

# Strategic Projects 2022

## STRATEGIC PROJECTS FUNDING ROUND FOR 2022

WICKLOW ARTS OFFICE, announces the closing date for submissions to the 9th Strategic Projects application process. The Arts Office 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, supporting a diversity of approach.

### **There are two streams for Strategic Projects 2022:**

#### **A - New applicants and proposals**

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

Under Stream A, proposals for new initiatives will be prioritised which add significant value to arts practice, experience and participation in Wicklow and support the Arts Office strategic goals.

Under Stream B, we will consider repeat applications for existing recipients. Applications are welcome from practitioners who wish to consolidate an existing project which is currently underway or who wish to develop an area of practice previously awarded under this Scheme. Previously supported work which qualifies under this scheme includes visual arts engagement, digital arts, outdoor arts, arts and health, early years, 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 artform areas of literature, film, dance, artist development, music and the visual arts. In previous years we have sought projects where possible outcomes from proposed projects may have 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 artform development
- Those which propose high quality public participation opportunities
- Projects which may increase artists' networking and professional exchange in the county

### **Updated Covid-19 STRATEGIC PROJECT STATEMENT:**

Covid-19 has impacted the way we all work, live and socialise. We recognise that the arts have been particularly affected by the crises and that in many cases the uncertainties around the ever changing requirements to maintain public health are challenging. While considerable progress has been made in relation to these challenges, we are conscious of the ongoing need for vigilance and the need for ongoing contingency planning.

For 2022 therefore, your application should propose to work towards our general outcomes. We would, however, request that your application demonstrate Covid-19 contingency planning including, for example, live streaming, extended research phases, socially distanced audience engagement, smaller groups of people or proposing outdoor events.

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 2022 is expected to be in the region of €80,000 to €100,000. Covid-19 will result in a challenging budgetary environment for Local Authorities in 2022 and all awards will be subject to the budget allocation.

Realising successful projects in 2022 will at all times comply with NPHE and Governmental guidelines in relation to Covid-19 and national best public health practice. In making your application, you should consider that although we have seen a marked improvement in the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the continuing uncertainty which we face should be reflected in the project proposed and your audience engagement methodology.

### **Summary of acceptable new application proposals 2022:**

- 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 artform 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 in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Work conceived in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and artist / public impact
- Innovative proposals which support artists to collaborate differently and effectively where this is necessitated by Covid-19

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

- The application
- A full description of the project proposed or business plan or research plan
- Supporting full budget outline
- Up to five supporting images or writings files to represent your idea
- Supporting documents – 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) – these can be links saved on a word document to reviews or files or relevant websites

## **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
- Consideration evidenced in the proposal in relation to the impact of Covid-19

### **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
- Large audience events which require indoor participation without the possibility of social distancing and above the current Guidelines by NPHET by June 2021

## 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 all publicity relating to the initiative which was granted funding under this scheme.
3. Applications must be complete and have all relevant support enclosures as requested.
4. Incomplete and/or late applications will be returned to applicants and will not be assessed.
5. Wicklow County Council reserves the right to cancel or postpone all activities under the Strategic Project Scheme in keeping with the NPHET Guidelines in relation to Covid-19.
6. On the award of funds applicants will be required to sign a Covid-19 declaration form three days before the commencement of the projects.
7. As well as the general Health, Safety and Welfare risk assessments required, successful candidates will have to include a risk assessment for Covid-19 and comply with all necessary measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 as required at the time of commencement. This will include provision of necessary PPE etc.

8. Successful applicants will be required to submit a short report and income and expenditure account of how the project has been realised.
9. All applications must adhere to the guidelines and criteria for each award scheme.
10. Emailed applications will not be accepted. Applicants must provide all support information together with the application form.
11. Applications will be assessed by a panel of professional arts practitioners to include representation from Wicklow County Council.
12. Wicklow County Council reserves the right to review the Award Schemes and at any time make necessary changes particularly in relation to Covid-19
13. 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 7-8 weeks.
14. Shortlisting is likely to apply.
15. A written acknowledgment will be sent to you to confirm receipt of your application.
16. Projects awarded will not take place until 2022.

## HOW TO APPLY

**Apply online using the link below**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Applicants must apply through our online platform \*Submittable where you will be able to upload all supporting material along with your application.

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\*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 2022 Stream A or Stream B”
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**\* If applying under Strand B (Consolidation of existing Projects), Section 2.4 of the Application must be completed.**

<https://wicklowcountycouncil.submittable.com/submit/195656/strategic-projects-2022>

Questions may be directed to: [wicklowartsawards2021@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowartsawards2021@gmail.com)

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - Friday 30th July at 12:00 noon**