

28th June 2019

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Re: Panel recommendations: Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2019/20

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Enclosed is a report and recommendations for investment into Limerick festivals and events under the Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2019/20.

On the 12th February 2019, the Cultural SPC along with members of the sector, recommended strategic investment in Festivals and Events in 2019/2020, to the sum of €270,000. At the subsequent Cultural SPC meeting on the 9th of April, the criteria and guidelines of the grant scheme were agreed. An Open Call for applications via an online portal, was issued on 23rd April 2019 and closed on 31st May 2019 at 4pm.

Sixty applications were received with a total ask of €813,220.

The assessment panel met on Tuesday 25th of June 2019 and considered all applications based on the guidelines and criteria for the festival and events grant scheme.

Recommendations : Strand 1 – Total Fund Available = €50,000

- 39 applications were received in this strand with a total ask of €271,725.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 17 successful applicants totalling €50,000 (see recommendations in attached report).

Recommendations : Strand 2: Total Fund available = €220,000

- 21 applications were received with a total ask of €541,495.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 20 successful applicants totalling €220,000 (see recommendations in attached report).

Assessment Panel

The panel who carried out the assessments was composed of 3 Independent National Experts chosen by the Executive based on relevant experience, along with the Mayor of Limerick City and County Council Cllr. Michael Sheahan.

The assessment panel members were as follows;

- Mayor of Limerick City and County Council, Cllr. **Michael Sheahan**
- **Caoimhin Corrigan** – Independent Consultant, has led major capital projects and development programmes in urban regeneration, cultural and creative industries and tourism in Ireland, UK and the Middle East
- **Grainne Millar** – GM Innovations, 20 years’ experience in creative industries, culture, tourism and science sectors
- **Philip Delamere** – Arts Officer at Leitrim County Council, with relevant experience in rural arts and enterprise initiatives such as Creative Frame.

Recommendations Strand 1

STRAND 1: Name of Festival/Event		Amount Recommended	District
1.	12th Polish Arts Festival	€2,000	Metro
2.	Ballyhoura Adventure Film Festival	€1,000	Capp/Kilmallock
3.	Castleconnell Fright Fest	€3,000	Metro
4.	Celtic Band Festival 2020	€6,000	Metro
5.	Fleadh by the Feale	€5,000	NCW
6.	Limerick Garden Festival 2020	€1,500	Metro
7.	Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O' Brien 2020	€5,000	Metro
8.	Make a Move Youth, Community Urban Arts Festival	€4,500	Metro
9.	Martinmas Fair	€1,000	Metro
10.	Soulscapes	€1,000	Capp/Kilmallock
11.	South and Proud, a community festival based in Southill	€3,500	Metro
12.	St Mary's Cathedral, in association with Limerick Pipe Organ Festival Limerick Sinfonia	€5,000	Metro
13.	St. Patrick's Weekend Kilmallock 2020	€1,000	Capp/Kilmallock
14.	The Limerick Spring Festival of Politics and Ideas	€3,000	Metro
15.	¡Viva la Vida! Festival	€2,000	Metro
16.	West Limerick Drama Festival 2020	€1,000	NCW
17.	What Next Festival	€4,500	Metro
TOTAL		€50,000	

Recommendations Strand 2

STRAND 2 BAND A: Name of Festival/Event		Amount Recommended	District
1.	Belonging	€15,000	Metro
2.	Bread Not Profits	€6,000	Metro
3.	Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	€7,500	Metro
4.	Cappamore Show	€6,000	Capp/Kilmallock
5.	Draw Out 2019	€8,500	Metro
6.	Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan - Munster Fleadh Cheoil	€18,000	NCW
7.	Fresh Film Festival Diversity 2020	€11,000	Metro
8.	Hospital Arts and Culture Festival	€3,500	Capp/Kilmallock
9.	Limerick Jazz Festival	€13,500	Metro
10.	Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	€11,000	Metro/Adare
11.	Open House	€8,000	All Districts
Total		€108,000	

STRAND 2 BAND B: Name of Festival/Event		Amount Recommended	District
1.	Golden Vein 39th EVA International	€27,500	Metro
2.	HearSay International Audio Arts Festival	€20,000	Capp/Kilmallock
3.	Maureen O' Hara Film Festival and Centenary Celebrations	€10,000	Adare/Rathkeale
4.	Pig n Porter Festival	€8,000	Metro
5.	Pigtown Culture & Food Series	€5,000	All Districts
6.	Samhain Limerick's Halloween Festival	€14,000	Metro
7.	St. Patrick's Weekend Festival Newcastle West	€1,500	NCW
8.	The Richard Harris International Film Festival 2019	€15,000	Metro/Capp/ Kilmallock
9.	Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2020	€11,000	Adare/Rathkeale
Total		€112,000	

The Council is requested to approve the allocations outlined amounting to €270,000.

Recommendations – Festival Innovation Fund

The Limerick City and County Council budget for the delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy 2019 was agreed at €600k. Three objectives within the Limerick Cultural Strategy have an agreed investment of €450k. In recognising the value of festivals to Limerick, €150k is allocated to a Festival Innovation Fund. The breakdown of the Festival Innovation Fund is as follows;

During 2019, both of Limerick City and County Council's Civic Festivals Riverfest and St. Patrick's Festival benefited from augmented creative programming with support from this fund of €40k. This investment ensured high quality International and innovative programming for Limerick's biggest festivals. The Museum of the Moon by the artist Luke Jerram, was installed for the period of a week in the historic St. Mary's Cathedral. A record 15,000 visitors engaged with the international artwork giving a new visitor experience to the three-day festival. Riverfest in Limerick has proved the place to be in Ireland for the May Bank Holiday weekend with more than 120,000 people celebrating the city's biggest festival, bringing an estimated €7million into the local economy. The programming of internationally renowned Fidget Feet, saw them perform high above the river over two days with aerial performers bringing the world of the Shannon Fishermen to life with amazing displays of aerial acrobatics, while mermaids riding seas horses also enthralled the crowds during the festival.

LEAF – Limerick Electronic Arts Festival, October 2019

The assessment panel were asked to consider a partnership by Limerick City and County Council with LEAF – Limerick Electronic Arts Festival in 2019. This festival will be a world-class, multi-venue electronic arts festival, showcasing digital arts, with headline music acts and partnership with technology companies across 4 days in October 2019 during the tourism off peak season. Research conducted by Limerick City and County Council shows that cities with strong cultural identities invest significantly in the development of international flagship festivals to strengthen their cultural and creative credentials and boost their profile as a cultural tourism destinations. With this in mind, the panel recommends an investment of €75k into the development of this international flagship festival for Limerick, which represents the partnership components of the overall budget of the festival.

European Expo 2020 (working title)

The assessment panel were asked to consider a partnership between Limerick City and County Council and the Hunt Museum for 2020. A new decade will begin in 2020 and Limerick City and County Council are committed to putting in place a cultural campaign to mark this occasion by celebrating our rich history, heritage and culture. This campaign also aims to build on the achievements over the past 5 years, recognising the gains made in our celebrations of history, heritage, culture and arts. The European Expo is a series of exhibitions, seminars and events over the course of 2020 that celebrates national and European culture and cooperation. At the core of the Expo idea is the European Investment Bank art collection exhibition that will run from April to August 2020 in various locations in Limerick. Separately, a call to Irish and Limerick "European Players" past and present to invite EU Commissioners, Committees, other MEP's and relevant institutions and agencies to participate and support the European Expo Programme will be made. The aim is to create a collegiate of partners responsible for different themes relating to the European Union to deliver a relevant and meaningful year that makes the work of the EU relevant to Limerick and Ireland. The panel recommends an investment of €35k to ensure proper coordination and delivery.

Is mise le meas,
Sheila Deegan
Culture and Arts Officer

Report on Panel Recommendations for Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2019/2020

Recommendations : Strand 1 – Total Fund Available = €50,000

- The allocation of funding in this strand is €50,000.
- 39 applications were received with a total ask of €271,725.
- The panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 17 successful applicants.

The objective of Strand 1 is to support a diverse range of arts and culture Festivals and Events from small, voluntary and community focused groups and those wishing to develop new ideas. While the range of activities might be expressed in a variety of forms, the scheme's focus is firmly placed on public engagement and cultural activities, which feature, strongly in their overall programme. The scheme considered applications from Festivals and Events seeking funding to be invested directly in cultural activities which complement and provide additional programming to other pre-existing Festival or Event activities which may on their own not be eligible. (e.g. A sports event/festival which wishes to add cultural programming). The scheme includes local and national apolitical commemorative events.

STRAND 1: Name of Festival/Event		Amount Recommended	District
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10.	Soulscapes	€1,000	Capp/Kilmallock
11.	South and Proud, a community festival based in Southill	€3,500	Metro
12.	St Mary's Cathedral, in association with Limerick Pipe Organ Festival Limerick Sinfonia	€5,000	Metro
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15.	iViva la Vida! Festival	€2,000	Metro
16.	West Limerick Drama Festival 2020	€1,000	NCW
17.	What Next Festival	€4,500	Metro
TOTAL		€50,000	

1. 12th Polish Arts Festival Together as One

The festival aims to create a space for shared mutual cultural experience. The programme for the 12th Polish Arts Festival will include an exhibition of Irish and Polish artists in The Hunt Museum, a performing arts night at the Belltable, Living Statues Night as part of Culture Night, and workshops of traditional Polish and Irish art and music and contemporary dance.

2. Ballyhoura Adventure Film Festival

Located in the heart of Ballyhoura country, Kilfinane, this new adventure film festival centres around, the now popular trend in adventure film. This festival will celebrate the extraordinary feats of adventurers across the world as they push their personal limits inspiring others to explore and embark on their own adventures however big or small.

3. Castleconnell Fright Fest

This now well established Halloween Festival incorporates a family friendly programme in Castleconnell catering for all ages. Highlights include a Scarecrow Showcase in the village themed ceramic and puppet making classes held in the ACM Centre, Story Telling and a Busker's Corner Street Entertainment.

4. Celtic Band Festival 2020

The Irish Marching Band Association are delighted to welcome bands of all shapes, sizes, and abilities from around Ireland and the world to perform and compete at the 2nd Annual Celtic Band Festival in Limerick. This festival aims to put Ireland on the international stage when it comes to marching and concert bands.

5. Fleadh by the Feale

Fleadh by the Feale takes place over the May Bank Holiday in Abbeyfeale, promoting and programming traditional music and culture for all ages. Unique to the festival is the traditional Bone Playing Competition, which attracts competitors from all over the world to celebrate this ancient form of musicianship.

6. Limerick Garden Festival 2020

Now in its third year Limerick Garden Festival, held in the Milk Market are seeking to expand and innovate in order to grow the festival into a national event on the calendar of Garden Festivals in Ireland.

7. Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O' Brien 2020

The theme 'Imagine' will be the theme for the 2020 Limerick Literary Festival and will explore the effect literature can have on our mental and physical wellbeing. The festival will have a high quality multi-day festival which will bring writers of different genres to Limerick.

8. Make a Move Youth, Community Urban Arts Festival

This is the eighth edition of this Community Arts Festival with its roots in hip-hop, celebrating street generated culture and urban art. The festival has recently incorporated a programme to develop female confidence and participation in electronic music forms. The allocated funding will support this development.

9. Martinmas Fair

The Martinmas Fair is inspired by the Limerick Black Book. The event will entail a public poster presentation outlining the establishment of the Limerick fair by King John in 1204 as the castle was being built, the nature of the trade going through the fair and the relationship between the Fair and the traditional celebration of Samhain. The organisers will also work in partnership with Lumen Street Theatre as part of the Samhain festival.

10. Soulscapes

The Soulscapes series takes place in Friarsgate Theatre Kilmallock in November, traditionally a month of reflection and remembering and in Celtic times the start of the New Year. The series hosts some of Ireland's leading innovative and social thinkers who present a diverse series of talks throughout the month.

11. South and Proud, a community festival based in Southill

South and Proud is an initiative of community stakeholders in Southill and artists associated with The GAFF. The creative starting point will be to invite residents from Southill to engage with artists, responding to the built heritage of the area. Working with architects, horticulturalists, food producers, musicians, dance and drama facilitators, youth and community groups will be invited to engage in creative workshops.

12. St Mary's Cathedral, in association with Limerick Pipe Organ Festival Limerick Sinfonia

The organisers wish to commemorate four significant anniversaries in 2020 from local to international: The Beethoven anniversary; the 150th anniversary of the foundation of St John's Church, Abington; the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale; and the 75th birthday of celebrated composer John Rutter, together with some other 'smaller' anniversaries for the end of 2019 and early in 2020.

13. St. Patrick's Weekend 2020 Kilmallock

The Kilmallock St. Patricks Day events programmed by the BGM committee encourage all local organisations and residents to get involved in this national day of festivity and celebration. Catering to a local audience of families, extended families and friends within a 20km radius.

14. The Limerick Spring Festival of Politics and Ideas

This multidisciplinary thought provoking festival returns with a vibrant programme of discussion, debate and creativity, showcasing a broad range of art forms such as, spoken word, music, storytelling and writing, combined with participatory elements.

15. ¡Viva la Vida! Festival

Inspired by Frida Kahlo's famous painting, ¡Viva la Vida! Festival is an ode to life and joy despite the struggles we all face as humans. The aim of the festival is to showcase Latin American culture through a series of workshops that will educate the audience, but also engage them in fun and playful activities.

16. West Limerick Drama Festival 2020

Promoting drama in West Limerick this festival brings new works from across the region to the stage each year. The festival consists of 6 productions over two weekends in Knocaderry.

An independent adjudicator officiates at each production providing a critique both for the audience and the Drama Groups. Prizes are awarded in 11 categories and an overall Winner's prize.

17. What Next Festival

What Next is a festival of dance performance which aims to connect audiences with the work of early career dance artists/makers and through a celebratory dance event which the people of Limerick can access, experience and enjoy within their local area. The 2020 edition will include a dance trail of public spaces brings dance productions onto the streets of Limerick.

Recommendations: Strand 2: Total Fund available = €220,000

- 21 applications were received with a total ask of €541,495
- Strand 2 was divided into two bands:
 - Band A:** festivals and events seeking a maximum grant of up to €20,000
 - Band B:** festivals and events seeking grants over €20,000

Limerick has experienced the transformative effect of Festivals and Events in communicating a new set of values, offerings and identity to the world. Therefore, the objective of Strand 2 is to support a diverse range of Festivals and Events to enhance and strengthen the programming and delivery of festivals and events in Limerick. While these might be expressed in a variety of forms, the scheme's focus is firmly placed on public engagement and activities that feature culture strongly in their overall programme. The scheme seeks applications from medium and large organisations, festivals and events including those proposing new events.

Strand 2 (Band A)

- 11 applications received with a total ask of €187,995.
- The panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 11 successful applicants to the total value of €108,000

STRAND 2 BAND A: Name of Festival/Event		Amount Recommended	District
1.	Belonging	€15,000	Metro
2.	Bread Not Profits	€6,000	Metro
3.	Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	€7,500	Metro
4.	Cappamore Show	€6,000	Capp/Kilmallock
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9.	Limerick Jazz Festival	€13,500	Metro
10.	Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	€11,000	Metro/Adare
11.	Open House	€8,000	All districts
Total		€108,000	

1. Belonging

Belonging is led by the Hunt Museum and centres around an exhibition bringing part of the Art Collection of the European Investment Bank (EIB) to Limerick to be exhibited in locations across Limerick. The title, Belonging, recognises the project as originating in the Limerick bid for European Capital of Culture the theme of which was Belonging. The artworks will be distributed across the city in viable buildings. The exhibition will have a city trail and a programme of public engagement activities.

2. Bread Not Profits

Bread not Profits, returns following a sold out run in 2019. This exciting site specific, immersive theatre event will be in residence in Cleeves factory in June and July 2020. The organisers aim to deliver a public engagement plan encouraging a citywide creative response to the Limerick Soviet and celebrating non-violent worker-led action.

3. Bualadh Bós Children's Festival

Bualadh Bós Childrens Festival is a legacy festival from Limerick City of Culture and has since its inception worked to bring the very best in performing, visual and literary arts for young people to Limerick igniting their imagination and encouraging childhood creativity.

4. Cappamore Show

This is an annual outdoor event, highlighting the cultural and social life of rural Limerick in a family friendly environment, while promoting the advancement and celebration of arts, crafts and agricultural sciences.

5. Draw Out 2019

Draw Out Urban Exhibitionists aims to position Limerick City as an international capital of Urban Art. The organisers will produce a festival programme of engagement to rejuvenate existing Murals across the city over a two week period and add 4 new Murals to the current portfolio in the City Centre.

6. Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan - Munster Fleadh Cheoil

The Munster Fleadh will take place in Limerick in 2020 showcasing the riches of Irish Culture and Heritage within the county and province. The festival will include a programme of approximately 200 competition events spread over 22 venues and will take place in Newcastle West.

7. Fresh Film Festival Diversity 2020

Fresh Film Festival is a celebration of youth film for filmmakers and audiences aged 7 – 18, hosting public screenings, workshops, master classes, events and film productions. The 2020 festival aims to celebrate difference and community through a schools programme that will consist of screenings, workshops and young filmmaker screening events.

8. Hospital Arts and Culture Festival

Hospital Arts and Culture Festival is run by members of the local community in Hospital to encourage interests in the arts, and to support inclusion of all people who live in the town

and surrounding areas. The programme is diverse catering for all ages and backgrounds, living in the local area.

9. Limerick Jazz Festival

Limerick Jazz Festival has become a stalwart of the cultural calendar of Limerick and presents leading Irish and international musicians in venues around the city during the last weekend in September, together with numerous free events.

10. Limerick Sings International Choral Festival

Limerick Sings is a non-competitive choral festival, which brings choirs from varying cultural backgrounds and singing traditions together, from around Ireland and further afield. For four days in Limerick they will be performing, sightseeing and socialising. The festival aims to promote Limerick to national and international visitors.

11. Open House

The concept of this year's Open House Limerick is 'Architecture is Visionary', This theme aims to inspire participants with a fantastic programme of events that will enthuse, provoke and entertain. The event aims to showcase often inaccessible architecture across the Limerick region to the public. Access is coordinated to private and public sites, architectural tours and artistic and cultural events that exemplify Limerick region's architectural, design, engineering, artistic and cultural heritage.

Strand 2 (Band B) Applications

- 10 applications were received with a total ask of €353,500.
- 9 applications are recommended for funding.

STRAND 2 BAND B: Name of Festival/Event		Amount Recommended	District
1.	Golden Vein 39th EVA International	€27,500	Metro
2.	HearSay International Audio Arts Festival	€20,000	Capp/Kilmallock
3.	Maureen O' Hara Film Festival and Centenary Celebrations	€10,000	Adare/Rathkeale
4.	Pig n Porter Festival	€8,000	Metro
5.	Pigtown Culture & Food Series	€5,000	All Districts
6.	Samhain Limerick's Halloween Festival	€14,000	Metro
7.	St. Patrick's Weekend Festival Newcastle West	€1,500	NCW
8.	The Richard Harris International Film Festival 2019	€15,000	Metro/Capp/ Kilmallock
9.	Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2020	€11,000	Adare/Rathkeale
Total		€112,000	

The recommended allocation of funding is €112,000.

1. Golden Vein 39th EVA International

The 39th EVA International will be themed 'Golden Vein', drawing on the local history of the region and its relationship to land and agriculture (Golden Vale) seen from a contemporary and international perspective. The 39th EVA International will include a 'Guest Programme' curated by Istanbul-based curator Merve Elveren, five new and exclusive 'Platform Commissions' of large-scale works by Irish artists, and a number of major co-productions with organisational partners including Galway 2020, Frame Finland, British Council, Mu.Zee Ostend, and Irish Museum of Modern Art.

2. HearSay International Audio Arts Festival

HearSay brings together the world's finest creative audio makers from sound art, film sound, radio docs, podcast, new music and audio fiction, for cross-disciplinary inspiration and experimentation in the immersive location of the mountain village of Kilfinane.

3. Maureen O' Hara Film Festival and Centenary Celebrations

Taking place in 2020, this commemorative celebration of Maureen O'Hara's centenary, will officially launch the new Maureen O'Hara wing at the museum in Foynes and host the inaugural Maureen O'Hara Film Festival. The event will coincide with An Post's launch of a special commemorative stamp of Maureen O' Hara.

4. Pig 'n Porter Festival

Pig 'n Porter will return in 2020 to further develop this Tag Rugby festival by expanding the programme. The event will host three musical events crossing the musical spectrum highlighting both local and international talent.

5. Pigtown Culture & Food Series

The Pigtown Culture and Food Series is a celebration of Limerick's historic relationship with the pig and the region's deep-rooted food heritage. The organisers continue to build on the success of previous years, further developing the festival through innovative programming, recognition of audience interests and focusing on quality of delivery.

6. Samhain Limerick's Halloween Festival

This bespoke festival now in its second year celebrates local folklore and traditions through talks, workshops, and fun educational events for children including public storytelling, public talks and Samhain Workshops. The festival culminates in the Samhain Lantern Parade incorporating high quality spectacle with community and audience engagement.

7. St. Patrick's Weekend Festival – Newcastle West

Taking place in Newcastle West, the organising committee have identified the St Patrick's Weekend as an opportunity to lay the foundations for an annual festival of local Culture, Heritage and Arts in a Community Platform, whilst attracting the diaspora of a National/International audience.

8. The Richard Harris International Film Festival 2019

The Richard Harris International Film Festival incorporates film/ arts events in October each year. Screening films across Limerick City and in Kilmallock the festival attracts local audiences and works to provide networking events for industry professionals to support the establishment of Limerick and the Mid-West as a prime production destination.

9. Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2020

Askeaton Contemporary Arts commission, produce and exhibit contemporary art in the locale of a small town Askeaton. Since 2006, over one hundred artists have lived and worked in the town, each enhancing the life of Askeaton.