

21st March 2025

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council
Grants Under the Arts Act Scheme 2025

Limerick City and County Council made available a total fund of €20,000 for the 2025 Grants under the Arts Act scheme. The maximum grant available is €1,000. A report with recommendations from the assessment panel for the scheme is enclosed.

The Assessment Panel met on Tuesday 4th March 2025. 61 applications were received, representing a total ask of €50,902.56. The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of grants to 23 applicants as follows:

Arts Discipline	Applicant	District	Recommended Grant
Arts Participation	Dochas Midwest Autism Support	Metro	€600.00
	Shannen Slattery and Eoin Maguire	Metro	€ 852.94
Visual Arts	Gavin Hogg	Metro	€960.00
	Hospital Arts and Culture	Cappamore - Killmallock	€500.00
	Eamonn McQuade	Metro	€1,000.00
	Emma Conefrey	Metro	€803.49
	Gerry Davis	Metro	€935.00
	Rachel Maloney	Metro	€280.00
Circus	Tony McCarthy	Metro	€ 969.09
Dance	Limerick Mental Health Association	Metro	€1,000.00
Theatre	Broadford Youth Choir	Newcastle West	€1,000.00
	The Cicilian Musical Society	Metro	€1,000.00
Music	Yonit Kosovske	Metro	€ 1,000.00
	Now and Then Media	Metro	€1,000.00
	Tony Roche	Metro	€1,000.00
Traditional Arts	Polish Arts Festival	Metro	€1,000.00
	Blás Summer School	Metro	€ 1,000.00
	Croom Community Development Association	Adare-Rathkeale	€ 500.00
Literature	Lime Square Poets	Metro	€ 599.48
	Le Fanu Festival	Cappamore - Killmallock	€1,000.00
Young People, Children and Education	Limerick Youth Theatre	Metro	€1,000.00
Other	Wolodymyr Smishkewych	Newcastle West	€1,000.00
	Daithi Magner & Jacinta Moore	Metro	€1,000.00
	TOTAL:		€20,000.00

The approval of Limerick City and County Council is requested to award grants as recommended.

Mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Etain McCooey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Etain McCooey
Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Co-ordinator
Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism
Development Directorate

Grants under the Arts Act scheme 2025

Report and Recommendations

On 20th December 2024 Limerick Arts Office announced the open call for applications under the Grants Under the Arts Act scheme. The closing date for applications was 12 noon Wednesday 12th February 2025. A total budget of €20,000 is available in 2025.

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 to and participation in the arts.

Assessment

All Grants under the Arts Act applications are considered by an assessment panel, appointed by Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council. The Grants under the Arts Act 2025 panel met on Tuesday 4th March to assess and make decisions on all eligible applications, using the published criteria for assessment.

The Assessment Panel

The members of the panel were Cliona Dukes and Aoibhie McCarthy.

Clíona Dukes is a freelance Creative Producer in theatre and Production Manager in TV. Prior to 2018, Clíona opened and ran Smock Alley Theatre as Director of Programming & Finance from 2012 – 2018 as well as producing all in-house shows. Previously Clíona was General Manager of The Gaiety School of Acting and General Manager and Producer with Storytellers Theatre Company. She has worked in PR with Host PR & GM Publicity, Box Office, Front of House & Marketing with The Civic Theatre, Administration with Theatre Forum & First Call Management and Production with The Olympia Theatre. Most recently Clíona was Interim Director/CEO in Axis Ballymun for 6 months while the search for the new Director was underway. She is co-creator and Co-Director of Scene + Heard: The Festival of New Work and its training programme Generator and Co-Director of CACKLE MGMT – a theatre, tv and event production company.

Aoibhie McCarthy is an arts manager, curator & arts educator and, since August 2020, Artistic Director of Sample-Studios. She holds a B.A in Art History, Architectural History and English Literature from Trinity College Dublin and an M.A in Curatorial Studies from Limerick School of Art and Design, which was funded through the Shinnors Curatorial Scholarship. During this research scholarship from 2012-2014, she was Education Curator of Limerick City Gallery of Art and eva International. She has worked in the National Gallery of Ireland, the Douglas Hyde

Gallery, Dublin Contemporary and Whyte's Auctioneers. She led visual arts programming at Galway Fringe Festival and Make a Move Festival before undertaking project management roles as part of regional and national initiatives such as Limerick City of Culture 2014, The Year of Irish Design 2015 and National Adult Learners' Festival 2016. From 2016-2018, Aoibhie was Visual Arts and Outreach Manager of Garter Lane Arts Centre in Waterford. From 2018-2020, she was Marketing and Development Manager of Cork International Film Festival and the Business to Arts Fundraising Fellow. She is on the Board of Uillinn West Cork Arts Centre and Waterford Youth Arts. She is an assessment panelist for Culture Ireland and Create Ireland. She mentors as part of the Minding Creative Minds initiative.

The panel was impressed with the level of requests for funding and the quality of the applications. The panel recommended, should further funding become available, that it be distributed to those that were not awarded full allocations. 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.

Recommendations

Arts Discipline	Applicant	District	Recommended Grant
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Grant recommendations:

Dochas Midwest Autism Support; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Arts Participation €600

To deliver a series of participatory art sessions to the charity's service users, aiming to broaden access to creative experiences, and use art as a tool to foster wellbeing. The art programme will explore patterns, process, and rituals, all proven to have psychological advantages.

Wolodymyr Smishkewych; Newcastle West

Other €1,000

This project entails the musical research & reconstruction of the 13th-century epic the 'Lay of Igor', with singer Wolodymyr Smishkewych and multi-instrumentalists Vsevolod Sadovyj and Snezhana Rybalska, reclaiming the voice of Slavic bards in retelling this ancient story through music, poetic recitation, and theatrical performance.

Gavin Hogg; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Visual Arts €960

Creating an exhibition in Spacecraft Limerick, in September 2025, celebration turning 60 and 30 continuous years as an arts practitioner in Limerick. The exhibition composing older seminal pieces and new works and featuring a public discussion between Hogg and the art critic Cristin Leach.

Polish Arts Festival; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Traditional Arts €1,000

This project explores Polish wycinanki (paper cutouts), focusing on the Leluja style, blending Slavic and Celtic symbols. Through school and public workshops, participants will create art showcased at The Hunt Museum. Led by expert artists, it revives endangered folk traditions, fostering creativity, cultural exchange, and heritage appreciation.

Tony McCarthy; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Circus €969.09

In growing the John McCarthy Circus Bar website Tony McCarthy will digitalize circus memorabilia from his late grandfather's circus archive while funding the yearly cost in keeping the website live to culturally engage with audiences to showcase a fresh vision of the development of the circus arts in Ireland and abroad.

Daithi Magner, Jacinta Moore; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Other €1,000

This proposal offers an Art and Tech Day at Limerick City Gallery of Art, a half day event empowering local artists with knowledge about art and technology. Featuring VR and AR through workshops, exhibitions and discussions, the event aims to stimulate public interest in creative technology and promote contemporary practices.

Broadford Youth Choir; Newcastle West

Theatre €1,000

Broadford Youth Choir are presenting a semi-staged production of Les Miserables. BYC is a non-profit organisation with a cast of outstanding solo performers who are aspiring to musical careers and a

large choir of young people. An incredible opportunity for audiences and performers to witness West Limerick talent at its finest.

Yonit (aka Joelle) Kosovske Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Music €1,000

Litany is a poignant, meditative, and contemporary piece of music for harpsichord, hang drum, baroque violin, and hurdy-gurdy. Composed by Justin Grounds, Litany is an homage to four animals who have recently gone extinct or are endangered: Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Splendid Poison Frog, Pinta Island Tortoise, and Western Black Rhinoceros.

Now and Then Media; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Music €1,000

As part of its 2025 series, Now and Then Media presents a week of medieval music: world-class medieval flautist Norbert Rodenkirchen will perform his engaging concert Hameln 1284: Music on the Trail of the Pied Piper, and acclaimed early music duo La Morra will be in residence and in concert.

Blas International Summer School of Irish Music and Dance; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Traditional Arts €1,000

Blas City Centre Gala Concert: The Blas Summer School brings its guest artists to Limerick City Centre to perform in Dolan's. This concert will bring high-quality traditional music out of the University and into the public domain.

Lime Square Poets (c/o Dor Seifer) Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Literature €599.48

Lime Square Poets aims to provide opportunities that foster connections Irish and international poets via a weekly virtual open mic and reading series. Hosted from Limerick, we use a dedicated website and a Facebook Group/Page, to showcase work, attract an extremely diverse audience, and promote collaboration and lifelong learning.

Limerick Youth Theatre; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Young People, Children and Education (YPCE) €1,000

The collaboration between Limerick Youth Theatre and Avista (formerly known as the Daughters of Charity Service) returns for its thirteenth show at Lime Tree Theatre for two performances where The Creative Show presents A Night on the Town written and directed by Myles Breen.

The Cecilian Musical Society; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Theatre €1,000

To assist with the production costs of putting on a large scale musical Singing in the Rain, The Big Sing primary schools choir event and, our nights of one act plays for the people of Limerick.

Tony Roche; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Music €1,000

S.Y.N.C. "Synergy, Yearning, Nexus, Connection" delves into the tension between division and unity in humanity. This collaborative project blends electronic music with interactive digital art, exploring themes of isolation, togetherness, conflict and harmony, as the album reflects the complex interplay between separation and connection in the modern world.

Limerick Mental Health Association Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Dance €1,000

A continuation of last year's successful Movement for your Mind collaborative project with Dance Limerick. The proposed project creates a supportive, creative atmosphere for adults to come together to explore different dance styles, moving for their mind, focusing on how movement sparks joy and happiness supporting mental health.

Croom Community Development Association; (CCDA) Adare - Rathkeale

Traditional Arts €500

CCDA proposes to host set dancing classes in Croom Town Park ahead of Fleadh Luimnigh, Croom in May. CCDA would host these in the evening for adults and use indoors if the weather is inclement.

Shannen Slattery and Eoin Maguire; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Arts Participation €852.94

This project explores the preservation of regional lingo and vernacular in Kings Island, Limerick, focusing on the older generation's language, often overlooked by younger generations. Combining film, photography, and sound, it celebrates the community's history, culture, and resilience, culminating in an exhibition at the Belltable and People's Museum.

Hospital Arts and Culture; Cappamore - Kilmallock

Visual Arts €500

Hospital Arts and Culture is a vibrant community event fostering connections across generations through diverse artistic activities. Promoting well-being, creativity, and cultural appreciation, it offers inclusive opportunities for interaction, expression, and engagement. Emphasising the power of arts in uniting people and places, it strengthens community bonds and enriches social experiences.

Eamonn McQuade Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Visual Arts €1,000

The aim of the Art Appreciation Programme is to broaden understanding, deepen appreciation and increase the enjoyment of visual arts through audio-visual presentations by practicing painters. Overall, this approach has been welcomed by those that have attended them. Presenters from the Limerick area and invited from further afield have been included.

Emma Conefrey Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Visual Arts €803.49

In collaboration with Shane Vaughan, this visceral video performance explores regeneration through destruction. As Conefrey tears away silicone and makeup resembling skin, hidden pockets of blood-like liquid burst forth red alcohol-based paint oozing from beneath. This raw, unsettling act embodies pain, renewal, and the fragile nature of transformation.

Le Fanu Festival; Cappamore - Kilmallock

Literature €1,000

A free of charge community festival celebrating and exploring the Le Fanu family and their connection to Abington, Murroe, County Limerick. The vision for the Le Fanu Festival is the cultural enrichment and enhancement of 'place' through literature, music, history, architecture and storytelling.

Gerry Davis; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Visual Arts €935

Davis is currently undergoing a period of rediscovery, innovation and exploration in his studio practice. He has always worked in the medium of oil paint and recently, he has delved into new mediums, processes and artistic practices as a way to expand his skills and repertoire in the studio.

Rachel Maloney; Limerick Metropolitan (North, West, East)

Visual Arts €280

Maloney's proposed project is to begin a new body of work, making larger than life, textile, and screen-printed installation pieces based on Irish butterflies, and their various different species. The aim of the project is to highlight the importance of biodiversity and nature in Ireland today.