

## Frequently Asked Questions - Arts Council Arts Participation Bursary Award

### What is the objective of the Arts Council Arts Participation Bursary Award?

The objective of the award is to support individual professional artists whose practice centres on collaboration with groups of people in any of the following contexts: communities of place and/or interest, health, disability, cultural diversity and older people. The award seeks to provide artists with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and engage with their arts participation / collaborative arts practice. Any research or thematic area is welcome, as long as there is a clear rationale and it is relevant to furthering an applicant's arts participation practice. Please read section 1.2 of the Award Guidelines for more information about the **objective** and **priorities** of this award.

### Who is eligible to apply?

The award is open to individual artists working in all artforms and at all stages in their professional careers. To be eligible to apply applicants must:

- have a track record in arts participation / collaborative arts practice
- be a professional practising artist – an artist might not earn income continuously or exclusively from their arts practice, however, applicants must identify themselves and be recognised by their peers as a professional artist
- 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 Arts Council would need to be satisfied that the outcomes of any such proposal would benefit the arts in (the Republic of) Ireland.

Please see section 1.3 in the Award Guidelines for more information.

### How much can I apply for?

Applicants may apply for an award of up to €20,000.

If you are an artist with a disability, additional costs related to your disability and your capacity to deliver on your proposal can be included.

Please see section 1.5 in the Award Guidelines for more information.

### What support material must I include in order to be eligible for assessment for this award?

In order to be considered eligible for assessment under the Arts Participation Bursary Award you must submit the following supporting material online:

- A completed Bursary Award application form
- A detailed up-to-date CV (3 pages maximum)
- Documentation or examples of your art practice.
- If your proposal involves working with children or young people then you must provide a copy of your *Child Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures*.
- If your proposal involves working with animals then you must provide a copy of your *Animal Protection Policies and Procedures*.

If you do not submit the required supporting material, the Arts Council will not be able to make an assessment of your application and it will be deemed ineligible.

In addition to the required supporting material listed above, you may also submit any other material you consider relevant to your application

Please see 1.7 in the Award Guidelines for more information.

### **Do I need to submit a Child Protection & Welfare Policy with my application?**

If you plan to work with or be in contact with children or young people as part of your proposal you will need to submit a Child Protection and Welfare policy. For guidelines on drafting a policy please log on to [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie).

Please note: applications to the Arts Participation team that involve young people, need to have a focus on intergenerational arts practice, arts and health, arts and disability, or intercultural arts practice. If you wish to work with young people in other contexts, please see the [schemes and awards](#) managed by the Young People, Children and Education (YPCE) team at the Arts Council.

### **I work for an organisation, can I use their Child Protection & Welfare Policy?**

The Bursary Award is for individual artists, therefore your Child Protection and Welfare (CPW) Policy should relate to you and your arts practice. However, if an aspect of your proposal involves working with a particular organisation or group, then you must also adhere to that organisation / group's CPW policy.

### **Can I travel as part of my Bursary?**

Travel can be included as part of a Bursary proposal, however it must be shown to be an essential element of your overall proposal, assisting you to realise your goals for the award.

### **What does the Arts Council mean by the term Arts Participation?**

The Arts Council understands Arts Participation to describe a broad continuum of arts practice where professional artists collaborate with individuals or groups (non arts professionals) to make or interpret art. The practice involves a mutually beneficial two-way engagement that values the different ideas, experiences and skills of all involved.

The Arts Council acknowledges that the area of Arts Participation includes many strands, each with its own set of knowledge, expertise and cross-sector partnerships; and currently subdivides the area into the following contexts: communities of place and/or interest, health, disability, cultural diversity, older people.

For more information about Arts Council supports in the area of Arts Participation please see the [Arts Participation](#) page on the website.

### **What are the differences between an Arts Participation Bursary Award and an Arts Participation Project Award?**

An **Arts Participation Bursary Award** proposal may include a collaborative arts practice / workshop / project element, but delivery of a project is not the focus of this award. The Award is intended to provide artists with protected time and resources, to think, research, reflect and develop their arts participation / collaborative arts practice. A proposal should include elements such as critical

reflection, research, mentoring, dialogue and the initiation / development of strategic partnerships, alongside any elements of collaborative arts practice.

The purpose of an **Arts Participation Project Award** is to support delivery of an artistically compelling and feasible project. Project delivery is concerned with project aims, partners, funders, participants/collaborators, planning, delivery, presentation, evaluation etc.

The priority in a Project Award is the project and project delivery. The priority for a Bursary Award is the artist and the exploration and development of the artist's practice.

For more information about the objective and priorities of each award, please read section 1.1 of the respective Award Guidelines on the Arts Council website.

### **What are the differences between an Arts Participation Bursary Award and an Agility Award in Arts Participation?**

Both awards are intended to support the professional development of practicing artists, by enabling them to develop their practice and/or work and skills. However, an **Agility Award** is open to all arts practitioners and creative producers at any career stage, while an **Arts Participation Bursary Award** is exclusive to individual artists.

The objective of an **Arts Participation Bursary Award** is to support individual professional artists working in any artform to develop their arts-participation practice, including collaborative, community and socially engaged arts practices. Applicants should have a track record of working collaboratively with individuals and groups of non-arts-professionals in the making and interpreting of artwork, and can apply for an award of between €5,000 and €20,000.

The **Agility Award** encompasses a number of artforms, including Arts Participation. Applicants can apply for an award of between €1,500 and €5,000, and the Arts Council encourages applications from early-career stage artists or arts practitioners.

For more information about the objective and priorities of each award, please read section 1.1 of the respective Award Guidelines on the Arts Council website.

### **Things to remember / Common mistakes**

- Read the Award Guidelines closely, particularly section 1.2 Objectives and Priorities of the Award
- Be sure to read the most recent version of Award Guidelines as changes are made regularly
- If you do not include essential supporting material your application will be made ineligible (ref 1.7 in Award Guidelines)
- You can only apply for one Arts Council Bursary Award, in any artform, per calendar year (ref 1.6 in Award Guidelines)
- Do not leave your application until the last minute, technology can be unpredictable and things always take longer than you think
- All applications and support materials must be submitted online, no support material can be accepted by post
- It is always helpful to have someone to read over your application before you submit

**When is the application deadline?**

Closing dates for the Arts Participation Bursary Award are advertised in the Arts Council [newsletter](#) and on the [Available Funding](#) page of the website.

All applications must be made online. To [register](#) for an online account log on to the Arts Council website. If you have already received an Artist Registration Number (ARN) and password you do not need to register again.

**Where can I get more information about the online application process?**

There are clips on [YouTube](#) about how to download, complete and upload your application. Please also, see [frequently asked questions](#) regarding the online process.