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# Project Award 2025 Funding Clinic

## Circus, Street Performance and Spectacle

10th July, 2024

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## Who Are We

### The Arts Council

The Arts Council is a voluntary body of 12 members and a chair, appointed by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for a term of five years.

The ongoing work of the Arts Council is delivered by the executive, including a Director and staff across multiple artform specific and operational teams.

Arts advisers and assessors, who provide additional expertise and strategic advice on different aspects of the arts, are retained on a consultancy basis.

Learn more at: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/about/>

### Artform Teams

- Architecture
- Arts participation
- Circus
- Creative Schools
- Dance
- Festivals
- Film
- International Arts
- Literature
- Music
- Opera
- Street Performance and Spectacle
- Theatre
- Traditional arts
- Arts Centres
- Visual Arts
- The Arts Council Collection
- Young People, Children and Education (YPCE)

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## Who We Are - CSAS Team



- **Officer:** Ciara Coyne (Part-Time)
- **Head of Team:** Laura Ivers (Part-Time)
- **Advisor:** Adam O’Keeffe (External)

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# What We Do

The Arts Council of Ireland is the Irish government agency for developing the arts.

We work in partnership with artists, arts organisations, public policy makers and others to build a central place for the arts in Irish life.

The Arts Council's core functions under the Arts Act 2003 are:

- Stimulate public interest in the arts
- Promote knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts
- Assist in improving standards in the arts
- Advise the Minister and other public bodies on the arts



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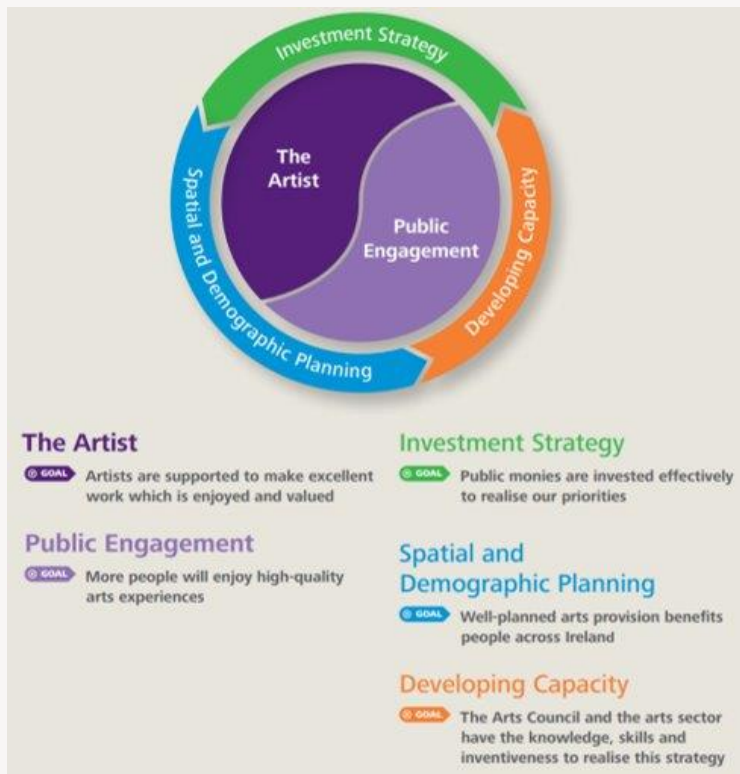
## How We Do It

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Funding   | Providing financial assistance, mainly, but not exclusively, to artists and arts organisations; we also support others who develop and promote the arts; |
| Advice    | Offering advice and information on the arts to Government and to others;   |
| Research  | Publishing research and information as an advocate for the arts and artists;   |
| Promotion | Undertaking a range of projects to promote and develop the arts, often in partnership with others  |

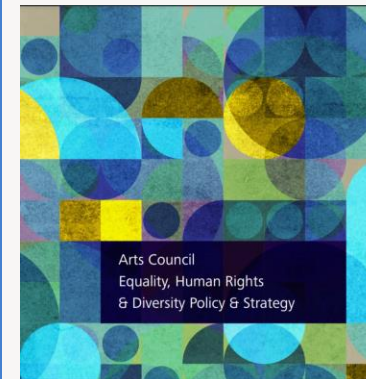
# How We Do It

## Policy & Strategy

All funding programmes and artform specific policies are informed by the Arts Council's ten-year strategy (2016-25), *Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland*



**Making Great Art Work**  
Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland  
Arts Council Strategy (2016-2025)



Learn more at: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/about/>

# Project Award 2025

## Introduction and Artform Notes

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# Project Award

## Introduction

The Project Award supports the creation and presentation of new work to audiences in the Republic of Ireland in partnership with festivals, arts centres, venues and local authorities.

## Project Award 2024

There was one round of Project Award in 2024

- 34 Applications requesting €1, 362, 424
- 9 Applications were funded to the value of €392, 957
- ~25% of applications – 1:4
- ~30% of requested amount available.

**CSPS Project Award 2025 Budget = Approx. €400, 000**



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# Project Award

## Artform Note

**Circus:** The Circus Project Award is open to circus artists and companies working in both the contemporary and traditional circus sectors in Ireland who wish to develop new work for presentation to ROI audiences.

**Street Performance & Spectacle:** Street Performance refers to live, outdoor performance typically in a street, public space, or site responsive context, usually presented free of cost. It can include circus, spectacle, theatre, magic, comedy, puppetry or dance. Street Performance can take the form of a walkabout act, a circle show, or a pop-up intervention that engages audiences unexpectedly as they go about their daily lives.

Spectacle refers to high-impact performance, typically occurring in an outdoor setting in a festival or parade context, often involving floats, pageants, large scale structures, puppetry, processional performance, and themed group ensembles that integrate costume, dance, theatre, and music through a theme.

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# Project Award

## Artform Note

**YPCE:** If your project is youth circus focused or you wish to develop and deliver ambitious and original projects with and for children and young people, you should apply via the YPCE Project Award.

**Arts Participation:** If your project has Social Circus, or initiatives in the field of arts participation (participatory, collaborative, community and socially engaged arts practices )as it's primary focus, you should apply via the Arts Participation Project Award which supports proposals from professional artists or arts organisations that wish to collaborate artistically with non-arts professionals (individuals or groups) to co-create works.

**Visual Arts:** Mural/Street Art artists should apply via the Visual Arts Project Award.

**Music:** Musicians should apply via the the Music Project Award Award.

**Note on secondary artforms:** While applicants may select other artforms/arts practices as being relevant to their application, the application will be assessed by the team responsible for the chosen primary artform, and which may, in certain instances, ask for a secondary assessment from another team.

# Project Award 2025

## Guidelines Overview

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# Project Award 2025

## Circus/Street Performance & Spectacle

### Purpose of the Award

The purpose of the award is to support high-quality, stand-alone initiatives that specifically deliver a presentation to, or an engagement with, an audience or public.

### Key Information

**Closing date:** 17:30, Thursday 25th July 2024

**Maximum awarded:** €50,000

**Artform and practice(s):** Circus / Street Performance & Spectacle

**Applicant type:** The award is open to professional artists and organisations

**Funding Decision:** Peer Panel

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# Project Award 2025

## Guidelines

Available at:

[www.arts council.ie](http://www.arts council.ie)



Available funding



Circus Project Award/

Street Performance & Spectacle  
Project Award

- Objectives and Priorities of the Award
- Who Can/Cannot Apply
- What you May/May Not Apply For
- Supporting Material
- Eligibility
- How to Make Your Application
- How We Assess Your Application

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# Circus Project Award 2025

## Purpose

The purpose of the award is to support high-quality, stand-alone initiatives that specifically deliver a presentation to, or an engagement with, an audience or public.

Potential circus proposals could be those that:

- Allow artists and companies to engage in high-quality collaborations with professionals such as dramaturgs, choreographers, producers, directors, set designers and costume designers to develop work that is new to both the artists involved and audiences.
- Enable artists to create work that changes their own concepts of current working practices, creating new, high-quality work for Irish audience.
- Enable artists to create work that pushes the boundaries of circus practice in Ireland.

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# Circus Project Award 2025

## Strategic Priorities

The Arts Council has identified the following types of projects as strategic priorities for support through this award:

- Projects that demonstrate **excellent skill level in a variety of circus disciplines** and/or high-quality cross-disciplinary collaborations
- Projects that **create opportunities to extend the life of the work** by securing a broad range of performances within the finite parameters of the project
- Projects that reflect **a strong relationship and/or level of investment between the artist and project partner(s)**, and lead to **high-quality production values** for the completed work
- Projects that have potential to be **enjoyed widely in our communities, public spaces (real and virtual) and in dedicated venues and centres across the country**, especially offering a meaningful access to and/or engagement with the arts and that reach new and diverse audiences.

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# Street Performance & Spectacle Project Award 2025

## Purpose

The purpose of the award is to support high-quality, stand-alone initiatives that specifically deliver a presentation to, or an engagement with, an audience or public

Potential Street Performance & Spectacle proposals could be those that:

- Allow artists and companies within these artforms to **work with professionals such as dramaturgs, choreographers, producers, directors and costume designers** to develop work that is new to both the artists involved and audiences.
- Involve **original artistic ideas**, enabling artists to engage with **new or experimental collaborative partnerships** leading to high-quality, accessible, public performance.



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# Street Performance and Spectacle Project Award 2025

## Strategic Priorities

The Arts Council has identified the following types of project as strategic priorities for support through this award:

- Projects that create opportunities for **increased engagement in the arts by communities**, and **promote good practice in audience development and public engagement**.
- Projects that **demonstrate the capacity to deliver ambitious work** of high public impact and visibility.
- Projects that **reflect a strong relationship and/or level of investment between the artist/company and project partner(s)**, leading to high-quality production values for the completed work.
- Projects that **present innovative artistic creations through high-quality, cross-disciplinary collaboration**.
- Projects that have the potential to be **enjoyed widely in our communities, public spaces (real and virtual) and in dedicated venues and centres across the country**, especially offering a meaningful access to and/or engagement with the arts and that reach new and diverse audiences.

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# Project Award 2025

## Who Can Apply?

The award is open to **professional artists and organisations** working in the areas of Circus/Street Performance and Spectacle.

***The Arts Council defines a professional artist as an individual who identifies themselves, and is recognised by their peers, as a practising professional artist. The applicant does not have to make their living exclusively through their arts practice.***

To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Be resident in the Republic of Ireland. However, we may accept applications from outside the Republic of Ireland. In this case, you must detail in your application form how your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland. We would need to be satisfied with your explanation.

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## Project Award 2025

### Who is the applicant?

The applicant is the person or organisation that will receive any grant offered and who will be required to accept the terms and conditions of that grant.

Any grant offered will only be paid into a bank account held in the name of the applicant.

All documentation provided must be in the name of the applicant (individual artist or arts organisation) – e.g. if you apply to the Arts Council for funding under the name Máire de Barra, then all documentation, including bank and tax details, must be in that name. Variations such as Mary Barry or Barry Studios are not acceptable.

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# Project Award 2025

## Who Cannot Apply?

Applicants who are not eligible to apply include the following:

- Organisations currently in receipt of funding under the following Arts Council programmes: Strategic Funding, Arts Centre Funding, Partnership Funding – though the involvement of such organisations as partners is welcome
- Organisations or individuals in receipt of 2025 Arts Grant Funding
- Individuals who work on an ongoing basis with organisations funded through any of the above programmes

**Note: This refers to individuals who are full-time employees or full-time contractors with these organisations.**

- National Cultural Institutions (or their Council members) directly funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

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# Project Award 2025

## Who Cannot Apply?

- Individuals or organisations that do not have a demonstrable track record as professional artists or organisations
- Individuals currently in undergraduate education (including those undertaking foundation courses) or who will be during the period for which this award is offered
- Individuals seeking support towards fees for postgraduate (including unaccredited)/higher education or study

**Note:** you cannot apply for the award both as an individual and as part of an organisation – e.g. you cannot apply as artistic director of a company and also apply separately under your own name.

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## Project Award 2025

What may you apply for?

You may apply for up to €50,000.

You are required to submit a detailed budget listing all items of income and expenditure relating to your proposed project.

**The maximum amount you may request is the difference between the proposed expenditure and the proposed income you indicate in the budget.**

- Proposed expenditure should include all fees, wages, technical costs, promotion and publicity costs, administrative costs, etc.
- Proposed income should include what you expect to receive from other funders, box office receipts, programme sales, etc.

It is also important to reflect all in-kind support in both income and expenditure, so reflecting the full and true value of your proposal.

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# Project Award 2025

## Income & Expenditure

You are asked to indicate income, expenditure and amount requested at three stages during your application:

- On the detailed budget that you submit as part of your application as supporting material
- Online, when you initiate the application (totals only)
- In section 3 of the application form.

Make sure that the totals are the same on all three; and make sure that the amount requested equals **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** minus **TOTAL INCOME**.

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## Project Award 2025

### Access costs for artists or participants\* with disabilities

*\*The Arts Council defines participants as those who express themselves creatively by taking part in artistic activities*

The Arts Council is committed to making our funding programmes and the work we fund accessible to everyone.

The Arts Council takes the description of disability from Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which states:

*‘Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.’*

You can include access costs within your application and there are two types that you can apply for.

1. Participant or personal access costs These costs should remove barriers for artists or participants with disabilities who are delivering your proposal.
2. Costs for making your work accessible to others – public access costs



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## Project Award 2025

### Participant or personal access costs

These costs should remove barriers for artists or participants with disabilities who are delivering your proposal. For example:

- You
- The main artists, individuals, groups, or organisations involved in your proposal
- Partners or collaborators
- Production staff
- Core staff or key administrative personnel

Examples of support are, but not limited, to the following:

- An ISL interpreter
- Services of an Access support worker.

**Note:** you can apply for these costs **in addition to** maximum amount available for the award and include them in the total amount requested.

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# Project Award 2025

## Public Access Costs

We want to ensure that more people enjoy high-quality arts experiences and that everyone can access and enjoy the work we fund.

These are costs for making your work accessible to persons with disabilities and should be considered a normal part of your work.

Example of access costs to make your work accessible to your audience may be:

- Having an ISL interpreter for your event or performance
- Using an audio description service
- Making your website compatible with screen readers
- Producing exhibition materials in other formats such as in Braille or audio

**Note:** include these costs in the total amount requested within the maximum amount available for the award.

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# Project Award 2025

## How to apply for access costs

We need to understand why you are applying for access costs and how they meet the needs of your participants or your audience.

If you include access costs in your proposal, you must:

- Show the costs in two separate lines where indicated within the application form:
  - a) Line for personal or participant access costs only.
  - b) A line for public access costs only

**Note:** whether you use the Arts Council budget templates or your own budget document, the two types of access costs must be shown separately within your budget.

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# Project Award 2025

## What may you not apply for?

You may not apply for more than one project-type award (in any artform/arts practice) in any one round of funding – e.g. the same applicant cannot apply for a Street Performance and Spectacle Project Award and a Theatre Project Award in the same round.

Activities and costs that you may not apply for include the following:

- Major capital purchases
- Ongoing core costs
- Activities or costs that do not fit the purpose of the award
- Activities that are more suited to another award funded by the Arts Council or operated by other state agencies, such as Culture Ireland
- Activities that have already taken place or which will have commenced before 1 January 2025

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# Project Award 2025

What may you not apply for?

Activities and costs that you may not apply for include the following:

- Activities undertaken for charity-fundraising purposes, for participation in a competition, or for primarily profit-making purposes
- Activities that have already been assessed by the Arts Council, unless you demonstrate that you have substantively developed the proposal since previously applying **or** if the Council has specifically advised you to redirect your application to this award. Please bear in mind that such advice is not an indication of a successful outcome.
- Projects that solely involve the touring of existing productions
- Projects that are not centred on the creation of new artistic work to be presented to an audience or public.

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# Project Award 2025

## Supporting Material

Supporting material means **material that is separate from and additional to your application form**. This helps the person assessing your application to get a clearer understanding of your proposal.

Please read what supporting material is required below very carefully, as failure to comply with this is the most common reason for applications being deemed ineligible.

In order to be considered eligible for assessment for a Circus or Street Performance and Spectacle Project Award, you **must** submit the following supporting material online:

- Up-to-date CVs or biographies (max. three pages) for each of the key artists involved in the proposed project
- A detailed budget – separate from and in addition to the budgetary information requested within the application form. This should set out all of the individual costs, and any projected income, associated with the project.

**Note:** this must include proposed rates of pay for all personnel involved; rates of pay should be realistic and commensurate with the practitioners' level of professional experience.

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# Project Award 2025

## Supporting Material

- Letters/emails of support, and/or copies of MOUs, outlining details of collaborations and/or confirming any commitments of income either in cash or in-kind towards the proposal
- Video clips showing examples of recent work (see Acceptable file formats under section 2.3)
- In cases where the project proposal has a public outcome, a marketing and/or dissemination and/or engagement plan which outlines who the work is for and how they will be enabled/encouraged to engage with it.

**For support with please see:** <https://www.arts council.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Strategic-development/Public-engagement/>

**For SP&S please also see:** <https://isacs.ie/resource/audience-aware-street-arts-handbook/>

**In order to assess the volume of applications that we typically receive in a timely manner, we cannot review any supporting materials other than those listed above.**

### ***CSPS Team Note:***

*We suggest putting all required supporting material together in one master PDF document (with a clear table of contents) that demonstrates your ideas in a way that panelists, who will likely not be familiar with your work, can clearly and easily assess your proposal.*

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# Project Award 2025

## Additional Material required in certain circumstances

- If you are seeking additional **access costs** to support work by individuals with access requirements, or to support access to your work by audiences with disability requirements, please provide a document outlining these costs, and outlining how they have been arrived at. Please also ensure that you include this additional amount as part of your budget.
- If your proposal involves working with **animals**, you must provide a copy of your Animal Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures.
- For applications involving **children and young people** under the age of eighteen the Arts Council requires all individuals and organisations providing services (e.g. cultural, recreational, educational) to children and young people under the age of eighteen to have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place
- For applications involving **vulnerable adults** you must indicate in section 1 of the application form whether or not your proposal involves work with or for vulnerable persons. By ticking the Yes box, you are indicating that you will work with, or present work to, this cohort as part of your proposal, and that you acknowledge that you have familiarised yourself with and adhere to the **National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse**.
- **If you do not submit all required supporting material, your application will be deemed ineligible.**



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# Project Award 2025

## Eligibility

Your application will be deemed ineligible, and will not go any further in the process, if any of the following is true:

- You miss the application deadline
- You do not submit a completed application form through the Arts Council's Online Services (an application form attached as a supporting document will not be accepted).
- You fail to complete all of the sections in the application form relevant to your proposal.
- You cannot apply as set out in sections 1.2 to 1.4 of the Guidelines (who can and cannot apply).
- You apply for an amount of funding greater than the maximum amount allowed for within the award to which you are applying, as set out in section 1.5 above (except where you are applying for an additional amount for participant or personal access costs).
- You apply for an activity or purpose that you cannot apply for, as set out in section 1.6.
- You fail to provide all mandatory supporting materials, as set out in section 1.7
- Your application is better suited to another funding programme offered by the Arts Council or by another funding agency (in this case we will redirect you to the more appropriate funding opportunity).

# Project Award 2025

## Assessment and Decision Process

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# Project Award Assessment Criteria

## Overview

Applications are assessed in a competitive context and with consideration of the application form and the supporting materials submitted.

All applications are assessed against the below criteria:

### a) Artistic Merit

The assessment of artistic merit focuses on the applicant and on those involved in the project, as well as on the nature of the proposed arts activity, and includes consideration of:

- The quality of the idea and the proposed arts activity
- The track record of the applicant and the artistic personnel involved in the project as evidenced in their CVs and other supporting materials submitted
- The potential of the applicant and the artistic personnel as evidenced in the application form and the supporting materials submitted
- The artform/arts-practice context in which the activity is proposed
- The ambition, originality and competency demonstrated in the proposal
- How the application demonstrates innovation, experimentation and collaboration.

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# Project Award Assessment Criteria

## Overview

b) How they meet the objectives and priorities of the award (detailed for each artform above and in section 1.1)

### c) Feasibility

The assessment of feasibility considers the extent to which the applicant demonstrates capacity to deliver the proposed activity. This includes consideration of:

- The track record of personnel involved in managing, administering and delivering the project
  - The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the provision of equitable conditions and remuneration for participating artists
  - The extent of involvement or commitment of identified project partners
  - The proposed budget
  - Other sources of income
  - The availability of, and access to, other resources
  - The proposed timetable or schedule.
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# Assessment Process

**Applications Received**



**Eligibility Check Completed**



**Adviser(s) and/or staff complete a written assessment of the application based on the criteria and recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted**



**A peer panel reviews all shortlisted applications and makes funding decision**



**Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants**

*The length of time it will take us to make decisions will depend on how many applications we receive. In general, depending on the volume of applications, it will take somewhere between twelve and fifteen weeks.*

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# Project Assessment Process

## Peer Panel

- Peer Panels are made up of artists and sector professionals and made funding decisions for key funding programmes such as the Bursary and Project Awards.
- Panels assist in maintaining standards of quality and ensuring transparency.
- Peer panel members use their expertise and knowledge to assess, score and make decisions in line with the **published criteria for the award** and in the context of available funds.
- Peer Panelists for previous programme rounds can be viewed on the "Who We've Funded" area of the Arts Council website.

For more information about the Arts Council Peer Panels please see: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funding/Peer-Panel/>

# Project Award 2025

## How to Apply and General Guidance

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## Access Supports

The Arts Council makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities or access requirements who wish to submit an application or who have difficulties in accessing Online Services.

If you have a requirement in this area, please contact the Arts Council's Access Officer:

- By phone (01 618 0200/01 618 0243)
- By email ([access@artscouncil.ie](mailto:access@artscouncil.ie))

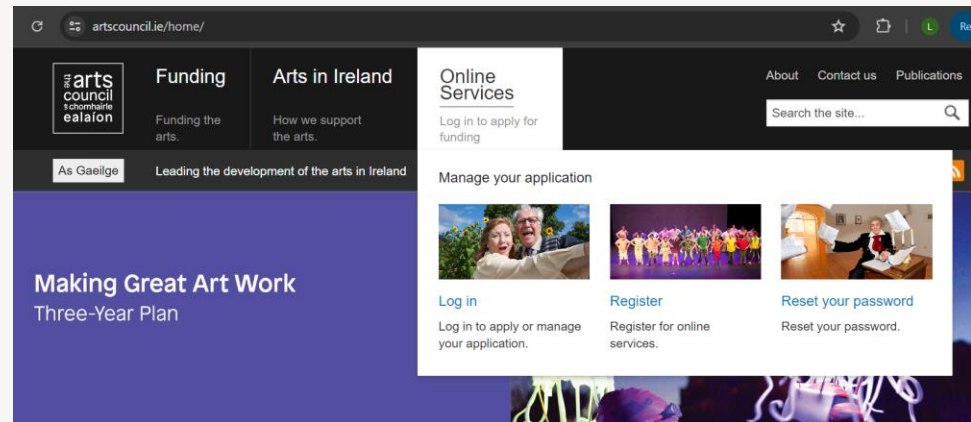
**Please contact the Access Officer as early as possible before the deadline.**



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# Project Award 2025

## How to make your application



- **Register with the Arts Council’s Online Services at [www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie)**
- All applications must be made through the Arts Council’s Online Services; applications made in any other way (by post, fax or email) will not be accepted. You must have an Online Services account to make an application.
- You will need to use a computer/laptop to submit your application. **Our Online Services website does not work on phones or tablets.**
- You will need to have **Microsoft Word or OpenOffice Writer** installed to complete the application form.
- The **application form** is formatted in such a way that the Arts Council can extract information from the form for assessment purposes. It is very important that you type inside the grey boxes in the form, and that you do not delete them and/or type outside them. If you do this, the form will not upload properly.

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# Project Award 2025

## Formats and URL links

- **Acceptable file formats:**

text files .rtf/.doc/.docx/.txt

sound files .wav/.mp3/.m4a

spreadsheets .xls/.xlsx

image files .jpg/.gif/.tiff/.png

video files .avi/.mov/.mp4

Adobe Acrobat Reader files .pdf

- **Submitting URL links:** links to streaming platforms may be used to provide samples of work. Instead of uploading material directly, you may provide links to material hosted on streaming platforms that do not limit access through financial subscription. To do this, copy the URL (the full address of where your material is hosted) into a Microsoft Word/OpenOffice Writer or a PDF document and upload it as a weblink-supporting document.
- While not an exclusive list, examples of acceptable sharing platforms include YouTube, Vimeo, Soundcloud and Bandcamp. Please note that we will not accept links to file-sharing sites (e.g. Google Drive) nor links to social-media platforms nor to individual applicants' websites.
- **Stand-alone supporting material** such as CVs and letters of support, etc. must be uploaded as separate documents with your application.

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## General advice

- Do not assume that the assessors, team or panelists will know you or your work. Treat each application as if it were your first.
- Several people will be involved in making a decision about your application – be clear and concise.
- Make sure it's clear why you are doing this and why you are working with the people you're working with.
- Try not to slip into imitating Arts Council language/jargon and losing your voice.
- ALWAYS relate your proposal back to the award priorities and objectives.
- Have someone you know read through your application before you submit it!

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## Common mistakes

- Not reading the guidelines
  - Not registering on OLS in time (if a first-time user)
  - Leaving it too late and missing the deadline (window opens one month in advance).
  - Not uploading required supporting material for a programme
  - Reading an older set of guidelines – always look at the most recent set via the *Available Funding* section of our website
  - Not relating application to the objectives and priorities of the programme.
- ✓ Not attending artform clinics.



**Mistake #1 – Note reading the guidelines carefully**

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## Need more help?

If you have questions about using the Online Services website, visit the FAQ section on our website: [www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/](http://www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/)

If you have a technical question about the online application process and your question is not answered in the FAQ section, you can email [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie) or call the Arts Council on

- 01 618 0200
- 01 618 0243

If you have a query about your application that is not technical in nature, you should email or phone the arts team to which you are applying for funding. <http://www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/>

To watch our video guide to making an application on YouTube, go to <https://youtu.be/-a3xeZdZj3o?feature=shared>

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## Contact Our Team

If you have general Circus or Street Performance and Spectacle queries or would like to invite the team to upcoming events – please reach out!

**Team email: [CSPS@artscouncil.ie](mailto:CSPS@artscouncil.ie)**

For other arts and operational team contact information please go to: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/>

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# Thank You