**Cork City Council Artist and the Community Award 2026**

Artist and the Community applications are invited by the Cork City Council Arts Office for 2026. The Artist and the Community Award was previously called the Arts in Context award. The title has been updated to reflect the purpose of the award more clearly. The value of this award has also been augmented.

The Artist and the Community Award supports artistic proposals involving professional artists working with community groups. The artists may practice community arts, socially engaged arts, collaborative arts, youth arts, and/or participatory arts.

Cork City Council may offer amounts of grant aid less than the amount sought. Funding will be awarded only where applications meet the criteria set down by Cork City Council.

**Submission Information**

**Deadline for receipt of applications is 4pm on Thursday 20th November 2025**

Detailed information about the award criteria is provided in this document. Guidelines for applications are provided in a separate document with Frequently Asked Questions. <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/arts-culture-heritage/arts-office/arts-funding/> These documents are available in MS Word format which is screenreader-friendly. The content of all documents can be listened to via the ‘Recite Me’ app on Cork City Council’s website or your preferred text-to-speech app.

For step-by-step video instructions on completing the online application form, follow this link from 14th October: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/arts-culture-heritage/arts-office/arts-funding/>

To submit your application in any other format, please contact [artsgrants@corkcity.ie](mailto:artsgrants@corkcity.ie) or phone (021) 492 4000.

**Artist and the Community Award Phases**

***Categories for Application Phases***

*Applications can be made under****one*** *of the following project categories:*

*·****Research & Development:****Applicants can apply for support of up to****€2000****towards the research and development of a project****.****This category prioritises resources needed by an artist to spend time researching methodologies and developing relationships with a community for the benefit of a future project. The duration of this phase should be no longer than 3 months. The application for this project phase must be completed by the lead artist.*

*·****Project Realisation:****Applicants can apply for support of up to****€10,000****towards the realisation of a project. This category prioritises resources needed for a professional artist and community to work together on the realisation of a joint project proposal. The proposal should be completed within the year of award. The application for this project phase**must be completed by the lead artist****and****a representative of the Community Group.*

***Notes:***

*Only****ONE****of the Artist and the Community Award phases can be applied for in a single funding year for a project phase as defined here.*

*For the purpose of this application, the term ‘Community Group’ shall include pre-established or new Community Groups. The members of the Community Group may be based in the same local area, known as ‘communities of place’, or be connected with local organisations, such as NGO’s, charities, social enterprises and cultural or civic institutions in Cork City. Community Groups may also have come together from across the city through a common interest or activity i.e. ‘communities of interest’ and ‘communities of practice’. Community Groups may work from spaces such as accommodation centres or shelters, schools, health or social care settings, youth clubs, prisons, community centres etc.*

*More than one professional artist may wish to work in collaboration together with the same Community Group. For either phase, the contact details of just one person should be entered into the application form for the purpose of corresponding with Cork City Council on the award.*

*Applicants may request support from Cork City Council to cover the cost of Access Requirements related to your proposal up to the value of 20% of the award amount. You do not have to apply for access costs if you don’t need them. Advice on Access Requirements are provided in the application guidelines.*

**Assessment of Applications**

Applications are peer assessed by an independent panel of practitioners from the arts sector and one elected member of Cork City Council.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Only applications that meet the following criteria will qualify for assessment:

* All Artist and the Community proposals must be developed and realised with specified community groups located within the Cork City Council administrative area.
* [Applications must be fully completed, signed and submitted before the stated deadline.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Requested supporting material must be submitted.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Work must be carried out on a not-for-profit basis.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* Work must be carried out in 2026.
* [Work must be artistic in nature.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* Where relevant, organisations must have up-to-date child & vulnerable persons safeguarding policies that are compliant with the Children First Act 2015
* [Match funding of 30% is required for Project Realisation Artist and the Community Awards. Benefit-in-kind is eligible as match funding.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin" \t "_blank)

[**Assessment**](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin) **Criteria**

Applications will be assessed according to how well they meet the criteria below:

**Artistic**

* [Artistic ambition of project proposal.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Involvement of professional artists and arts workers in the planning and implementation of the project/](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin) activity.
* Track record of the lead artist relevant to the nature of the proposed project in the support materials
* [Relevance of artistic project to the specified community group.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Impact on professional development of the artist in their area of practice.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)

**Strategic**

* [Potential to contribute to relevant objectives in the Cork City Council Arts & Culture Strategy, 2022 - 2026.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* Ethical considerations in line with the Arts Council of Ireland Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy.
* Relevance to the needs of the specified Community Group and, if applicable the audience for the project.
* Capacity to bring creativity to target community setting(s).
* [Recognition and accommodation of the diverse cultures and demographics in the city.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Participation / partnership proposed is appropriate, inclusive and of depth and quality.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)

**Operational**

* [Accessible to all – thought should be given to venue, cost and access requirements.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Evidence of feasibility (objectives should be achievable, budgets should balance, timelines should be realistic and input into activities by all involved as appropriate should be demonstrated).](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Evidence of equitable and fair remuneration for professional artists /arts workers](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin) in line with the Arts Council of Ireland ‘Pay the Artist’ policy.
* [Evidence of appropriate reflection and/or evaluation of activities](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin) for Phase 2 proposals
* [Evidence of collaboration and co-operation with specified Community Group in project planning](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin) and presentation.
* [Evidence of organisational capacity of specified Community Group especially with regard to managing Garda Vetting, monitoring participant experience and resolving emerging issues.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Evidence of planning towards appropriate format for presentation or sharing of outcomes, as applicable.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)

**Support Material**

* [C.V.s of lead artist and other key personnel as relevant.](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin)
* [Examples of previous artistic work](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin).
* [Evidence of support e.g. written commitments of financial or other kinds of support such as match funding or benefit-in-kind, letters of support as applicable from a representative of the specified Community Group, any partners involved etc](https://corkcity.submit.com/admin).

**Conditions of Award**

If successful, the following conditions will apply to the allocation of an Artist and the Community Award:

* If working with under 18 year old’s, you must have suitable child safeguarding policies and procedures. For guidance, go to [Child Safeguarding Statement-HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/childrenfirst/child-safeguarding-statement/) and [Children First Training-HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/childrenfirst/training/)
* If working with vulnerable people, you must have policies and procedures for safeguarding vulnerable people in place. For guidance, go to [Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse (2014) National Policy & Procedures-Corporate (hse.ie)](https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/organisation/national-pppgs/safeguarding-vulnerable-persons-at-risk-of-abuse-2014-national-policy-procedures/)
* If working with animals, you must have up-to-date animal welfare protection polices and procedures in place. For guidance, go to [Animal Welfare Strategy (www.gov.ie)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/12d6a-animal-welfare-strategy/)

**Freedom of Information**

Cork City Council proposes that the following information relating to this grant application competition will be made available on request:

* Name of the successful applicants.
* Reasons an applicant did not qualify for grant consideration.

Cork City Council undertakes to use its best endeavours to hold confidential any information provided by applicants subject to its obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Applicants are requested to consider if any of the information supplied should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity. If this is the case, candidates should, when providing the information, identify same and specify the reasons for its sensitivity. If such information is not identified as sensitive and Cork City Council on consideration does not deem it sensitive, then such information is liable to be released in response to a Freedom of Information request without further consultation with the applicants. Cork City Council will consult with any candidates about sensitive information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information Act request received.

**Contact**

Arts Office, Corporate Community & Cultural Affairs, Cork City Council, City Hall, Anglesea Street, Cork, Ireland Tel: 021 4924000 Email: [artsgrants@corkcity.ie](mailto:artsgrants@corkcity.ie)