

Arts Act Funding Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Are narrative films/ dramatic pieces specifically eligible for the Artist Award Scheme and the Artists and Communities Award Scheme?

Yes, narrative films/ dramatic pieces specifically are eligible for both Artist Award Scheme and the Artists and Communities Award Scheme. Fictional film maker is considered to be similar to a fiction author when applying for support and the Arts Office has supported both previously in this context.

2. Is there a particular award scheme that would be more suitable for film, and would the production of a documentary qualify?

The Artist Award Scheme and the Artists and Communities Collaboration Fund are open to all artforms including film, music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature, architecture, animation, performance, circus, traditional arts, film, music and drama.

A documentary film would still qualify under the film artform. With a documentary film project, the quality of production and the depth of research involved in the making of the documentary would be key aspects which the assessment panel will look at.

3. For the individual artist award scheme, can you apply to this to buy time e.g. to work on adapting a virtual piece for an in-theatre experience with a specific venue as a presenting partner?

Yes, you can use this funding to buy time to focus on a specific project, such as researching a new idea, adapting or expanding an existing project, finishing a novel, developing a short film into a feature length production etc. From a funding assessor's point of view, it's all about how you justify the need for funding to buy that time.

Having a specific venue as a presenting partner will strengthen your application as it shows that you have secured a commitment from a project partner. A short bio or CV of the venue should be included as supporting material, and you should ask the venue to provide a personalised and detailed letter of support, which will also strengthen your application.

4. Is there an existing list of community groups and/or mentors deemed appropriate by Wicklow Arts Office for participation in projects?

We do not have a list of specific community groups or mentors that we would consider appropriate or suitable for participation in arts-led projects. The Wicklow Community Directory (<https://www.wicklowcommunitydirectory.ie/>) would be a great place to start if you're looking for organisations who work in specific areas, such as health care etc.

However, in your application you should be able to demonstrate an existing relationship with any partner organisations and demonstrate how they have been involved in the

development of your project. These relationships can take time, so think about groups or organisations that you know or have worked with before. Or allow enough time for new relationships to be developed.

5. Do I need to provide receipts for all project expenses which have been funded?

You will be asked to provide a final budget after the project has been completed, and we may ask you to provide invoices and/or receipts for certain payments. So make sure to keep receipts and invoices in case you are asked to provide them.

6. I'm a full-time, registered artist, paying taxes etc. I'm not Irish but, I am an Irish resident. Can I apply?

Yes, if you have lived in County Wicklow for three consecutive years or more and are based in County Wicklow you can apply for funding through Wicklow County Arts Office.

7. Can you apply to both the Individual and community grants?

Yes, you can apply for both grants, but just not for the same project or for the same stage of a larger project with multiple outputs (eg. developing a screenplay followed by the production of a short film). Each funding scheme will have its own priorities and criteria, so make sure whatever strand you're applying for is appropriate to the type of project you're applying for funding to support.

8. Do you have to include exact time parameters for your project? Is there flexibility to when it can be completed? Subject to changing regulations.

Under normal circumstances, there would be strict parameters around the timeframe for delivery of funded projects but under these challenging circumstances, we are able to be more flexible on this. It becomes more difficult if a funded project is postponed beyond 2021 however, so if you are successful and think as you proceed with the awarded project you may not be able to deliver your project in the year that it was funded, please contact us directly for discussion.

9. Can you make an application for a project on this scheme & apply for the same or similar project on other Arts Council schemes?

This is possible, and the Arts Council generally like to see that a project or artist has been successful in securing support from their local authority, but there are a few things to be aware of.

The Arts Council will not "double fund" any element of your project, so make sure that the specific element that you're applying to the Arts Council for (artist fees, commission fee etc) hasn't already been funded by Wicklow County Arts Office.

It may be possible to secure seed funding for a project from Wicklow County Arts Office and

then to subsequently apply to the Arts Council to expand or develop that same idea, so long as it moves the project forward in a significant way.

10. Can artists who are working in a voluntary capacity apply for the individual artist grant?

We would always advocate for the artist to be paid for their work. The individual artist awards are for professional practicing artists only.

11. Would a letter of support be enough from a mentor or would you suggest supplying a biography/CV as well?

The more information you can provide for your mentor the better, so please do include a separate biography/CV if possible. Don't assume that your mentor will be known to the assessment panel, so include as much information about their achievements and experience as you would your own.

12. What if we don't anticipate any financial return at the end of project, is it ok to ask Wicklow Arts Office for the full amount?

We understand that shifting practices to develop events, exhibitions and projects in the digital sphere has meant a significant reduction in box office revenue, so again we are taking a flexible approach to this. If you don't anticipate any additional income from ticket sales specifically, then we would recommend looking at what other sources of funding or revenue could be generated to support the project.

We will also look at the feasibility of each project, and it always strengthens an application if we can see that you have identified other potential revenue streams (eg. donations), or in-kind funding support such as a studio space, rehearsal facility, equipment etc. You can also count your own time or any other personal investments which you may have made, as well as any benefit-in-kind which you may have secured.

13. Could you consider showing or sharing online the projects that were successful and received funding?

The details of all projects and artists who receive funding are published on Wicklow County Arts Office website (www.wicklow.ie) and on the Arts Council website (www.artscouncil.ie), so you can easily see who was funded and how much was awarded. If you want to find out more about any of the projects or artists who were successful in being awarded funding, check out their websites/social media.

14. Is there a guideline for what percentage of total budget is reasonable/recommended for the artists fee? Is there a guideline for appropriate fee for a mentor on a project and how do emerging artists value their time?

There is no specific percentage that we would recommend, as each project is individual, and it

really depends on what specifically you're asking for funding to support. The Arts Council recently launched its "Paying the Artist"¹ policy which sets out its position and expectations with regard to remuneration and contracting within the arts sector.

If you are applying as an artist, don't underpay yourself or underestimate the amount of work involved in a project from your own perspective. Again, this comes back to a feasibility issue and your application may be unsuccessful if you don't factor in your own artist fee.

When looking at fees for artists/mentors, refer to the representative body for that particular skillset/artform, such as Visual Artists Ireland, Theatre Forum, Dance Ireland and Music Network.

Many of these bodies have published recommendations on different fee structures for artists, and if you can't find what you're looking for on their websites, pick up the phone or send an email to make an enquiry.

Your peers may also be able to provide valuable insight into what they have paid artists, facilitators, or mentors for similar types of work, so reach out to people in your networks.

¹ Paying the Artist – the Arts Council

http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/About_Us/Artist%20Pay%20Policy%20Document%20Web%20AW.pdf

