**Cork City Council Project Scheme 2026**

The Project Scheme provides direct funding for professional arts projects across all disciplines. The project scheme supports research and development, as well as production funding across all art forms. This grant aid is open to the professional arts sector.

Cork City Council may offer amounts of grant aid less than the amount sought. Grant assistance will be awarded only where applications meet the criteria set down by Cork City Council. Applicants can apply for a maximum of €10,000.

**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 along with Frequently Asked Questions. 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 <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 or phone (021) 492 4000.

**Project Scheme Award Phases**

***Categories for Application Phases***

*There are two phases for this scheme. The phases can be applied for separately or together in the same application form. Please note that the maximum that will be awarded to an applicant under this scheme in any given year is €10,000.*

*Phase 1: Research & Development: Applicants can apply for support of up to* ***€10,000*** *towards the research and development of a project****.*** *This category prioritises resources needed by a professional artist to spend time researching methodologies and developing a plan for a future project.*

*Phase 2: Production:**Applicants can apply for support of up to* ***€10,000*** *towards the realisation or production of a project. This category prioritises resources needed for the realisation of a project proposal. The proposal should be completed within the year of scheme.*

*Please Note: it is recommended that the duration of either phase be planned according to the needs of the project and is reflected through a fair level of remuneration for arts personnel involved.*

**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 projects must be realised within the Cork City Council administrative area. If the project extends beyond this, we will not fund that element.
* Applications must be fully complete, signed and submitted before the deadline.
* Requested supporting material must be submitted.
* Projects must be carried out on a not-for-profit basis.
* Projects must be artistic in nature.
* Where relevant, organisations must have up-to-date child & vulnerable persons safeguarding policies that are compliant with the Children First Act 2015
* Applications should not relate to ongoing employment or overhead costs.

**Assessment Criteria**

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

**Artistic**

* Quality, relevance and ambition of proposed artistic or cultural project.
* Quality of artistic work demonstrated in the supporting materials.
* Artistic, technical and / or cultural expertise of project personnel.
* Potential impact of the proposed project on individual / organisation’s artistic practice development.

**Strategic**

* Quality of the project plan.
* Where relevant, evidence of inter-phase progression from pre-production to project realisation.
* Regional and / or national relevance of the project.
* Quality of proposed engagement with members of the public.
* Relevance to the diverse demographic of artists and audience/participants in Cork city.
* Evidence of sustainable practices relative to the environmental impact of the proposed project.

**Operational**

* Evidence of professional management of the project.
* Evidence of equitable and fair remuneration for artists /arts workers, in accordance with professional practice.
* Projected income from other sources (40% match funding applies if applying for production funding; no match funding is required for applications seeking support for research and development).
* The project must take place in the funding year, 2026.

**Supporting Materials**

* Artist/s C.V. and other key personnel as relevant.
* Examples of previous work.
* Evidence of local support / partnerships.
* Outline of proposed evaluation.

**Conditions of Award**

If successful, the following conditions will apply:

* 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 policies 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