



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Arts Ealaíona

Arts Funding FAQs

This collection of FAQs was compiled from questions and answers discussed as part of an arts funding webinars hosted by Cork City Council Arts Office on 17th and 24th October 2024.

If you do not find an answer to your question here, please consult the Award Criteria and Guidelines before contacting artsgrants@corkcity.ie

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Section A **General Arts Funding Questions**

A1. Are students eligible for Cork City Council Arts Funding?

As per the award criteria, Cork City Council Arts Funding is for professional artists only. If you have evidence of professional arts practice and your proposal pertains to activities outside of your studies, then you may apply as long as the activities are concluded within the funding year.

A2. Discipline eligibility - does this follow Arts Council guidelines? eg: illustration, ceramics are often considered design rather than arts

We understand that disciplines that may be recognised as 'design' and/or as 'craft' disciplines can have artistic relevance when presented in an 'expanded' or 'inter-disciplinary' format, such as in the development or exhibition of an installation, sculpture, literary work, performance etc. In these instances, those disciplines are eligible. It is recommended that applications for these kind of approaches that applicants explain simply and clearly how the proposed discipline is relevant to an arts funding opportunity.

A3. What defines a professional artist for funding purposes?

For funding purposes, an applicant may or may not have qualifications accredited by relevant artistic institutions however it is necessary to provide evidence of experience working in professional contexts and being remunerated monetarily (ie paid), or if not, at least compensated in some form, for doing so. This evidence is usually provided in the form of a CV and examples of artistic work.

A4. Within the application form on the finance section "Income - Please include details of any sources of income other than from Cork City Council that might support this proposal eg. "grants, fees, sponsorship or benefit in kind". Can you discuss this further what you are specifically asking? Are you asking what our monthly income is that might support this?

Cork City Council Arts Funding applications do not require that a portion of an artist's wage be included in the Income breakdown, nor is information about salaries required. To explain the other terms used in more detail below. Please note that some of the terms listed above will be relevant to some but not all applications.

- Grants are relevant to public funding from other sources from other sections of Cork City Council or other entities;
- Fees are relevant to artist and other personnel fees offered or charged for work proposed;
- Sponsorship is relevant to investment via private or crowd-based fundraising;



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- Benefit-in-kind represents the kind of support offered for a proposal that does not take monetary form. For example:
 - A collaborator may offer access to a hot desk from which an artist can work and, in doing so, provide an 'in-kind' benefit by covering the cost of light, heat, wifi, photocopier, insurance, rent etc.
 - A participating group may be supported by an organisation that offers benefit in kind in the form of administrative support.
 - An artist might bring specialist equipment with them which has a monetary value, after depreciation, that represents cost savings for the budget.

A5. If the total ask from the Cork City Council Artist and the Community Award is €10,000 would the actual cost of the project be €13,000 (or more) based on 30% (or more) match funding (including benefit in kind)?

Yes. The same principle applies to the Project Scheme however the match funding required for that is 40% and not all of it may be benefit in kind.

A6. What access costs can be applied for bursary and project award? Can neurodivergent artists apply for coaching support?

Additional funds to cover access requirements are not available currently for the Cork City Council Artist Bursary and Project Scheme however access costs can be included in the Expenditure Breakdown in applications where relevant.

Up to 20% of the total amount requested from Cork City Council for the Artist and the Community Award can be requested in addition to the total amount.

Neurodivergent artists are welcome to apply for coaching support as long as the nature of coaching is relevant to artistic development.

A7. If an artist is supported by an arts management company or other organisation, can the company apply for the project award for the artist with other collaborators? And can the artist apply separately as an individual for the bursary in the same funding cycle?

Yes on both counts. For more detail with regard to part 2 of this question, see C3.



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A8. Would it help to have a letter of support from someone who's not involved with the proposal but who is supporting of your practice and development; say from a curator or professional artist?

For project awards, there is no advantage in providing letters of support or other forms of endorsements by people that are not directly involved in the proposal outlined in your application. This is because external perceptions are unlikely to have an impact on the material merits of the project activities and how they are planned.

With regards to bursaries, a letter of support from an external party such as a former tutor may be of benefit to a newly emerging artist however the content should still be relevant to their proposed activities. For all other bursary applicants, letters of support should only be sought from parties with a stake in the proposal eg a curator supportive of the applicant's development based on past or upcoming opportunities of relevance.

A9. Should supporting letters be detailed or be an outline of the work proposed with your collaborators.

Letters of support should support the detail provided in the application form or other enclosures/support materials.

A10. What are the timelines of work applied for?

As per the award criteria, all activities applied for must be completed within the funding year.



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Section B **Arts Grants Funding Questions**

B1. For Community and voluntary, do our accounts have to be certified by a qualified accountant? We're an unincorporated entity at present.

Depending on the amount of grant aid requested, a statement of accounts may be adequate. Please specify in a query to artsgrants@corkcity.ie

B2. Are Arts Grants taken into account when calculating for taxable income at year end?

This is a question for your accountant who is in a better position than an Arts Office to advise on this matter.



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Section C **Bursary Funding Questions**

C1. Can the artist bursary be used for purchase of an instrument?

Up to 20% of the amount requested from Cork City Council Arts Funding may be invested in the purchase of equipment, such as instruments or equipment specifically to facilitate access requirements is eligible, as long as it is demonstrated to be relevant to the proposal and necessary for its realisation. Major capital requests for the purchase of equipment or improvements to workspaces are not eligible.

C2. For bursaries, if presenting an exhibition or other outcomes represents a 'significant shift in practice' for an artist, is this eligible or is it just training/mentorship focused fund?

Mentorship and training is not a prerequisite for a successful application. Proposals to support a significant shift in practice for an artist are eligible for a bursary. Please note however that the purpose of a bursary is to support the development of a body of work. It's purpose is not to support the production or exhibition of artistic work. For this latter purpose, a project award would be more relevant.

C3. Can an artist apply for the individual bursary for themselves, as well as for the project scheme for a not-for-profit project in the same funding cycle?

Artists may apply for bursaries to enable them to develop an area of practice that may or may not be relevant to applications for project funding in which they are also named. It is recommended that applicants consider carefully how they present the timeline for their proposals to demonstrate good planning and feasibility which will be assessed under the category 'operational criteria'.

C4. Would it be possible to comment on the competitiveness of the bursary- how many awards were made/ applications received in 2023 for 2024?

In 2023, 66 bursary applications were received. 4 were ineligible. 18 were awarded funding for 2024.



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Section D Project Funding Questions

D1. Can R&D for a project outside of Cork City area be funded?

A project seeking support through Cork City Council Arts Funding must take place within the jurisdiction of Cork city. While the artist(s) involved in the project may be based at an address outside this jurisdiction, the project activities and any participating group must be based inside.

D2. Does there need to be an outcome from the R&D for a project?

Firstly, it is important to note the distinction between outputs and outcomes. Cork City Council Arts Office understands an output to be a tangible or intangible artist product that has been created during an artistic process. It might be a theatrical performance or a sculpture. Whereas, outcomes are the results of an artistic process. Outcomes are usually tied to objectives. For example, if an objective of a project is to get to know participants and for them to upskill in an artform, then the outcomes might be that they got to know each other and that they acquired new skills.

In this context, yes there need to be outcomes from the R&D process for a project but there do not necessarily need to be outputs at that early stage. Some R&Ds will produce some outputs. Some of the outcomes from an R&D might be different to the original objectives.

D3. For the project scheme, does match funding have to be in place already, or can we indicate expected and/or potential sources?

It is not necessary that Match Funding be awarded by submission date of an application for Cork City Council Arts Funding however evidence that Match Funding has at least been sought in advance is required. The relevant amounts and sources should be entered into the Income Breakdowns in application forms. Further evidence, such as a letter expressing support pending feasibility, may be included amongst Essential Enclosures otherwise known as 'support materials'.

For the Project Scheme, a minimum of 40% Match Funding is required. For the Artist and the Community Scheme, a minimum of 30% Match Funding is required but this can be represented by Benefit-in-Kind.

D4. If funding for an exhibition of paintings is granted, what happens if some are sold?

That is entirely up to the artist. Some applicants may wish to include projected sales figures in their Income breakdown in their application forms however this will not be relevant to everyone.



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D5. Can I use Project Scheme as match funding for a project that starts in January (would bring on extra resources in February, if successful).

Yes.



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Section E Questions Specific to the Artist and the Community Award

E1. How can I write a proposal without prescribing the outputs?

A common challenge when preparing funding applications can be writing a good proposal without deciding too early what the artistic outputs will be. For an explanation of the difference between outputs and outcomes, please see Question D2)

A proposal should leave space for exciting possibilities and discoveries. The artistic process itself can be described in terms of what skills will be developed, how exploration will be facilitated, what supports and stimulus will be offered and who the project participants want to share their outputs with, once complete.

While the artistic outputs may be undetermined at this point, the project participants may have defined the outcomes they want to work towards ie. what they hope to gain through their involvement. The description of the process and the anticipated outcomes offer a kind of framework for a proposal that will support the participants without dictating what artistic work(s) they will produce when it is too early to know this.

E2. How do I know what my rate as an artist should be?

While many organisations have fixed rates that they pay, this is usually where the artist is undertaking the role of tutor or facilitator for a specified number of hours and a specified purpose eg. delivering arts classes for an ETB.

For atypical or bespoke projects that require different and multiple roles, these basic hourly fees might be useful, but ultimately insufficient for you to determine your overall fee.

If you are unsure, discuss it with other artists, your local arts office or contact organisations such as Create, Visual Artists Ireland, IMRO, Theatre Forum etc.

E3. We have access requirements relevant to our proposal? Are there supports available to cover the costs of these?

Personal Access Costs are costs related to your personal access requirements, that will remove barriers for you or your collaborators who are involved in delivering your proposal.

Cork City Council Arts Office makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for people with access requirements, pending feasibility. You can apply for Personal Access Costs necessary to complete your proposal up to 20% of the value of the Total Award Requested. These costs will be additional to any funding which you are awarded, subject to availability of funding. See Access Guidelines for the Artist and the Community Award on our Arts Funding webpage.



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E4. Would the case of applicants that are in receipt of other funds such as Create Artist in the Community be seen (broadly) as being more or less compelling?

If an assessment panel sees that the applicant is in receipt of other funding, they are likely to try to find answers to the questions listed below. They will do this by carefully examining the enclosures or 'support materials' like CVs and planning documents that have been submitted to Cork City Council together with a proposal. Applicants are therefore advised to consider how you clearly communicate this information in your submission.

- Does any funding secured promise to support the proposal and the development of the group and/or the artistic personnel involved.
- Is the artist or community developing on their ideas or are they doing the same kind of work again and again, and if either, what merits does this have for the proposal?
- Is the artist acquiring experience or demonstrating capacity that will benefit the proposal?
- Is the artist's time and interest likely to be affected by other commitments?
- Is the other support that the artist secured like to benefit the proposal?

E5. Would it be possible to comment on the competitiveness of the Artist and the Community Award- how many awards were made/ applications received in 2023 when this award was called the Arts in Context Award?

In 2023, 9 applications were received. 6 were awarded funding for 2024.



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Section F **Questions Specific to Mentorship**

F1. Can I get help from a professional abroad?

Yes. It is recommended that the suitability and nature of the help offered/requested be outlined clearly as well as the feasibility of correspondence/exchange between helper and artist.

F2. Are letters of support from a mentor advisable or essential in the case of applying for mentorship, or a letter from a venue if presenting an exhibition etc.?

We recognise that the writing of detailed letters can represent a significant amount of work for a mentor who is not guaranteed remuneration due to the competitiveness of applications. This level of detail in the form or a letter, mentorship plan or similar drafted by applicants are admissible as long as the mentor provides, at a minimum, a short statement declaring their support in the proposal and their interest in the role of mentor.