

24th June 2022

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

Re: Panel recommendations: Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2022/2023

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 2022/2023.

Total funding for the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2022/2023 is €205,750. The value of the Limerick City and County Council contribution to the grant scheme for 2022/2023 is €184,000. This year's fund also includes a €21,750 contribution in partnership with Fáilte Ireland.

41 applications were received with a total ask of €532,790.32.

The assessment panel met on Thursday 16th of June 2022 and considered all applications based on the guidelines and criteria for the festival and events grant scheme.

Recommendations: Strand 1: Fund Available: €42,250

- 28 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €162,340.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 18 successful applicants totalling €42,250 (*see recommendations in attached report).

Recommendations: Strand 2: Fund available: €159,000

- 13 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €330,450.32.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 12 successful applicants totalling €159,000 (*see recommendations in attached report).

Recommendations: Strand 3: Fund Available: €4,500

- 10 applications were received with a total ask of €40,000.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 1 successful applicant totalling €4,500.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Festival/Event	District	Award
Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2023	Newcastle West	€2,000
The Pig n' Porter Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,000
Fleadh by the Feale	Newcastle West	€2,000
Light Moves Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,500
Limerick Literary Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,500
What Next Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,500
Limerick Garden Festival	Limerick Metro	€1,000
Cappamore Show	Cappamore – Kilmallock	€3,000
Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,000
Catalyst International Film Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,250
Fealefest 23	Newcastle West	€2,000
Limerick Opera Festival	Limerick Metro	€1,500
Dromcollogher Carnival	Newcastle West	€500
Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest	Limerick Metro	€1,500
Limerick Early Music Festival	Limerick Metro	€2,000
Féile Na Gréine	Limerick Metro	€2,500
Music by the Maigue	Adare – Rathkeale	€500
Ballyhoura Walking Festival	Cappamore – Kilmallock	€4,000
Total		€42,250

Strand 2 - Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large Scale Festivals and Events

Festival/Event	District	Award
Fresh International Film Festival	Limerick Metro, Newcastle West	€17,000
Pigtown Culture & Food Series	All Districts	€12,000
Made of Earth Feel the Earth (Hunt museum)	Limerick Metro	€10,000
Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	Limerick Metro, Adare – Rathkeale	€8,000
16th Polish Arts Festival	Limerick Metro	€11,000
Richard Harris International Film Festival	Limerick Metro	€8,000
EVA International	Limerick Metro	€20,000
Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	All Districts	€15,000
Limerick Jazz Festival	Limerick Metro	€10,000
Samhain: Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival	Limerick Metro	€10,000
HearSay International Audio Arts Festival	Cappamore – Kilmallock	€27,000
Welcome to the Neighbourhood	Adare – Rathkeale	€11,000
Total		€159,000

Strand 3 – Festival Development & Sustainability

Festival/Event	District	Award
Féile Na Gréine	Limerick Metro	€4,500
Total		€4,500

Assessment Panel

An Open Call for applications to the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme was issued on Wednesday the 18th of May 2022, to close at 4pm on Wednesday the 8th of June 2022, for Festivals and Events taking place between the 1st October 2022 and 30th September 2023.

The panel, which carried out the assessments, was composed of two Independent National Experts chosen based on relevant experience. 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. Sarah Kiely**
- **Kath Gorman** is a creative producer, curator and arts management consultant of strategic and creative project initiative Promenade with significant festival experience.
- **Sarah Searson** has been working at executive and senior management level in the arts and education sector for over 25 years.

The Chairperson was:

- **Úna Carmody**, a consultant in the arts and culture, with a special interest in audience development and strategic planning. She has served on a number of arts boards and was Chair of Dublin Fringe Festival.

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.

The Council is requested to approve the allocations outlined.

Is mise le meas,

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 2022/2023

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

- 25 applications were received in this strand with a total ask of **€124,340**.
- The panel recommended the transfer of 3 applications to this strand from Strand 2 as having reviewed the applications, they were deemed more aligned to the criteria for this strand, bringing the total applications assessed under Strand 1 to 28 (*the panel also recommended the transfer of €6,750 from Strand 2).
- The assessment panel recommended the allocation of funding to 18 successful applicants totalling **€42,250**.

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
Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2023	Newcastle West	€2,000
The Pig n' Porter Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,000
Fleadh by the Feale	Newcastle West	€2,000
Light Moves Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,500
Limerick Literary Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,500
What Next Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,500
Limerick Garden Festival	Limerick Metro	€1,000
Cappamore Show	Cappamore – Kilmallock	€3,000
Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,000
Catalyst International Film Festival	Limerick Metro	€3,250
Fealefest 23	Newcastle West	€2,000
Limerick Opera Festival	Limerick Metro	€1,500
Dromcollogher Carnival	Newcastle West	€500
Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest	Limerick Metro	€1,500
Limerick Early Music Festival	Limerick Metro	€2,000
Féile Na Gréine	Limerick Metro	€2,500
Music by the Maigue	Adare – Rathkeale	€500
Ballyhoura Walking Festival	Cappamore – Kilmallock	€4,000
Total		€42,250

Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2023

€2,000

A five-day festival of Irish Traditional Music, Song, Dance, Gaeilge and culture, Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2023 offers an opportunity for 4 different age groups to participate in various music, song, dance, storytelling and Comhrá Gaeilge events.

Pig n' Porter Festival 2023**€3,000**

The largest one-day Tag Rugby Festival in the world, takes place at a time when Limerick City is traditionally quiet (July). The ultimate plan is to create a week-long sports and music festival which attracts participants and visitors to Limerick from all over the world

Fleadh by the Feale**€2,000**

This festival, in Abbeyfeale, will begin on Friday night of the May Bank Holiday weekend with a busking competition and gig rig entertainment. It continues over the weekend with workshops, youth sessions, pub trails, bones workshops/competitions and a ceili.

Light Moves Festival: Spiral in the City 2023**€3,500**

To commission three dance artists to develop and perform improvised scores with three sound artists and to present four concerts across city spaces on the 10th and 11th of June 2023. It is also intended to deliver workshops in electronic music with the three sound artists at city schools.

Limerick Literary Festival in Honour of Kate O'Brien 2023**€3,500**

The 2023 festival will look back on its 39-year history and forward to the 40th birthday celebrations in 2024, while looking at the next 40 years ahead. The theme of honouring the past while looking to the future is inspired by Kate O'Brien from her book Mary Lavelle, published in her 39th year.

What Next Festival**€3,500**

Celebration of public engagement with dance through performances, workshops, talks and a special schools programme of seeing dance through VR. Bringing together artists, arts students and audiences and showcasing Limerick as a vibrant and world class, centre of excellence for dance, to national and international audiences

Limerick Garden Festival 2023**€1,000**

Limerick Garden Festival is a unique blend of educational content from a horticultural background with its expert talks and demonstrations and Family, Food & Fun Elements providing a unique, specialist Garden Festival combined with a Quality Family Day out.

Cappamore Show**€3,000**

In August 2023, Cappamore Show will host their 67th one-day annual agricultural show in Cappamore, Co. Limerick. The event aims to bring people together from far and near in a family fun community social setting and to promote the advancement of the arts, crafts, local enterprise and agricultural sciences.

Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival 2023**€3,000**

The fourth edition of this festival will include a tour of a French navy ship, followed by a Franco-Irish market with live music and dance performances. An afternoon of historical re-enactments, a parade and ceremony supported by the Defence Forces, live performances, food, games and entertainment for all ages in the Hunt Museum.

Catalyst International Film Festival**€3,250**

Catalyst International Film Festival focuses exclusively on films and filmmakers addressing under-representation on screen and behind the camera in specific ways. It seeks to amplify debates on EDI issues (gender, class, race, ethnicity, age, disability and LGBTQ) by building networks in the screen/creative industries and wider communities.

Fealefest 23**€2,000**

An intergenerational festival based on the rich music heritage of Abbeyfeale, blending Traveller song, traditional music and contemporary rap. The event will build and develop audiences through a number of youth music workshops, master classes, social encounters and concert performance.

The Limerick Opera Festival 2023**€1,500**

The new Limerick Opera Festival launched in 2022, has as its immediate aim, to bring opera to all. Community involvement will be a key component in the success of this festival. Live performance enhances job prospects in our local venue, entertainment and hospitality sectors.

Dromcollogher Carnival**€500**

A ten-day Street Carnival featuring indoor and outdoor cultural and sporting events and entertainments to suit the broadest range of ages for Dromcollogher and surrounding areas of West Limerick.

Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest**€1,500**

Taking place over the October Bank Holiday weekend, the Halloween Fright-fest will have classes and events for the children of the area including a Pumpkin Carving competition. The highlight of the weekend will be the Scary Trail, located on the bank of the River Shannon.

Limerick Early Music Festival**€2,000**

The third annual Limerick Early Music Festival, titled *Woods So Wild*, brings together local, national and international musicians and dancers for an exciting weekend of solo and collaborative performances engaging the public through seven concerts, a dance workshop and a vibrant Festival Hub.

Féile Na Gréine**€2,500**

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 event.

Music by the Maigue 2023**€500**

Music by the Maigue will create street-level entertainment in Croom Town Park, offering a mix of music for families to enjoy, from Brass Bands to soloists.

Ballyhoura Walking Festival**€4,000**

The Festival provides an opportunity to explore some of Ballyhoura's stunning countryside, heritage and folklore in the company of local guides. The festival will be run in collaboration with the Joyce Brothers Festival for the second year, which will add to the musical and cultural element to the event.

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

- 16 applications were received with a total ask of **€368,450.32**.
- The panel recommended the transfer of 3 applications from this strand to Strand 1 as having reviewed the applications, they were more aligned to the criteria for that strand, bringing the total applications assessed under Strand 2 to 13.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 12 successful applicants, totalling **€159,000**.

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 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.

Festival/Event	District	Award
Fresh International Film Festival	Limerick Metro, Newcastle West	€17,000
Pigtown Culture & Food Series	All Districts	€12,000
Made of Earth Feel the Earth (Hunt museum)	Limerick Metro, Adare – Rathkeale	€10,000
Limerick Sings Festival	Limerick Metro	€8,000
16th Polish Arts Festival	Limerick Metro	€11,000
Richard Harris International Film Festival	Limerick Metro	€8,000
EVA International	Limerick Metro	€20,000
Bualadh Bos Children's Festival	All Districts	€15,000
Limerick Jazz Festival	Limerick Metro	€10,000
Samhain: Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival	Limerick Metro	€10,000
HearSay International Audio Arts Festival	Cappamore – Kilmallock	€27,000
Welcome to the Neighbourhood	Adare – Rathkeale	€11,000
Total		€159,000

Fresh International Film Festival 2023: Fresh Start **€17,000**

Fresh Start is programmed to recognise and showcase new stories and a range of experiences on film from young people in Ireland and worldwide. The festival comprises a school's programme, a young filmmaker's programme, Ireland's Young filmmaker of the Year Awards and an International screening programme.

Pigtown Culture & Food Series **€12,000**

The Pigtown Culture & Food Series is a celebration of Limerick's deep-rooted food heritage, based on its historic relationship with the pig. In 2023, the festival aims to continue to build on the success of the previous six years and to market the festival nationally and internationally.

Made of Earth / Feel the Earth**€10,000**

Made of Earth is a major new exhibition at The Hunt Museum, aiming to bring 30,000 visitors to Limerick between October 2022 and March 2023, exploring the story of clay and ceramics. Feel-the-Earth is the exhibition entry point providing hands-on fun for all ages. It includes workshops given by local artists and LSAD students.

Limerick Sings International Choral Festival**€8,000**

To maintain the high level of programming for which the festival has become known and provide opportunities for local/visiting singers to work with experienced choral professionals. It is proposed to invite acclaimed UK vocal ensemble The King's Singers, and renowned Irish chamber choir the Ramparts, to perform and host workshops.

16th Polish Arts Festival (PAF)**€11,000**

PAF in association with Lime Tree Theatre/Belltable, The Hunt Museum & LCGA plan to create a 4-day festival of visual art, music, film, theatre, performances and much more.

The Richard Harris International Film Festival**€8,000**

The festival honours the spirit and legacy of the iconic Richard Harris by promoting emerging Irish and International filmmakers, based in Ireland and abroad, and allows Limerick and Irish audiences the opportunity to see films from filmmakers that would not otherwise be screened in the region.

40th EVA International**€20,000**

The 40th EVA International (31 August - 29 October 2023) is Ireland's largest visual arts event, presenting the work of over 40 Irish and International artists. Taking place across multiple venues in Limerick city, EVA plans to attract an audience of over 80,000 through free exhibitions, live events, and educational programmes.

Bualadh Bos Children's Festival**€15,000**

Limerick's only festival aimed exclusively at children and their families, is a key part of the Mid-West's cultural offering and a flagship festival within the programme of the Lime Tree Theatre and Belltable. It focuses on high quality, professional performances and workshops for children by local, national and international artists and companies.

Limerick Jazz Festival 2023**€10,000**

In 2023, the 12th Limerick Jazz Festival will focus upon promoting women in jazz. Leading female jazz musicians, to include Beverly Beirne (UK) and Melina Gilard (US), will be invited to be front and centre of the festival.

Samhain: Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival**€10,000**

Samhain is a family and community-based festival open to participants of all ages, creeds, and abilities. It consists of a busy three-day programme that includes story-telling, visual arts, craft-based workshops and an exhibition and Parade of Light in the Medieval Quarter of Limerick City.

HearSay International Audio Arts Festival**€27,000**

In this, the 7th edition, creative audio makers will gather for cross-disciplinary inspiration and experimentation in the immersive location of the mountain village of Kilfinane. Over 100 events will take place in a variety of unconventional locations.

Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2023**€11,000**

The annual festival of contemporary art in Askeaton, in June 2023. International and Irish artists will reside in the town, activating and presenting new cultural projects that connect with the unique history and everyday life of Askeaton.

Strand 3 – Festival Development & Sustainability

- 10 applications were received with a total ask of **€40,000**.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 1 successful applicants, totalling **€4,500**.

Strand 3 seeks to fund actions to support the long-term sustainability of Festivals/Events. 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. This award is intended to support a step change in the ambition and delivery of the festival.

Festival/Event	District	Award
Féile Na Gréine	Limerick Metro	€4,500
Total		€4,500

Féile Na Gréine**€4,500**

Funding to develop a Féile Na Gréine website as part of the festival's audience development strategy. This website would allow the organisers to effectively communicate their offerings, artistic vision, organisational values and clearly demonstrate their track record of festival delivery in Limerick City, through text, video, photography and motion design. This will ensure that their service offering will be accessible to as many people as possible, inclusive of their context and capabilities.