



ARTIST AWARD SCHEME 2021

Wicklow County Council Arts Office Funding Application

INFORMATION

Wicklow County Council Arts Office established the **Artist Award Scheme** in 2013. It is one of a number of schemes designed to support artists, arts participation and artform development in County Wicklow. This scheme forms part of a wider set of actions initiated and developed by Wicklow County Council directed at supporting quality practice and public participation in the arts in the county.

1. SCHEME PURPOSE

The purpose of the **Artist Award Scheme** is to assist artists in the development of their practice. Awards to date have been offered to artists at all stages of their careers and who live in or are originally from County Wicklow. The **Artist Award Scheme** has supported professional artists to develop or realise a particular body of work and/or to undertake professional development to that end. Professional practicing artists working in any artform, discipline or genre are eligible to apply to this scheme.

Proposals have included participation on short-term courses, residencies, specialist workshops, mentorship programmes. The award has been used to 'buy time' to develop or research a new body of work or to contribute to the costs of participation in a residency or other professional development programme or opportunity. Applications to fund third-level or on-going study are ineligible.

Response to COVID – 19

In considering the 2021 **Artists Awards Scheme** scheme, Wicklow County Council is particularly conscious of the disruption caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic to artist's work. In recognition of the challenges posed to artists continuing to create work in a time of physical distancing, we are offering artists an opportunity to take time to recalibrate their work. We are, in the 2021 Artists Awards Scheme, enabling artists to explore and test meaningful ways to

make work, to develop their practice, taking an innovative approach to the challenges that we all face.

1.2 SCHEME OBJECTIVES 2021

As always, the purpose of Artists Awards 2021 is to support and nurture professional artists' practice in Co Wicklow. In recognition of the severe limitations in place due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the challenges this poses to artists and their practice, we will:

1. support the creation of methodologies of practice (virtual, digital and physical),
2. support reflective ways of thinking and developing work which would include development of new local, national and international collaboration, reaching across borders real and imagined.

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

3. support the creation of new works in all artforms that respond to these unusual times of social change, which explore and reflect on questions, insights and themes that have arisen from Covid 19 and our future.

Note: The proposed artworks will create a dialogue through contemporary arts and have a significant impact on the artist's career development .

The maximum award offered is **€5,000** although awards are often made for smaller amounts.

The Artist's Awards Scheme 2021 aims to enable artists:

- to develop and/or present new work.
- to reflect and reconfigure their practice in relation to the current COVID 19 restrictions.
- to consider new approaches to their work in the digital and virtual space as a valid and essential arena for artistic endeavour.
- to think on how their practice will emerge from this time of physical distancing and restriction
- to reach out and connect to vital collaborators, networks, peers and other socially engaged artists, academics, community leaders etc. to develop a discourse on their practice during this time.
- to connect with international networks, organisations and practitioners, with a view to developing future collaborations and opportunities on an international scale
- to work in collaboration with communities of place and communities of interest in Wicklow to imagine how they will collectively emerge from this time of crisis.



2. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on the following basis:

- Adherence to the priorities, conditions and guidelines for the Artist Award Scheme
- Excellence (latent or achieved) of the artist's practice demonstrated
- Quality and innovative approaches evident in the proposal especially in terms of its response to the challenges faced by artists in the making and presentation of their work e.g digital or virtual practice
- Significance of the proposal for the development and or recalibration of the artist's work and practice in the context of the Covid 19 Pandemic
- Feasibility and viability of the proposal including evidence of advance planning / practical considerations being in place for the very particular circumstances that we face in 2021
- Financial feasibility (incl. evidence of other necessary finance being secured)
- Distinctive benefit to the applicant's professional practice as an artist
- Evidence of an understanding and appreciation of adaptations and safety practices required in the development and presentation of work involving various publics in the context of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

2.1 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

This award is available to all professional practising artists, in all art form areas/genres. Applicants must have been born in County Wicklow or resident there for the last three consecutive years.

2.2 WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Undergraduates
- Anybody currently in full-time education

2.3 YOU MAY NOT APPLY FOR

- Full-time undergraduate education
- Any project which already exists – however applications will be considered for projects which are being reshaped or recalibrated in the context of the particular circumstances of the Covid 19 Pandemic.
- Activities which are not in keeping with the purpose of the Artist Award Scheme as set out in this document
- Initiatives which form part of a competitive, charitable or fundraising context
- Funds for capital purchases such as equipment
- The following requests will not be considered: self- publishing within literature; CD production within music; materials within the visual arts (paint/canvas etc); bridging finance; final editing; or purchase of equipment.

3. ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

A pool of potential assessment panel members which includes arts practitioners, arts



managers, curators, producers and individuals with appropriate artistic and community experience as well as local knowledge, to ensure a balance of perspectives and expertise will assess applications. Panel members will have access to completed applications. The Assessment Panel meets to consider the applications and to shortlist and recommend award recipients digitally for 2021.

4. CONDITIONS:

1. All awards are subject to the availability of funds. Awards maybe withheld or divided at the discretion of Wicklow County Council
2. Wicklow County Council must be credited in any publicity relating to the work which was supported under this scheme. A letter of offer will issue setting out our specific branding and crediting requirements.
3. If successful applicants must adhere to the specific Government requirements and guidelines on Covid-19 road map.
4. Applications must be complete and have all relevant support documentation. Successful applicants will be required to submit documentation and high quality visuals, a short report and income and expenditure account before final drawdown of funding and project completion.
5. All applications must adhere to the guidelines set out in this document
6. No emailed applications will be accepted and applicants must apply through our online platform
7. All projects must take place in, or benefit the residents of County Wicklow with the exception of projects which involve international collaborators. Applicants must clearly indicate their relationship with the County as per the Application Form.
8. 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 secured, or an exhibition opportunity confirmed. There will be flexibility if the commitment is affected by Covid-19 restrictions.
9. While it is expected that proposals should be realised in full within the timeframe specified in the application, there will be flexibility if the proposal is affected by Covid-19 restrictions.
10. Wicklow County Council reserves the right to review the Artist Award Scheme at any time and as a result may make any changes necessary without any prior notice and at the Arts Office's discretion
11. Applications will be assessed by a panel of professional arts practitioners to include representation from Wicklow County Council.
12. **Applicants shall be notified as soon as is practicable, however it is anticipated that the overall process from the submission of applications to the notification of outcomes will take 6-8 weeks.**
13. Shortlisting is likely to apply
14. An online acknowledgement will be sent to you to confirm receipt of your Application.
15. Please read the Wicklow County Council [GDPR statement](#).



5. HOW TO APPLY?

- Read all documentation carefully
- Use the online application system – paper applications will not be accepted
- Write a detailed description of your project 2000 words max
- Budget for 2021 (template provided plus an income and expenditure account for 2020)
- Including how the Artist Award Scheme would benefit your professional practice
- Supply an up-to-date C.V. (max 2 pages)
- Include support documentation which demonstrates your track record. This can include images, reviews, letters of support, treatments, draft scores, audio or video recordings (links to youtube, vimeo, soundcloud, MP4 etc)

5.1 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE EVENT OF BEING SUCCESSFUL:

- Tax Clearance Confirmation
- Evidence of Public Liability/Employers liability/Professional practice Insurance where appropriate
- Evidence of having been born in County Wicklow or being resident in the county for the last three consecutive years

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Monday February 15th at 4.00pm

Questions may be directed to wicklowartsawards2021@gmail.com

