

2023 Strategic Projects Award Scheme

WICKLOW ARTS OFFICE, is pleased to announce the 10th 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 2023 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 artform 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 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 2023 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 2023 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 2023 and all awards will be subject to the budget allocation.

Realising successful projects in 2023 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 2023:

- 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:

- 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
- 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 supporting documentation as requested.
4. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be assessed.
5. Wicklow County Council reserves the right to cancel or postpone all activities under the Strategic Project Award Scheme in keeping with the NPHET Guidelines in relation to Covid-19.
6. On the award of funds applicants may 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 supporting information together with the online 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 Scheme 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 2023.

HOW TO APPLY

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.

8

*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 2023 Stream A or Stream B”
-

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

<https://wicklowcountycouncil.submittable.com/submit/230597/2023-strategic-projects-awards-scheme>

Questions relating to the Award application process may be directed to: karan@ktcl.ie

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - Tuesday 13th September 2022 at 4pm