# Wicklow County Arts Office

## Arts Act Funding 2027

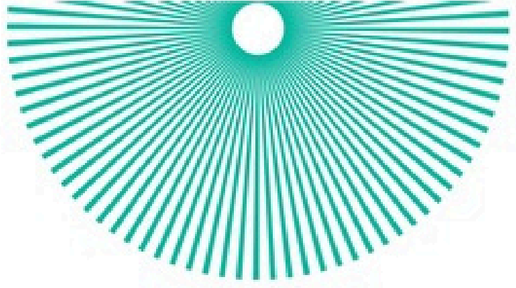
**Artist Award Scheme**
**Artist & Community Collaboration Award Scheme**
**Arts Festival Award Scheme**

**Funding Clinic**
**Thursday 22nd October 2026**

Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County
Arts Office

the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon
funding the arts

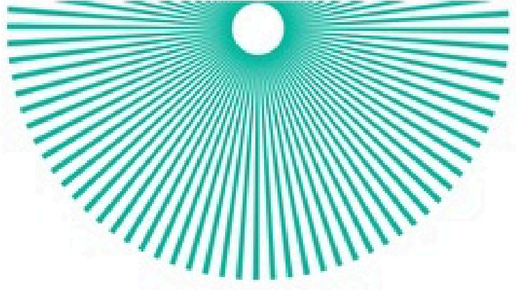


**Arts Act Funding 2027**
Artist Award Scheme
Artist & Community Collaboration Award Scheme
Arts Festival Award Scheme

**Deadline:**
**Friday 11th December 2026**

# 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 2027
  - Eligibility
  - Tips for application writing
  - Budgeting
  - How to apply
  - Documentation & Evaluation
  - Q&A



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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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# 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 aims to support collaborations between artists and communities across various artistic disciplines, encouraging active engagement in a high-quality arts programme that fosters the creative development of both the artist and the community group. Maximum funding available: €8,000

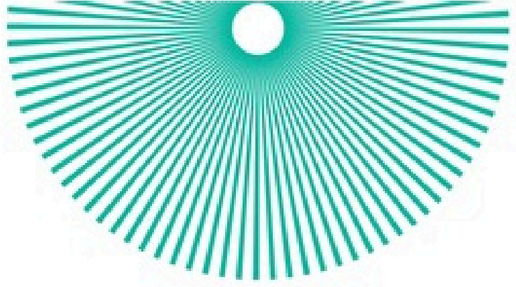
- The Arts Festival Award Scheme seeks to assist festival development plans and / or programmes. Maximum funding available: €15,000

# 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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# 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

**BUDGET - REQUIRED AS PART OF Wicklow County Arts Office Arts Act Funding Grant Application 2027**

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** | **2027 (Projected)** |
| Wicklow County Arts Office Arts Grant *(amount requested in your application)* | €3000 |
| Arts Council Grant | €1000 |
| Other Wicklow County Council Department | |
| Other Grant Income *(such as Creative Ireland, Creative Europe, etc.)* | €1000 |
| | |
| **EARNED INCOME** | **2027 (Projected)** |
| Sponsorship / Donations | |
| Box office | |
| Sales | |
| Other earned Income *(give details)* | |
| | |
| | |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **€5,000** |

| **EXPENDITURE** | **2027 (Projected)** |
|---|---|
| Lead Artists Fees | €1500 |
| Other Fees *(such as collaborating artists, producer, creative practitioner, sound engineer, photographer, videographer, etc.)* | €1000 |
| Training | |
| Administration Costs | |
| Marketing & PR | €500 |
| Materials | €800 |
| Equipment Hire | €100 |
| Rent / Venue Hire | €500 |
| Insurance | |
| Printing / Postage / Stationery | €100 |
| Telephone | |
| Bank Charges | |
| Travel / Accommodation | €500 |
| Other Costs *(such as production related costs, accountancy or legal fees relating to your application)* | |
| | |
| | |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** | **€5,000** |

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

# 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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# 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.)

# 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 key insights, impact of the award and reflection of the experience
  - An 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. Receipts / paid invoices must be dated from the time of award offer and 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

# 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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# Q&A and discussion

# 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**
- Reminder of application deadline: **Friday 11th December 2026 at 4pm**
- Sign up to the Wicklow Arts Office newsletter **here**