

## Waterford Council 2024 Arts Grants Recommendations for December Plenary meeting

Under the **Waterford City and County Arts Strategy 2016-2022 – “A Shared Vision for Waterford”** arts organizations, groups and artists were invited to submit proposals for consideration under the general banner of Arts Practice Grants.

The grants followed closely the relevant actions under the Arts Strategy’s three themes:

- Participation & Access
- Support for Artists
- Identity and Place

The Arts Act Grants are designated under the following headings:

1. Groups: Voluntary/Amateur and Professional
2. Rural Artist grants
3. Specialist Grants (Playwright & Producer Team grant and Screenwriter& Producer Team grant).

The independent Arts Practice Grants and Venues Grants adjudication took place on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, with adjudicators Annette Moloney and Mike Finn. Applications were presented by Arts Officers Conor Nolan and Margaret Organ with oversight from City & County Librarian Jane Cantwell.

For 2024, funding there was a total of 48 applications across all categories compared to 47 for 2023. In the specialist side of the Arts Practice Grants five were for Playwright & Producer (up from just one) and three for Screenwriter & Producer (down from five in 2022).

These categories have a two phase process with the second part to be adjudicated and awarded in Q2, 2024.

Where an applicant did not receive funding it was either because they hadn’t completed the process or the application failed on governance (e.g. no budget outlined as requested or no child protection policy in place) or it was not recommended by the adjudication board in the competitive application process.

### Description of Categories and amounts of grants under each

Each category is linked to areas where Waterford City & County Council has identified a specific need for support and artistic development. There are **5** categories.

### The categories of grants awarded are:

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Total Approved for 2023</u>	<u>Total Recommended for 2024</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amateur/Voluntary Arts grants</b></li> </ul>	<b>€20,250</b>	<b>€23,650</b>
Grants for the Amateur/Voluntary section and would include Amateur Drama Organisations, Choirs, Marching Bands, Amateur Visual Arts Cooperatives, Volunteer Concert providers, Amateur Writing Groups or groups coming together, on a voluntary basis,		

to stage a professional event or series of events or professional theatre.		
• <b>Rural Arts Grants</b>	<b>€8,000</b>	<b>€9,400</b>
Rural Arts Grants The development of a Rural Arts network is to ensure accessibility to the arts for artists and audiences. It was identified as a specific need in the Waterford City & County Arts Strategy 2016 -2022.		
• <b>Professional Project Grants</b>	<b>€35,750</b>	<b>€37,850</b>
These grants are for the Professional art section and would include professional arts organisations, Theatre companies, Arts Service companies, professional artist and professional arts collaborations.		
• <b>Playwright &amp; Producer team grant (Stage 1)</b>	<b>€9,000</b>	<b>€6,600</b>
Part of the Theatre Programme of the Arts Service. A two part grant we see this as a partnership between a Playwright and a Producer and Waterford City & County Council.		
• <b>Playwright &amp; Producer team grant (Stage 2)</b>	<b>€4,500</b>	<b>€4,500</b>
• <b>Screenwriter &amp; Producer team grants (Stage 1)</b>	<b>€1,500</b>	<b>€2,400</b>
Part of the Film Programme of the Arts Service. A two part grant we see this as a partnership between a Screenwriter and a Producer and Waterford City & County Council.		
• <b>Screenwriter &amp; Producer team grants (Stage 2)</b>	<b>€11,000</b>	<b>€15,600</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€90,000</b>	<b>€100,000</b>

## **2024 Arts Practice Grants Adjudication Process and Decisions**

This year was the first in-person adjudication in three years. Due to concerns over continuity, we utilised tried, trusted and experienced adjudicators Annette Moloney and Mike Finn. All pre pre-adjudication and application processes were through Submit.com with the exception of the scoring.

Some interesting patterns emerged this year particularly on the music front with six new applicants including two highly fancied bands: *'Lithium Lounge'* and *'AliensInCaves'*. It wasn't confined to young bands either and there were a couple of applications by the not-so-young. Again for 2024 we pooled resources so as to increase amounts in specialist areas which are generally a lot more expensive (due to production costs) than other disciplines.

The Arts Practice Grants received a welcome increase from €90 to €100K this year.

**Annette Moloney** is a curator, commissioner, and collaborator. She is a Public Art Specialist and has worked with the Arts Council of Ireland as their Adviser on Public Art and the Government Per Cent for Art Scheme. Examples of her curatorial practice include working in 2015 as Cavan Curator in Residence (with Maeve Mulrennan) engaging directly with Artists from a range of artforms. She also received an Arts Council of Ireland Curator in Residence Award to develop ENDURANCE | RESILIENCE, a Curated @ Source project which explored the links between sport and human effort in contemporary art, located at the Source Arts Centre, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. A Fine Art graduate from Limerick School of Art & Design and the National College of Art & Design, she completed a Masters in Visual Arts Practice at IADT (Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology), Dublin, specialising in Curatorial Practice. She is a proud member of the Munster Rugby Supporters Club.

**Mike Finn** is a playwright, screenwriter and actor and an Honorary Fellow of the University of Iowa. He holds an MA in Scriptwriting from the National Film School. He is a founder member of Island Theatre Co. Mike won the 2000 Stewart Parker Award for *"Pigtown,"* which was originally produced by Island Theatre Company, receiving four Irish Times Theatre Award nominations before being produced Off-Broadway and in San Jose.

His numerous other plays include *"The Unfortunate Cabin Boy"*, *"The Revenger's Tragedy"* and *"Porkville"* (Bottom Dog), *"The Quiet Moment"*, *"The Crunch and Shock & Awe"* (Island Theatre Co) Mike also works in Television and Film and helped script the popular television series *Kilnascully*.

<b>Amateur/Voluntary Arts grants</b>	<b>2022 Grant</b>	<b>2023 Grant</b>	<b>2024 Recommendation</b>
• De La Salle Scout Pipe band, C/O Pat Murphy. Annual programme	€1,600	€1,650	<b>€1,850</b>
• City Of Waterford Brass Band C/O Michael Doody, Annual programme	€1,600	€1,650	<b>€1,850</b>
• Dungarvan Brass Band C/O William Dee, Annual programme	€1,600	€1,650	<b>€1,850</b>
• Barrack Street Concert Band, Annual programme	€1,600	€1,650	<b>€1,850</b>
• Fidelma Meaney – Curtain Call Productions - 2 plays	€1500	€1500	<b>€1650</b>
• Dungarvan Dramatic Club Secondary Schools project.			<b>€1000</b>
• Symphony Club of Waterford programme		€3,000	<b>€3,000</b>
• Notable Works – Choral producers	€1,000	€1,000	<b>€1,000</b>
• Waterford Music Club programme		€3,000	<b>€3,300</b>
• Traces Dance Ensemble Dance - (with Garter Lane) GLOR Project	€3,000	€3,500	<b>€3,300</b>
• Ted and Mary O'Regan Arts Bursary.	€3000	0	<b>€3000</b>
<b>Rural Arts Grant</b>	<b>2022 Grant</b>	<b>2023 Grant</b>	<b>2024 Recommendation</b>
• Lismore Castle Arts	€6,000	€2,500	<b>€2,750</b>
• Tomas Ó hÓgáin Déise new Nursery Rhymes Book, CD			<b>€5,000</b>
• Emily Aherne, Brideview Drama group, 'Antigone' for 3 Act Festival.	€1,000	€1,500	<b>€1,650</b>

<b>Professional Programme Grants</b>	<b>2022 Grant</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024 Recommendation</b>
• Jenna Whelan/GOMA : Visions of Home, Identity & Place.			<b>€3,400</b>
• GOMA Common Groundings Social collaborative project	€6,500	€7,500	<b>€5,000</b>

between targeted communities and Artists.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waterford Youth Arts : <i>Under Milk Wood</i> Directed by Jim Nolan</li> </ul>	€6,500	€7,500* (Special UK project)	<b>€7,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waterford Healing Arts/ Réalta. Open Gallery Dementia project.</li> </ul>	€6,000	€7,500	<b>€6,500</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little Red Kettle : Interactive schools programme.</li> </ul>	€3,500	€5,250	<b>€5,500</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alex Soikans and Paul J Bolger Musical project.</li> </ul>		NEW	<b>€1,100</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shane Power - Lithium Lounge (Band) Recording</li> </ul>		NEW	<b>€1,100</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scott Hammell – Fakehouse (Band)</li> </ul>		NEW	<b>€550</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Hegarty – new album for Band Of Clouds</li> </ul>			<b>€1,100</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve Roche for Vinyl album of recordings</li> </ul>		NEW	<b>€1,100</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oscar Ó Chinnéide AliensInCaves debut album</li> </ul>		NEW	<b>€1,100</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darragh McDonald – Chez Music Project</li> </ul>		NEW	<b>€1,100</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ronan Fitzgibbon Broken Crow Theatre Company – <i>Soz – not Soz.</i></li> </ul>			<b>€3,300</b>
<b>Playwright &amp; Producer Team Grant (Phase 1)</b>	<b>2022 Grant</b>	<b>2023 Grant</b>	<b>Phase 1 2024</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Derek Flynn <i>Deice Dogs</i> – a Waterford heist play.</li> </ul>		€1,500	<b>€1650</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luke Corcoran <i>Synthetic Salvation</i> – a play about future chaos. (Previously received support for Screenwriter – see below)</li> </ul>			<b>€1650</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Power : '<i>Dress You Up</i>' by Waterford playwright and poet Wayne Power. (Stagemad previously received funding under general grants)</li> </ul>			<b>€1,650</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pat Daly Play - <i>House of Cards</i> :</li> </ul>		€1,500	<b>€1,650</b>
<b>Screenwriter &amp; Producer Team Grant (Phase 1)</b>	<b>2022 Grant</b>	<b>2023 Grant</b>	<b>Phase 1 2024</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darina Clancy with Gail Sheridan – <i>What I miss the most</i> – a short film about a family Christmas over the years.</li> </ul>		€500	<b>€600</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luke Corcoran – <i>Waterford Windows</i> – a series of 5 minute shorts.</li> </ul>			<b>€600</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve O'Connell – '<i>Haema</i>' a neo-gothic horror film</li> </ul>			<b>€600</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steven Stubbs – ‘Turf Town’ a spoof soap opera, in the melodramatic style of Latin American telenovelas.</li> </ul>			€600
<b>Phase 2 Playwright &amp; Producer Team Grant 3 X @ €1500</b>			€4,500
<b>Phase 2 Screenwriter &amp; Producer Team Grant 2 X €7,800</b>			€15,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€90,000</b>	<b>€90,000</b>	<b>€100,000</b>

## Venue Grants

Arts Venue applications were examined under the following areas:

- 2024 artistic ambition
- 2023 programme.
- Collaboration with local practitioners and producers and artists.
- Education & Outreach.
- Value for money.

### The following observations were made:

2023 saw a number of major collaborations with other organisations and groups leading to a big expansion in creative programming. Credit is due to the Directors vision. This was also noticed by the Arts Council who increased their commitment to a number of the venues.

For 2024 WC&CC has increased its funding to the venues by nearly €15,000.

Venue	2022	2023	2024
•Garter Lane	€66,000	€72,600	€78,774
•Theatre Royal	€66,000	€72,600	€78,774
•Coastguard Cultural Centre	€11,000	€12,100	€13,130
•GOMA Gallery	€12,000	€13,200	€14,322
•Rogue Gallery & Studios	€10,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€165,000</b>	<b>€170,500</b>	<b>€185,000</b>