Artist Award Scheme 2027

Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County Arts Office

the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon funding the arts

1 BACKGROUND

Wicklow County Arts Office established the Artist Award Scheme as one of several funding streams designed to support artists, arts participation and art form development. These initiatives are integral to Wicklow County Council's broader efforts to encourage excellence in the arts and enhance community involvement in artistic endeavours across the county.

2 SCHEME PURPOSE

The Artist Award Scheme assists professional artists in the development of artistic practice by enabling them to explore meaningful ways to create work, test out innovative thinking and grow new ideas. The award supports professional practising artists to develop or realise a particular body of work or to undertake professional development.

The Artist Award Scheme is open to artists at all stages of their careers that reside in or are native to County Wicklow. Professional artists working in any art form, discipline or genre including; music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature, architecture, animation, performance, circus, traditional arts, film and drama, are eligible to apply to this scheme.

This scheme aims to enable artists to:
↳ Develop and / or present new work

↳ Consider new approaches to their work in the digital and virtual space as a valid and essential arena for artistic endeavour

↳ Reach out to and connect with vital collaborators, networks, peers and other socially engaged artists, academics, community leaders, etc. to develop a discourse on their practice

↳ Connect with international networks, organisations and practitioners, to develop future collaborations and opportunities on an international scale

While the maximum award available is €5,000, awards are often made for lesser amounts.

The deadline for proposals to be completed and report documentation submitted to Wicklow County Arts Office is **31st October 2027.**

The purpose of the Artist Award Scheme is to support and nurture professional artistic practice in County Wicklow. In recognition of the limitations and the challenges posed to artists and their practice, we aim to:

i. Support the development and creation of virtual, digital and physical practice and methodologies

ii. Support reflective ways of thinking and developing work which includes the creation of new local, national and / or international collaboration, reaching across borders tangible and imaginary

Note: In practical terms, this may include short-term mentorships, training or development support at the postgraduate level. It may also include the presentation of new work outside the county and / or country by an artist resident in County Wicklow (where there is demonstrable benefit to the artist's practice)

iii. Support the creation of new works in all art forms that respond to times of social change, research new ideas, question themes or insights and look to the future

Note: The proposed project must generate a dialogue through contemporary arts and have a significant impact on the artist's career development

Past applicants to the Artist Award Scheme have requested funding to:

↳ Participate in short-term courses or specialist workshops

↳ Subsidize the costs of participation in a residency

↳ Take part in professional mentoring programmes or development opportunities

↳ 'Buy time' to develop or research a new body of work

3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

To be considered for the Artist Award Scheme, applications should exhibit the following:

Excellence (latent or achieved) of artistic practice:
↳ Provide evidence of a robust and proven professional arts background (through the applicant's CV and accompanying documentation)

Quality and innovation of approach:
↳ Demonstrate inventive, ambitious, high-quality and innovative approaches in proposals (including embracing digital or virtual practices)

Distinctive benefit to your professional artistic practice:
↳ An outline of how the proposal distinctly benefits your professional growth as an artist and / or professional practice outputs

Feasibility and viability of proposal (including evidence of advanced planning):
↳ Provide a well-defined project timeline (for project completion within the timeframe of the Award)

Financial Feasibility:
↳ Provide a breakdown of project expenses in your budget including a breakdown of any additional sources of funding or income related to the project (including evidence of finances received, permissions and / or licenses already in place)

3.1 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

This award is open to all professional practising artists across all art forms and genres. Applicants must be from County Wicklow or residing in County Wicklow for the past three consecutive years.

3.2 WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE

↳ Undergraduates

↳ Persons currently in full-time education

↳ Persons not from or not residing in County Wicklow for the past three consecutive years

3.3 CATEGORIES NOT ELIGIBLE

↳ Full-time undergraduate education

↳ Any project which has already commenced or is underway (unless the proposal represents a distinct new phase or subsequent development)

↳ Projects that incorporate charitable, competitive, or fundraising elements

↳ Insurance costs that exceed 10% of the awarded amount

↳ Purchase of fixed / capital assets such as reusable equipment after the project is complete (e.g. instruments, cameras, computers, etc.)

↳ Alcohol / Entertainment / Hospitality / Food & Drink expenditure

↳ Production or presentation costs for finished work exceeding 10% of the project budget

↳ Incomplete applications or applications without relevant supporting documentation

Note: Applications that are ruled ineligible will not be assessed

4 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

To ensure a comprehensive evaluation process, applications will be reviewed by a diverse panel, bringing together arts managers, practitioners, curators, and producers to provide both technical artistic expertise and regional context.

The assessment panel will be given access to submitted applications for the purposes of evaluation, shortlisting, and recommending award recipients.

Applications are competitively evaluated based on the application details and supporting documentation provided.

5 CONDITIONS

All awards are subject to the availability of funds. Awards may be withheld or divided at the discretion of Wicklow County Council

All projects must take place in County Wicklow or be of benefit to residents of the county except projects which involve international collaborators. Applicants must indicate their relationship with the county as outlined in the application form

Applicants must provide evidence that any organisational commitment referenced by the artist in support of their application has been confirmed e.g. letters of support to show that a particular mentor is available, a place on a course is secured, or an exhibition opportunity confirmed

Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted online via the platform **Submittable**. No emailed or posted applications will be accepted

Applications must be complete and have all relevant supporting documentation. Incomplete and / or late applications will not be accepted

All applications must adhere to the guidelines set out in this document

Applicants **must** have obtained any permissions / licences needed to carry out a project in advance of submitting an application

Applications will be assessed by a panel of professional arts practitioners and will include representation from Wicklow County Council

The assessment process takes approx. 6 - 8 weeks from the scheme deadline. Applicants will be notified about the outcome as soon as is practicable

On completion of a project, successful applicants must submit a brief evaluation report, an expenditure report, and high-quality visuals by the specified deadline before the final funding instalment will be released

Successful applicants must maintain Public Liability, Employers Liability and / or Professional Indemnity insurance as appropriate and must provide evidence of insurance coverage if / when requested

Wicklow County Council and the Arts Council must be credited in any publicity relating to the work supported under this scheme. Successful applicants will receive a letter of offer detailing specific branding and crediting requirements

Where relevant, compliance with best practices and legislation in Child Protection as outlined by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality must be adhered to, in addition to Wicklow County Council's procedures regarding Garda vetting

Proposals should be realised in full within the timeframe specified in the application. Any alterations to the project timeframe must be submitted to the Arts Officer in advance. The Arts Officers' decision on the matter is final. Failure to complete a project or deliver a project on schedule may result in the forfeiture of your final instalment payment & a requirement to repay the first instalment to Wicklow County Arts Office

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to review the Award Scheme at any time and as a result, may make any changes necessary without any prior notice to applicants

Please note: due to the high volume of applications, it may not be possible to provide detailed feedback

6 DOCUMENTATION & EVALUATION

Projects supported under the Artist Award Scheme must be documented throughout the lifetime of the project. The final report submitted must include the following:

↳ An evaluation report to include a project summary, results, key insights, challenges, timelines, impact of the award, reflection of the overall experience(s) throughout the project from the perspective of the artist(s) and, where relevant, other project participants

↳ A detailed expenditure report showing an itemised breakdown of all costs incurred, along with proof of payment i.e. receipts or paid invoices equal to the value of the grant amount awarded

↳ A visual record (images / video) of the main stages of the project, showing the project in action or the project outcomes. A minimum of 3 high-quality digital images are required. Wicklow County Council reserves the right to use these images for publicity relating to this scheme

↳ Evidence of your recognition / accreditation of Wicklow County Council's financial contribution to the project e.g. newspaper articles, advertisements, reports, promotional material, etc. If a permanent artwork is created, Wicklow County Arts Office must be credited alongside the permanent work

7 HOW TO APPLY

Read all documentation carefully.

Under the 'Apply Online' section on our website, click on the 'Apply Here' link, select the 'Submit' button (located next to 'Artist Award Scheme 2027') and complete the following:

↳ Enter all relevant details on the online application form (emailed / posted applications will not be accepted)

↳ Upload your 2027 project budget. **You must use the budget template provided on our website.** Ensure the amount of grant funding you are seeking is included on the budget document. Evidence of funding support from other sources will reflect positively in the assessment of proposals.

↳ Upload supporting documentation which must include:

» Up-to-date Artist CV (max 2 pages)

» Up-to-date collaborator(s) CV(s) if applicable

» Up to 5 examples of your work or items that demonstrate your track record. This can include images, reviews, letters of support, and audio or video recordings (links to YouTube, Vimeo, MP4, etc.)

» Upload any project-related permits or licences secured (if relevant)

7.1 SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

↳ Tax Clearance Confirmation

↳ Evidence of being from or having resided in County Wicklow for the past three consecutive years

↳ Evidence of Public Liability, Employers Liability and / or Professional Indemnity insurance as appropriate

↳ Garda Vetting documentation, if applicable. Documents requested must be presented in person to Wicklow County Arts Office

For questions or application support, please contact **wao@wicklowcoco.ie**
This service is available until 4pm on Friday, 4th December 2026

Please make your subject line 'Artist Award Scheme 2027'

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday 11th December 2026 at 4pm

Applications must be submitted via the online platform **Submittable**

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