



# Theatre Project Award 2020/2021

## Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline: 5.30pm, Thursday 10 September 2020

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## Application checklist

Use the checklists below to make sure that your application is complete.

### Items that are mandatory for all applications (check all of these items)

- 
- I/we have filled in all of the sections of the application form relevant to my/our application.
  - I/we have prepared all required supporting material (as outlined in **section 1.7** below), and have this ready to upload.
- 

### Items that are mandatory for certain applications (check those that apply to your application)

- My/our proposal involves work that is aimed at/involves the participation of children and or young people under the age of eighteen. I/we understand that if my/our application is successful, as a condition of funding I/we will be required to confirm and demonstrate that I/we have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place. (Please see [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) for more information.)
- My/our proposal involves working with vulnerable persons, and I/we have submitted an acknowledgement that I/we adhere to the *National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse* see [here](#).
- My/our proposal involves working with animals, and I/we have submitted a copy of my/our *Animal Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures*.

### Other items that I/we consider relevant to my/our application (check those that apply to your application)

- 
- My/our proposal relies on the expertise of other named people or organisations, and I/we have a document detailing those people and their expertise ready to upload.
  - My/our proposal includes other material relevant to my/our application, which I/we have ready to upload.
- 

### Second opinion (check this item)

- 
- I/we have asked someone else to check over my/our application to make sure there are no errors and that nothing is missing.
-

## Getting help with your application

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- The Arts Council makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities who wish to submit an application or who have difficulties in accessing Online Services. If you have a requirement in this area, please contact the Arts Council's Access Officer, Adrienne Martin, by phone (01 6180219) or by email ([adrienne.martin@artscouncil.ie](mailto:adrienne.martin@artscouncil.ie)) **at least three weeks in advance** of the deadline day.
- If you have a technical query about using the Online Services website, you can email [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie)
- Answers to common questions about using Online Services are available in the FAQ section of the Arts Council website at <http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/FAQ/online-services.aspx>
- To watch our YouTube guide on making an application, go to <http://www.youtube.com/artscouncildemos>
- If you require assistance with the content of your application, call the Arts Council on 01 6180200 or email [awards@artscouncil.ie](mailto:awards@artscouncil.ie)

## 1. About the Theatre Project Award

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### 1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award

The award is open to artists with a demonstrable track record in professional theatre practice.

The Theatre Project Award is designed to support the creation, presentation and production of theatre pieces<sup>1</sup> across the following strands of work.

All awards are informed by the Arts Council's ten-year strategy (2016–25), *Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland* (see here: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/arts-council-strategy/>).

Priority will be given to projects that clearly demonstrate their commitment to the two main policy areas defined in *Making Great Art Work* – namely, the supporting of artists to make excellent work and commitment to public engagement. The successful awards will also reflect the Council's commitment to providing well-planned arts provisions across Ireland.

#### Strand 1: Play Development

The objective of the Play Development strand is to enable the development of a new play or text for performance, in which the playwright is central to the creative process. While the emphasis is on the development of the text, the process will provide for excellent mentorship and/or collaboration from any number of artists or practitioners (e.g. director, dramaturg, designer, actor, performer), including the person responsible for overseeing the play or performance-text's development.

Funding may be used to remunerate the playwright for time spent in writing the text and for remuneration of collaborators and mentors. The outcome of the process will be a script for performance. While presentation of the resulting work to an audience is not a requirement for this strand, applicants may seek a contribution towards costs associated with the presentation of a work in progress or staged reading.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Seek to develop a new play or text for performance through the mentorship and/or collaboration of more than one creative artist  
**and/or**
- Demonstrate ambition and excellence in the quality of dramaturgical mentorship and/or collaboration proposed  
**and/or**
- Seek to break new ground in playwriting through excellence, innovation and/or experimentation  
**and/or**
- Seek to develop new and innovative concepts for productions of new dramatic material  
**and**
- Can demonstrate their feasibility by providing realistic budgets and evidence of financial and/or in-kind supports from other sources.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this award, a 'theatre piece' is a performance that lasts a set length of time and is unified in terms of aesthetic and/or theme. Proposals involving multiple performances within an evening or event will not be considered.

## Strand 2: Theatre Creation

The objective of the Theatre Creation strand is to enable the development of ideas for new work in a collaborative and interdisciplinary context. The emphasis of the award is on innovation and experimentation. The concept behind a proposal can be non-text-based, or can be based on a piece of new writing for the theatre, a pre-existing dramatic text, an adaptation from another literary form, or a translation or adaptation of a text from another language. The objective of the award is to enable the development of ideas over time through collaboration and mentorship, without the requirement to present to audiences.

Funding may be used to remunerate collaborators and mentors for their time and participation. While presentation of the resulting work to an audience is not a requirement for this strand, applicants may use funding to covers costs associated with rehearsal space and presentation of a work in progress. The outcome of the process will be a script/ performance book.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Seek to break new ground through innovation and experimentation  
*and/or*
- Seek to develop new forms of theatre through the collaboration of more than one creative artist<sup>2</sup>  
*and/or*
- Seek to develop new and innovative concepts for productions of pre-existing dramatic material  
*and/or*
- Demonstrate ambition and excellence in the quality of mentorship and/or collaboration proposed  
*and*
- Can demonstrate their feasibility by offering realistic income projections and evidence of financial and/or in-kind supports from other sources.

## Strand 3: Theatre Presentation

The objective of the Theatre Presentation strand is the presentation of innovative, collaborative and/or experimental work to audiences. The emphasis of the award is on presenting new forms of theatre in a live-performance context. The concept behind a proposal can be non-text-based, or can be based on a piece of new writing for the theatre, a pre-existing dramatic text, an adaptation from another literary form, or a translation or adaptation of a text from another language.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Seek to present new forms of theatre to audiences  
*and/or*
- Seek to present the collaborative ideas of more than one creative artist to audiences  
*and/or*
- Seek to present new work or existing repertoire in an innovative and/or experimental context

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<sup>2</sup> This is distinct from and additional to the usual collaboration between a lead artist (usually a director) and performers in a rehearsal room.

*and/or*

- Demonstrate ambition and excellence in the quality of dramaturgical mentorship and/or collaboration proposed

*and*

- Can demonstrate their feasibility by offering realistic income projections and evidence of financial and/or in-kind supports from other sources.

#### **Strand 4: Theatre Production**

The objective of the Theatre Production strand is to enable the presentation of professional theatre productions by artists and/or producing entities with a demonstrable track record in the production of theatre for audiences, or in partnership with such an entity. The emphasis is on interpretations of pre-existing dramatic texts, although new plays, plays new to Irish audiences, and non-text-based projects will also be considered where an argument can be made for their appeal to potential audiences (e.g. where the applicant artist, writer or partner organisation has a strong track record for attracting audiences, and/or the material may be of interest and relevance to audiences). The focus of the award is on enabling the production of technically excellent and ambitious theatre in the context of either contemporary post-dramatic practice or the classical tradition (or a combination of the two), to attract and develop audiences for professional theatre, and to offer good-quality employment opportunities to freelance theatre artists.

Priority will be given to proposals from established theatre artists/companies, or those in partnership with such entities, that:

- Seek to present high-quality and artistically ambitious theatre to audiences in partnership with existing theatre and/or arts organisations, where that partnership is additional to and separate from that organisation's core-funded activity

*and*

- Can demonstrate their feasibility by offering realistic income projections and evidence of financial and/or in-kind supports from partner organisations and/or other sources.

The Arts Council will also consider proposals that meet the priorities above and which, in addition, seek to develop audiences for theatre on a regional basis through partnerships with a number of presenting venues, festivals or networks.

Applications under Theatre Production **must** be supported by at least one Arts Council-funded organisation with a *significant* track record in the presentation of theatre to audiences (this means organisations in receipt of either Strategic Funding, Arts Centre Strategic Funding, Partnership Funding or Arts Grant Funding). The applicant will need to demonstrate that the support offered and the proposed role of the funded organisation is additional to, and separate from, the activities for which that organisation has received core funding.

## 1.2 Who can apply?

The award is open to professional artists<sup>3</sup> and organisations working in theatre. To be eligible to apply, applicants **must**:

- Be resident in the Republic of Ireland. There are certain exceptions where the Arts Council may deem eligible applications made by those based outside the Republic of Ireland. However, before admitting as eligible any such application, the applicant would need to explicitly outline within the application how the outcomes of any such proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland, and the Arts Council must be satisfied with same.
- In line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, the Arts Council is committed to ensuring that it takes positive policy measures to promote equality of opportunity for all those living in Ireland, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community. Furthermore, the Arts Council notes the ground of socio-economic background as a further basis for which equality of opportunity must be guaranteed. The Arts Council therefore welcomes applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society, including but not limited to any of the characteristics outlined above.

## 1.3 Who is the applicant?

The applicant is the person or organisation that will receive any grant offered and that will be required to accept the terms and conditions of that grant.

Any grant offered will only be paid into a bank account held in the name of the applicant.

All documentation provided **must** be in the name of the applicant (individual artist or arts organisation) – e.g. if you apply to the Arts Council for funding under the name Máire de Barra, then all documentation, including bank and tax details, must be in that name; variations such as Mary Barry or Barry Studios are not acceptable.

## 1.4 Who cannot apply?

Applicants who cannot apply include the following:

- Organisations currently in receipt of funding under the Arts Council's grant programmes (Strategic Funding, Arts Centre Funding and Partnership Funding)
- Individuals or organisations who do not have a demonstrable track record as professional artists or organisations
- Individuals currently in undergraduate or postgraduate education or who will be during the period for which this award is offered
- **Note:** you cannot apply for the award both as an individual and as part of an organisation – e.g. you cannot apply as artistic director of a company and also apply separately under your own name
- Organisations and/or individuals who have applied for Arts Grant Funding 2021 **cannot** apply for Projects 2021
- **Note:** organisations cannot apply to both this round of the Project Award and Strategic Funding 2021.

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<sup>3</sup> The Arts Council defines a professional artist as an individual who identifies themselves, and is recognised by their peers, as a practising professional artist. The applicant does not have to make their living exclusively through their arts practice.

## 1.5 What may you apply for?

There are four bands of funding available according to which strand you are applying for and according to the scale of the proposal:

	<b>Amount available*</b>
<b>Strand 1: Play Development</b>	Up to €10,000
<b>Strand 2: Theatre Creation</b>	Up to €20,000
<b>Strand 3: Theatre Presentation</b>	Up to €75,000
<b>Strand 4: Theatre Production</b>	Up to €150,000

**\*Note:** the maximum under each strand does not denote a minimum for the strand below it – e.g. an application to Strand 4 can request less than €75,000 if that is what is required.

You may apply for support under only **one** strand of the award. You **must** clearly identify which strand you are applying for in section 1.5 of the application form.

In addition to the upper limits stated above, the Arts Council will also consider costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists with disabilities. If you wish to apply for additional funding on this basis you should provide information with your application outlining what these additional costs are.

### **How much funding should you apply for?**

In applying for Theatre Project Award funding, you are required to submit a detailed production budget setting out income and expenditure in relation to the proposed production. The Arts Council supplies a theatre budget template that you **must** use for this purpose – you may download this from the [Theatre Project Award](http://www.arts council.ie/Funds/Theatre-project-award) page of the Arts Council website. See <http://www.arts council.ie/Funds/Theatre-project-award>.

The maximum amount you may request is the difference between the **proposed expenditure** and **proposed income** you indicate in the budget.

- Proposed expenditure should include all fees, \* wages, technical costs, promotion and publicity costs, administrative costs, etc.
- Proposed income should include what you expect to receive from other funders, box-office receipts, programme sales, etc.

It is also important to reflect all in-kind support\*\* in both income and expenditure, so reflecting the full and true value of your proposal.

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**\*Note on artists' pay** The Arts Council is committed to improving the pay and conditions of artists. We have published a [policy](#) on the fair and equitable remuneration and contracting of artists. It is important that you read this policy in advance of making your application. You will be asked as part of the application process to set out how you will ensure proper pay and conditions for the artists that you work with. This will help us assess the feasibility of your application.

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**\*\*Note on in-kind support** If you expect to receive in-kind support, you need to put a financial value on it so that the contribution it makes to the real value of your proposal is clear. You should think of in-kind support both as expenditure and as income: whatever amount you declare on the expenditure side, you should also declare on the income side.

Time contributed by directors or board members may not be included as an in-kind cost.

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You are asked to indicate income, expenditure and amount requested at three stages during your application:

- On the detailed budget template that you **must** submit as part of your application
- Online, when you initiate the application (totals only)
- In section 3 of the application form.

Make sure that the totals are the same on all three; and make sure that the amount requested equals TOTAL EXPENDITURE minus TOTAL INCOME.

### 1.6 What may you not apply for?

You may not apply for more than one project award in any artform/arts practice area in any one round of funding – e.g. the same applicant cannot apply for a Theatre Project Award and a Music Project Award in the same round. Activities and costs that you may not apply for include the following:

- Major capital purchases
- Ongoing core costs
- Activities or costs that do not fit the purpose of the award
- Activities that are more suited to another award funded by the Arts Council or operated by other state agencies, such as Culture Ireland
- Activities that have already taken place or which will have commenced before 1 November 2020
- Activities undertaken for charity fundraising purposes, for participation in a competition, or for primarily profit-making purposes
- Activities that have already been assessed by the Arts Council, except in cases where the Council has specifically advised you to redirect your application to this award. Please bear in mind, however, that you should not regard such advice as an indication of likely success in your application
- Projects that solely involve the touring of existing productions.

### 1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?

Supporting material means material that is **separate from** and **additional to** your application form. This helps the person assessing your application to get a clearer understanding of your proposal. Please read what supporting material is required below very carefully, as failure to comply with this is the most common reason for applications being deemed ineligible.

In order to be considered eligible for assessment for a Theatre Project Award you **must** submit the following supporting material online:

- Up-to-date CVs or biographies (max. three pages) for each of the key artists involved in the proposed project

- A completed Theatre Project Budget – for this you **must** use the latest version of the Arts Council’s budget template, which you can download from the [Theatre Project Award](http://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Theatre-project-award) page of the Arts Council website (<http://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Theatre-project-award>). This budget is separate from and in addition to the budgetary information requested within the application form. This should set out all of the individual costs, and any projected income, associated with the project. **Note:** this must include proposed rates of pay for all personnel involved; rates of pay should be realistic and commensurate with the practitioners’ level of professional experience.
- Letters/emails of support, and/or copies of MOUs, outlining details of collaborations and/or confirming any commitments of income either in cash or in-kind towards the proposal
- Samples demonstrating previous work relevant to the proposed project, up to a maximum of five. Please see the section on **acceptable file formats** for further information on this

Depending on the nature of your proposal, samples of work might include:

- Still images
  - Moving images/video material of no more than ten minutes’ duration
  - Recordings of no more than ten minutes’ duration
  - Script/writing samples of no more than ten pages
  - Reviews/brochures/articles – please limit the file size of brochures
  - Evidence of prizes/awards
  - Other document types you think may be relevant to your proposal within a limit of three pages
- In cases where the project proposal has a public outcome, a marketing and/or dissemination and/or engagement plan that outlines who the work is for and how they will be enabled/encouraged to engage with it.

**In particular, note that you must use the latest version of the Arts Council’s Theatre Project budget template to submit details of your budget; this is to ensure consistency and to enable assessors to analyse budgets in a competitive-funding context.**

**Note:** if you fail to provide all of the above, your application will be deemed **ineligible** and will not go forward for assessment.

In order to assess the volume of applications that we typically receive in a timely manner, we **cannot** review any supporting material other than those listed above.

**Additional material required in certain circumstances:**

- The Arts Council requires all individuals and organisations providing services (e.g. cultural, recreational, educational) to children and young people under the age of eighteen to have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place. When making an application, you must indicate whether or not your proposal is relevant to this age group (in section 1.3 in the application form). If you answer ‘Yes’ to this question in the application form and your application is successful, as a condition of funding you will be required to confirm and demonstrate that you have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place. Please see [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) for more information.

- If your proposal involves working with vulnerable persons, you must submit an acknowledgement that you adhere to the *National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse* (see [here](#))
- If your proposal involves working with animals, you must provide a copy of your *Animal Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures*.

**If you do not submit all required supporting material, your application will be deemed ineligible.**

### **Format for supporting material**

All supporting material for the Theatre Project Award **must be submitted online**. Hard-copy supporting material will not be accepted. Please follow these guidelines for the different kinds of supporting material.

## **1.8 Eligibility**

Your application will be deemed **ineligible**, and will not go any further in the process, if any of the following is true:

1. You miss the application deadline.
2. You do not submit a completed application form through the Arts Council's Online Services (an application form attached as a supporting document will not be accepted).
3. You fail to complete all of the sections in the application form relevant to your proposal.
4. You cannot apply as set out in sections 1.2 to 1.4 above
5. You apply for an amount of funding greater than the maximum amount allowed for within the award to which you are applying, as set out in section 1.5 above.
6. You apply for an activity or purpose that you cannot apply for as set out in section 1.6 above.
7. You fail to provide all mandatory supporting materials as set out in section 1.7 above.
8. Your application is better suited to another funding programme offered by the Arts Council or by another funding agency (in this case we will redirect you to the more appropriate funding opportunity).

**Note:** in the event that your application is ruled ineligible, it will not be assessed, and you will be permitted to apply again with the same proposal in future funding rounds. If you do reapply, you should ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements.

## 2. Making your application

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### 2.1 Register with the Arts Council's Online Services

All applications must be made through the Arts Council's Online Services; applications made in any other way (by post, fax or email) will not be accepted.

You must have an Online Services account to make an application. If you do not already have an Online Services account, sign up by filling out the registration form here:

<https://onlineservices.artscouncil.ie/register.aspx>.

Within five working days you will be issued (via email) with a unique ARN (artist reference number) and password that you can use to sign in to Online Services.

#### Requirements for using Online Services

Your computer and Internet browser will need to meet the following requirements to use Online Services successfully:

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**PC** Windows 7 or higher  
with  
Internet Explorer 8.0 or higher OR Firefox 27 or higher OR Chrome 33 or higher

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**Mac** Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard or higher  
with  
Safari 3.1 or Safari 10 OR Firefox 27 or higher OR Chrome 32 or higher  
**Note:** if Safari 11 prevents upload of documents, use Firefox or Chrome

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**Note:** you will also need to have Microsoft Word or OpenOffice Writer installed to complete the application form itself. OpenOffice Writer is free software that can be downloaded here: <http://www.openoffice.org>.

#### You must use OpenOffice Writer version 4.0.1 or earlier

More recent versions of OpenOffice Writer than 4.0.1 have resulted in problems with the appearance of application forms when they are submitted through online services.

Please refer to the Arts Council video *Using OpenOffice to download, complete and upload the application form* at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ArtsCouncilDemos>.

Apple Mac users should take note of the section that deals with the issue of downloading version 4.0.1 on Macs that have the latest version of Mac OS installed.

**Note:** for Mac OS 10.15 Catalina, please use OpenOffice Writer 4.1.7.

If you cannot meet, or do not understand, any of these requirements, please contact us for advice as far as possible in advance of the deadline.

#### Give yourself enough time to complete the application

You should become familiar with the Online Services website well in advance of the deadline and in advance of preparing an application. It is likely that there will be heavy traffic on the site on the final afternoon of the closing date. You should prepare your application and submit it well in advance of the deadline.

Upload times can be much longer than download times. It may take you longer than you think to upload your supporting materials.

### Getting technical support

If you need technical support while making an online application, you can contact the Arts Council by emailing [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie) or by phoning 01 6180200. We recommend you report any technical issues with us well in advance of the deadline. Please provide a contact phone number and make sure that you are available to receive a return call from us.

We deal with queries on a first-come first-served basis.

Please note that there is often a high volume of calls as the deadline approaches and that technical-support calls received after 2.30pm on the closing date may not be resolved before the deadline.

## 2.2 Fill in the application form

If you have not already done so, download the application form for the award you wish to apply for. The application form is a Microsoft Word/OpenOffice Writer-compatible document that you fill in offline (on your own computer). The application form includes guidance on how to fill in each of its sections.

### Making your case

Note: it is important to remember that the people assessing and making a decision on your application may not be familiar with your work. Judgement will be based on the information that you provide within your application form and examples of previous work and other information in the support materials.

In order to make the very best case for why you should receive an award, you should give particular consideration to what you include in the following sections of the application form:

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<b>1.6 Tell us about yourself</b>	This is where you describe your work. You should mention recent achievements, but also give a general overview of your main interests and ambitions as an artist/company.
<b>2.2 Summary of your proposal</b>	<p>Give a summary of your proposal (up to three short points). In essence, this should cover three main points: <b>what</b> you want to do, <b>how</b> you are going to do it, and <b>why</b> you think your proposal merits support.</p> <p>Should your application be successful, this summary will be published on the <b>Who We've Funded</b> pages of the Arts Council website – for that reason, you should keep in mind that what you write may have a wider audience beyond the Arts Council assessors.</p>
<b>2.3 Detail of your proposal</b>	<p>What you write here is a key part of your proposal, and should help those involved in assessing your application to understand the full scope of what you want to do and why.</p> <p>It is important to cover both the artistic and practical aspects of your proposal. This might include details of your artistic goals and ambitions, the wider context in which you are making the proposal, and any other information you consider relevant. It might also include practical details such as schedules, information on key partners, and any other administrative,</p>

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	technical or financial details you consider relevant.
<b>2.4 Pay and conditions for artists</b>	Here you should set out how you will ensure that any artists involved in your proposal will receive proper pay and conditions in accordance with the Arts Council’s policy on Paying the Artist.
<b>2.5 Your application and the assessment criteria</b>	Describe how your application meets each of the assessment criteria for a project award – see section <b>3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications.</b>
<b>Section 3 – budgetary information</b>	While you are expected in most cases to provide additional detailed budgetary information as part of your supporting material, you should give here the heading expenditure and income information, to show how you have arrived at the amount you are requesting.
<b>Section 4 – supporting materials</b>	Please tick the checkboxes to show that you have included the correct supporting materials with your application.

### 2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application

You are required to include supporting material with your application. Typically, this includes samples of your current work – e.g. text, video, images, or sound recordings (see section **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**).

You must submit all such supporting material online – if necessary, you should scan or save material in electronic format.

#### Acceptable file formats

The following table lists file formats that are acceptable as part of an application for a project award.

<b>File type</b>	<b>File extension</b>
text files	.rtf/.doc/.docx/.txt
image files	.jpg/.gif/.tiff/.png
sound files	.wav/.mp3/.m4a
video files	.avi/.mov/.mp4
spreadsheets	.xls/.xlsx
Adobe Acrobat Reader files	.pdf

For convenience, gather together all the files you need in an accessible location on your computer.

#### Submitting YouTube links

You may provide links to material hosted on YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) instead of uploading the material directly. To do this, copy the URL (the full address of where your material is hosted on YouTube) into a Microsoft Word/OpenOffice Writer-compatible document or equivalent and upload it as a weblink-supporting document.

**Note:** any links you provide must be for YouTube. Links to other hosting sites will not be viewed.

Check that the link works from within the document you upload – i.e. that it links correctly to your material on YouTube.

If you do not wish material you upload to YouTube for the purposes of your application to be publicly viewable, you can flag your video as ‘unlisted’ in its settings. Please do not flag your material as ‘private’ as it will not be accessible to Arts Council assessors.

### **Naming files appropriately**

Give all files that you intend to upload filenames that make it clear what they contain or represent – i.e. it should be clear from the filename whether the document is a CV, a sample text or a review of previous work.

Please submit supporting documents in separate, appropriately named files.

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<b>Good filenames for an applicant called Jack Russell</b>	russelljack Theatre Project application.doc
	russelljack performance clip.mp4
	russelljack Theatre Project budget template.xls
	russelljack youtube link.doc

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The total combined limit for all supporting material uploaded with a single application is **40MB**.

## **2.4 Make your application online**

To make your application online, you go through four main stages. Click **Save draft** at the end of each stage. You can come back to your application and revise it at any time before you finally submit it.

### **1. Choose funding programme and download application form**

To start a new application, click the **Make an application** button on your home page, and follow the prompts to choose the funding programme you wish to apply for and to give your application a unique reference by which to identify it. At this stage you can also download the application form (if you have not already done so).

### **2. Request funding amount**

At this stage specify the expenditure and income related to your proposal, and the amount of funding you are requesting. The amount you request should equal **Total expenditure** minus **Total income**. The final figures you enter here should be the same as those you enter in section 3 of the application form and in your detailed budget.

### **3. Upload application form and supporting material**

Follow the prompts to upload your filled-in and saved application form, CVs, detailed budget and any other required supporting material (see section **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**). You do not have to upload everything at the same time. You can save your application as a draft, and come back to it later.

### **4. Submit application**

When you are satisfied that you have uploaded everything you need to support your application, click **Submit**.

## Theatre Project Award 2020/2021: Guidelines for Applicants

Once submitted, your application cannot be amended. Do not submit your application until you are completely satisfied.

You should expect to receive two emails. The first will be issued immediately your application is received by the Arts Council. The second may arrive a few minutes later, and will contain your application number, which will be used in all correspondence related to this application. **Note:** it is important that you contact [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie) if you **do not** receive the second confirmation email containing the application number.

## 3. Processing and assessment of applications

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### 3.1 Overview

The Arts Council considers all applications, makes decisions and communicates these to applicants in accordance with set procedures. The aim is to ensure that the system for making awards is fair and transparent.

### 3.2 The assessment process

All applications received are processed by the Arts Council as follows:

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- 1 After you submit your application, you should receive two emails:
    - The first will be sent immediately and will acknowledge your application.
    - The second should arrive a few minutes later. It will contain your application number, which we will use in all correspondence about your application.

**Note:** these emails only mean that our online system recognises that you have submitted an application. They do not mean that your application is eligible for funding.

If you do not receive the email with your application number, contact [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie).

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- 2 Your application is checked for eligibility. Please see section **1.8 Eligibility** above.
  - 3 Adviser(s) and/or staff make a written assessment of the application based on the criteria for assessment set out in section 3.3 below.
  - 4 Adviser(s) and/or staff recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted.
  - 5 A peer panel reviews all shortlisted applications and associated materials, then scores and makes decisions.
  - 6 Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants.
  - 7 Decisions are noted by Council.
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#### Time frame

The Arts Council endeavours to assess applications as quickly as possible, but the volume of applications and the rigorous assessment process means that it will take up to ten weeks from closing date to decision.

### 3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications

Applications are assessed in a competitive context and with consideration of the application form and the supporting materials submitted. All applications are assessed against criteria of **a)** artistic merit, **b)** how they meet the objectives and priorities of the award, and **c)** feasibility. Each of these criteria is described in turn.

While applicants may select other artforms/arts practices as being relevant to their application, the application will be assessed by the team responsible for the chosen primary artform, and which may, in certain instances, ask for a secondary assessment from another team.

### Artistic merit

The assessment of artistic merit focuses on the applicant and on those involved in the project, as well as on the nature of the proposed arts activity, and includes consideration of:

- The quality of the idea and the proposed arts activity
- The track record of the applicant and the artistic personnel involved in the project as evidenced in their CVs and other supporting materials submitted
- The potential of the applicant and the artistic personnel as evidenced in the application form and the supporting materials submitted
- The artform/arts-practice context in which the activity is proposed
- The ambition, originality and competency demonstrated in the proposal
- How the application demonstrates innovation, experimentation and collaboration.

### Meeting the objectives and priorities of the award

Applications are assessed on how well they meet the objectives and priorities of the award (see section **1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award**).

### Feasibility

The assessment of feasibility considers the extent to which the applicant demonstrates capacity to deliver the proposed activity. This includes consideration of:

- The track record of personnel involved in managing, administering and delivering the project
- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the provision of equitable conditions and remuneration for participating artists
- The extent of involvement or commitment of identified project partners
- The proposed budget
- Other sources of income
- The availability of, and access to, other resources
- The proposed timetable or schedule.

## 3.4 Peer panels

The purpose of peer-panel meetings is to allow for a diversity of expert views to inform the decision-making process. Peer panels normally consist of at least three external adjudicators with relevant artform and/or arts practice expertise.

Each meeting is usually led by an Arts Council member acting as non-voting chair. Arts Council advisers and staff attend as required, and those involved in the initial assessment of applications are on hand to provide information as required. Panellists have access to all shortlisted applications and associated materials prior to the day of the meeting, at which point they review, discuss and score shortlisted applications. Following this, applications are ranked by score. In light of the competitive context and the available budget, it is likely that the Arts Council will be able to fund only a proportion of the applications received.

### Scoring process

The panel is asked to score applications according to the following system:

- **A – Must Fund** (10 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have fully met the criteria for the award and merits funding on that basis, to the amount requested where possible.

- **B – Should Fund** (8 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have met the criteria to an extent sufficient to merit funding should resources allow.
- **C – Could Fund** (5 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have met the criteria, but to a lesser extent within the competitive context than other applications.
- **D – Not a Priority** (2 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have not met the criteria to an extent sufficient to merit funding.

### **Declaration of interest**

In order to ensure fairness and equity in decision-making, a panel member must declare an interest where they have a close personal or professional link with the applicant or are linked in any way with the application. An 'interest' is either 'pecuniary' or 'non-pecuniary' (e.g. familial relationships, personal partnerships, or formal or informal business partnerships, etc.).

The interest must be declared as soon as the panellist becomes aware of it. This may be at the point when s/he is approached to sit on the panel (if the 'interest' is known at that stage) or following receipt of the list of applicants. Where an interest is declared, the panellist will not receive papers relating to that applicant and will be required to leave the room when the specific application is being reviewed. Where this situation arises, the chair will vote in lieu of the panellist.

In some instances a panellist may not realise that a conflict of interest exists until s/he receives and reviews the panel papers. In such instances the panellist must alert an Arts Council staff member or the panel chair as soon as they become aware that a conflict may exist.

In the event of two panellists declaring a conflict of interest for the same application, the chair will be part of the decision-making process for that specific application.

If the nominated panel chair has a conflict of interest s/he must declare it in writing in advance of the meeting as soon as s/he becomes aware of it. In this instance the head of team will chair the discussion on the conflicted application.

### **3.5 Outcome of applications**

All applicants are informed in writing about the outcome of their application.

If your application is successful, you will be sent a letter of offer detailing the amount of funding you have been awarded and the terms and conditions of the award. You will also be told how to go about drawing down your award.

The Arts Council receives a large volume of applications, and demand for funding always exceeds the available resources. If your application is not successful, you can request feedback from Arts Council staff. Eligibility and compliance with application procedures alone do not guarantee receipt of an award.

Unsuccessful applicants are not eligible to apply for another Arts Council award to undertake the same activity. If the Arts Council feels that the proposed activity would have been more suited to a different award programme, an exception may be made. In such circumstance you will be informed in writing.

### **Appeals**

Applicants may appeal against a funding decision on the basis of an alleged infringement or unfair application of, or deviation from, the Arts Council's published procedures. If you feel that the Arts Council's procedures have not been followed, please see the appeals process at [http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/fundInfo/funding\\_appeals.aspx](http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/fundInfo/funding_appeals.aspx) or contact the Arts Council for a copy of the appeals-process information sheet.