

17th September 2020

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

Re: Panel recommendations: Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2020/21

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 2020/21.

An Open Call for applications to the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme via an online portal, was issued on 13th of May 2020, to close at 4pm on Wednesday the 24th of June 2020. The value of the grant scheme for 2020/21 is €245,000.

55 applications were received with a total ask of €709,387.

The assessment panel met on Friday 4th of September 2020 and considered all applications based on the guidelines and criteria for the festival and events grant scheme.

Recommendations: Strand 1 – Total Fund Available: €40,000

- 31 applications were received in this strand with a total ask of €125,250.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 17 successful applicants totalling €41,200 (see recommendations in attached report).

Recommendations: Strand 2: Total Fund available: €195,000

- 24 applications were received with a total ask of €554,687.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 19 successful applicants totalling €193,800 (see recommendations in attached report).

Recommendations: Strand 3 – Total Fund Available: €10,000

- 28 applications were received with a total ask of €29,450.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 6 successful applicants totalling €10,000 (see recommendations in attached report).

Assessment Panel

The panel who carried out the assessments was composed of two Independent National Experts chosen based on relevant experience, along with the Mayor of Limerick City and

County Council Cllr. Michael Collins. The panel was chaired by an independent chairperson, with experience of grant scheme evaluations and working with festivals.

The assessment panel members were as follows:

- **Cllr. Michael Collins** - Mayor of Limerick City and County Council.
- **Lorraine Maye** - Director of Cork Midsummer Festival.
- **Shauna Cunningham** - Projects Officer with Fáilte Ireland.

The Chairperson was:

- **Sharon O'Grady** - Arts Officer, Galway County Council.

COVID-19

Given the current COVID-19 environment in which festivals must now operate all applicants to this year's scheme were required to prove capacity to deliver within this new context. This was demonstrated by submitting a COVID-19 programme delivery plan. This section allowed for Hybrid (combination of small physical and digital events) and Digital programming as a way of reaching audiences safely.

RECOMMENDATIONS

STRAND 1:		District	Recommended Allocation
Name of Festival/Event			
1	What Next Festival	Metro	€4,500
2	South & Proud	Metro	€3,000
3	Concept NULL 2021	Metro	€2,000
4	Limerick Literary Festival 2021	Metro	€4,500
5	Limerick Mental Health Week 2020.	Metro	€2,000
6	14th Polish Arts Festival "Here & There"	Metro	€2,000
7	Catalyst International Film Festival	Metro	€2,000
8	Hospital Arts and Culture Festival	Capp /Kil	€1,500
9	Celtic Band Festival 2021	Metro	€4,000
10	Féile Na Gréine	Metro	€3,000
11	Fleadh By The Feale	NCW	€4,000
12	St Mary's Cathedral Festival.	Metro	€3,000
13	Trad Under The Tower	Metro	€2,000
14	Limerick Early Music Festival	Metro	€1,000
15	Limerick Garden Festival	Metro	€1,500
16	Soulscapes	Capp /Kil	€1,000
17	The Ramble	Capp /Kil	€200
TOTAL ALLOCATION			€41,200



STRAND 2:		District	Recommended Allocation
Name of Festival/Event			
1	Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	Metro	€11,000
2	Richard Harris International Film Festival 2020	Metro	€10,000
3	I.NY	Metro	€12,000
4	39th EVA International / Em'kal Eyongakpa	Metro	€8,300
5	Hearsay International Audio Arts Festival 2021	Capp /Kil	€17,500
6	Fresh International Film Festival Fresh 25	Metro	€15,000
7	Draw Out - Urban Exhibitionists Annual Festival	Metro	€8,500
8	Pigtown Culture & Food Series	All	€7,000
9	Limerick Jazz Festival 2021	Metro	€15,000
10	Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	All	€9,500
11	Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival 2021	Metro	€10,000
12	Light Moves Festival of Screendance & Media Arts	Metro	€15,000
13	OpenHouse Limerick, Limerick Through a Lens	All	€8,000
14	Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan - Munster Fleadh Cheoil	NCW	€20,000
15	Cappamore Show	Capp /Kil	€6,000
16	Samhain: Limerick's Halloween Festival 2020	Metro	€8,000
17	Three individual lecture series	Metro	€5,000
18	Castleconnell Fright Fest	Metro	€1,000
19	Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2021	Adare /Rath	€7,000
TOTAL ALLOCATION			€193,800

STRAND 3:		District	Recommended Allocation
Name of Festival/Event			
1	Celtic Band Festival 2021	Metro	€2,000
2	Pigtown Culture & Food Series	All	€2,000
3	Draw Out - Urban Exhibitionists Annual Festival	Metro	€2,000
4	Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2021	Adare / Rath	€2,000
5	Richard Harris International Film Festival 2020	Metro	€1,500
6	Lace Up Limerick, A Celebration of Limerick Lace	Metro	€500
TOTAL ALLOCATION			€10,000

The Council is requested to approve the allocations outlined amounting to €245,000.

Is mise le meas,

Aoife Potter-Cogan

A/Administrative Officer Tourism and Events
Tourism Culture and Arts Dept.
Community Development Directorate

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

Strand 1: Delivery and Programming of Small Scale & New Festivals and Events

- The allocation of funding in this strand is €40,000.
- 31 applications were received with a total ask of €125,250.
- The panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 17 successful applicants.

The objective of Strand 1 is to support a diverse range of Festivals and Events from small, voluntary and community focused festivals to those wishing to establish a new festival. While the range of activities might be expressed in a variety of forms, the scheme's focus is 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 not on their own be eligible.

STRAND 1:		District	Recommended Allocation
Name of Festival/Event			
1	What Next Festival	Metro	€4,500
2	South & Proud	Metro	€3,000
3	Concept NULL 2021	Metro	€2,000
4	Limerick Literary Festival 2021	Metro	€4,500
5	Limerick Mental Health Week 2020.	Metro	€2,000
6	14th Polish Arts Festival "Here & There"	Metro	€2,000
7	Catalyst International Film Festival	Metro	€2,000
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9	Celtic Band Festival 2021	Metro	€4,000
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13	Trad Under The Tower	Metro	€2,000
14	Limerick Early Music Festival	Metro	€1,000
15	Limerick Garden Festival	Metro	€1,500
16	Soulscapes	Capp/Kil	€1,000
17	The Ramble	Capp/Kil	€200
TOTAL ALLOCATION			€41,200

1. What Next Festival 2021
Dance Limerick

This Festival builds on Limerick's reputation as a dynamic and exciting centre for dance. The fourth edition in 2021, seeks to welcome artists connecting with their peers in Limerick and to reach new audiences online alongside live presentation.

2. South & Proud 2021
Limerick Theatre and Performance Hub Ltd., t/a The GAFF

A platform for local people and visitors to come together with events highlighting the heritage and cultural life of Southill, through the use of its public spaces and connecting the community through a series of arts events for all ages.

3. Concept NULL 2021
Concept NULL

An audio/visual event showcasing experimental music, digital art and sound installations. Artists are given a theme to interpret, with all pieces culminating in a single experience.

4. Limerick Literary Festival 2021
Limerick Literary Festival in Honour of Kate O'Brien

The 37th edition of the Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien will focus on Irish Authors both at home and abroad and explore what it means to be an Irish writer in an increasingly global world.

5. Limerick Mental Health Week 2020
Limerick Mental Health Association

Limerick Mental Health Week provides informative, fun and creative activities. Designed to promote positive mental health and to raise awareness, the week has grown into a truly collaborative festival which has a positive cultural, social and community impact.

6. 14th Polish Arts Festival "HERE & THERE" 2021
Polish Arts Festival

The programme for the 14th Polish Arts Festival will include an art exhibition, both online and onsite in The Hunt Museum, a theatre night at the Belltable, Living Statues Night as part of Culture Night, and workshops for children, adults and families.

7. Catalyst International Film Festival 2021
Catalyst International Film Festival

This unique festival has as its goal, the creation of a more inclusive film industry. It will showcase projects that promote gender equality, diversity and inclusion whether in content, key creative roles, or crew.

8. Hospital Arts and Culture Festival 2021
Hospital Arts and Culture

Hospital Arts and Culture Festival is run by members of the local community to encourage interest in the arts, and to support inclusion of all those living in the town and surrounding areas. The programme is diverse, catering for all ages and backgrounds.

9. Celtic Band Festival 2021
Irish Marching Bands Association

This festival brings national and international marching bands to perform and compete in Limerick. This festival aims to put Ireland on the international stage when it comes to marching and concert bands, having secured the 2022 world championships to take place in Limerick.

10. Féile Na Gréine 2021
Féile Na Gréine Voluntary Committee

An artist led, three day free music festival in Limerick city. Hosting an array of emerging and experimental Irish artists, the festival is structured as a trail, utilising the full breadth of Limerick city.

11. Fleadh By The Feale 2021

Fleadh By The Feale

The Fleadh By The Feale aims to promote the strong Sliabh Luachra tradition of music, song and dance from West Limerick and North Kerry. The festival is also home to the All-Ireland Bone Playing competition.

12. St Mary's Cathedral Festival 2021

St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, in association with Villiers School and Féile Luimnigh.

St Mary's Cathedral Festival, in association with Villiers School and Féile Luimnigh, will commemorate significant anniversaries of these distinguished local institutions; the 200th anniversary of the founding of Villiers School and the 75th anniversary of Féile Luimnigh.

13. Trad Under The Tower 2021

Garrai Eoin Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

A celebration of Irish Song, Music, and Dance, over three days of activities. This festival aims to support the ambition of holding the National Fleadh Ceol in County Limerick, in the coming years.

14. Limerick Early Music Festival 2021

Now and Then Media, Ltd.

In celebration of the European Day of Early Music, Limerick Early Music Festival will take place with two days of workshops, performances and concerts on Saturday and Sunday, March 20–21, 2021.

15. Limerick Garden Festival 2021

Limerick Market Trustees

Suitable for all types of gardeners, young and old, Limerick Garden Festival aims to serve the entire gardening community by offering a specialist garden fair alongside educational entertainment, creating a great family day out at the Milk Market.

16. Soulscapes 2020

Friars' Gate Theatre

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

17. The Ramble 2021

Hillwalking Community Radio Group

The Ramble, a low level walk lasting about two hours, will take place from the Community Centre in Galbally Co. Limerick. Members of the Men's Shed from Galbally and Knocklong, local residents, tourists, local Walking Clubs and Women's Groups will all be involved.

Strand 2: Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large scale Festivals and Events

- The allocation of funding in this strand is €195,000.
- 24 applications were received with a total ask of €554,687.88.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 19 successful applicants totalling €193,800.

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:		District	Recommended Allocation
Name of Festival/Event			
1	Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	Metro	€11,000
2	Richard Harris International Film Festival 2020	Metro	€10,000
3	I.NY	Metro	€12,000
4	39th EVA International / Em'kal Eyongakpa	Metro	€8,300
5	Hearsay International Audio Arts Festival 2021	Capp /Kil	€17,500
6	Fresh International Film Festival Fresh 25	Metro	€15,000
7	Draw Out - Urban Exhibitionists Annual Festival	Metro	€8,500
8	Pigtown Culture & Food Series	All	€7,000
9	Limerick Jazz Festival 2021	Metro	€15,000

10	Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	All	€9,500
11	Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival 2021	Metro	€10,000
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16	Samhain: Limerick's Halloween Festival 2020	Metro	€8,000
17	Three individual lecture series	Metro	€5,000
18	Castleconnell Fright Fest	Metro	€1,000
19	Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2021	Adare /Rath	€7,000
TOTAL ALLOCATION			€193,800

1. Limerick Sings International Choral Festival 2021

University Concert Hall

A non-competitive choral festival, which brings choirs from varying cultural backgrounds and singing traditions together and engages leading international and national choral educators and directors to work with them across the Festival weekend.

2. Richard Harris International Film Festival 2020

The Richard Harris International Film Festival CLG

Screening of over a hundred short films and features, including premieres (abiding by public health guidelines). Films will be screened on-line where appropriate with blended events to include in-person and virtual panel discussions.

3. I.NY 2021

I.NY

I.NY brings to life the Ireland New York story for a domestic and international audience through a bespoke and diverse cultural programme including programming in music, literature, film, theatre, dance, visual art and talks.

4. 39th EVA International / Em'kal Eyongakpa

EVA International

Part of Phase 3 of the 39th EVA International opening in September 2021; The public presentation of an immersive sculptural and audio installation with a schedule of three live 'sessions' taking place within the installation.

5. Hearsay International Audio Arts Festival 2021
Ballyhoura Development CLG

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.

6. Fresh International Film Festival Fresh 25: Analogue to virtual 2021
Fresh Film

A celebration of a quarter century of film with and for children and young people. The festival comprises a school's programme with screenings and workshops, a young filmmaker's programme and an international delegate programme.

7. Draw Out - Urban Exhibitionists Annual Festival 2021
Limerick City Build (Draw Out - Urban Exhibitionists)

The central theme of the 2021 Draw Out Festival, is a series of Mural presentations, conversations, activities and art exhibits that explore and confront the history and legacy of all forms of inequality and discrimination.

8. Pigtown Culture & Food Series 2021
Limerick Food Group

Pigtown is a celebration of Limerick's food culture. It is a vibrant programme of themed events, bringing Limerick's cultural and food communities together to offer a hat tip to our heritage and a platform to some of the fantastic talent in our city and county.

9. Limerick Jazz Festival 2021
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. Bualadh Bos Children's Festival 2020

Lime Tree Theatre Bualadh Bos Children's Festival

Bringing the very best in the performing arts for young people to the city and county while encouraging childhood creativity, the annual festival takes place over two weeks in October in the Lime Tree Theatre and Belltable with artist visits to schools in the county.

11. Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival 2021

Limerick Civic Trust and Consular Agency of France in Limerick

Taking place at King John's Castle and in other locations in city centre Limerick, this weekend-long festival aims to commemorate the 330th anniversary of the Flight of the Wild Geese and to celebrate the friendship between France and Ireland.

12. Light Moves Festival of Screendance & Media Arts Event: "Sound of Movement" 2021

Light Moves Festival of Screendance & Media Arts

Light Moves is a vibrant interdisciplinary festival celebrating dance, visual arts, film and music. It is committed to high-quality screendance and media arts that inspire, challenge and break new ground whilst resonating with identity, community and environment.

13. OpenHouse Limerick, Limerick Through a Lens 2020

OpenHouse Limerick

The 2020 festival will be an online event using the medium of video. This offers an opportunity to engage with new audiences, allowing locals and visitors alike to appreciate Limerick's architectural, engineering, artistic and cultural heritage.

14. Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan - Munster Fleadh Cheoil 2020

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann - Comhairle na Mumhan & Limerick Co Board

A showcase of Traditional Music, Song, Dance, Storytelling, Scéalaíocht, Comhrá Gaeilge, Irish Culture and Heritage, the Munster Fleadh will take place in Limerick showcasing the riches of Irish Culture and Heritage within the county and province.

15. Cappamore Show 2020
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.

16. Samhain: Limerick's Halloween Festival 2020
Lumen Street Theatre

For its third year, Samhain will reclaim Halloween and bring it back to its Irish roots. Celebrating local folklore and traditions through talks, workshops, and fun educational events for children.

17. Three individual lecture series 2020/21
Limerick Civic Trust

Three separate lecture series to be held between Oct 2020 and Sept 2021: *The Leonard Lectures* - focusing on local history and heritage. *The Autumn Lectures* - focusing on civic theory. *The Civic City* - a short package of related talks on occupying the urban space.

18. Castleconnell Fright Fest 2020
ACM Community Development Society Limited

This Halloween Festival incorporates a family friendly programme in Castleconnell catering for all ages.

19. Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2021
Askeaton Contemporary Arts

An annual residency programme which situates Irish and international artists in the midst of Askeaton each summer, with a wide ranging public programme of events, public art and artist talks in unexpected and surprising places occurring.

Strand 3: Festival Development and Sustainability

- The allocation of funding in this strand is €10,000.
- 28 applications were received with a total ask of €29,450.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 6 successful applicants totalling €10,000.

Strand 3 seeks to fund actions to support the long-term sustainability of Festivals/Events. Applicants to Strand 1 and Strand 2 had the option to apply for additional sustainability funding under Strand 3.

This strand aims to support the development of organisational structures such as the carrying out of feasibility studies; business plan development; reviews of governance structures; development of new Festival/Event concepts; marketing and audience development strategies; brand development; clustering initiatives which support collaboration through shared resources and/or expertise amongst two or more Festivals/Events; and training and mentoring opportunities.

STRAND 3:		District	Recommended Allocation
Name of Festival/Event			
1	Celtic Band Festival	Metro	€2,000
2	Pigtown Culture & Food Series	All	€2,000
3	Draw Out - Urban Exhibitionists Annual Festival	Metro	€2,000
4	Welcome to the Neighbourhood	Adare / Rath	€2,000
5	Richard Harris International Film Festival	Metro	€1,500
6	Lace Up Limerick, A Celebration of Limerick Lace	Metro	€500
TOTAL ALLOCATION			€10,000