

16th September 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. The approval of Limerick City and County Council is requested for the award of 10% of the Limerick elements of their projects, totalling **€12,110**.

External Award	Applicant	External Award Amount	LCCC Strategic Award
Arts Council Visual Arts Bursary Award 2026 Round 1	Teresa Collins, STARLING	€20,000	€2,000
Arts Council Opera Projects and Production Award – strand 1	Shirley Keane Opera Workshop	€25,000	€2,500
Arts Council Opera Commission Award	Shirley Keane Opera Workshop	€22,000	€2,200
Arts Council Agility Award 2026	Celine Mermier	€4,100	€410
Arts Council Arts Grant Funding 2027	Askeaton Contemporary Arts	€77,000	€5,000
TOTAL		€148,100	€12,110

Mise le meas,



Etain McCooey

Arts Officer | Creative Ireland Coordinator
Economic, Tourism, Culture, Property and Corporate Buildings Directorate

Arts Council Visual Arts Bursary Award 2026 Round 1**Teresa Collins, STARLING**

This body of work will see the artist undergo development of the project *It Comes out of Living* – a unique new research piece which connects creative communities through clay-based processes, histories and knowledge. They will also be supported in essential research and development time toward outlined curatorial projects and programmes linked to the artist-led project space STARLING in Limerick city. It will link contemporary artists and interdisciplinary practitioners, alongside the presence of feasible mentorship and technical advice.

Arts Council Opera Projects and Production Award – strand 1 Shirley Keane, Opera Workshop

'Siege', (working title), Opera Workshop will bring together contemporary composers Marja Gaynor, Fiona Linnane, historian Sharon Slater, harpsichordist and Early Music Specialist, Yonit Kosovkse, with director Shirley Keane. This project will generate ideas and examine the potential for a new opera set in a Limerick at the time of the Williamite Sieges which precipitated the famous Flight of the Wild Geese.

Work will commence in early in Autumn 2026 with research and the artists meeting in early January to begin work on a storyline and scenes. There will be a sharing of some of the music and material in March 2027.

Arts Council Opera Commission Award**Shirley Keane, Opera Workshop**

This funding is awarded to commission Fiona Linnane to complete and supply a new opera, 'Banned', based on the life and work of Limerick Poet Kate O'Brien. Work will commence on the new opera in September 2026, with a completion date of March 2027 and delivery of exerts and piano and vocal score by May 2027.

Arts Council Agility Award 2026**Celine Mermier**

This project will see the artist refine two major bodies of work. Professional Editing: Transitioning from an extensive photographic archive to a cohesive, high-standard visual narrative for each series. Spatial Installation: Developing a "spatial logic" to rethink how these societal stories occupy a gallery space beyond traditional framing, focusing on immersive audience engagement.

Arts Council Arts Grant Funding 2027**Askeaton Contemporary Arts**

For the past 20 years, Askeaton Contemporary Arts has successfully offered a unique and vast contemporary art experience in the small town of Askeaton in County Limerick, providing opportunities to both National and International artists, as well as the varied audiences that it gathers there each year.

This funding will ensure that Askeaton Contemporary Arts can continue to deliver their artist residencies, artwork development, publication production, public programming and elements of their annual summer festival.