



18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**To: The Mayor, Príomh Chomhairleoir and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council**  
**Strategic Fund for Culture and Arts allocation recommendation**

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

The strategic fund for culture and arts was developed by Limerick City and County Council to facilitate culture and arts organisations and practitioners in leveraging funds from national and international sources. The percentage available from the fund is 10% of the successful national or international award, to a maximum of €5,000 to fund elements of the projects specific to Limerick. The following applicants have been successful in leveraging funding from the Arts Council and Culture Ireland. The approval of Limerick City and County Council is requested for the award of 10% of the Limerick elements of their projects, totalling €12,397.

External Award	Applicant	External Award Amount	LCCC Strategic Award
Arts Council Visual Arts Bursary Award, Round 2	Ailbhe W. Drohan	€20,000	€2,000
Arts Council Theatre Project Award, Round 1	Bottom Dog	€25,971	€2,597
Arts Council Visual Arts Bursary Award, Round 1	Sian Costello	€20,000	€2,000
Arts Council Music - Festival Investment Scheme - Band B - Round 1	Limerick Early Music Festival	€24,000	€2,400
Arts Council Music - Arts Grant Funding 2026	Now and Then Media	€13,000	€1,300
Arts Council Visual Artists Workspace Scheme	Spacecraft	€15,000	€1,500
Culture Ireland	Spacecraft	€6000	€600
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€123,971</b>	<b>€12,397</b>

Mise le meas,

Etain McCooey  
Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Coordinator

## **Arts Council Visual Arts Bursary Award 2025, Round 2**

**Ailbhe W. Drohan**

The award supports Ailbhe Wakefield Drohan to develop a curatorial project series *anaesthesias*. As a research framework, *Anaesthesias* explores disconnect between the internal and the external, illuminating the various ways this can be observed. The project draws inspiration from the building that STARLING has called home over the last two years. The former shop's interior can be seen from the street facing windows, allowing spectators and pedestrians to witness the interior of the space without setting a foot inside. Numbness and dissonance are prompts within the research to explore the space as if it were the interior of a body, one that is otherwise unseen. The Arts Council has awarded a total grant of €20,000 to this artist.

## **Arts Council Visual Arts Bursary Award, Round 1**

**Sian Costello**

The award supports artist Sian Costello in developing her practice for 12 months, working towards a solo show at The Dock, Leitrim. She will receive mentorship from UK artist Sophie Barber regarding her painting practice and career sustainability, and work with Kerry-based artist Laura Fitzgerald in researching the creation of a publication following her solo show at The Dock. The Arts Council has awarded a total grant of €20,000 to this artist.

## **Arts Council Festival Investment Scheme - Band B Round 1**

**Limerick Early Music Festival**

The award supports Limerick Early Music Festival to produce the 2026 Limerick Early Music Festival, engaging the public through mainstage concerts, family/youth-oriented music and activities, and multi-media theatrical performances, around the theme of 'Masks & Masques'. This will encompass the historical connections of masks as well as emphasising modern interpretations and implications of masks--with a special emphasis on neuro-diversity, hidden disabilities, and social inclusion. Through a series of events beginning 18 March 2026, celebrate 1000 years of music from diverse cultures, female and underrepresented composers, languages & styles from multiple global traditions. The festival will bring together a diverse pool of musicians, dancers, and actors of local, national and international renown for inspiring performances, presentations, and workshops of the highest calibre. The Arts Council has awarded a total grant of €24,000 to this festival.

## **Arts Council Arts Grant Funding 2026 (Music)**

**Now and Then Media**

The award supports Now and Then Media to deliver a series of stand-alone and collaborative events in Limerick City and County in 2026, under the rubric of their annual series H.I.P.S.T.E.R. (Historically Informed Performance Series, Teaching, Education, and Research); To further their mission to produce early music performances in Limerick connecting local history, heritage, culture, art & architecture; and deliver educational & outreach workshops, courses, exhibits and demonstrations for audiences from arts professionals to the general public; To

continue their annual early music residency in Limerick, which began in 2023, and was created to help early music ensembles develop new programmes and present them to the public. The Arts Council has awarded a total grant of €13,000 to this festival.

#### **Arts Council Theatre Project Award 2026**

#### **Bottom Dog Theatre**

The award supports Bottom Dog Theatre to develop a new stage adaptation of *Me, Myself and Them* by novelist Dan Mooney. To collaborate with award-winning, Limerick-based artists Emma Fisher and Emma Langford, across writing, puppetry, music and direction. And craft layered, imaginative theatre through bold, interdisciplinary exploration and an honest reflection of mental health. This local funding is specifically apportioned to pay 3 local working actors. The Arts Council has awarded a total grant of €25,971 to this theatre project.

#### **Culture Ireland Grant**

#### **SpaceCraft**

SpaceCraft Artists Studios are artist run and provide studio spaces to recently graduated and emergent artists in Limerick. This funding will support SpaceCraft Artists Studios to attend Supermarket Stockholm Independent Art Fair representing Contemporary Irish Art and the Limerick Art Scene and expand their network and develop relationships with other Artist-run spaces. Culture Ireland awarded a total grant of €6,000 to this project.

#### **Arts Council Visual Artists Workspace Scheme**

#### **Spacecraft**

SpaceCraft Artists' Studios are artist run and provide studio spaces to recently graduated and emergent artists in Limerick. This funding will support SpaceCraft Artists' Studios to retain leases on both studio and project spaces and subsidise rental costs for members, provide payment for additional administration hours to support best practice management and development of the space, and improvements to existing studio and project space in terms of security and health and safety, namely by replacing the door and review of alarm systems. The Arts Council has awarded a total grant of €15,000 to this project