

8th September 2023

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

Re: Panel recommendations: Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2023/2024

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Enclosed is a report and recommendations for investment in Limerick festivals and events under the Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2023/2024.

Total funding for the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2023/2024 is €208,000. The value of the Limerick City and County Council contribution to the grant scheme for 2023/2024 is €184,000. This year's fund includes a €24,000 contribution in partnership with Fáilte Ireland.

34 applications were received with a total ask of €561,348.47.

The expert independent assessment panel met on Thursday 22nd of June 2023 and Friday the 28th of July and considered all applications based on the guidelines and criteria for the festival and events grant scheme.

Recommendations: Strand 1: Fund Available: €30,000

- 17 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €99,580
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 12 successful applicants totalling €30,000.

Recommendations: Strand 2: Fund available: €171,500

- 17 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €391,568.47.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 16 successful applicants totalling €171,500.

Recommendations: Strand 3: Fund Available: €6,500

This award is intended to support a step change in the ambition and delivery of the festival.

- 12 applications were received with a total ask of €47,500.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 2 successful applicants totalling €6,500.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

| Festival/Event | District | Award |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
| Féile Na Gréine | Limerick Metro | €5,000 |
| Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2023 | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €4,700 |
| Limerick Literary Festival 2024 | Limerick Metro | €4,000 |
| The Limerick Opera Festival -Riverfest | Limerick Metro | €3,000 |
| Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival | Limerick Metro | €3,000 |
| Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2024 | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €2,500 |
| Hospital Arts and Culture Festival | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €2,000 |
| Fleadh by the Feale 2024 | Newcastlewest | €2,000 |
| Amazing Lace 2023; Limerick Museum | Limerick Metro | €1,200 |
| A Relaxed Music Performance | Limerick Metro | €1,100 |
| April Festival of Poetry in Limerick 2024 | Limerick Metro | €1,000 |
| Limerick's Limerick Festival; Friar's Gate Theatre | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €500 |
| Total | | €30,000 |

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

| Festival/Event | District | Award |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| Ormston House - CONNIE | Limerick Metro | €20,000 |
| Buladh Bos Children's Festival 2023 | Limerick Metro | €18,500 |
| Fresh International Film Festival 2024 | Metro & Cappamore-K | €18,000 |
| Top 8 Hip-Hop & Street Dance Festival | Limerick Metro | €16,900 |
| Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2024 | Adare-Rathkeale | €16,100 |
| 17 th Polish Arts Festival | Limerick Metro | €14,000 |
| Pigtown Culture & Food Series | Limerick Metro | €13,000 |
| 40th EVA International | Limerick Metro | €12,000 |
| Limerick Jazz Festival 2024 | Limerick Metro | €10,000 |
| Lumen Street Theatre - Samhain : Limerick's Halloween Festival | Limerick Metro | €9,000 |
| Limerick Sings International Choral Festival | Metro-Adare/RK | €8,000 |
| What Next Festival 2024 and Dance Connects Events | Limerick Metro | €5,000 |
| The Kite Power Festival; Hunt Museum | Limerick Metro | €4,000 |
| Limerick Early Music Festival 2024: JOURNEYS | Limerick Metro | €3,000 |
| Limerick Garden Festival at Milk Market | Limerick Metro | €2,500 |
| Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest 2023 | Limerick Metro | €1,500 |
| Total | | €171,500 |

Strand 3 – Festival Development & Sustainability

| Festival/Event | District | Award |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2023 | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €4,500 |
| 17th Polish Arts Festival | Limerick Metro | €2,000 |
| Total | | €6,500 |

Assessment Panel

An Open Call for applications to the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme was issued on Friday the 28th of April 2023, to close at 4pm on Wednesday the 7th of June 2023, for Festivals and Events taking place between the 1st October 2023 and 30th September 2024.

The panel, which carried out the assessments, was composed of three Independent 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 Panel Members were:

- Chairperson Úna Carmody, a consultant in culture, with a special interest in strategic planning. She has served on a number of boards and as Chair of Dublin Fringe Festival.
- Karl Wallace is Head of Festivals at the Arts Council of Ireland.
- Mary Brady is a former Arts Officer for Offaly and Laois County Councils.

The process was observed by Cllr. Azad Talukder, Cathaoirleach of the Metropolitan District of Limerick deputising for the Mayor of Limerick City and County.

The July meeting of Limerick City and County Council approved '*Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Strategy 2023-2027*'. Under *Goal 6: Invest, Action 2* the Festival and Events Unit will undertake "a review of the Limerick City and County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme and strands to ensure it is designed to deliver on the scale and ambition of the strategy". It is envisaged that this review will take place in 2024 which will inform the ambition to diversify and broaden the range of festivals and events availing of the scheme in 2024 as part of the further development of the industry in Limerick. This review will also look at the time period in which the scheme is run to better meet the needs of applicants and the calendar of annual events.

The Council is requested to approve the allocations outlined.

Is mise le meas,


Gordon Daly

Director of Service

Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism

Report on Panel Recommendations for Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2023/2024

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

- 15 applications were received in this strand with a total ask of **€83,130**.
- The panel recommended the transfer of 2 applications to this strand from Strand 2 as they were deemed more aligned to the criteria for this strand, bringing the total applications assessed under Strand 1 to 17.
- The assessment panel recommended the allocation of funding to 12 successful applicants totalling **€30,000**.

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 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 |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
| Féile Na Gréine | Limerick Metro | €5,000 |
| Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2023 | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €4,700 |
| Limerick Literary Festival 2024 | Limerick Metro | €4,000 |
| The Limerick Opera Festival -Riverfest | Limerick Metro | €3,000 |
| Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival | Limerick Metro | €3,000 |
| Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2024 | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €2,500 |
| Hospital Arts and Culture Festival | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €2,000 |
| Fleadh by the Feale 2024 | Newcastlewest | €2,000 |
| Amazing Lace 2023; Limerick Museum | Limerick Metro | €1,200 |
| A Relaxed Music Performance | Limerick Metro | €1,100 |
| April Festival of Poetry in Limerick 2024 | Limerick Metro | €1,000 |
| Limerick's Limerick Festival; Friar's Gate Theatre | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €500 |
| Total | | €30,000 |

Féile Na Gréine

€5,000

A three-day grassroots festival featuring emerging and experimental music. The festival celebrates music and community in spaces and places across Limerick City from bustling streets to energetic venues. The programme is blended to include both physical events as well as a digital event.

Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2023

€4,700

The Ballyhoura Walking Festival is Ireland's pioneering walking festival and is set to celebrate its 27th year in 2023. This event invites participants to embark on a journey through the breath-taking countryside, rich heritage, and captivating folklore of Ballyhoura Country, all under the guidance of local guides.

Limerick Literary Festival 2024**€4,000**

In 2024 the festival will celebrate 40 years of the festival and the 50 year anniversary of Kate O'Brien. This will consist an extended programme that reflects these celebrations with an exciting line-up of national and international writers including poets from Limerick and its twinned town Quimper.

The Limerick Opera Festival –Riverfest on-street Arias**€3,000**

The Limerick Opera Festival create opportunities for everyone to enjoy operatic performance, recitals and workshops. They engage new and existing audiences across the City and County of Limerick. This includes collaboration with other organisations to reach out to different audiences. The festivals on-street Arias will take place during Riverfest 2024.

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

Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival is a celebration of the historical links with and the longstanding friendship between Ireland and France. This is an annual community-led non-profit festival taking place on the weekend closest to Bastille Day which is the French national day. A commemoration of the Flight of the Wild Geese raises awareness of Limerick's rich local history and international connections.

Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh 2024**€2,500**

Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh is an annual week-long festival that encourages and promotes the preservation of Irish traditional music organised by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. The annual Fleadh Cheoil Luimnigh is an active series of strong cultural events for communities throughout Limerick that attracts participants and visitors from near and far to engage in traditional music, song and dance.

Hospital Arts and Culture Festival 2024**€2,000**

Hospital Arts and Culture Festival is a hub of shared culture and creativity incorporating visual art, poetry, storytelling, music and film. It also places a strong emphasis on wellbeing, cultural exchange and historical recognition. The festival will include its flagship event 'Theatre in Tent' inviting drama groups from surrounding areas to take part.

Fleadh by the Feale 2024**€2,000**

Fleadh by the Feale is a Traditional Irish Music Festival in Abbeyfeale in West Limerick. The festival promotes and teaches traditional Irish music over 5 days through a series of workshops, emphasising the music and culture from the prestigious Sliabh Luachra and wider

region. Other events include an International Bones Competition that attracts a number of International visitors. The festival actively engages people of all ages and backgrounds to help foster imagination, integration and innovation and this has become a significant element of the festival.

Amazing Lace 2023

€1,200

The Amazing Lace symposium will bring together people interested in lace making as a craft and as an art form, from Ireland and overseas. The symposium will promote Limerick Lace as a skill and craft. The programme will include a talk on the history of Irish laces, lace preservation and education. Limerick has a very proud heritage involving lace production and design.

A Relaxed Music Performance

€1,100

A Relaxed Music Performance is specifically designed for attendees to benefit from a non-triggering environment. This will facilitate self-regulation and acceptance, creating a unique sensory friendly music event for those taking part.

April Festival of Poetry in Limerick 2024

€1,000

Hosted by Limerick Writers' Centre the festival is a mix of in-person and online events, with live music. Attendees can enjoy an array of interactive activities like a poetry trail, as well as a poetry and song-writing workshop. The festival will showcase various book launches and a number of fringe events during this month long festival.

Limerick's Limerick Festival

€500

This is a festival celebrating the art of writing a Limerick and will take place at Friar's Gate Theatre, Co. Limerick. It will provide a shared learning experience in the art of writing a Limerick in a cross community style collaboration. As an organisation Friar's Gate Theatre is dedicated to promoting equality and inclusion by providing a forum of expression and this festival embodies that concept.

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

- 19 applications were received with a total ask of **€430,718.47**.
- The panel recommended the transfer of 2 applications from this strand to Strand 1 as they were more aligned to the criteria for that strand, bringing the total applications assessed under Strand 2 to 17.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 16 successful applicants, totalling **€171,500**.

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 compliment and provide additional programming to other pre-existing Festival/Event activities which may not on their own be eligible.

| Festival/Event | District | Award |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| Ormston House - CONNIE | Limerick Metro | €20,000 |
| Buladh Bos Children's Festival 2023 | Limerick Metro | €18,500 |
| Fresh International Film Festival 2024 | Metro & Cappamore-K | €18,000 |
| Top 8 Hip-Hop & Street Dance Festival | Limerick Metro | €16,900 |
| Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2024 | Adare-Rathkeale | €16,100 |
| 17 th Polish Arts Festival | Limerick Metro | €14,000 |
| Pigtown Culture & Food Series | Limerick Metro | €13,000 |
| 40th EVA International | Limerick Metro | €12,000 |
| Limerick Jazz Festival 2024 | Limerick Metro | €10,000 |
| Lumen Street Theatre - Samhain : Limerick's Halloween Festival | Limerick Metro | €9,000 |
| Limerick Sings International Choral Festival | Metro-Adare/RK | €8,000 |
| What Next Festival 2024 and Dance Connects Events | Limerick Metro | €5,000 |
| The Kite Power Festival; Hunt Museum | Limerick Metro | €4,000 |
| Limerick Early Music Festival 2024: JOURNEYS | Limerick Metro | €3,000 |
| Limerick Garden Festival at Milk Market | Limerick Metro | €2,500 |
| Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest 2023 | Limerick Metro | €1,500 |
| Total | | €171,500 |

Ormston House - CONNIE**€20,000**

CONNIE presents an ambitious, multidisciplinary, site-responsive, promenade event inspired by Limerick-born Hollywood star Constance Smith. It will take place in Limerick's historic Theatre Royal in September 2024. This event will be a collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of Limerick-based musicians, theatre makers, film makers, visual artists, historians and architects to develop and present the work in an innovative, immersive format.

Buladh Bos Children's Festival 2023**€18,500**

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

Fresh International Film Festival 2024 'Fresh Now'**€18,000**

Fresh Film inspires, nurtures and celebrates excellence in young people's film and has been hugely successful in engaging young people in high quality film making. Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year Awards are aired live on RTE 2 each year. The 28th edition is programmed to recognise and showcase film in a changing world with a range of film experiences from young people in Ireland and worldwide.

Top 8| Hip-Hop & Street Dance Festival**€16,900**

A festival that is strongly rooted in Limerick with a live in person event to build a sense of community, showcasing artists to authentically express and share their art forms across all cultures and backgrounds, achieving national recognition for Hip-Hop as a high level art form in all four elements: Art, Music, Dance and Voice by celebrating this vibrant creative community in Limerick City.

Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2024**€16,100**

Welcome to the Neighbourhood is the annual festival of contemporary art in Askeaton that sees International and Irish artists in residence in the town. Featuring a strong community based series that allows the artist to immerse themselves in the unique history and everyday life of Askeaton while activating and presenting new cultural projects that connect with the locality and community.

17th Polish Arts Festival (PAF)**€14,000**

PAF in association with the Lime Tree Theatre and The Belltable, The Hunt Museum, Limerick City Gallery of Art and Irish World Academy will create a 4 day festival of visual art, music, films, performances, community projects and workshops with bespoke a PAF KIDS Day. This has become a well embedded festival on the Limerick calendar that attracts artists and creatives from a diverse range of backgrounds and locations.

Pigtown Culture & Food Series**€13,000**

The 'Pigtown Culture & Food Series' is a celebration of Limerick's food culture, based on Limerick's historic relationship with the pig and deep-rooted food heritage. The series showcases Limerick as a quality food destination and includes cookery demos, walking tour, talks and parade.

40th EVA International**€12,000**

The 40th EVA International - Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art will be Ireland's largest visual arts event taking place in 2023. EVA commissions and curates contemporary art by Irish and international artists and exhibitions will take place in various locations across Limerick City including The Limerick City Gallery of Art and Gardens International as well as live performances in venues across the city.

Limerick Jazz Festival 2024**€10,000**

The 2024 festival will feature the programming of international artists which will grow and enrich the festival by opening up more offerings and experiences to audiences. The confirmed artists so far include participants from Ireland, Greece, Canary Islands, Mexico and America.

Samhain: Limerick's Halloween Festival**€9,000**

Samhain is a 3 day festival with a programme that includes story-telling, street performances, and workshops. Lumen Street Theatre will work with diverse communities from their new location at 16 Roches Street. Lumen Street Theatre are made up of artists with many years of experience in the film industry, visual arts, sculpture, fashion, costume design, street performance, construction, engineering and print making and create vibrant unique work with a strong connection to Limerick's historical heritage. The festival highlight will be a Parade of Light in the Medieval Quarter of Limerick City.

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

The Limerick Sings International Choral Festival provides opportunities for local and visiting singers to work with experienced choral professionals including several workshops for local school and youth choirs. The 2024 festival will include concerts, workshops and choral trails around the city and region as well as an outdoor chorus in a popular tourist attraction.

What Next Festival 2024 and Dance Connects Events**€5,000**

Dance Limerick's 'What Next Festival' is an annual platform celebrating adventurous new dance and connecting artists to audiences in Limerick city. The 7th edition will present a new series of activities, Dance Connects Celebration. These events are a community celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Dance Limerick and activities will embrace the local community in John's Square Cultural Quarter highlighting Limerick a destination of dance for national and international visitors.

The Kite Power Festival**€4,000**

The Kite Power Festival at the Hunt Museum is an event accompanying a major climate change exhibition 'Night's candles are burnt out: Climate, Culture, and Change and Community'. Attendees get direct contact with renewable energy via sustainable material, kite building workshops and a townland kite flying competition on Limerick's County and City hills and green spaces.

Limerick Early Music Festival 2024: JOURNEYS**€3,000**

The festival will consist of concerts and a medieval drama, drawing on local, national and international expertise. It will celebrate 1000 years of music from diverse cultures, languages and styles from Africa, the Middle East and Europe. It will gather a diverse range of musicians for collaborative performances including concerts, special interactive event and medieval play.

Limerick Garden Festival at Milk Market**€2,500**

For its fifth year, Limerick Garden Festival will take place over 2 days providing a space with events ranging from a fringe festival with Lumen Street Theatre to garden and healthy living awareness masterclasses, demonstrations, displays, food and fun for all the family all in the unique setting of Limerick's famous Milk Market.

Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest 2023**€1,500**

The Fright Fest Scary Trail involves the creation of a one-kilometre long trail of scary props, visual projections, music, and sound effects and lighting. The local landscape provides the atmosphere of Halloween giving a truly unique experience for all ages. In the build up to the festival there will be costume and prop making classes and to encourage engagement. A Seanchai event will attract storytellers from the locality and further afield.

Strand 3 – Festival Development & Sustainability

- 12 applications were received with a total ask of **€47,500**.
- The assessment panel recommended that €2,000 be moved from Strand 2 to allow for more funding support to be allocated under Strand 3.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 2 successful applicants, totalling **€6,500**.

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 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2023 | Cappamore-Kilmallock | €4,500 |
| 17th Polish Arts Festival | Limerick Metro | €2,000 |
| Total | | €6,500 |

Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2023**€4,500**

The fund for Festival Development and Sustainability will be used for a festival business plan development, new Festival/Event concept development, marketing and audience development strategies and brand development.

17th Polish Arts Festival**€2,000**

The fund for Festival Development and Sustainability will be used for rebranding and curatorial development of the festival.