

14th May 2025

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

Re: Panel recommendations: Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2025/2026

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 2025/2026.

Total funding for the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2025/2026 is €208,000. The value of the Limerick City and County Council contribution to the grant scheme for 2025/2026 is €184,000. This year's fund includes a €24,000 contribution in partnership with Fáilte Ireland.

42 applications were received with a total ask of €634,324.97.

The expert independent assessment panel met on Thursday 8th of May 2025 and considered all applications based on the guidelines and criteria for the festival and events grant scheme.

Recommendations: Strand 1: Fund Available: €32,000.00

- 22 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €99,639.00.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 18 successful applicants totalling €32,000.00.

Recommendations: Strand 2: Fund available: €171,500.00

- 20 applications were considered under this strand with a total ask of €466,030.97.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 17 successful applicants totalling €171,500.00.

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

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

- 17 applications were received with a total ask of €68,655.00.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 2 successful applicants totalling €4,500.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Festival/Event	District	Award
Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2025	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€5,000
Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School 2025	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€4,500
Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien	Metro	€4,000
The Limerick Wild Geese Festival 2026	Metro/ Cappamore-Kilmallock	€3,500
Catalyst International Film Festival	Metro	€3,250
Shannonside History Festival	All Areas	€2,500
Memory of a Free Festival	Metro	€2,000
Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest 2025	Metro	€1,750
Amazing Lace Symposium 2026	Metro	€1,000
Maigue River Festival	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€1,000
Limerick Zine Fest 2026	Metro	€1,000
St. Patricks Festival Weekend, Abbeyfeale	Newcastle West	€500
St John the Baptist BNS and Garryowen Community Wellbeing Day	Metro	€500
Glinfest - Glin Halloween Festival	Newcastle West	€300
Hospital Arts and Culture Festival	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€300
Adare St. Patricks Day Parade	Adare/ Rathkeale	€300
Newcastle West Halloween Fest	Newcastle West	€300
Community and Family Summer Fair	Metro	€300
Total		€32,000

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

Festival/Event	District	Award
Bualadh Bos Children's Festival 2025	Metro	€21,000
Fresh International Film Festival 2026	Metro/NCW/Cappa/Kilmallock	€21,000
Top 8 Hip-Hop and Street Dance Festival	Metro	€19,500
19th Polish Arts Festival	Metro	€18,500
Welcome to the Neighbourhood 2026	Adare/ Rathkeale	€18,000
HearSay International Audio Arts Festival 2026	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€15,500
Limerick Jazz Festival 2026	Metro	€11,000
Samhain: Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival 2025	Metro	€9,000
What Next Dance Festival 2026	Metro	€8,000
Féile Na Gréine	Metro	€8,000
Limerick Sings International Choral Festival	Metro, Adare/Rathkeale	€7,000
EVA Engage	Metro	€5,000
Limerick Early Music Festival 2026	Metro	€4,500
Light Moves Festival 2025 - SPIRAL Programme	Metro	€2,500
Cappamore Show	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€1,000
Limerick Garden Festival at Milk Market	Metro	€1,000
From Ore to Ornament Festival	Metro	€1,000
Total		€171,500

Strand 3 – Festival Development & Sustainability

Festival/Event	District	Award
The Limerick Wild Geese Festival 2026	Metro	€2,250
What Next Dance Festival 2026	Metro	€2,250
Total		€4,500

Assessment Panel

An Open Call for applications to the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme was issued on Wednesday the 12th of March 2025, to close at 4pm on Wednesday the 16th of April 2025, for Festivals and Events taking place between the 1st October 2025 and 30th September 2026.

The panel, which carried out the assessments, was composed of three Independent Experts with significant track records in the sector. The panel was chaired by an independent chairperson, with relevant experience of grant scheme evaluations and working with festivals.

The Panel Members were:

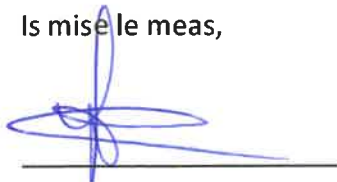
- Chairperson Úna Carmody is a senior arts consultant, with extensive experience. She is a former Chair of Dublin Fringe Festival and current Chair of Dublin Theatre Festival. She has worked extensively for the Arts Council in reporting and assessment and was the moderator for the process to select a new National Dance Company.
- Mary Brady is an independent Arts and Culture consultant specialising in arts strategy, artist development, and accessibility and participatory practice. Her extensive career spans over forty plus years, working across Ireland, the UK and within Europe. Mary had been a dance practitioner (performer choreographer), has worked with and for a number of Local Authority Arts Offices and had been commissioned to consult and write up a number of Arts Strategies and papers, but to name only a few of her many career highlights.
- Carmel Ryan is the Assistant Arts Officer and Graphic Designer in Clare County Council. She is also the Arts and Disabilities Coordinator and Clare Youth Theatre Coordinator and graduated from LSAD in 2007 with a Degree in Graphic Design.

The process was observed by Cllr. Noreen Stokes on behalf of John Moran, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick.

This year funding through Strand Three has been awarded toward two festivals which the panel commented would benefit in the long term from the funding towards the sustainability and growth of their festivals.

The Council is requested to approve the allocations outlined.

Is mise le meas,



Stephane Duclot

Director of Service

Rural, Culture, Community & Tourism Development Directorate

Report on Panel Recommendations for Festival and Events Grant Scheme 2025/2026

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

- 22 applications were received in this strand with a total ask of **€99,639.00**
- The assessment panel recommended the allocation of funding to 18 successful applicants totalling **€32,000.00**

The objective of Strand 1 is to support a diverse range of Festivals and Events from small, voluntary and community focused festivals and events, 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 and community engagement, place-making, with an emphasis on community and cultural activities.

The scheme considered 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. These festivals and events range from being culture and arts related to community identity focused, diaspora/ gathering events.

Festival/Event	District	Award
Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2025	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€5,000
Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School 2025	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€4,500
Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien	Metro	€4,000
The Limerick Wild Geese Festival 2026	Metro/ Cappamore-Kilmallock	€3,500
Catalyst International Film Festival	Metro	€3,250
Shannonside History Festival	All Areas	€2,500
Memory of a Free Festival	Metro	€2,000
Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest 2025	Metro	€1,750
Amazing Lace Symposium 2026	Metro	€1,000
Maigue River Festival	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€1,000
Limerick Zine Fest 2026	Metro	€1,000
St. Patricks Festival Weekend, Abbeyfeale	Newcastle West	€500
St John the Baptist BNS and Garryowen Community Wellbeing Day	Metro	€500
Glinfest - Glin Halloween Festival	Newcastle West	€300
Hospital Arts and Culture Festival	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€300
Adare St. Patricks Day Parade	Adare/ Rathkeale	€300
Newcastle West Halloween Fest	Newcastle West	€300
Community and Family Summer Fair	Metro	€300
Total		€32,000

Ballyhoura Walking Festival 2025**€5,000**

Established as Ireland's first-ever walking festival at its inception, it provides an opportunity to explore and enjoy some of Ballyhoura Country's stunning scenery. Many of the walks are led by members of the Ballyhoura Bears Walking Club who have in-depth knowledge of the area and its heritage, history, flora, and fauna and they are suitable for all abilities. In an effort to enhance the festival experience, there is continued collaboration for the 5th consecutive year with the Joyce Brothers Festival.

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School 2025**€4,500**

The 4th annual Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Autumn School (RFKAS) will take place in the Bruff and Lough Gur, Co. Limerick, from October 24th to 26th, 2025. This festival will celebrate the area's links with the U.S. Fitzgerald Kennedy family with a particular emphasis on Rose, the mother of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and her three grandparents who were born in the locality. The most prominent themes of the festival include: Women in Leadership, The Story of Immigration and Pride of Place through Community Engagement.

Limerick Literary Festival in honour of Kate O'Brien**€4,000**

In 2025 the Limerick Literary Festival celebrates its 41st edition and will focus on the theme of 'Diversity'. The theme will have a varied look into diversity within the world of literature by looking at the range of literature featured in the festival and the authors who will present at the festival. This year's festival aims towards the expansion of the programme to extend their focus on other art forms.

Shannonside History Festival**€2,500**

In 2025, Limerick Civic Trust will host its second annual history festival, the Shannonside History Festival in cooperation with the Limerick Museum, University of Limerick, and Mother Macs pub. This will bring a number of events based around Limerick's history. Other events will cover national and international history, with up to fifteen separate events lined up to cover these varied subjects.

Limerick Wild Geese Festival 2026**€3,500**

This French-themed series of events is held in a historical venue in the city. The festival will feature live music and dance performances as well as an afternoon of historical re-enactments with live performances, food, games and entertainment for all ages in the Hunt Museum.

The walking tour will focus on historical sites associated with the Sieges of Limerick. The creation of an associated online map will be shared with all participants and a parade and ceremony supported by the Defence Forces, followed by a performance of a specially commissioned piece of music at King John's Castle, as well as animations on Nicholas Street.

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

Catalyst International Film Festival is dedicated to amplifying diverse voices, normalising diverse collaborations, and promoting new standards of filmmaking where diversity and inclusion are regarded as standard practice. They want to promote a more inclusive industry and films screened will promote gender equality as well as diversity and inclusion in content and in the roles within the industry.

Memory of a Free Festival**€2,000**

This free event at Belltable is conceived around culturally significant Irish anti-nuclear festivals that occurred between 1978 and 1981. This event accompanies a visual art exhibition at nearby Ormston House. The event begins with chaired discussions between organisers and artists involved in the festivals, featuring, Frank Connolly, Susie Kennedy and Luka Bloom, then known as Barry Moore. This will be followed by screening of original footage from festivals. There will also be contributions from contemporary artists Orla Barry, Brian Duggan and Alanna O'Kelly, who discuss how the anti-nuclear movement informs their art. This will then be followed by music from Rising Damp.

Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest 2025**€1,750**

The Castleconnell Halloween Frightfest flagship event is the Scary Trail, which involves the creation of a trail by incorporating props, live actors, visual projections, music, sound effects and lighting. It will provide a Halloween themed atmosphere and spooky experience for all ages to enjoy. The events are made possible by the collaboration and work of eight organisations and the forty volunteers who support them.

There will also be a large series of ancillary events including historical talks, a heritage exhibition, children's historical treasure hunt, children's spooky storytelling and drawing workshop, a local craft exhibition, and a school outreach programme providing a month of entertainment.

Amazing Lace 2026**€1,000**

The Amazing Lace symposium will bring together people interested in lace making as a craft and an art from Ireland and overseas. The emphasis is on promoting Limerick lace which in itself has its own unique history and style. There will be a symposium on the history of Irish laces, lace preservation and education as well as a series of lacemaking workshops in Limerick lace, showcasing other beautiful Irish laces (Carrickmacross lace, Clones lace, Borris lace or Headford Lace).

Maigue River Festival**€1,000**

This community festival celebrates the heritage and biodiversity of the River Maigue. It is a free event to be held in Croom Town Park in May 2026 and will appeal to all ages with a range of activities to take part in. These activities will include river walks, fly casting and fly fishing demonstrations and biodiversity talks but to name a few.

Limerick Zine Fest 2026**€1,000**

Limerick Zine Fest is a festival formed in 2024 to celebrate the power of DIY culture and independent publishing. LZF 2026 will take place on the May Bank Holiday weekend and include a two-day vendors market, multiple workshops, a panel talk, an open makers-session and more. The aim is to connect zine makers and their audience as well as to introduce a flexible form of creativity and expression to the wider public and encourage their participation in the arts.

St. Patricks Festival Weekend Abbeyfeale**€500**

This will be a four-day festival over the St. Patrick's Day weekend in 2026. An all new and exciting parade will showcase the best in County Limerick, by increasing float participation by groups. The festival will provide a wide range of cultural and entertainment activities located in the heart of Abbeyfeale, with various clubs and volunteer organisations in Abbeyfeale and the surrounding parishes taking part.

St. John the Baptist BNS and Garryowen Community Wellbeing Day**€500**

The annual Wellbeing Day is a community-focused festival hosted by St. John the Baptist BNS in Garryowen. Now in its third year, they celebrate their students' achievements through inclusive activities, such as performances, art, music, mindfulness workshops, and a multicultural food fair. Each year, the event expands, deepening connections with local groups and welcoming a growing cohort of international protection families. This celebration promotes wellbeing, cultural awareness, and pride of place, while highlighting the creativity and resilience of their school community.

Glinfest - Glin Halloween Festival**€300**

On the October Bank Holiday weekend, the sleepy village of Glin welcomes children and families from all over Limerick City and County to get spooky and learn about pumpkins and the festival of Halloween. As part of the festival they will experience Glin's Halloween Pumpkin Patch with Pumpkin Carving Workshops, learning all about the mighty pumpkin. Other features include, Glin's Halloween Spooky Walk and Fairy Trail, Glin Book Fair (incorporating children's storytelling) and Glin Arts and Craft Fair (incorporating arts and crafts workshop for children).

Hospital Arts and Culture Festival**€300**

Hospital Arts and Culture will host a vibrant, multi-day community arts festival celebrating creativity, diversity, and connection. The festival will feature a rich programme designed to engage people of all ages and backgrounds through inclusive, accessible events. Planned highlights include: drama performances by local groups and schools, art and photography exhibitions showcasing community talent, educational talks and creative workshops, Live music spanning traditional, folk, and contemporary styles, International cuisine experiences that celebrate cultural diversity, Lantern Parade to light up the night and showcase creativity. There will also be a children's disco, and 'Young at Heart' tea dancing for seniors.

Adare St. Patricks Day Parade**€300**

The Adare St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026 theme is The Wild Wild West (Buffalo Bill visited Adare). The ASPDP Committee are a group of volunteers who work year round on planning and delivering the Parade. Accessibility and Sustainability underpin their activities. There will be a free park ride system in place from The Woodlands Hotel and Croagh to minimise the impact of cars on Adare. There will also be an Autism friendly space, and a viewing area for disabled members of the community.

Newcastle West Halloween Festival**€300**

As part of the commitment to bringing family-friendly, inclusive events to Newcastle West, the Community Council will hold an inclusive and culturally vibrant Festival for Halloween 2025. The event will transform the heart of Newcastle West into an immersive cultural spectacle of zombie-themed art, performance, and storytelling. A key feature will be two outdoor movie screenings.

Community and Family Summer Fair**€300**

This will be a free and inclusive event, with a special focus on supporting disadvantaged and marginalised communities. This event aims to provide a fun, welcoming space for those who may face financial barriers to summer activities. Activities and entertainment will include a variety of exciting activities, including garden games, a magician, face painting, live music, and a BBQ, ensuring there is something for all ages and interests.

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

- 20 applications were received with a total ask of **€466,030.97**
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 17 successful applicants, totalling **€171,500.00**

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, arts, heritage, creativity and / or spectacle 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 seeks 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. These festivals and events should be primarily culture and arts related. Community identity focused, diaspora / gathering events.

Festival/Event	District	Award
Bualadh Bos Children's Festival 2025	Metro	€21,000
Fresh International Film Festival 2026	Metro/NCW/Cappa/Kilmallock	€21,000
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Light Moves Festival 2025 - SPIRAL Programme	Metro	€2,500
Cappamore Show	Cappamore/Kilmallock	€1,000
Limerick Garden Festival at Milk Market	Metro	€1,000
From Ore to Ornament Festival	Metro	€1,000
Total		€171,500

Buladh Bos Children's Festival 2025

€21,000

The Bualadh Bos Children's Festival is Limerick's only festival aimed exclusively at children and their families. It 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.

Fresh International Film Festival

€21,000

Fresh Film's mission is to inspire, nurture and celebrate excellence in young people's film. The 29th edition will explore the transformative power of cinema within an evolving global landscape. It will showcase films from young filmmakers worldwide, share innovative developments and celebrate emerging voices on film.

The festival includes: a school's programme, screenings and workshops, a young filmmaker's programme with special film events, careers in film, Ireland's Young filmmaker of the Year Awards and international screenings. The Reel Exchange international delegate programme involves meetings, events, workshops and a co-production with Limerick based young filmmakers.

Top 8 | Hip-Hop & Street Dance Festival

€19,500

This festival is strongly rooted in Limerick with a live in person event to build a sense of community. The festival showcases 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 while creating a platform to nurture local artists.

19th Polish Arts Festival (PAF)**€18,500**

PAF is run in association with partner organisations Lime Tree Theatre| Belltable, The Hunt Museum, Limerick City Gallery of Art and Irish World Academy of Music and Dance as well as other local arts and community organisations. They commission work by Limerick-based Polish and Irish music and visual artists and reach out to the diverse communities from Limerick and beyond with an engaging, ambitious and exciting cultural offering of visual art, music, films, performances, community projects and workshops including a bespoke PAF KIDS Day.

Welcome to the Neighbourhood**€18,000**

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.

HearSay International Audio Arts Festival**€15,500**

Now in its 9th edition, the HearSay International Audio Arts Festival celebrates and inspires the cross-disciplinary world of creative audio and brings the world's finest audio artists together in an immersive rural setting, where the Ballyhoura community engages with them in a spirit of adventure and collaboration. The festival will showcase creative audio makers from sound art, film sound, radio docs, new music and audio fiction with over 100 events taking place in unconventional locations from apple farms, living rooms, local shops and public realm settings.

Limerick Jazz Festival 2026**€11,000**

The festival will include international, national and local artists who will perform in local venues such as Belltable and Dolans with a weekend of high-quality performances while seeking opportunities to showcase Limerick Jazz in new non-traditional performance spaces. There will be an expansion of free events in locations throughout Limerick city to attract new audiences and tourists to the festival.

Samhain: Limerick's Hallowe'en Festival**€9,000**

Samhain, celebrates the Irish culture with focus on the Limerick heritage and traditions surrounding Halloween; with community involvement and public participation at its core. This festival will present a four day programme that includes a variety of Halloween themed events for the whole family to participate and or enjoy. They also hope to expand their spectacular and multidisciplinary Arts programme of live performances. They will deliver a Spectacular Parade of Light in the heart of Limerick City.

What Next Festival 2026**€8,000**

Dance Limerick present's the 9th edition of the What Next Dance Festival, an annual platform celebrating adventurous new dance and connecting audiences and artists in Limerick. The festival embraces local community and highlights Limerick as a destination of dance for national and international visitors. Central to this edition will be the presentation of the Céilí Afro Dabke Ukranian dance event. This will be a mixture of dance forms from Ireland, Africa, Palestine, and Ukraine coming together through the universal language of dance. It will be a unique community focused spectacle.

Féile Na Gréine**€8,000**

Féile Na Gréine is a three-day festival of emerging and experimental music. The festival celebrates music and community in an attempt to provoke moments of joy in spaces and places across Limerick City. 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. Each event is free or affordable for audiences. The programme is blended to include both physical events as well as a digital event.

Limerick Sings International Choral Festival 2026**€7,000**

The 2026 festival will include concerts, workshops, choral trails around the City and Region as well as an outdoor chorus to be held in a popular tourist attraction. The festival will provide a high level of opportunities for local and visiting singers to work with experienced choral professionals. A choral composer / conductor and acclaimed vocal ensemble will join for workshops and performances.

EVA Engage**€5,000**

The 41st EVA International is Ireland's largest visual arts event, presenting the work of Irish and International artist. It will be taking place in multiple venues and public sites across Limerick city attracting attract audiences to visit free exhibitions, live events, and educational programmes.

Limerick Early Music Festival 2026**€4,500**

Limerick Early Music Festival 2026 will have mainstage concerts that are family and youth-oriented. There will be music, activities, and multimedia and theatrical performances. The festival celebrates 1000 years of music from diverse cultures, female and underrepresented composers, languages and styles from multiple global traditions. It will gather a diverse pool of musicians, dancers, and actors of local, national and international renown for inspiring performances, presentations, and workshops of the highest calibre, around the theme of Masks and Masques.

Light Moves Festival 2025 - SPIRAL**€2,500**

Now in its 8th year, SPIRAL is a series of commissions bringing together live national and international music artists with dance-artists who have a strong connection to Limerick. SPIRAL celebrates the opportunity of music and dance to explore many aspects of our world: Georgian artist N. Beridze explores oppression, Peist celebrates diversity and Adams explores history and technology. The SPIRAL project is a key component of the festival, offering intersecting music and dance audiences opportunities to experience vibrant collaborations by exciting and widely celebrated artists.

Cappamore Show 2026**€1,000**

Now in its 70th year, the Cappamore Show has been held since 1954 and is an annual outdoor family-friendly event. It is held in a green field site and highlights the cultural and economic social life of rural Ireland by showing what can be achieved with a large group of willing volunteers and patrons.

Limerick Garden Festival**€1,000**

The annual Limerick Garden Festival will take place on Sunday, 21st June 2026 at the Milk Market. It will feature an exciting plant, garden and food market with traders from all over Ireland, all-day garden expert talks and many opportunities for gardeners, their families and friends to enjoy, engage and experience all things gardening.

From Ore to Ornament Festival**€1,000**

The From Ore to Ornament festival is the key public engagement mechanism for the Hunt Museums Summer exhibition which explores the cultural, historical, and symbolic significance of gold and silver in Ireland through the lens of Limerick's unique story. Festival highlights include: A Symposium bringing leading experts together, exploring the art of metal production in County Limerick. There will be workshops demonstrating the traditions of Metal forging. With special emphasis on the historically significant practices of tinsmiths in the traveller community. Re-enactments, transporting attendees back to the Bronze Age, and celebrating the remarkable craftsmanship and heritage that have forged the identity of Limerick.

Strand 3 – Festival Development & Sustainability

- 17 applications were received with a total ask of €68,655.00.
- The assessment panel has recommended the allocation of funding to 2 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; review 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
The Limerick Wild Geese Festival 2026	Metro	€2,250
What Next Dance Festival 2026	Metro	€2,250
Total		€4,500

Limerick Wild Geese Festival 2026

€2,250

Funding was sought to look at the overall sustainability of the festival and creating a plan for the festival to ensure it continues to grow and drive forward, including how to professionalise it if required.

What Next Festival 2025

€2,250

This funding will go toward the expansion of off-site collaborative opportunities and enhance festival revenue to broaden its impact. This will support strategic fundraising efforts, plans and audience development.

