



# Traditional Arts Bursary Award 2022

## Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline: 5.30pm (Ireland time), Thursday 3 February 2022

### **Note for people with disabilities or access requirements**

The Arts Council makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities or access requirements 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, by phone (01 618 0200/01 618 0243) or by email ([access@artscouncil.ie](mailto:access@artscouncil.ie)) as early as possible before the deadline.

### **Note on the Agility Award**

In 2020 the Arts Council introduced a new award, the Agility Award. You may want to check out the [Agility Award guidelines](#) before proceeding any further with the bursary process. Please note that you cannot apply for both a Bursary Award and an Agility Award.

## CONTENTS

Key points to remember	3
Getting help with your application	4
<b>1. About the Traditional Arts Bursary Award</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award	5
1.2 Who can apply?	6
1.3 Who is the applicant?	7
1.4 Who cannot apply?	7
1.5 What may you apply for?	7
1.6 What may you not apply for?	9
1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?	10
1.8 Eligibility	11
1.9 How long will it take to get a decision?	12
<b>2. How to make your application</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1 Register with the Arts Council's Online Services	13
2.2 Fill in the application form	14
2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application	15
2.4 Make your application online	16
<b>3. How we assess your application</b>	<b>18</b>
3.1 Overview	18
3.2 The assessment process	18
3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications	19
3.4 Peer-panel process	20
3.5 Outcome of applications	22
3.6 Appeals	22

## Key points to remember

---

- In order to make an application, you **must** be registered for an Arts Council Online Services (OLS) account. If you do not have one, you can sign up for one [here](#). Please note that it can take up to **five working days** for a new user to be registered on OLS, so give yourself plenty of time to do this ahead of the deadline.
- We strongly advise that you read this document carefully before beginning the process of making your application.
- We also strongly advise that you start the process early, and give yourself **plenty of time** to make your application.
- We recommend that you aim to upload your application **at least forty-eight hours** before the advertised deadline. That way, if you encounter a technical problem, you will have time to contact us so that we can assist you in resolving it.
- Please note that, on account of the large volume of applicants using the online system on the last day of the deadline, we cannot guarantee that we can resolve any technical issues you may have if you contact us **after 2.00pm on the day of the deadline**.
- Please read the following checklist carefully:

- 
- I have read and understand these guidelines.
  - In the event that I have had an issue, I have contacted the Arts Council for assistance well in advance of the deadline.
  - I have filled in all of the sections of the application form relevant to my application.
  - I have prepared all required supporting material as set out in these guidelines, and have this ready to upload.
  - I have asked someone else to check over my application to make sure there are no errors and that nothing is missing.
-

## Getting help with your application

---

If you have questions about using the Online Services website, visit the FAQ section on our website: [www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/](http://www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/)

If you have a technical question about the online application process and your question is not answered in the FAQ section, you can email [onlineservices@artscouncil.ie](mailto:onlineservices@artscouncil.ie) or call the Arts Council on

- **01 618 0200**
- **01 618 0243**

If you have a query about your application that is not technical in nature, you should email or phone the arts team to which you are applying for funding.

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/>

To watch our video guide to making an application on YouTube, go to

<http://www.youtube.com/artscouncildemos>

### **NOTE ON COVID-19-RELATED PUBLIC-HEALTH GUIDANCE**

In preparing your application, you should base it on the best public-health advice and guidance available at the time you are making your application.

You should ensure that what you are proposing is feasible or adaptable should social distancing and/or other public-health measures impact on all or part of the bursary period.

In the event that your application is successful and you subsequently need to change or alter some or all of your proposal on the basis of changed public-health advice, you should contact your arts team in advance to discuss this.

## 1. About the Traditional Arts Bursary Award

---

### 1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award

The objective of the Traditional Arts Bursary Award is to support the professional development of practising artists by enabling them to do one or more of the following:

- Spend focused time working at their practice
- Spend time researching/thinking about/developing a new idea for future dissemination
- Spend time developing their technical skills in a particular area
- Spend time developing/learning new skills related to their practice or area of interest
- Spend time working with a mentor, or collaborator(s) to develop an idea, or to assist in developing or upskilling within a particular area of their practice, or an area related to their practice
- Spend time developing an idea in collaboration with a potential production partner(s)
- Undertake a short period of training by way of master classes or other professional training opportunities (whether national or international)
- Purchase a limited amount of equipment and materials to assist with the development of their practice (Note: this can be no more than 15% of the value of the overall request for support)
- Spend time undertaking a combination of the above activities.

The objective of the Traditional Arts Bursary Award is to support individual professional artists in the field of traditional arts to develop their art practice.

The award emphasises the value and benefit to an artist's development derived from an extended process of engagement with their practice. The award therefore provides artists with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and engage with their art practice. Potential proposals could be those that support the applicant to:

- Compose a piece of work in the tradition or in collaboration with musicians in other genres

## Traditional Arts Bursary Award 2022: Guidelines for Applicants

- Choreograph a piece of dance within the tradition or in collaboration with dance artists in other genres
- Explore traditional style and repertoire in the fields of music, song, dance or storytelling, including informal mentorship programmes with established individuals or masters in these areas
- Develop a body of work from the tradition and/or in collaboration with other artforms.

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/>).

### 1.2 Who can apply?

The award is open to professional artists working in all genres and at all stages in their professional careers. 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.
- Be professional practising artists. Although they might not earn income continuously or exclusively from their arts practice, applicants must identify themselves, and be recognised by their peers, as professional practising artists.

**The Arts Council particularly welcomes new applicants who represent the diversity of Irish society. We encourage applications from all areas of the community regardless of your gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community, or socio-economic background.**

For further details, see the [Arts Council Equality, Human Rights & Diversity Policy & Strategy](#)

### 1.3 Who is the applicant?

The applicant is the person who will receive any funding offered and who will be required to accept the terms and conditions of that funding.

Any funding 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 – 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 Máire Barry are not acceptable.

### 1.4 Who cannot apply?

People not eligible to apply include the following:

- Individuals currently in undergraduate education (including those undertaking foundation courses)
- Individuals seeking support towards fees for postgraduate (including unaccredited)/higher education or study
- Individuals seeking support towards work undertaken as part of a formal course of study
- Individuals seeking support towards the costs of undertaking an internship
- Aosdána members in receipt of a *cnuas*

You may only apply for **one** of the following awards in **one arts area** in 2022:

- Bursary, round 1
- Bursary, round 2
- Next Generation Artists Award
- Markievicz Award

Please note that you cannot apply to both Bursary Round 1 2022 and Agility Round 1 2022

### 1.5 What may you apply for?

The maximum amount that may be awarded to each successful applicant is:

- **€20,000**

## Traditional Arts Bursary Award 2022: Guidelines for Applicants

The minimum that can be applied for is **€5,000**.

Please indicate the amount you are applying for in **section 3** of the application form.

Please note that your application will be deemed **ineligible** if you apply for more than the maximum (unless you are applying for additional access costs) or less than the minimum amount stated above.

The bursary is available for up to one year; multi-annual awards will not be made.

The emphasis of the award is on artists 'buying time'. Therefore, the amount you request should include the amount you will pay yourself for the time you will spend developing your practice as an artist. This can be up to 100% of the award.

The amount you propose to pay yourself – and any mentors or collaborators that you might have working with you – should be commensurate with the nature of your practice and the amount of time you propose to take, and should be appropriate to standard conditions within your area of arts practice. You should pay yourself appropriately. Do not request less than you feel you need to achieve your objectives.

The award also allows for other costs intrinsic to supporting the development of the artist's practice – e.g.

- Appropriate fees for the time given by any mentors or collaborators working with you on the activity or activities for which you are seeking support
- Materials (up to a maximum of 15% of the total amount requested) or the hiring of services that are critical to the development of your artistic practice provided the request is clearly linked to the proposal for 'buying time'.

### **Access costs for artists with disabilities**

In addition to the maximum amount permitted, the Arts Council will also consider access costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists with disabilities. If you wish to apply for additional funding on this basis, please upload the following information with your application:

- A short document outlining what your additional access costs are



- An amount for access costs in the expenditure section of your application-form budget. This figure should also be included in the total amount you request.

### **What is an access cost?**

Access costs for artists with disabilities cover any requirements you may have in order to remove barriers that might stop you from completing your proposal. In a bursary application this may include, for example, costs towards additional time needed to complete an element of your proposal or additional assistance required to deliver your proposed activity.

We take the definition of disability from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which states: 'Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.'

### **What are your chances of receiving support?**

This is an extremely competitive award. Many more applications are received than it is possible for the Arts Council to support.

Where proposals are recommended for funding, we will aim where possible to provide in full the amounts requested. However, the Arts Council reserves the right to offer applicants a lower amount than that requested if proposals are considered to be feasible at a reduced scale.

## **1.6 What may you not apply for?**

You may not apply for more than one bursary-type award (in any artform/arts practice) in any one round of funding.

Activities and costs that you may not apply for include the following:

- Activities or costs that do not fit the purpose of the award
- Activities that are better 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
- Activities undertaken for charity-fundraising purposes, for participation in a competition, or for primarily profit-making purposes

## Traditional Arts Bursary Award 2022: Guidelines for Applicants

- Activities that have already been assessed by the Arts Council, unless you demonstrate that you have developed the proposal since previously applying. An exception will be made to this if the Council has specifically advised you to redirect your application to this award. Please bear in mind that such advice is not an indication of a successful outcome.
- Activities where recording is a main activity
- Activities that are an intrinsic part of ongoing formal education
- The purchase of musical instruments.

### 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 the following list of what supporting material is required 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 Traditional Arts Bursary Award, you **must** submit the following supporting material online:

- A detailed up-to-date CV (max. three pages) that clearly describes the applicant's area of practice and track record
- A sound recording or an example of work demonstrating the applicant's artistic ability
- Statements or letters of support from key partners identified in the application that are integral to your proposal (e.g. participants or group representatives, other artists, mentors, funders and any other partners).

#### **Other supporting materials**

- Where your proposal relies on the expertise of other people or organisations, you should submit brief biographies outlining their expertise, accreditation and track record.

#### **Additional material required in certain circumstances**

- The Arts Council requires all individuals and organisations providing cultural, recreational, educational or other services 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. For more information on child safeguarding and Children First, please refer to the Tusla (Child and Family Agency) website at <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/>. You may view the self-audit that successful applicants will be required to complete here: <https://childprotection.artscouncil.ie/>.

- 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 the required supporting material, your application will be deemed ineligible.**

### **Naming conventions for sound files**

If you are submitting sound files as part of your application, please follow this convention when giving them filenames:

---

**Convention** *performer-track-composer* or *performer-track-trad*

---

**Examples** PMcDonell-DrowsyMaggie-Trad.mp3

ABCChamberOrchestra-MiseEire-ORiada.mp3

---

For further information on the formats you may use for supporting material you wish to upload as part of your application, see section **2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application**.

## **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 Online Services (an application form attached as a supporting document will not be accepted).

## Traditional Arts Bursary Award 2022: Guidelines for Applicants

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 able to apply again with the same proposal in future funding rounds.

### **1.9 How long will it take to get a decision?**

The length of time it will take us to make decisions will depend on how many applications we receive. We will write to you shortly after the application deadline to give you an indication of how long decisions will take, but, in general, depending on the volume of applications, it will take somewhere between eight and twelve weeks.

## 2. How to make your application

---

### 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 emailed 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 web browser will need to meet the following requirements to use Online Services successfully:

---

**PC** Windows 7 operating system or a newer version of Windows *with* browser versions: Microsoft Edge (v.94) or Firefox (v.27) or Chrome (v.33), or a newer version of any of these browsers.

---

**Mac** Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard or a newer version of Mac operating system *with* browser versions: Safari (v.3.1) or Firefox (v.27) or Chrome (v.32) or Microsoft Edge (v.94), or a newer version of any of these browsers.

**Note:** if Safari 11 prevents the upload of documents, use a newer version of Safari or use a different browser such as Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Edge.

---

**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: <https://www.openoffice.org>.

#### OpenOffice Users

Please refer to our video *Using OpenOffice to download, complete and upload the application form* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT9Xxgmg0Eo>

You **must** use OpenOffice Writer version 4.0.1 or earlier. More recent versions of OpenOffice Writer than 4.0.1 have changed how our application forms appear when they are submitted through Online Services.

### Important notes for Apple Mac users

- Note the section in the YouTube video (at 1 min. 20 secs; link provided above) that deals with the issue of downloading version 4.0.1 on Macs with the operating system Mac OS Mojave or an earlier version installed.
- You cannot download OpenOffice 4.0.1 onto a Mac with the operating system Mac OS Catalina. If your Mac has this operating system or a newer version installed, you will have to download and use OpenOffice version 4.1.9 or newer.

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 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 6180200/01 6180243. 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 2.00pm 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 document that you fill in offline (on your own computer). The application form includes guidance on how to fill in each of its sections.

**Note:** the application form is formatted in such a way that the Arts Council can extract information from the form for assessment purposes. It is **very**

**important** that you type inside the grey boxes in the form, and that you do not delete them and/or type outside them. If you do this, the form will not upload properly.

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

You are required to include supporting material with your application. For example, this might include a CV, or 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.

File type	File extension
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 URL links

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

**Note:** assessors will only view materials as submitted by you according to the URL link that you provide. Check that the link works from within the document you upload – i.e. that it links correctly to your material.

If you do not wish material you upload to YouTube for your application to be publicly viewable, you can flag your video as ‘unlisted’ in the 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.

---

<b>Good filenames for an applicant called Jack Russell</b>	russelljack Architecture Project application.doc
	russelljack performance clip.mp4
	russelljack Architecture Project budget template round 2.xls
	russelljack youtube link.doc

---

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.

### 2.4.1 Choose a 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).

### 2.4.2 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 requested** should equal the **Total expenditure** minus the **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.

### 2.4.3 Upload application form and supporting material

Follow the prompts to upload your completed application form, CV or 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.

**Note:** if you are confident that your application form is filled in correctly and it is saved as a .docx file, save it as a .doc file and try uploading it again.

### 2.4.4 Submit application

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

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

You should 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 relating 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. How we assess your application

---

#### 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 awarding funding is fair and transparent.

#### 3.2 The assessment process

Once received, your application will be processed by the Arts Council as follows:

- 
- 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 to be assessed.

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

- 
- 2 Your application is checked for eligibility. Please see section **1.8 Eligibility** above.
  - 3 In some cases, the arts area to which you have applied may not be the best fit for your proposal. In such a case, we will contact you and ask you if you are happy for us to move your application to a more appropriate arts team. You will then have a choice to have your application moved, or for it to remain under the arts area to which you applied.
  - 4 Adviser(s) and/or staff make an assessment of the application based on the criteria for assessment and scoring process set out below.
  - 5 Adviser(s) and/or staff recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted.
  - 6 A peer panel reviews all shortlisted applications and associated materials, then scores and makes decisions.
-

7 Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants.

---

8 Decisions are noted by Council.

---

### 3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications

Applications are assessed in a competitive context and with consideration of the available resources. All applications are assessed against criteria of:

- Artistic quality
- How they meet the objectives and priorities of the award
- Feasibility

Each of these criteria is assessed as follows:

#### Artistic quality

The assessment of artistic quality focuses on the artist's previous practice as well as on the nature of the proposal. This includes:

- The track record and/or the potential of the artist demonstrated through the application form, CV and other supporting materials submitted
- The proposed arts activity or activities as outlined in the application form
- The practice of the artist demonstrated through the supporting materials submitted
- The artform/arts-practice context in which the activity is proposed
- The ambition, originality and competency demonstrated by the artist
- The track record of the mentor and quality of the mentorship programme, if relevant to the proposal, as demonstrated through the application form, CV and other supporting materials submitted
- The quality and appropriateness of supports offered from partner organisations, if relevant.

#### 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** for details.

Such assessment might include, for example, consideration of the extent to which the artist's practice might benefit and be developed as a result of the proposed activity or the extent to which particular identified priorities are addressed.

## Traditional Arts Bursary Award 2022: Guidelines for Applicants

While applicants may choose other artforms/arts practices relevant to their application, the assessment will be undertaken by the team specific to the chosen primary artform, which may, in certain instances, ask for a secondary assessment from another arts team.

### Feasibility

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

- The proposed timetable or schedule
- The amount of funding requested relative to the nature and duration of the work proposed
- Where relevant, the availability of other supports/partners identified in the application.

### 3.4 Peer-panel process

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, and/or with a broad working knowledge and general understanding of the professional arts.<sup>1</sup>

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.

### Panel scoring process

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

---

<sup>1</sup> In the case of artforms with smaller numbers of applications, panels may be convened to consider groups of applications at the same panel meeting.

- 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’ (e.g. where a person may stand to gain financially from a decision) or ‘non-pecuniary’ (e.g. familial relationships or partnerships, personal friendships, 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 better suited to a different award programme, an exception may be made. In such circumstances you will be informed in writing.

### **3.6 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.