



Clinic - Arts Act Funding- Artist Award & Artist and Community Collaboration

13 Jan 2025, Marianne O'Kane Boal PhD



Look at today

- ▶ Arts Act Funding available from Wicklow County Council
- ▶ Individual Artist Award
- ▶ Artist and Community Collaboration
- ▶ Applying for award
- ▶ Making an application
- ▶ Some mistakes/pitfalls in applications
- ▶ Tips for CVs, Biogs and letter of support

Personal experience



Art Criticism
and Editing



Curation



Teaching



Public Art



Project
Management



Strategy
Experience



Panel
Experience



Inventories
& Interviews

Importance of local arts office

- ▶ Arts Office
 - multidisciplinary, and cross art-form
 - Range of contexts - Arts and health, Youth arts
 - County wide remit with some collaborative connection and inter-county networking
 - Importance of making connections locally and building practice and reputation in the immediate context.



Arts Act Funding Clinic

Artist and Artist & Community
Collaboration Award
Schemes





Background



The Arts Act Funding Scheme is integral to Wicklow County Council's broader efforts to encourage excellence in the arts and enhance community involvement in artistic endeavours across the county.

Applications can be made under the following three schemes:

- Artist Award
- Artist & Communities Collaboration Award
- Arts Festival Award

Applications are welcome from all art forms including film, music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature, architecture, animation, performance, circus, traditional arts, music and drama.



This scheme aims to enable artists to:

- ↳ **Develop and/or present new work**
- ↳ **Consider new approaches to their work**
- ↳ **Reach out to vital collaborators, networks, peers, etc to develop a discourse on their practice**
- ↳ **Connect with international networks, organisations and practitioners, to develop future collaborations**
- ↳ **Work in collaboration with communities of place or interest in County Wicklow to develop and/ or present new work.**

While the maximum award available is €5,000, awards are often made for lesser amounts.

Who is Eligible to apply?

This award is open to all professional practising artists across all art forms and genres. Applicants must be native to County Wicklow or residing in County Wicklow for the past three consecutive years.

Who is not eligible to apply?

- ↳ **Undergraduates**
- ↳ **Persons currently in full-time education**
- ↳ **Persons not native to County Wicklow or not residing in County Wicklow for the past three consecutive years**

Categories not eligible

- ↳ **Full-time undergraduate education**
- ↳ **Any project which has already begun or is underway (unless what is proposed is a distinctive second phase or subsequent development)**
- ↳ **Initiatives which form part of a competitive, charitable or fundraising context**
- ↳ **Funds for capital purchases such as equipment**
- ↳ **Self-publishing within literature; CD production within music; materials within the visual arts (paint/canvas etc.); bridging finance; final editing; etc.**

Assessment Criteria

- ▶ *Excellence (latent or achieved) of artistic practice:* Provide evidence of a robust and proven professional arts background (through the applicant's CV and accompanying documentation)
- ▶ *Quality and innovation of approach:* Demonstration of inventive, ambitious, high-quality and innovative approaches in applicant proposals (including embracing digital or virtual practices)
- ▶ *Distinctive benefit to artist's professional practice:* Outline how the proposal will distinctly benefit the applicant's professional growth as an artist and/ or professional practice outputs
- ▶ *Feasibility and viability of proposal (including evidence of advanced planning):* Provide a well-defined project timeline (for project completion within the timeframe of the Award). *Financial Feasibility:* Provide a breakdown of project expenses within your budget including a breakdown of any additional sources of funding or income (including evidence of finances received, permissions and/ or licenses already in place).

The Artist & Community Collaboration Award facilitates artist and community partnerships in any artistic discipline or genre. This Award is aimed at creating and delivering high-quality projects or programmes that nurture the creative growth of both the artist and the community.

This award funding is designed to cover one of the following areas, either partially or in full:

- ↳ A research and development phase of a planned initiative**
- ↳ The production or realisation of a new arts project or programme in 2025**

It's essential to note that the maximum award available through this scheme is capped at €5,000.

What is not eligible?

- ↳ **For-profit or fundraising projects**
- ↳ **Deficits or start-up costs for new organisations**
- ↳ **Entertainment/hospitality expenses**
- ↳ **Projects where the majority of activity takes place outside County Wicklow**
- ↳ **Insurance costs where it is more than 10% of the awarded amount**
- ↳ **Capital improvements**
- ↳ **Proposals where the majority of costs relate to equipment hire/ administrative costs**

Before submitting an application, artists and community groups are required to have already approached the respective artist or community group collaborator and must provide written confirmation of their commitment to the proposal.

Assessment criteria

The extent of collaboration evidenced: □ Demonstrate a clear and considered plan describing how the collaboration will be developed and managed □ Provide an overall timeline detailing project delivery, promotion and evaluation

Benefit to both artists and community: □ Outline how the proposal will distinctly benefit both the artist's professional growth and the community group's artistic growth

Excellence of artist's work: □ Demonstrate an inventive, ambitious, and innovative approach to the proposal □ Provide evidence of a robust and proven professional arts background (through the artist's CV and accompanying documentation)

Financial feasibility of proposal: □ Provide a breakdown of project expenses within the budget including a breakdown of any additional sources of funding or income Background to community group and evidence of ability to deliver. □ Demonstrate and evidence the lead applicant's ability to manage and deliver the proposal □ Describe the community group's shared interests, broad objectives, and their proven capability in project management □ Provide a well-defined project timeline (for project completion within the timeframe of the Award)

Arts Act Funding - both awards

- ▶ 5 page guidance notes to cover all aspects of the award. These are clear and give you everything you need to make a good application
- ▶ Deadline 3+ weeks from today **5 February 2025 at 4pm** - Get started
- ▶ This is particularly important as letter confirming collaboration is needed for the Artist and Community Collaboration
- ▶ Both awards provide a valuable opportunity to research, develop, or build upon your art practice. The awards are quite open to allow for maximum opportunity for creativity
- ▶ For questions or application support, contact wicklowlartsoffice@ktcl.ie This support service is available up to 5pm Wednesday, 29th January 2025.

MAKING AN APPLICATION

- Ensure you have read the guidelines and other information thoroughly
- Before sending your application check it over to ensure there are no mistakes. Ask someone else to look over it for you, preferably someone who is a good writer.
- Send what you are asked to only
- Ensure your application is professionally presented. This can be achieved in an online application through making sure your proposal is clear, concise and well written

Cvs and biogs

- ▶ Detail recent experience first
- ▶ Document your track record as an artist
- ▶ Include other work and experience if relevant to your practice
- ▶ Submit material that supports your application, do not detract by including too much
- ▶ Submit 5 high quality examples of past work rather than multiple examples that confuse or are of a lesser quality.

Sample Artists Biog.1

Niamh O'Malley, Born Co Mayo, Ireland, Niamh O'Malley currently lives and works in Dublin, Ireland., Contact: niamhomalley@hotmail.com, (Quote on artist's work to open piece)

O'Malley has made numerous solo exhibitions in recent years including Irish Pavilion, 59th Venice Art Biennale (2022), The Model, Sligo Ireland (2023), Temple Bar Gallery & Studios (2023), Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast (2023), mother's tankstation limited (2020), Royal Hibernian Academy (2019), Lismore Castle Arts (2019), Grazer Kunstverein (2018), Bluecoat Liverpool (2015), Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2017) & (2015) a five venue solo show called 'The Mayo Collaborative' Ireland (2013), 'Garden', Project Arts Centre, Dublin (2013) Ha Gamle Prestegard, Norway (2012), 'Model', Green on Red Gallery, Dublin, Ireland (2011).

A selection of group exhibitions include Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, CAG, Vancouver, KARST, Plymouth, eva International, Biennale of Visual Art, Limerick, Eli & Edythe Broad Museum, Michigan, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Galleria Civica di Modena, White Box, New York, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Kunstverein Ludwigsburg, Germany, Maria Stenfors, London.

Sample Biog. 2 - Group

THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

Undertaken by UK based dance artists Sally Doughty, Rachel Krische and Lisa Kendall, Body of Knowledge is a research project that examines how the dancer's body can be considered as a living archive by collecting, articulating and disseminating experiences – dance related and other – that reside in the body. Treating the body as a living archive challenges more traditional archives that contain tangible artefacts and documents, and emphasises the knowledge that resides in, and with, the dancer.

The project was initiated after Sally, Rachel and Lisa gave presentations at the *Thinking Dance: Questioning the Contemporary* conference at Leeds Beckett University, UK, on 6 October 2015. We each offered a particular perspective on our engagement with performative archives and post-conference, Body of Knowledge as a research project was born.

<https://www.bodyofknowledge.co.uk/#new-page>

Sample headings for CV

- ▶ Name and contact details
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Solo exhibitions/performances
- ▶ Group exhibitions/performances
- ▶ Collaborations
- ▶ Awards
- ▶ Residencies
- ▶ Bibliography
- ▶ Collections
- ▶ *Also possible to add* - Relevant experience, e.g. teaching/workshops in your discipline, volunteering, work with children

Letter of support

- ▶ This is relevant to the Artist and the Community Collaboration Scheme. It is written by the chairperson or director of the community group
- ▶ It should outline briefly the plan for collaboration, its development and management as well as broad dates/timeline for the project
- ▶ It should detail the shared interests and objectives of the community group and artist
- ▶ It should discuss artistic benefit of the proposal to the artist and the community group

Sample letter

Re: Letter of Commitment/Support

Dear

I write to express my strong support for this proposal by *ARTIST* submitted to The Artist and Community Collaboration Scheme, titled “(insert proposal title)”. I understand that (insert *ARTIST* name) will pursue (insert a few words describing project and its dates/timeline). This collaboration is important to us because (insert details)

As (Chairperson/Director), I can assure you that the (community group) will provide the resources necessary to facilitate this project. Specifically, we have committed (insert general resource statements) in order to accomplish the objectives of this project.

I am highly supportive of the efforts as outlined in this proposal, and (insert statement how this project will artistically benefit the community group and aligns with their vision/efforts).

Yours sincerely

Name of Chairperson/Director of Community Group



How to Apply



Read all documentation carefully.

Applications can only be submitted online.

Under the 'Apply Online' section on www.wicklow.ie, click on the 'Apply Here' link, choose the 'Submit' button next to the Award and complete the following:

↳ Enter all relevant details on the online application form

↳ Upload the completed budget template for **2025** available on our website.

↳ Upload supporting documentation including:

- An up-to-date Artist CV (max 2 pages)
- 5 examples of your work or items that demonstrate your track record. This can include images, reviews, letters of support, treatments, draft scores, and audio or video recordings (link to YouTube, Vimeo, Soundcloud, MP4 etc.)

Sample Budget

| INCOME | *2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Projected) |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Wicklow County Arts Office Arts Grant <i>(amount requested in your application)</i> | €3,000.00 | €3,000.00 |
| Arts Council Grant | | €1,000.00 |
| Other Wicklow County Council Department | | |
| Other Grant Income <i>(such as Creative Ireland, Creative Europe, etc)</i> | | €1,000.00 |
| | | |
| EARNED INCOME | *2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Projected) |
| Sponsorship/ Donations | | |
| Box office | | |
| Sales | €100.00 | |
| Other earned Income <i>(give details)</i> | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | €3,100.00 | €5,000.00 |
| EXPENDITURE | *2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Projected) |
| Lead Artists Fees | €1,500.00 | €1,500.00 |
| Other Fees <i>(such as collaborating artists, producer, creative practioner, sound engineer, photographer, videographer, etc)</i> | | €1,000.00 |
| Training | €500.00 | |
| Administration Costs | | |
| Marketing & PR | €100.00 | €500.00 |
| Materials | €600.00 | €800.00 |
| Equipment Hire | €200.00 | €100.00 |
| Rent/Venue Hire | €100.00 | €500.00 |
| Insurance | | |
| Printing/ Postage/ Stationery | | €100.00 |
| Telephone | | |
| Bank Charges | | |
| Travel/ Accommodation | €100.00 | €500.00 |
| Other Costs <i>(such as production related costs, accountancy or legal fees relating to your application)</i> | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | €3,100.00 | €5,000.00 |



Online Application Form



The form will ask you to cover the following aspects of your proposal:

- ↳ **Summary:** up to three short points giving an overview of your proposal
- ↳ **Concept:** What do you want to do and why? What is your anticipated outcome?
- ↳ **Approach:** How you are going to do it? Who is involved?
- ↳ **Project plan:** What is the proposed timeline? How are you going to work with your partners, collaborators?
- ↳ **Track record:** How will your knowledge, skills and expertise support/ensure the project's success?
- ↳ **Feasibility:** Are there potential complications, risks? Is the budget feasible?
- ↳ **Impact:** How this work will enhance your work? Who will benefit?
- ↳ **Engagement:** How will you reach and engage your audience?



Application Tips



Read the guidelines and other information thoroughly.

Make sure to regularly refer to the guidelines throughout the application process.

Focus on the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of your proposal.

Provide clear and concise answers to the questions.

Use the Budget Template provided and complete all cells relevant to your proposal.

Combine your supporting documentation (texts, visuals, links to websites, recordings) and title all documents with name, title, short description, materials, dimensions, year etc.

Pitfalls of proposals

- Incomplete submission - refer to checklist or include cover letter to detail contents
 - Proposal is unconvincing, has not been properly thought out
 - Concept is undeveloped, lacks details
 - Concept does not connect with proposed context
 - Submission of more than one idea - is each concept clear?
 - Incomplete budget or missing budget, budget template not used, as required.
 - Concept lacks originality, similar to previous work. Concept is commercial as opposed to artistic
 - Missing supporting documentation or no letter of support/commitment

Your CV and biog should be third person, not exaggerated, clear and concise.

Build confidence over time

- ▶ Do not apply for too many opportunities
- ▶ Take a targeted approach and go for things that suit you and your practice
- ▶ Do not be discouraged when unsuccessful
- ▶ Build on success
- ▶ Ensure that you are happy with all your applications and proposals so you gain confidence
- ▶ Speak to your peers about their experiences and maybe find collaborators to apply with
- ▶ Take advantage of opportunities to workshop applications

Questions and Discussion

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect. The text 'Questions and Discussion' is centered on the left side of the slide in a clean, sans-serif font.