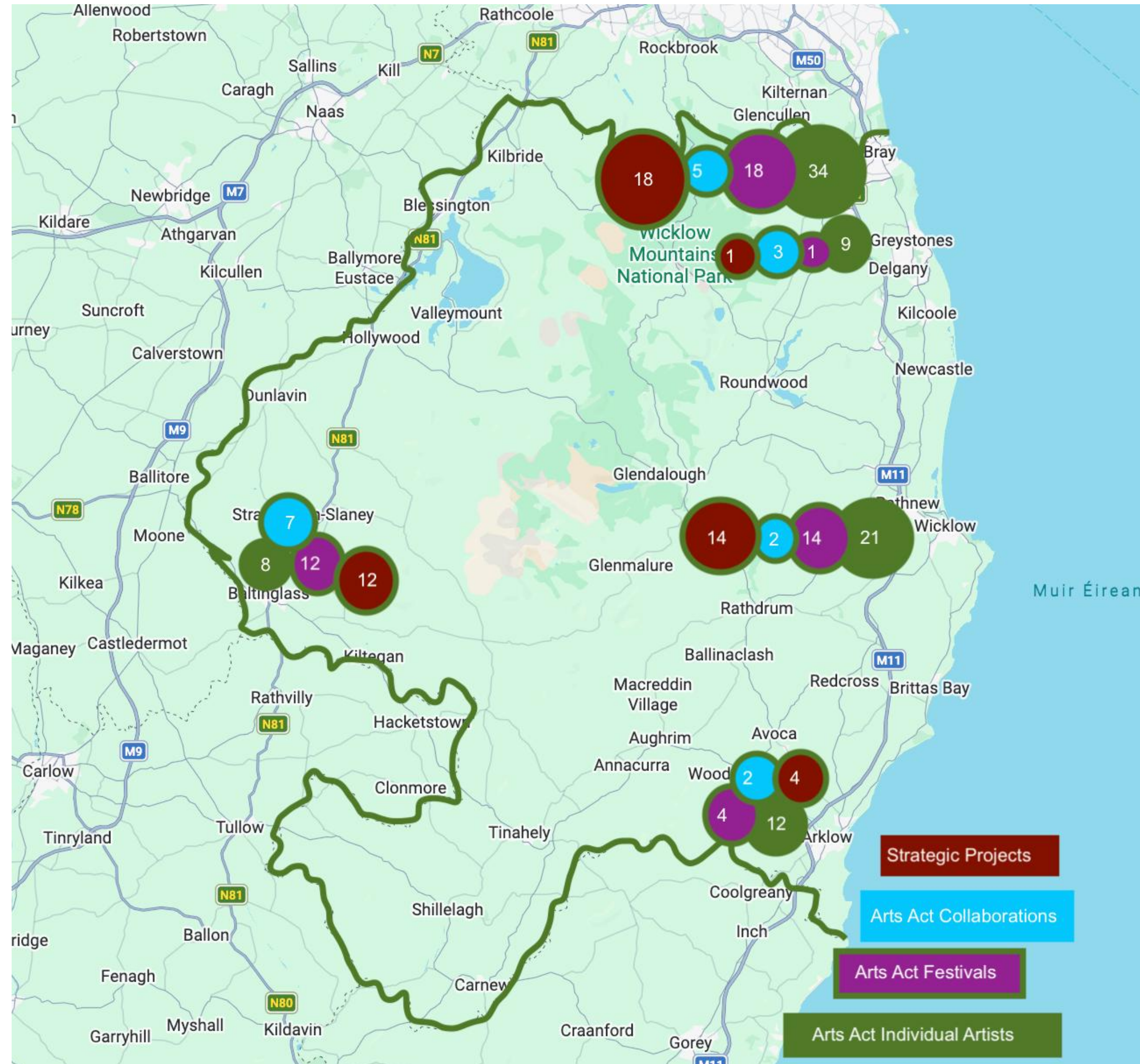
Goal 1:

Spatial Balance Across the County.

Wicklow Soft Infrastructure

The data shows the success of targeted investment.

The next plan will have continued geographic targeted goals.





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Wicklow County
Arts Office



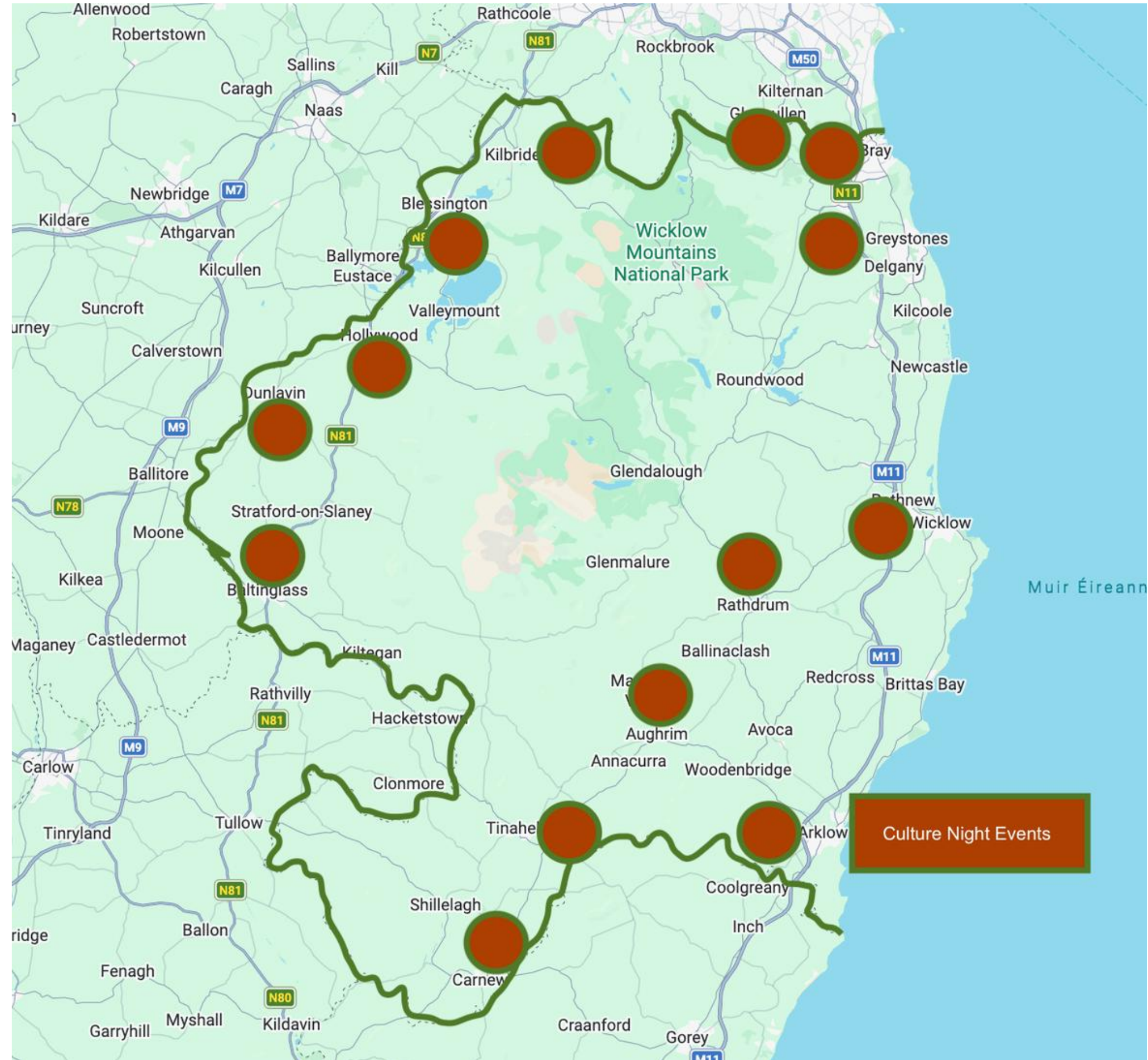
2020-2025

Spatial Balance Across the
County.

Culture Night September Annually

Events and Locations Growing.

The next Arts Plan will identify further
geographic targeted goals.





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Excerpt Previous Data
Analysis

(Report for The Arts Council
of Ireland 2023)

The **most secure** arts
infrastructure in Ireland
is where the **land is state
owned**, in a **building which
is state owned** and licenced
to **experienced cultural
operators**

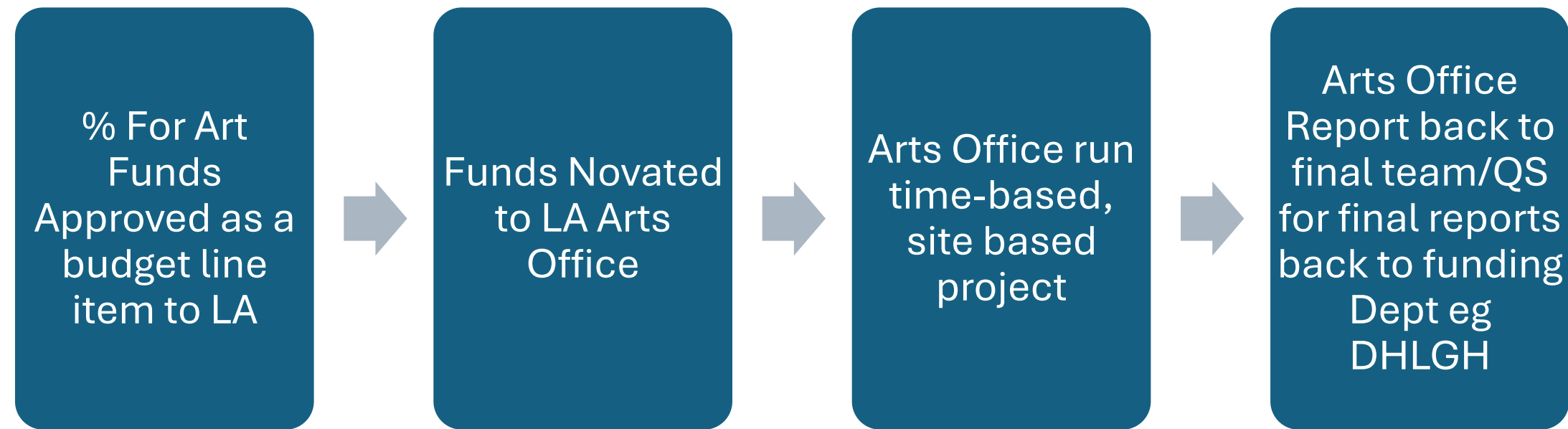


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Percent for Art Funding

The Arts Council have just appointed a Public Art Advisor to assist Local Government





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The Creative Places Network is part of the national Creative Places programme developed and funded by the Arts Council.



CULTURE NIGHT

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Partnership:



**Music Generation
Wicklow**
Chill Mhantáin



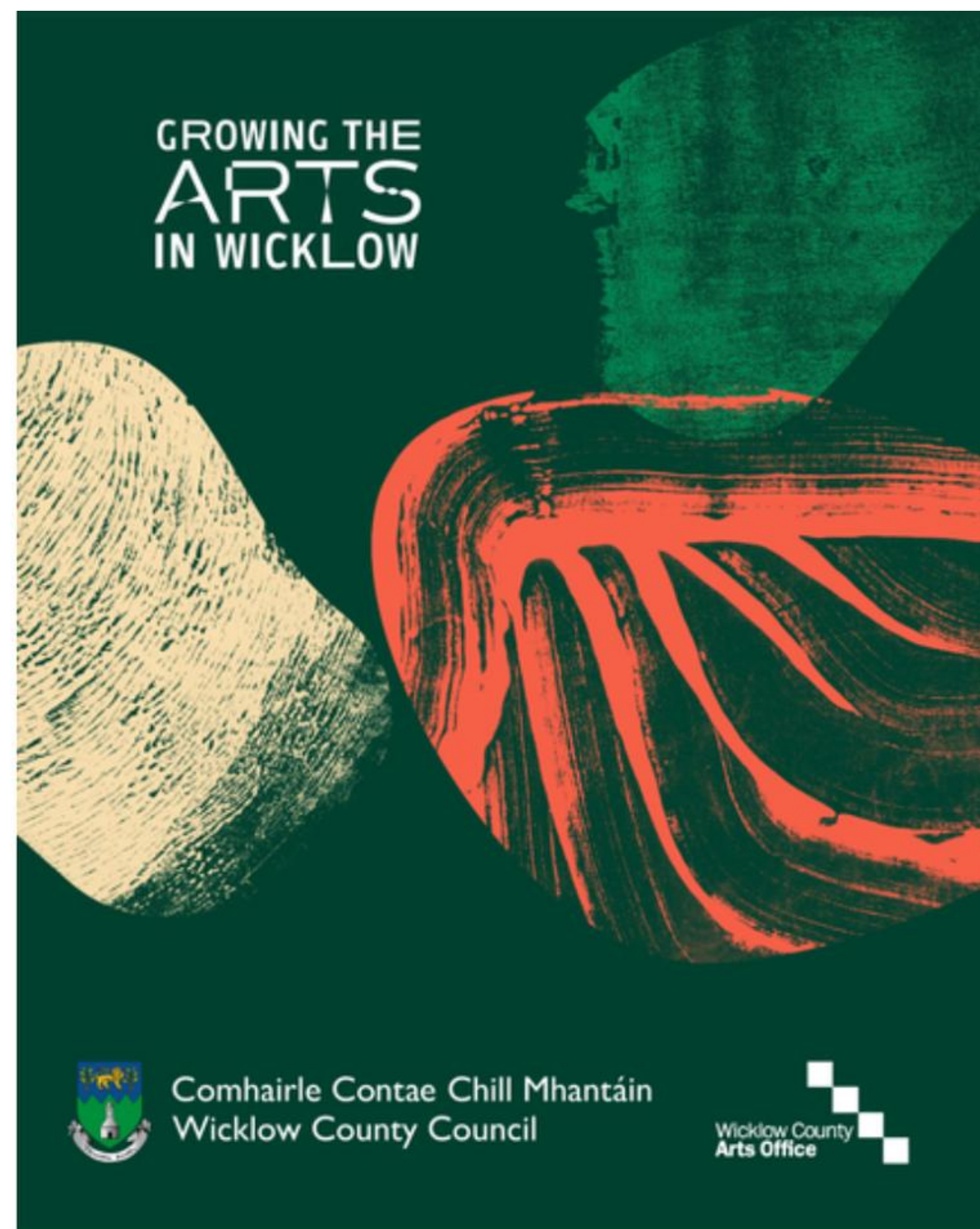


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PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS





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PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Wicklow County Council Arts Office invites artists, arts stakeholders, arts groups, arts festivals and those interested in participating in the arts in County Wicklow to engage in public consultation in relation to the development of the new Arts Plan for the county from 2026 – 2030.

Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs
Thursday 4th June 2026, 2 – 4pm
(focus on Arts Capital and Infrastructure)

Arklow Library
Thursday 18th June 2026, 11am – 12.30pm
(general consultation meeting)

Blessington Library
Thursday 18th June 2026, 7 – 8.30pm
(general consultation meeting)

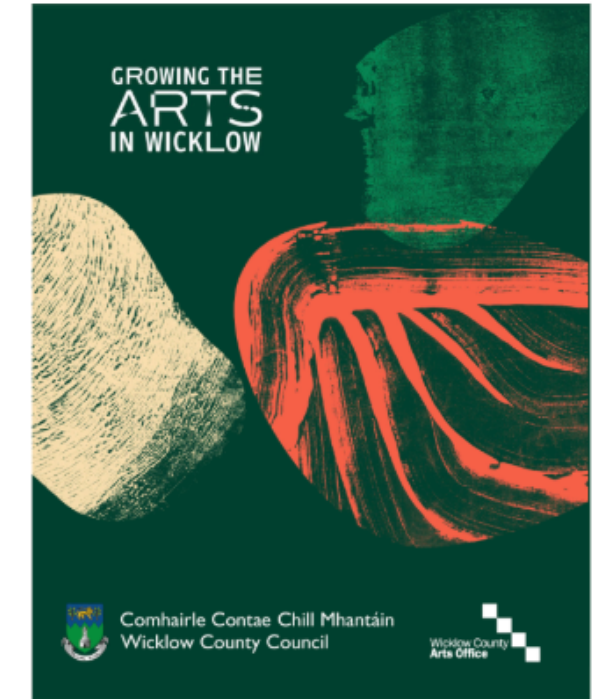
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Please note if you cannot attend, a Survey will be launched mid-June for six weeks, and will be available to access through the same registration link above.



Wicklow Arts Office
Department of Climate, Environment, Recreation & Amenity

wao@wicklowcoco.ie
www.wicklow.ie



Strategic Priorities 2026 – 2030

Key Developmental Areas

Artists
Infrastructure
Public Art
Engagement

Funding Context – Clients

Festivals
Arts Organisations
Revenue Funded Clients

Corporate

Arts Office Branding
Arts Office Staffing
Corporate Policy
County Development Plan
Work Areas Policy

Meetings, Workshops & Survey



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Please share the link to the Public Meetings.

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Arts/Arts-Plan-2026-2030>

Mid-June to end July, a survey will be added within the same link, for further feedback and for people who cannot attend the meetings.



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How can you help?

Share the news and link about the Public Meetings
Encourage completion of the survey mid- June to end July
Keep the conversation going with the Arts Office
wao@wicklowcoco.ie

Thank You!

