



Joint Information Clinic - Q & A session

Questions for the Arts Participation team.

What is the difference between a 'professional artist' and 'arts practitioner'?

The Arts Council defines a professional artist as an individual who identifies themselves, and is recognised by their peers, as a practicing artist. An arts practitioner is a person whose work contributes to the development of the arts in Ireland.

When should we expect to hear the results of the Agility Award?

The Arts Participation Agility Award will open for applications on the 5th of March and will close on the 25th of April. It normally takes 12-15 weeks to hear the result of a funding award, this is an approximate date and is subject to change.

Is the Agility the only award that an arts practitioner is eligible?

Yes. Currently, in Arts Participation, the Agility Award is the only award open to arts practitioners.

Is there a scheme that replaces the travel and training scheme?

No, there is no scheme that has replaced the Travel and Training Award. In some awards an applicant may allocate travel expenses, relative to their proposal, unless otherwise stated in the guidelines.

Do I need a degree to apply?

No, you do not need an arts degree or any other degree to apply for funding.

What assistance or support for funding applications does the Art Council provide?

You can find a list of [frequently asked questions](#) about the application process on the Arts Council [website](#). If your question is not answered there and you need further help, you can email onlineservices@artscouncil.ie. You can also access tutorial videos on the Arts Council YouTube channel. If you have an access requirement you can email access@artscouncil.ie

[for support](#). Please contact a member of the Arts Participation [team](#) if you need any further help.

Is there a framework for paying my mentor?

Mentor and artists fees must be [fair and equitable](#). The Arts Council does not provide specific information on mentor or artists' rates however you can find information about artists rates on resource organisations websites, for example Theatre Forum or VAI. A list of resource organisations can be found [here](#).

Does a mentor need to be a professional artist?

AC: We do not specify this in our guidelines, however the person you choose as your mentor must suit your needs and you must demonstrate why you chose them within your proposal. The mentors CV will be required as a supporting document to evidence this.

AiC: This is a requirement for some Artist in the Community awards and not others. Please contact us for more information or go to www.create-ireland.ie

ADC: Yes. The mentor must be an art professional with a strong record of accomplishment of making, producing or presenting work in arts contexts.

Can two applications be made for two different awards within the same round for two different projects?

Applicants can apply for a Bursary, Agility, and a Project in the same year. Applicants may apply for both rounds of the Project Award but not submit two applications in the same round. Applicants can only apply for one round of Bursary. You should read the guidelines for each award as this may vary year to year.

Can I apply for two projects in the one application?

Arts Grant Funding allows professional artists and arts organisations to apply for more than one activity. This is a highly competitive scheme so you may like to talk to the team before making an application. More information on Arts Grand Funding is available on the Arts Council [website](#).

What is the main difference between the various Arts Participation awards from the Arts Council (Agility, Bursary Award and Project Award) and those managed by Create (the various Artist in the Community Schemes)?

There are many differences between the awards managed by Create and the Arts Council. For example, the AC Bursary offers up to €20K and is across any artform, the AiC Bursary

offers up to €10k and may focus on a specific community or artform. The AC awards are artist lead, while the AIC awards can be led by the community.

Do you have advice on costing a large-scale project?

We do not have guidelines on how to cost a large-scale project however there are supporting material templates required for some of our awards that could be of interest, such the [Opera Production Award](#) or [Arts Grant Funding – Theatre Award](#). Also, some resource organisations may have toolkits that you could avail of too.

If you have an eligible submission, i.e. no technical issues and your proposal is being judged against other proposals that tick all the boxes. What makes you select one project over the other?

The adviser and peer panel can only assess what information you provide within your application form and supporting materials. Do not assume that they know your work. Be as clear as possible and make the information as accessible as possible. Make sure they know who you are, what you want to do and how you will do it.

Our adviser/s will assess all eligible applications against the criteria of the award and those that best meet the criteria will be shortlisted to go to peer panel. A lower score maybe assigned where there is lack of clarity or a lack of consistency. Applications that score highest at the peer panel will be funded within the available budget. Please see section 3 **How we assess your application** in the award guidelines.

Questions for the ADI.

I have an undiagnosed disability; can I still apply or do I need proof of my disability?

You do not need to provide proof of your disability. You just need to identify as having a disability according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: ‘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.’ This is the definition the Arts Council and Arts & Disability Ireland use for disability.

In the application form, you will be asked:

“Using this definition, are you a person with a disability?”

You must answer “Yes” to be eligible for the Arts and Disability Connect scheme.

What does the New Work Award cover?

The New Work award is for artists with a strong record of accomplishment in their professional practice who want to develop, make, and present ambitious new work to an audience with the support of a presenting partner. Presenting partners can include arts centres, arts festivals, arts organisations, and arts venues in the Republic of Ireland.

The lead presenting partner will support the applicant to present their work to an audience, include this project in their programme and provide marketing support. In some cases, they might also collaborate with the artist during the development phase.

New Work aims to support professional artists with disabilities to:

- extend their practice and make ambitious new work in collaboration with a lead presenting partner and additional partners
- build relationships with key people or organisations experienced in the high-quality presentation and production of work
- publicly present the finished work or work in progress (e.g., staged reading, exhibition, performance etc.)
- reach larger audiences (both with and without disabilities)
- document their work as a means of promoting it more widely

Maximum award €15,000, minimum is €8,000. Please read the New Work award guidelines and email connect@adiarts.ie for more information.

Can the New Work award be a reading rather than a full production?

Yes. For Theatre, the New Work award must be a new work presented to an audience, but the presentation can be a reading of a play rather than a full production.

If you were unsuccessful with a project on one round of an award, can you apply to the next round of the award or a different award (after you were unsuccessful) with the same project?

For Arts and Disability Connect, we have accepted repeat applications, we would expect that the application has responded to the feedback when resubmitting for another round.

What award would best suit funding travel and / or training for a residency?

The ADC Training award can be used for residency. Travel costs can be included. The residency and all connected travel must be based in the Republic of Ireland.

Can you submit applications for multiple projects at the same time? ie. I have two projects I want to seek funding for. Can I submit two applications for two different projects?

You can only apply for one strand of the award in each round. For instance, you can apply for a New Work award, or a Research & Reflection award, or a Mentoring award, or a Training award. You cannot apply for more than one even if it is for different areas of work.

Can you apply for the Arts Council Agility and the ADI research and reflection award in the same year for different projects?

Yes, but the ideas/research/project must be different.

When approaching a collaborator, I need a letter of interest from them and to have agreed a fee. Is there anywhere a can find a framework for how much money I should offer and how much time I should expect from them?

We would recommend discussing it with the collaborator and contact a resource organisation. Visual Artist Ireland: <https://visualartists.ie/how-to-manual/visual-artists-payment-guidelines-other-fees/>. Match in the dark (Writer's fees): [Updated pay doc \(matchinthedark.com\)](https://www.matchinthedark.com/)

Questions for Create

Can someone clarify the types of awards you can apply for? For example, if I apply for Bursary, can I apply for the Project award?

For the AIC, there are no restrictions. For example, if you apply for the Bursary Award and be successful you can also go on and apply for the Project Award. However you cannot apply for [Research & Development and a Project](#) Award in the same round.

Is there a pool of mentors we can reach out to for the AIC Research and Development award?

No, there is not a pool. However, there is a list of artist's mentors that are on the [artist mentor panel](#). Please have a look at the artist [case studies](#) which gives an indication of previous projects and the mentors that have been involved.

How much should I pay my mentor?

Always ask your mentor first. If you have a certain budget, it is important that you ask your mentor if they can work with that specific amount. It is important to note that mentorship should be mentee led, the mentee comes to the mentorship and leads the session.