



# 2024 Strategic Projects Award Scheme

Wicklow Arts Office is pleased to announce the 11th edition of Strategic Projects Award Scheme and invites applications from artists, national resource organisations, individual curators, and / or artist collectives to propose projects which will nurture practice, enhance connectivity, generate new perspectives and nurture new voices within County Wicklow.


**There are two streams available for the 2024 Strategic Projects Award Scheme:**

**A - New applicants and proposals**

**B - Consolidation / development of strategic projects previously awarded under this Scheme**

**Under Stream A**, support for new initiatives will be prioritised for those projects which add significant value to existing arts practice, experience and participation in Wicklow, and which support Wicklow County Council Art's Office's Strategic Goals.

**Under Stream B**, consideration will be given to repeat applications for existing Award recipients, from practitioners who wish to consolidate a project currently underway or to develop an area of practice previously awarded under the scheme.



Previously supported work which qualifies under this scheme includes visual arts engagement, digital arts, arts in the public realm, arts and health, early years, and arts and disability.

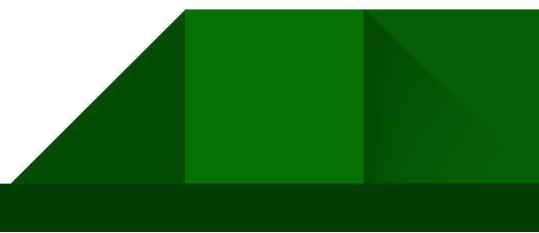
**\*\* If applying under Stream B (Consolidation of existing Projects), Section 2.4 of the Application Form must be completed.**

The Scheme is open to individuals and organisations from across all arts disciplines. Reflecting the balance of other elements of the Arts Office programme, the Arts Office would particularly welcome strong applications in the art form areas of literature, film, dance, artist development, music and the visual arts. In previous years, the Arts Office has awarded projects where the proposed project outcomes included the following:

- Development of the artist collection(s) / community(ies) of practice within the county
- Inter-regional collaborations by County Wicklow based artists for work to culminate in presentation in the county
- Development and/or presentation of ambitious new work sited / situated in the county
- Projects which will create strategic connections for art form development
- Those which propose high quality public participation opportunities
- Projects which may increase artists' networking and professional exchange in the county

We welcome applications from artists / groups / organisations that propose innovative solutions such as bespoke audience engagement projects using, for example, audio technology, outdoor installations or public performance.

The total amount of the fund available is subject to finalisation of the Council's own funding for 2024 is expected to be in the region of €80,000 to €100,000. All awards will be subject to the budget allocation.



## Summary of acceptable new application proposals 2024:

- Development of the artist collection(s) / community(ies) of practice within the county
- Inter-regional collaborations by County Wicklow based artists for work to culminate in presentation in the county
- Development and/or presentation of ambitious new work sited / situated in the county
- Projects which will create strategic connections for art form development
- Those which propose high quality public participation opportunities
- Projects which may increase artists' networking and professional exchange in the county
- Initiatives which support artists engagement with audiences differently or adapt their practice if their work necessitates a shift in focus
- Innovative proposals which support artists to collaborate differently and effectively

The Arts Office may fund selected projects up to a maximum of **€15,000** for any one application as a result of this call. We welcome applications where a wider budgetary framework exists e.g. partner funding, for particular projects. In such cases, applicants are asked to specify confirmed sources of income which may contribute to the application including those in-kind.

## COMPULSORY SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

### Checklist of information to be submitted:

- An online application form [HERE](#)
- A full description of the project proposed or business plan or research plan
- A full supporting budget outline should be completed on the budget template provided for eligibility
- Up to five supporting images or pieces of writing to represent your idea
- Supporting documents such as artists / group / organisation biographies or profiles
- Any venue confirmations required
- Letters of support

Other relevant supporting documents, images or materials which provide evidence of the track record of the applicant (s) can be links to reviews or files or relevant websites saved on a word document.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Assessment Criteria:

To be successful under the Strategic Projects Award Scheme applications must demonstrate:

- Distinctive nature and artistic merit of the proposal
- Excellence of arts practice evidenced within the programme / proposal
- Demonstrated track record of the artist (s) / group (s) proposed
- Benefit of the award to the artist (s) / group (s) artistic development or profile
- Feasibility of the proposal including evidence of advance planning / key framework elements

- Financial Feasibility of the proposal (including evidence of secured other funding should project budget exceed €15,000.00)
- Adherence to eligibility criteria (see below), the guidelines and where relevant, Child Protection Policies

### Who is not eligible?

- Projects focusing primarily on community rather than arts outcomes
- For-profit or fundraising projects
- Competitive initiatives
- Deficits or start-up costs for new organisations
- Entertainment expenses
- Projects where the majority of activity takes place outside County Wicklow
- Insurance costs
- Capital improvements
- Projects/programmes where the majority of costs relate to equipment hire/administrative costs

### CONDITIONS

1. All awards are subject to the availability of funds. Awards may be 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 set out our specific branding and crediting requirements.
3. Wicklow County Council reserves the right to cancel or postpone any activities under the Strategic Project Award Scheme.
4. 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.

5. All applications must be complete and have all relevant support documentation - Incomplete and/or late applications will not be accepted.
6. All applications must adhere to the guidelines and criteria for the award scheme.
7. Emailed applications will not be accepted. Applicants must provide all supporting information together with the online application form.
8. All applicants shall be notified of outcomes 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.
9. Shortlisting is likely to apply.
10. An online acknowledgement will be sent to the applicant confirming receipt of an application.
11. Applications will be assessed by a panel of professional arts practitioners to include representation from Wicklow County Council.
12. Successful applicants will have sole responsibility for the project management and production of the proposed project in line with the contractual agreement signed by both the applicant and the Wicklow Arts Office.
13. Successful applicants will be required to submit documentation and high quality visuals along with a brief report and an Income and Expenditure account before final drawdown of funding and project completion.
14. 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.
15. Where relevant, compliance with best practice and legislation in Child Protection as outlined by the Department of Health and Children – [www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie) must be adhered to. While it is expected that proposals should be realised in full within the timeframe specified in the application, there will be a degree of flexibility will be granted a proposal timeframe is affected by Covid-19.
16. Applicants are required to read the Wicklow County Council GDPR statement in its entirety.
17. The provision of detailed feedback on applications submitted is not possible.
18. Projects awarded will not take place until 2024.

## HOW TO APPLY

### CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - Friday 11th August 2023 at 4pm

Apply online using the link [HERE](#)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Applicants must apply through the Arts Office's online platform

\*Submittable where you will be able to upload all supporting materials along with your online application form.

The \* Submittable platform works best on Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Internet Explorer is not supported. We strongly recommend you test this process prior to the closing date so that if necessary we may provide technical support:

- E-mailed or posted Applications will not be accepted.
- Late and / or incomplete applications will not be considered
- Make your subject line "Strategic Projects Award Scheme 2024 Stream A or Stream B"

**\* If applying under Strand B (Consolidation of existing Projects), Section 2.4 of the Application must be completed.**

Questions relating to the Award application process may be directed to:

[wao@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wao@wicklowcoco.ie)