

16th June 2020

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

Grants under the Arts Act Recommendations June 2020

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Enclosed is a report and recommendations for the Grants under the Arts Act.

Grants under the Arts Act: Total Fund Available €20,000.

- The panel met on Tuesday 12th of May 2020.
- 52 applications received.
- A total ask of €44,665.
- The panel recommended the allocation of funding to 29 successful applications, totalling €20,000.

Limerick City and County Council is proud to support and be associated with high quality work produced by creative practitioners based in Limerick.

The Council is requested to approve the allocations outlined amounting to €20,000.

Is Mise le Meas,

Dr. Pippa Little,

Acting Arts Officer, Limerick City and County Council

Grants under the Arts Act

- In 2020, the Grants Under the Arts Act was administered in one funding strand, with the closing date for applications was Wednesday the 15th of April 2020.
- A total budget amount of €20,000 is available in the fund.
- Grants Under the Arts Act funding ranges from €100 to a maximum payment of €1,000.

Criteria for selection

Limerick City and County Council offers grant funding to amateur, community or voluntary groups, or organisations, and individual arts practitioners, which in the opinion of the authority, will stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts.

In the Arts Act the arts are defined as painting, sculpture, architecture, music, film, drama, dance, literature, design in industry and the fine arts and applied arts generally. The awards can be used for the professional development of artists, the arts and increasing access and participation in the arts.

Assessment

All Grants under the Arts Act applications are considered by an assessment panel, appointed by Limerick Arts and Culture Office, Limerick City and County Council.

The Panel:

The assessment panel meet to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications, using the published criteria for assessment. The Grants under the Arts Act 2020 panel met remotely on Tuesday 12th of May to assess and make decisions on all eligible applications and was composed of:

- Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chair of the Community, Leisure and Culture SPC, Limerick City and County Council.
- Sarah Searson, CEO & Creative Director, The Dock Arts Centre. Former head of the Centre for Creative Arts and Media at the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT).
- Vincent O'Shea, Independent Consultant with thirty years of professional experience in arts management including venue and event management, Irish and international touring, cultural infrastructure projects, tourism projects, business planning and mentoring. Specialist expertise includes Public Art management, exhibitions project management and craft.

The panel was impressed with the level of requests for funding and the quality of the applications. The panel also recommended that Limerick City and Council consider an increase in future funding, to enable the building of capacity around current provision and to support strategic development. Grant aid is awarded according to the Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016-2030.

There were 52 applications for funding, of which 29 were successful, with a total ask of €44,665. The funding available for allocation was €20,000.

Limerick Grants Under the Arts Act 2020

Grant Recipient	Grant Awarded	Municipal District
Gerry Davis, Artist	€1,000	Cappamore-Kilmallock
Group Exhibition (Gillian Kenny Shinnors)	€1,000	Limerick Metropolitan
James Furlong, Artist	€1,000	Adare-Rathkeale
Polish Arts Festival	€1,000	Limerick Metropolitan
St Saviour's Community Drama Group	€1,000	Limerick Metropolitan
H.I.P.S.T.E.R	€1,000	Limerick Metropolitan
Catalyst International Film Festival	€1,000	Limerick Metropolitan
Liam McCarthy, Theatre Practitioner	€925	Limerick Metropolitan
Limerick Ceramic Artists	€920	Limerick Metropolitan
Sheila Richardson (Artist)	€920	Cappamore-Kilmallock
Laura Poff, Artist	€800	Limerick Metropolitan
Bottom Dog Theatre Company	€800	Limerick Metropolitan
Siobhan Potter	€800	Limerick Metropolitan
Gavin Hogg, Artist	€750	Limerick Metropolitan
Julie Brazil, Artist	€660	Limerick Metropolitan
Niamh Porter, Artist	€600	Limerick Metropolitan
Cecilian Musical Society	€600	Limerick Metropolitan
Torch Players	€600	Limerick Metropolitan
Limerick Musical Society	€600	Limerick Metropolitan
Alison Quaid, Artist	€500	Limerick Metropolitan
Brian O'Rourke, Artist	€500	Newcastle West
Gerry O'Mahony, Artist	€500	Limerick Metropolitan
Jean Ryan Hakizimana, Artist	€500	Limerick Metropolitan
Maigne Rivers Trust	€500	Cappamore-Kilmallock
Declan Hehir, Artist	€350	Cappamore-Kilmallock
Piani Luimní	€350	Limerick Metropolitan
Nuala O'Sullivan, Artist	€340	Cappamore-Kilmallock
Timothy O'Neil, Artist	€300	Limerick Metropolitan
Robert Burns Night	€185	Limerick Metropolitan
Total Grant Funding Awarded	€20,000.00	

The successful applicants are as follows:

Gerry Davis, Artist

Artist's bursary to support upcoming exhibition in the Bourne Vincent Gallery, University of Limerick, scheduled for October 2020. The show will consist of work informed by recent travels, which were interrupted by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Group Invited Exhibition. Gillian Kenny Shinnors

This group invited exhibition proposes to bring together a group of visual artists to celebrate the life of the late Joe Buckley. They hope to reconnect with memories of Joe Buckley and with the audiences which attended his beloved Halla Íde series of exhibitions in the late 2000s.

James Furlong, Artist

Artist's bursary to support highlighting contemporary social isolation and alienation in Limerick through painted images in conjunction with literary and poetic text within the Irish Literary tradition. The resulting research will result in an exhibition of work to take place in Limerick City and County.

Polish Arts Festival (PAF)

PAF will hold an open call exhibition of local artists & workshops for the community members in the Hunt Museum. This will explore the theme of identity, sense of community, personal scarifies and changes in the surreal times of social distancing and fear during Covid-19 crisis.

St Saviour's Community Drama Group

With twelve previous productions including two short films, St. Saviours Drama Group will stage their 13th self-penned play 'Whodunnit' at the Belltable. Set in the historic area of Limerick this play hosts an investigation into the re-opening of an historic missing person's case including courtroom drama.

H.I.P.S.T.E.R.

A two day festival celebrating early music, dance and historical instruments, launching a new Limerick arts organisation, H.I.P.S.T.E.R. (Historically Informed Performance Series, Teaching, Education and Research). Featuring chamber concerts of vocal and instrumental music from Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque periods, a dance workshop, instrument exhibit, and educational Q&A sessions with artists.

Catalyst International Film Festival

The Festival focuses on films that address under-representation on screen and behind the camera. Gender equality, diversity and inclusion are core to their programming. They prioritize stories and storytellers who may struggle for visibility elsewhere. Films will entertain and engage audiences, but they will also challenge and inspire.

Liam McCarthy, Theatre practitioner

Artist's bursary to develop the text of a new, ambitious, structurally complex play Walrus. Exploring themes of loneliness, urban isolation, Limerick's rapid social change and urban renewal. Working with Limerick based playwright, director, dramaturge, sound designer and two actors to present a staged reading and gathering feedback from audience.

Limerick Ceramic Artists

A group exhibition of high quality new ceramic work from the members of Limerick Ceramic Artists in the Belltable, Limerick from September to October 2020.

Sheila Richardson, Artist

Writing Home' is a collaboration that explores the concept of home and its importance to our sense of identities. It is a visual and literary project which includes the exchange of images and text during the Pandemic Covid-19 by artist Sheila Richardson and writer James Lawor.

Laura Poff, Artist

Artist's bursary supporting Poff's practice, which has had to drastically change, as a result of Covid-19. She has been focusing her practice on an intricate drawing series, which explores the balance between drawing and sculpture. She will build a professional artists' website, as a means of showcasing her current studio practice.

Bottom Dog Theatre Company

Produce their 12th series of rehearsed readings FOUR WILDE PLAYS. Engaging four external directors to work with invited local and national casts to rehearse and publicly perform each play on Sundays in September and facilitate a season long meditation on Oscar Wilde ahead of a national tour of A WILDE FAN.

Siobhan Potter, Not the Time to be Silent

'Not the time to be silent' is a weekly online Arts response to social distancing due to the Corona virus. Currently during the crisis it is weekly, after that it is proposed to continue with a monthly event.

Gavin Hogg, Artist

Artist's bursary to collaborate with Suzannah O'Reilly of Parallel Editions to create a suite of six prints in Limerick Printmakers. These works will form a major part of the work to be exhibited with John Shinnors and Charles Harper in the Hunt Museum in November 2020.

Julie Brazil, Artist

Artist's bursary will support the development of a new body of work for a solo exhibition in Limerick Museum in October 2020. Also, to develop the documentation of work and to create a new website.

Niamh Porter, Artist

Artist's bursary supporting a new body of work based on ongoing research of key female architects of the Modernist movement and their designs for domestic space.

Cecilian Musical Society

Provide an opportunity to perform CATS at a professional standard, through employing local professionals (Lighting Designer, Director, Choreographer, Musical Director, etc.) This will create a social and theatrical development hub.

Torch Players

Presentation of play Lost in Yonkers by Neil Simon at the Belltable. This presentation was cancelled after two performances due to Covid-19. It is therefore intended to present this production again when the Covid-19 crisis has passed.

Limerick Musical Society

In their 20th year, Limerick Musical Society will be staging the Iconic "Titanic the Musical" at the University Concert Hall in September 2020. With a brilliantly vocal cast of 70, an elaborate set and stunning Costumes it will wow loyal patrons.

Alison Quaid, Artist

Since all work and exhibitions have effectively been postponed or cancelled with Covid-19. Alison endeavours to utilise her time creating a body of work based on her time self-isolating as a single parent with her family. Artist's bursary to support 'Staycation', imagined locations, states of mind, dream depictions and favourite places.

Brian O'Rourke, Artist

Graduated in 2018 from LSAD's Fine Art painting programme, this Artist's bursary supports registering as a professional Artist.

Gerry O'Mahony, Artist

Artist's bursary to afford time in the studio to create a new body of experimental and innovative work for exhibition in 2021/2022 and to continue to document work professionally while updating website and social media sites.

Jean Ryan Hakizimana, Artist

Artist's bursary to support up-coming exhibitions in April, in Newcastle West, but due to Covid-19 will be at later date and one in August, in Ennis Museum, County Clare, and 12/20 in his own Art Gallery, Limerick.

The Mague Rivers Trust

Highlight the rich tapestry of traditional music and art forms that are associated with Rivers and the Mague, specifically. Inspire pride of place and a spirit of stewardship towards the river and its heritage. Engage the widest possible audience by linking the arts, history and the environment.

Declan Hehir, exhibition

Over ten years of travelling the byroads of Ireland because of his work, as a photographer, Hehir noticed many disused petrol pumps station in a derelict state. He began photographing these petrol pumps.

Piani Luimní

Piano for Dolores 2021. Building on events in 2019 and 2020, Mark O'Connor and performers are holding an event on Dolores O'Riordan's anniversary on January 15 2021.

Nuala O'Sullivan, Artist

Artist's bursary to support a new phase in her art practice developing a new body of work through research and development of new mixed media work going to exhibition. The aim to advance her artistic development and critically reflecting with new audiences.

Timothy O'Neil, Artist

Artist's bursary to help develop a painting practice that has been ongoing for the last year and a half. The painting practice itself is based on large collage pieces made some years ago, which were displayed in the window of Ormston House.

Robert Burns Night

Robert Burns Night 2021 at Dolan's, Dock Road, Limerick, will mark the world wide festival night celebrating Scotland's national poet. Organised and compered by Michael Potter, it will feature pipe and violin music, performances of songs, poetry and Scottish food culture such as the haggis.

Creative Ireland: Made in Limerick grants

There were fifty-two applications to Grants under the Arts Act and twenty-nine applications were successful in obtaining funding through Grants under the Arts Act in 2020.

Due to the high quality of the applications and the pressure on the fund, the panel recommended that if further funding was identified, or became available, that five applications; by The Limerick Youth Service, Focus Ireland Limerick, Tracy Aspel, The Limerick Opera Festival and St. Gabriel's Centre be funded as Creative Ireland (Limerick): Made in Limerick projects for 2020. These five applications fulfilled the Strategic Priorities for Limerick in the Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022, in particular, "Creative Citizens: People creating and accessing culture on their doorstep". The panel recommended that if further funding was identified, or became available, that two applications, by artists Niamh Moriarty and Ruth Clinton and Limerick Youth Theatre be funded.

The successful Creative Ireland: Made in Limerick applications were as follows:

Grant Recipient	Grant Awarded
Focus Ireland, Limerick	€1,000
The Limerick Opera Festival	€1,000
St. Gabriel's Centre	€1,000
Improvised Comedy Troupe	€800
Limerick Youth Service and Enda Griffin	€500
Total Awarded	€4,300

Focus Ireland Limerick

A Graffiti Art project as part of a social and creative intervention, designing the back of one of their apartment buildings with Street Art, displaying messages of hope and change for the future.

The Limerick Opera Festival

The festival is aimed at reigniting the great operatic tradition pertaining to our great City. 'An Opera for all' is determined to create and maintain a new audience and to showcase local talent nationally.

St. Gabriel's Centre

Holding of a week-long water-based artistic programme in St. Gabriel's hydrotherapy pool for children with the most complex disabilities and high medical needs. 'Sing Me to The Sea' is designed to engage and interact with these children to give them a meaningful and inspiring experience.

Improvised Comedy Troupe

Tracy Aspel will work with a group of young adults with additional needs to form and perform as an Improvised Comedy Troupe, with weekly workshops and a small-scale performance.

Limerick Youth Service and artist Enda Griffin

An exhibition of socially engaged art collaboration in Northside Youth Space, Ballynanty, Limerick. Displayed in three parts: Paintings/posters on telephone poles in public spaces in the area, a public meeting about the process and portrait paintings shown in young people's homes.