

# Live / Work / Play

: Individual Professional Artists

**Artist Support Scheme**

Sligo Arts Service Department in partnership with The Arts Council

## INFORMATION SHEET

**Full-time Professional Artists**

**Maximum Award: €1,200**

**Opens: April 2025**

**Closes: November 6th 2025**

**Online Application Process Only**

Applications will only be accepted via Sligo County Council's online portal,

[MyServices - Sligo County Council Online Services](#) then either **REGISTER** or **LOG IN**

### Eligibility Criteria:

- The fund is open to full-time, independent (non-commercial) professional artists ordinarily basing their practice in County Sligo.
- Artists at all stages of their careers are welcome to apply
- Applicants must be over 18 years of age.
- Funding must be utilised between 1st May and 31st December 2025.
- Only one application per artist/project is permitted.
- Applications from collectives may be considered, but the maximum amount awarded will be €1200 to the collective. Fees for curator, project manager, producer, mentor and/or other relevant service providers may be included as appropriate, however, at least one professional artist must lead on the application.
- Costs associated with access requirements in relation to the individual will be considered. Funding provided to meet an applicant's Access Requirements is an

additional amount provided in addition to that awarded for the project itself. The maximum available towards Access requirements can be no more than 20% of that of the main award\*

- Unless advised to re-apply/submit, applications that are assessed & are not successful in any individual round will not be re-considered in a later round.

## **Requirements and Notes:**

- Completed application forms must be accompanied by artists C.V. images/recordings etc. of previous work and details/supplementary information about the subject of the application.
- Sligo County Council is committed to offering equality of access, opportunity and outcomes to all potential applicants regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community, or socio-economic background. In this funding scheme Sligo County Council particularly welcomes applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society, including but not limited to any of the characteristics outlined above, and/or initiatives that deliver equitable opportunities or outcomes for those involved.

## **Applications will be assessed based on the following:**

This is a competitive scheme, and it is anticipated that it will be over-subscribed.

Applications will be carefully assessed based on the following broad criteria:

1. **Track record of applicant** (or potential for an emerging artist) and proven commitment to high quality arts practice, particularly as evidenced in this activity, and where applicable, as evidenced in the outcomes arising from previous support provided by Sligo County Council.
2. **Likely benefit of activity to artist's practice** - this may also include the opportunity to work with national or international artists with extensive track records and/or the opportunity to perform or exhibit nationally or internationally at venues with strong track records of presenting high quality professional art events.

In the case where a company such as an orchestra or theatre company is producing the applicant's work – the quality and excellence of those companies and the extent and scale of its presentation is a determinant of likely benefit.

In the case of courses, mentoring, services etc. – the quality and excellence of those activities or services is a determinant of likely benefit.

3. **Likely impact /importance of work on audiences** from this activity.
4. **Value of investment** – the extent to which the proposal can achieve these criteria in the context of the fund.

## Ineligible costs:

The following costs are not eligible for support:

- Assistance for ongoing revenue costs e.g. memberships, utilities, studio rental etc
- Assistance to cover loans / deficits.
- Assistance with capital costs & purchase of capital items including equipment.
- Activities for charity or fund-raising purposes.
- Participation in a competitions/trade stands etc.
- Assistance in respect of commercial activities.
- Assistance towards fees or costs for undergraduate or postgraduate courses of study (including unaccredited/higher education etc).
- Assistance towards work undertaken as part of a formal course of study.
- Assistance towards the costs of undertaking an internship.
- Activity not relating to 2025.
- Activity already supported by Sligo County Council Arts Service through another Scheme.
- We do not support publications unless they are Anthologies from established Writers Groups
- Framing costs
- Unless you are a professional arts collective or Playwright & Producer Team or the Screenwriter & Producer Team – applicant groups must have been formed and active since October 2023 to qualify for grant aid during 2025. Proof of this may be requested.

## Definitions of Artist Careers

**Early-career artist** is in the initial stage of their professional career. Generally, they have reached a point beyond hobby activities, they may be undertaking, or have recently completed, specialised training or study and are actively committed to professional practice. This may mean they are pursuing new and varied opportunities, dedicating time to making and developing work, showing or performing in exhibitions and at events, increasing public and industry awareness of their practice and reputation, seeking representation and beginning to develop networks and collaborate creatively.

Paid work, such as commissions, project grants, performances, sales and exhibitions, is unlikely to be equivalent to full-time or continuous income.

**Mid-career artist** has been developing an independent body of work and practice over several years, gaining recognition at a local and national level. This type of recognition can be achieved through public presentation of work, publication in magazines, online commentary such as essays and broad industry acknowledgement.

Their income may come solely from creative work, or it may be supplemented by teaching and other forms of income that complement artistic practice.

This stage of a creative career will generally not follow a typical upward trajectory. There may be times of intensive and overlapping work periods followed by stretches of little to no project work. A variety of professional development activities and experimentation may take place as an artist navigates this time in their career.

**Established artist** has reached a high level of achievement in their career, having created a substantial body of work and gained national and international acclaim for their contribution to their discipline and sector. Their practice and output are likely to be very recognisable and contribute to their prominence in the field.

### **Access Requirements:**

*We recognise that access requirements are things that take away barriers that might affect your ability to work. Some access requirements may include extra costs - others may have no cost. For the purposes of this award, you may apply for personal access requirements. Below are some types of different kinds of personal access costs:*

- Communication supports such as:
  - Assistive technology like Loop systems.
  - Other formats of text such as Easy-to-Read or audio.
  - ISL interpreter. 4
- Access supports such as accessible taxi, venue with a changing place, ramps and quiet spaces.
- Accommodation, travel costs for Personal Assistants.
- Extra time might lead to extra costs. For example:
  - Renting a rehearsal room longer for longer rehearsals.
  - Extra fees for cast, crew or people setting up shows and spaces etc.
- If needed, training for cast, crew or other people working on a project. This is training that will support them to work safely and professionally with the artist while making sure their access requirements are met (for example, Disability Equality Theatre Training DET, manual handling, safeguarding – vulnerable adults etc.)

If your personal access requirements cost extra, you should include a one-page document outlining same as part of your supporting documentation

The inclusion of personal access costs will not affect how your project is looked at and reviewed. You should not apply for personal access costs if you don't need them.

**Further information:** [artsoffice@sligococo.ie](mailto:artsoffice@sligococo.ie)

**Sligo.**

