

14<sup>th</sup> September 2021



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

**Re: Panel recommendations: Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2021/2022**

**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 2021/2022.

The value of the grant scheme for 2021/2022 is €211,000. This year's fund includes a €6,000 contribution in partnership with Failte Ireland's Regional Festivals and Participative Events.

40 applications were received with a total ask of €649,221.45.

The assessment panel met on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2021 and considered all applications based on the guidelines and criteria for the festival and events grant scheme.

**Recommendations: Strand 1: Total Fund Available: approx. €35,000**

- 18 applications were received in this strand with a total ask of €84,950.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 14 successful applicants totalling €39,000 (\*see recommendations in attached report).

**Recommendations: Strand 2: Total Fund available: approx. €172,000**

- 22 applications were received with a total ask of €535,071.45.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 14 successful applicants totalling €168,000 (\*see recommendations in attached report).

**Recommendations: Strand 3: Total Fund Available: approx. €4,000**

- 16 applications were received with a total ask of €29,200.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 2 successful applicants totalling €3,500 (\*see recommendations in attached report).
- The approximate funding allocated in the call to Strand 1 was €35,000 and the approximate funding allocated for Strand 2 was €172,000, giving a **total of €207,000**.
- The actual funding recommended by the assessment panel was €39,000 to Strand 1 and €168,000 to Strand 2, again giving a **total of €207,000**.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Festival/Event		District	Allocation
1	Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade	Adare - Rathkeale	€ 2,500
2	April is Poetry Month in Limerick 2022	Limerick Metro	€ 2,000
3	Ballyhoura Walking Festival	Cappamore - Kilmallock	€ 3,000
4	Castleconnell Fright Fest	Limerick Metro	€ 2,000
5	Catalyst International Film Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 4,000
6	Féile Na Gréine	Limerick Metro	€ 3,000
7	Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival 22	Limerick Metro	€ 5,000
8	Limerick Early Music Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 2,500
9	Limerick Garden Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 1,500
10	Limerick Literary Festival in Honour of Kate O'Brien	Limerick Metro	€ 4,500
11	Limerick Pride Festival 2022	All Districts	€ 3,500
12	Music on the Mague	Adare - Rathkeale	€ 1,500
13	West Limerick Food Harvest Festival	Adare – Rathkeale/NCW	€ 1,000
14	What Next Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 3,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>			<b>€39,000</b>

### Strand 2: Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large Scale Festivals and Events

Festival/Event		District	Allocation
1	15th Polish Arts Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 7,000
2	Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	All Districts	€ 9,500
3	Draw Out- Urban Exhibitionists	Limerick Metro	€ 14,000
4	Fresh International Film Festival 2022	Limerick Metro / Adare – Rathkeale / Newcastle West	€ 15,500
5	I.NY	Limerick Metro	€ 10,000
6	Limerick Jazz Festival 2022	Limerick Metro	€ 19,500
7	Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	Limerick Metro / Adare-Rathkeale	€ 12,500
8	Open House Limerick	All Districts	€ 11,500
9	Phase 3: 39th EVA International	Limerick Metro	€ 11,500
10	Pig N Porter Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 8,000
11	Pigtown Culture & Food Series 2022	All Districts	€ 20,000
12	Samhain: Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival 21	Limerick Metro	€ 10,000
13	Top 8   Hip-Hop and Street Dance Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 9,000
14	Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2022	Adare - Rathkeale	€ 10,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>			<b>€168,000</b>

### Strand 3: Festival Development and Sustainability.

Festival/Event		District	Allocation
1	Polish Arts Festival	Limerick Metro	€1,500
3	Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	Limerick Metro	€2,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>			<b>€3,500</b>

## Assessment Panel

An Open Call for applications to the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme was issued on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, to close at 4pm on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2021 (this was later extended to the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2021, due to the release of the Failte Ireland/Arts Council Festival & Events guidelines).

The panel which 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. Daniel Butler. The panel was chaired by an independent chairperson, with relevant experience of grant scheme evaluations and working with festivals.

The assessment panel members were as follows:

- **Cllr. Daniel Butler** - Mayor of Limerick City and County Council.
- **Cliona Maher** - Artistic Director of Clonmel Junction Arts Festival.
- **Grainne Millar** - Director at consultancy service, GM Innovations.

The Chairperson was:

**David Teevan** - Researcher, Arts Consultant, Creative Producer.  
Festival Advisor to The Arts 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 Events (a combination of small physical and digital events) and Digital Programming as a way of reaching audiences safely.

The Council is requested to approve the allocations outlined.

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Dr. Pippa Little  
Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Programme Co-ordinator  
Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate  
Limerick City and County Council

## Report on Panel Recommendations for Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2021/2022

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

- The total Fund Available for this strand = approx. **€35,000**
- 18 applications were received in this strand with a total ask of **€84,950**.
- The panel recommended the transfer of 2 applications to this strand from Strand 2 as having reviewed the applications, they were more aligned to the criteria for this strand, bringing the total applications assessed under Strand 1 to 20.
- The assessment panel recommended the allocation of funding to 14 successful applicants, totalling **€39,000** (\*the panel recommended the transfer of €4,000 from Strand 2).

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. The scheme also considers 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.

Festival/Event		District	Award
1	Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade	Adare - Rathkeale	€ 2,500
2	April is Poetry Month in Limerick 2022	Limerick Metro	€ 2,000
3	Ballyhoura Walking Festival	Cappamore - Kilmallock	€ 3,000
4	Castleconnell Fright Fest	Limerick Metro	€ 2,000
5	Catalyst International Film Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 4,000
6	Féile Na Gréine	Limerick Metro	€ 3,000
7	Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival 2022	Limerick Metro	€ 5,000
8	Limerick Early Music Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 2,500
9	Limerick Garden Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 1,500
10	Limerick Literary Festival in Honour of Kate O'Brien	Limerick Metro	€ 4,500
11	Limerick Pride Festival 2022	Limerick Metro	€ 3,500
12	Music on the Maigue	Adare - Rathkeale	€ 1,500
13	West Limerick Food Harvest Festival	Newcastle West	€ 1,000
14	What Next Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 3,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>		<b>€39,000</b>	

#### 1. Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade

€2,500

To fund the St. Patrick's Day Parade and events within the town of Adare, Co. Limerick. The event will promote Irish heritage and showcase local clubs, associations and businesses for the benefit of all within the locality.

#### 2. April is Poetry Month in Limerick 2022

€2,000

A full month of activity during April 2022, on and off-line, will take place, including a poetry trail/wall, readings with local and visiting poets and music, workshops, talks and book launches.

- 3. Ballyhoura Walking Festival** *€3,000*  
 Ballyhoura Walking Festival, Ireland's first walking festival, will be in its 25th year in 2021. The festival provides an opportunity to explore some of Ballyhoura Country's stunning countryside in the company of local guides. Taking place in collaboration with the Joyce Brothers Festival in Kilfinane and with an addition of special walks, it will feature heritage, archaeology, folklore and traditional music.
- 4. Castleconnell Fright Fest** *€2,000*  
 In the week preceding Halloween Night, there will be competitions, pottery and craft workshops for children and a fancy dress parade. The Fright Fest Scary Trail is the centre point of the Festival. This includes a trail of scary props, visual projections, music, sound effects and lighting created by volunteer groups who dress up and add to the experience.
- 5. Catalyst International Film Festival** *€4,000*  
 This festival proactively locates and engages with diverse filmmakers to showcase their work. It actively contributes to debates on gender equality, diversity and inclusion. The Catalyst team seeks to broaden the horizons of potential future filmmakers and audience members alike and encourage local, national and international audiences to engage with the festival, the film festival programme and its mission statement: Diverse Stories/Diverse Storytellers.
- 6. Féile Na Gréine** *€3,000*  
 Féile Na Gréine is an annual three-day, free to attend, music festival in Limerick City, with a focus on emerging and experimental Irish music. Structured as a music trail, the event programme takes audiences across the city, stopping at an array of small venues over the course of the weekend. The programme is blended to include both physical events as well as a digital offering, such as live streams, pre-recorded events and digital showcases.
- 7. Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival 2022** *€5,000*  
 The 4th edition of the Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival will take place in Limerick on July 2022. This weekend-long festival aims at commemorating the Flight of the Wild Geese while, at the same time, celebrating the friendship between Ireland and France, now our closest EU neighbour.
- 8. Limerick Early Music Festival** *€2,500*  
 Limerick Early Music Festival celebrates Early Music and the Historically Informed Performance of this repertoire. Held over three days in March between the national holiday of St Patrick's Day and the European annual Early Music Day on 21 March, this festival will bring the innovative sounds of contemporary early music performers to historic Limerick venues.
- 9. Limerick Garden Festival** *€1,500*  
 The third Limerick Garden Festival will feature an exciting plant, garden & food market with 50 traders from all over Ireland, all-day garden expert talks and more related activities at the Milk Market, Limerick. The festival offers a specialist garden fair, and fun & educational entertainment creating a great family day out.
- 10. Limerick Literary Festival in Honour of Kate O'Brien 2022** *€4,500*  
 In 2022, the 38th edition of the Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien will be a festival with a mixture of online and live events which will continue the legacy of Limerick's premier author in an uncertain time, bringing readers and writers together in person and online.

**11. Limerick Pride Festival 2022**

*€3,500*

Limerick Pride Festival 2022 aims to encourage the empowerment and participation of the LGBT+ community, allies and wider community through a number of live in-person and virtual events. These will include; educational events, workshops, live performances, interactive events, virtual shows and of course the renowned parade.

**12. Music on the Maigue**

*€1,500*

This project intends to deliver a selection of music in Croom, from Brass Bands in the Park to fiddle playing troubadours. The festival will give a broad base of music recitals and entertainments for the community and visitors alike.

**13. West Limerick Food Harvest Festival**

*€1,000*

The West Limerick Food Festival is a new festival that seeks to highlight West Limerick's rich historical food culture encompassing the Golden Vale. It seeks to connect Food producers and hospitality providers with the wider public. Over two weekends in October, there will be events highlighting our food history. It will be a mixture of day & night events, family and adult, culminating in a cook off between local chefs using ingredients from the area.

**14. What Next Festival**

*€3,000*

To present the 5th iteration of What Next, an annual platform celebrating adventurous new dance and connecting artists to audiences in Limerick city.

**Strand 2: Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large Scale Festivals and Events**

- The total Fund available for this strand = approx. **€172,000**
- 22 applications were received with a total ask of **€535,071.45**.
- The panel recommended the transfer of 2 applications from this strand to Strand 1 as having reviewed the applications, they were more aligned to the criteria for this strand, bringing the total applications assessed under Strand 2 to 20.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 14 successful applicants, totalling **€168,000**.(balance of €4,00 was transferred to Strand 1)

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 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 festivals or events. The scheme accepts applications from those seeking funding to be invested directly in cultural activities which complement and provide additional programming to other pre-existing Festival/Event activities which may not on their own be eligible.

	<b>Festival/Event</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Award</b>
<b>1</b>	15th Polish Arts Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 7,000
<b>2</b>	Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	All Districts	€ 9,500
<b>3</b>	Draw Out- Urban Exhibitionists	Limerick Metro	€ 14,000
<b>4</b>	Fresh International Film Festival 2022	Limerick Metro / Adare – Rathkeale / Newcastle West	€ 15,500
<b>5</b>	I.NY	Limerick Metro	€ 10,000
<b>6</b>	Limerick Jazz Festival 2022	Limerick Metro	€ 19,500
<b>7</b>	Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 12,500
<b>8</b>	Open House Limerick	All Districts	€ 11,500
<b>9</b>	Phase 3: 39th EVA International	Limerick Metro	€ 11,500
<b>10</b>	Pig N Porter Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 8,000
<b>11</b>	Pigtown Culture & Food Series 2022	All Districts	€ 20,000
<b>12</b>	Samhain: Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival 2021	Limerick Metro	€ 10,000
<b>13</b>	Top 8   Hip-Hop and Street Dance Festival	Limerick Metro	€ 9,000
<b>14</b>	Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2022	Adare - Rathkeale	€ 10,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>		<b>€168,000</b>	

- 1. 15th Polish Arts Festival theme "Different Language Shared Vision" €7,000**

This funding will enable the Polish Arts Festival to host a high profile event in the Belltable, and Master Classes at the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, with renowned polyphonic group Laboratorium Pieśni (Song Laboratory). Additionally, the Polish Arts Festival, in conjunction with the Limerick Writers' Centre and Lime Tree Theatre /Belltable, plan to commission two stories from local writers in Polish and English. These will be recorded as podcasts and made available as part of the 15th Polish Arts Festival and the Bualadh Bos Children Festival.
- 2. Bualadh Bos Children's Festival €9,500**

The Bualadh Bos Children's Festival is Limerick's only festival aimed exclusively at children and their families. Held every October since 2014, the festival is a key part of the mid-west's cultural offering and is a flagship festival within the programme of the Lime Tree Theatre and Belltable. It focuses on best quality, professional work for children by local, national and international artists and companies.
- 3. Draw Out- Urban Exhibitionists €14,000**

Draw Out brings the world's finest street artists to Limerick City, re-imagining and transforming the city's derelict sites, reversing the relationship between artist & audience, and marking Limerick City as a national and international focal point for the highest quality street art. Addressing physical regeneration, community regeneration and civic identity are core to the festival. Draw Out has been commissioning artwork at derelict sites in Limerick City and surrounding communities since 2012.
- 4. Fresh International Film Festival 2022 'POV - Points of View' €15,500**

Fresh International Film Festival 2022 'POV Points of View', celebrates film as a way of telling unique stories and sharing the diverse perspectives of young people in Ireland and worldwide. The festival comprises a schools programme with screenings and workshops, a young filmmakers programme with special film events, Ireland's Young filmmaker of the Year awards and an International screening programme.

- 5. I.NY | Celebrating the relationship between Ireland and New York** *€10,000*  
 I.NY Festival brings to life the Ireland New York story for a domestic and international audience through a Cultural and Diaspora focused programme. The I.NY Project which launches annually in New York, is a year-round project, with ongoing digital, initiative & partnership activity building toward and culminating in the annual October festival.
- 6. Limerick Jazz Festival 2022** *€19,500*  
 Limerick Jazz Society celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year in 2022 and will celebrate this milestone birthday by hosting numerous events from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of September. President Michael D Higgins is invited to open the headline performance on 24th September at Lime Tree Theatre. The 2022 Festival will bring the sounds of many national and international artists, to audiences in Limerick.
- 7. Limerick Sings International Choral Festival** *€12,500*  
 Limerick Sings is a non-competitive choral festival, bringing choirs from varying cultural backgrounds and singing traditions together for several days of performing, sightseeing and socialising. The Festival promotes Limerick to national and international visitors as a tourist and cultural destination, while also providing first-class cultural experiences to local audiences.
- 8. Open House Limerick: "Architecture is Reconnecting"** *€11,500*  
 COVID-19 has forced many of us to reconsider our built environment. New restrictions have altered how we engage with our surroundings - reconnecting to our back gardens, balconies, local parks, streetscapes, riversides and buildings. This year's festival will reconnect through online talks, short films, exhibitions, walking tours and family-friendly events.
- 9. Phase 3: 39th EVA International** *€11,500*  
 Support towards the programmatic delivery of the Phase 3: 39th EVA International taking place from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 14th November 2021, an adapted three-part programme model in response to COVID-19. A contemporary visual arts exhibition in Limerick that will be open to the public following strict social distancing and government guidelines. Support towards the programming of a new venue, that will help EVA to develop their audience reach and engagement.
- 10. Pig N Porter Festival** *€8,000*  
 The Pig n Porter Festival, the Largest Tag Rugby Festival in the World, brings approximately 3,000 visitors to Limerick in the month of July. With the addition of the music aspect of the festival in 2017, the Pig n Porter Festival now offers a unique mix of sports and music at a traditionally quiet time of year.
- 11. Pigtown Culture & Food Series 2022** *€20,000*  
 A celebration of Limerick's historic relationship with the pig and our deep-rooted food heritage, Pigtown Culture & Food Series has grown year on year since its inception in 2017. In 2022, the festival will focus on innovative programming, audience needs and quality of delivery.
- 12. Samhain: Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival 2021** *€10,000*  
 A three day programme that includes story-telling, visual arts, a Shannon swim, craft based workshops, a fashion show and an exhibition and a Lighting Masterclass for Parade and Costume.



**13. Top 8 | Hip-Hop and Street Dance Festival****€9,000**

To hold a live, in-person, three day Hip-Hop and Street Dance event in Limerick City, that will be fun, creative and safe in the current pandemic, while allowing artists to authentically express and share their artforms across all cultures and backgrounds.

**14. Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2022****€10,000**

The 15th edition of Welcome to the Neighbourhood festival will see international and Irish artists reside in the town of Askeaton, in June 2022, activating and presenting new cultural projects that connect with the unique history and everyday life of Askeaton. The culmination of the festival will be a public forum in which a wide-reaching audience of interest will visit the town, the participants, and their newly realised projects.

**Strand 3: Festival Development and Sustainability.**

- The total Fund Available for this strand = **€4,000**
- 16 applications were received with a total ask of **€29,200**.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 2 successful applicants, totalling **€3,500**.

**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.

Festival/Event		District	Award
<b>1</b>	Polish Arts Festival	Limerick Metro	€1,500
<b>3</b>	Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	Limerick Metro	€2,000
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>		<b>€3,500</b>	

**1. Polish Arts Festival****€1,500**

This funding will allow PAF to grow and become a more sustainable festival by financing a mentor/provider to work with them on a 5 year Strategy Plan in the areas of audience development strategy and the development of governance structures.

**2. Bualadh Bos Children's Festival****€2,000**

It is clear to the organisers that the festival has reached the capacity of its development while a part of the organisational structure of the Lime Tree and this funding will be used to undertake a comprehensive review and create a plan to fulfil its future potential as a regional festival.

Due to the high quality of the applications, the panel recommended that if further funding was identified, or became available, that the application by Ballyhoura Walking Festival be funded to the amount of €2,000. The remaining grant allocation of €500 in this strand is recommended towards this purpose.