

14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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

**Ref: Individual Arts Bursary Awards 2026 recommendations**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

Limerick City and County Council made available a total fund of €25,000 for the 2026 Limerick Individual Arts Bursary Awards scheme. The maximum award under the scheme is €4,000. Applications were invited by Open Call, which was advertised in October, 2025.

A report with recommendations from the assessment panel for the scheme is enclosed.

The Assessment Panel met on Thursday 11th December 2025. 30 applications were received, representing a total ask of €109,034. The panel has recommended awarding 8 applicants as follows:

Applicant	Award Recommended
Sean Lynch	€4,000
Chelsea Canavan	€4,000
Shirani Bolle	€3,000
Ellen Dillon	€4,000
Stephanie Deady	€4,000
Isabella Oberlander	€4,000
Gerry Davis	€1,000
Mary Nagle	€1,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>€25,000</b>

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

Mise le meas,



**Etain McCooey**  
**Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Co-ordinator**

## Limerick Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2026 Report and Recommendations

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Applications from professional artists who wished to be considered for a Bursary of up to €4,000 for the development of work/professional skills were invited by open call on 24th October 2025, with the scheme closing on 26th November 2025. The Assessment Panel for the scheme met on the 11th December 2025 to assess and make recommendations on all eligible applications under the award criteria.

### The Assessment Panel

The members of the panel were Siobhan Mulcahy (Chair), Ann Davoren and Mary Brady.

**Siobhan Mulcahy** is County Arts Officer at Clare County Council. Siobhan is an experienced Arts Manager with a demonstrated history of working in local government.

**Ann Davoren** is Director of Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen, Co. Cork. Ann works with emerging and established Irish and international artists, curators and arts organisations to develop commissions, projects, publications, exhibitions, residencies and symposia.

**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 has worked as Arts Officer for Laois County Council and Offaly County Council.

### Information on successful applications

The Assessment Panel for the Limerick Individual Arts Bursary Awards Scheme 2026 agreed that the following recommendations go forward for approval to full Council.

Applicant	Award Recommended
Sean Lynch	€4,000
Chelsea Canavan	€4,000
Shirani Bolle	€3,000
Ellen Dillon	€4,000
Stephanie Deady	€4,000
Isabella Oberlander	€4,000
Gerry Davis	€1,000
Mary Nagle	€1,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>€25,000</b>

**Sean Lynch**

**€4,000**

**Visual Arts**

This will be a substantial professional development project, which will showcase Lynch's art practice in the form of an ambitious artist website. It will feature projects made in Moyross, West Limerick and Limerick City Centre. There will be a public event and workshop with associated artists as a community engagement piece following up on the projects.

**Chelsea Canavan**

**€4,000**

**Visual Arts**

Canavan will create a visual art- public engagement project through an interactive installation exploring care, memory, and shared knowledge, *'Carry On'*. The artist will spend focused reflective time to strengthen their research-led practice and move from engagement-heavy work into a balanced research-led practice capable of producing ambitious new work.

**Shirani Bolle**

**€3,000**

**Visual Arts**

This will be a research and development of an art piece feeding into a performance artwork for a solo exhibition at Súil Gallery, Clare by the Limerick based artist. The artist will work with a vocal coach/producer for this performance. The artist will also research and develop their first public workshop to be delivered during the exhibition which will be advertised via EFlux.

**Ellen Dillon**

**€4,000**

**Literature/Poetry**

*'Not on like birds but under the curve'* is a plurilingual poetry project that explores the residues of Irish language in lakeside placenames in south Limerick in the hinterland of Lough Gur, and the connection between language loss and the loss of habitat and biodiversity.

**Stephanie Deady**

**€4,000**

**Visual Arts**

The artist will spend a period of 12 months working on a new body of paintings in their studio at Lumen Theatre Roches Street Limerick. Local curators and arts practitioners will be invited to the space to view the work when it is nearer completion as part of the developmental process of the work.



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

An Stiúrthóireacht Gheilleagrach, Turasóireachta,  
Cultúir, Réadmhaoine agus Foirgneamh Corparáideach  
Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh  
Cé na gCeannaithe  
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Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and  
Corporate Buildings Directorate  
Limerick City and County Council  
Merchant's Quay  
Limerick. V94 EH90

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**Isabella Oberlander**

**€4,000**

**Dance**

The artist will invest time in a defined work period, that builds on existing research towards the development of a new full length solo work. This work will be developed in dialogue with two diverse interdisciplinary collaborators, expanding their creative process, skillset and artistic outcomes. This will allow for continuous development of their work.

**Gerry Davis**

**€1,000**

**Visual Arts**

This body of work will consist of a new series of realistic paintings depicting creative spaces within the Lumen Street Theatre building situated on Roches Street. The project revisits Davis's earlier work from 2015-18, which depicted the artists' studios in Wickham Street. Together, these paintings explore the character, atmosphere, and lived experience of Limerick's creative environments.

**Mary Nagle**

**€1,000**

**Visual Arts**

Limerick City Gallery of Art has invited Mary Nagle to exhibit this body of work entitled Murmurare. This body of work in continuing to expand this developing project will be presented to a Limerick audience at this exhibition as a high quality piece of work.

January 2026