**Introduction to Guidelines**

The Cork City Council Arts Office Cow House Studios Bursary Award supports practitioners working in contemporary visual arts seeking a residency opportunity.

Cow House Studios provides artists-in-residence with a comprehensive support structure that includes private accommodation, shared studio space, access to meals and essential amenities. Located on a working farm in County Wexford, the residency fosters a welcoming and collaborative environment for professional visual artists across disciplines. Participants benefit from an adaptable studio setup that encourages interdisciplinary exchange and individual research, alongside opportunities for professional development through facilitated discussions, public talks, workshops, and studio visits. For more information on Cow House Studios visit [www.cowhousestudios.com](http://www.cowhousestudios.com)

Supported by Cork City Council Arts Office, in 2026 Cow House Studios will offer one weeklong residency to the successful artist.

The value of the residency is €1,000, this includes a stipend of €440 towards travel and expenses, paid directly to the Artist by Cork City Council. The balance will cover all other residency costs including accommodation, studio access, meals and residency fees.

An artist will be awarded a residency during their preferred timeframe from the following options:

* 27th April – 3rd May
* 4th May – 10th May
* 11th May – 17th May
* 18th May – 24th May

Deadline for submission of online applications is **16:00 on Thursday 20th November 2025.**

Guidelines for applications to this award are provided in this document with Frequently Asked Questions. There is index of questions overleaf. Detailed information about the application criteria are provided in a separate document. To read the award guidelines and criteria, go to at <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.

Step-by-step video instructions on completing the online application form will be available to view online from 4th October 2025.

To submit your application in any other format, please get in touch to discuss by contacting artsgrants@corkcity.ieor phone (021) 492 4000.

**Index of Guidelines based on Frequently Asked Questions**

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**Q1. What can I do with this award?**

The Cork City Council Arts Office Cow House Studios Visual Artist Bursary Award supports practitioners working in visual arts seeking a residency opportunity. Applications must be in respect of the professional development of the individual practicing artist.

**Q2. Who can submit a proposal?**

Professional visual artists that wish to develop their practice through a residency opportunity may submit a proposal to this award. Mixed media and interdisciplinary artists may also apply with a visual arts proposal.

**Q3. What proposals are eligible?**

The criteria for eligibility are described in detail in a separate Award Criteria document. Applications will only qualify for assessment that meet those criteria.

If you are unsure whether your proposal is eligible for this scheme, contact artsgrants@corkcity.ieor phone (021) 492 4000.

**Q4. What accommodations are being made to support access requirements in the application process?**

Cork City Council Arts Office is committed to the support of equality, diversity and inclusion in the arts as per Arts Council of Ireland policy. Accommodations for access requirements facilitated by Cork City Council Arts Office include the following:

* Application Criteria and Guidelines are outlined in two separate documents from <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.
* A funding webinar will be hosted by Cork City Council Arts Office for prospective applicants on 14th October 2025. To attend, book your place at <https://artsfunds2026.eventbrite.ie> The webinar will cover the purpose of Cork City Council’s funding schemes and answer any questions relating to the award criteria or guidelines. The recording of this event will be captioned and available to download from this webpage <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/arts-culture-heritage/arts-office/arts-funding/> The recording can be provided with accompanying Irish Sign Language interpretation if requested by 14th October via email to artgrants@corkcity.ie;
* As an alternative to written proposals submitted via the online form, audio applications are facilitated via email. Instructions for submitting this format are outlined under Question 5;

Please note that applications for Personal Access Costs are not eligible for this award.

**Q5. How do I submit a proposal?**

To submit a proposal, you must complete an online application form which is hosted on a platform used by Cork City Council’s called Submit. To use Submit, you must first set up a Submit account. You will find step-by-step video instructions to do so from 14th October at <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/arts-culture-heritage/arts-office/arts-funding/>

When your Submit account is set up, you can log in and begin your application. You will find a link to the application form at <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/arts-culture-heritage/arts-office/arts-funding/>

Applicants are also required to submit additional enclosures. These are detailed in the Award Criteria which is a separate document that you can find at <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/arts-culture-heritage/arts-office/arts-funding/>.

Once your form is complete and submitted, there is one more task to perform before it will be received for assessment by Cork City Council: verification. You must follow the instructions that appear after you click the Submit button to verify your submission via a link that will be sent to the inbox of the email address you use to log in to Submit. Be sure to leave yourself enough time prior to the deadline to perform this last task.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, contact artsgrants@corkcity.ieor phone (021) 492 4000.

Applicants who wish to submit audio applications must inform Cork City Council Arts Office by 14th October in order that a transcript can be arranged in advance of assessment. Guidelines for recorded submissions are below:

* Verbal answers to application questions via audio submissions must not exceed the word count on the application form.
* Audio recordings can be uploaded to Soundcloud or Bandcamp.
* You must submit a weblink to your audio via email to artsgrants@corkcity.ie by the deadline for all funding applications to this scheme. Audio files attached to an email will not be accepted.
* If the online audio is password protected, the relevant password must be included in the same submission email to artsgrants@corkcity.iewith the link to access it;
* Essential enclosures listed in the application form will need to be provided as recordings also unless they can be submitted as text files via attachment to the same submission email.
* The name of the applicant must be included in the submission email.

In order to submit audio recorded applications, please contact Cork City Council Arts Office by emailing us at artsgrants@corkcity.ie before 14th October 2025 so that we can plan for the transcription of your application after the deadline.

To submit your application in any other format, please get in touch to discuss by contacting artsgrants@corkcity.ieor phone (021) 492 4000.

**Q6. Who decides if I will be awarded?**

Your Cow House Studios Visual Artist Residency application will be assessed by a panel of people that decide who should receive the bursary based on how well the proposal fulfils the criteria outlined in the Application Criteria document. Each person invited to be on the panel will have relevant experience working in the arts, including a representative of Cow House Studios. The panel will be facilitated by a staff member from Cork City Council Arts Office.

The panel will first review all of the proposals received by the application deadline. Next, they will meet and discuss the merits of the proposals. Finally, they will mark the proposals based on the criteria headings below:

* Artistic Criteria
* Strategic Criteria
* Operational Criteria

The proposal scoring the highest marks will be awarded the residency.

**Q7. What happens with information I submit in my application?**

Cork City Council will make the following information in your funding application available on request:

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

Cork City Council treats all information received in applications confidentially. You should be aware however that, occasionally, Cork City Council receives request for information received to be shared publicly under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. For this reason, we ask that you make us aware if any information you provide is sensitive. Cork City Council will not release sensitive information without asking your permission in advance.

If Cork City Council is not made aware that any information is sensitive, it may be released without consulting you at any time in response to a Freedom of Information Request.

**Q8. What is the deadline for applications?**

The deadline for submission of applications is 4pm on Thursday 20th November 2025.

You are advised to submit your application as early as possible in case of any technical challenges on the day to ensure it is received on time

**Q9. What happens if I am not awarded?**

All applicants will be notified by letter about the outcome of the assessment of applications by March 2026. You will be informed if your proposal is not awarded. An unsuccessful application does not preclude you from applying for funding through this scheme in the future.

**Q10. Where can I find out more about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the arts?**

[Arts Council of Ireland Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](https://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Equality%2C-Diversity-and-Inclusion/Equality%2C-Diversity-and-Inclusion-Policy/)

[Arts Council of Ireland Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit](https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/wwwartscouncilie/Content/About/Equality%2C_Human_Rights_and_Diversity/EDI%20Toolkit%20Final_Eng.pdf)

**Q11. I have a question not covered in this document. Who can I contact?**

Please contact Cork City Council Arts Office, Corporate Community & Cultural Affairs, Cork City Council, City Hall, Anglesea Street, Cork, Ireland

Tel: 021 492 4000

Email: artsgrants@corkcity.ie