

# Agility Award

## 2023 Round 1

For individual freelance artists  
and art practitioners at any stage  
of their careers

Funding of €1,500 – €5,000

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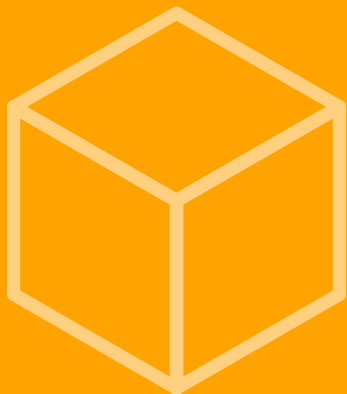
## How we assess applications

Deadline for receipt of all applications:  
5.30pm, Thursday 9 February 2023



# Important

- You must register on our **Online Services** at least five days before you apply.
- If you would like support with your application due to **accessibility requirements**, please contact our accessibility officer by emailing [access@artscouncil.ie](mailto:access@artscouncil.ie) as early as possible in the application process.



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## 2 How we assess your application

This document tells you about:

- How we process your application, including assessment
- The criteria we will use to assess your application
- Our scoring system

Our assessors are specialists in different artforms and areas of practice. If your application focuses on a single artform or area of practice, there will be one team of assessors reviewing your application, and they will know about this specialism. If your application focuses on two or more artforms or areas of practice, there may be other assessors involved.



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## 2.1 How we process your application, including assessment

We process all applications as follows:

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- 1 After you submit your application, we send you two emails:
    - The first will be sent immediately to 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 are automated emails and 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.

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- 2 Once we know how many applications we have received and have to assess, we will write to you to tell you when you can expect a decision on your application.
  - 3 We check applications to make sure they are eligible for the Agility Award (we list reasons why applications are not eligible in **section 1.9 of Document 1: Guidelines for Applicants**).
  - 4 Our adviser(s) and staff assess eligible applications against assessment criteria (see **section 2.2**) and provide a score for each condition. They also write a note to explain their scores.
  - 5 We will write to you about the decision.
  - 6 We inform the board of the Arts Council about these decisions.

## 2.2 Criteria for assessing applications

We will assess your applications using the following criteria and prompts:

<b>Artistic quality</b> (a third of marks)	<b>Feasibility</b> (a third of marks)	<b>Award purpose</b> (a third of marks)
<p><b>Track record</b> We consider your track record and/or potential.</p> <p><b>Quality of your proposal</b> The quality of your proposed activities, including ambition, originality and competency.</p> <p><b>Context</b> How your proposal fits within the wider context of your artform or area of practice.</p> <p><b>If any collaborators, mentors, partners or supporting organisations are involved</b> We consider their track record and the quality and appropriateness of support offered to you.</p>	<p><b>Proposed time frame</b> Can the activities outlined be delivered within the proposed time frame?</p> <p><b>Funding requested</b> Is the amount of funding requested proportionate to the nature and duration of the work proposed?</p> <p><b>If any collaborators, mentors, partners or supporting organisations are involved</b> We consider the availability of these supports identified in the application.</p>	<p><b>Your proposal and the award</b> How well your proposal meets the purpose and priority of the award (see <b>Document 1: Guidelines for Applicants</b> – section 1.1).</p> <p><b>Expected benefit to you</b> How much your work would benefit as a result of the proposed activity, and how well this is demonstrated within your application.</p>

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## 2.3 Scoring process

Assessors will assess all applications for the Agility Award using the following scoring system. This system shows they evaluate and score your application against each of the three assessment criteria. The scores show how assessors decide if applications have met each criterion.

Assessors will consider applications using:

- Their professional judgement based on the information provided within the application
- Their knowledge of any of your work in the public domain
- Their knowledge of the wider arts landscape
- The competitive context in which all applications are evaluated.

Assessors use a scoring system from 0–6, where 6 is exceptional. They may award a score to the nearest 0.5 (half a point).



We describe the scores and what they mean below:

<b>Numeric score</b>	<b>Score description</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>6.0</b>	Exceptional	The application fully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion exceptionally clearly and well.
<b>5.5</b>		At the top end of 'Excellent':
<b>5.0</b>	Excellent	The application addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion convincingly and successfully.
<b>4.5</b>		At the top end of 'Very good':
<b>4.0</b>	Very good	The application addresses the criterion very well. Any concerns or areas of weakness are minor.
<b>3.5</b>		At the top end of 'Good':
<b>3.0</b>	Good	The application addresses the criterion well.
<b>2.5</b>		Between 'Sufficient' and 'Good':
<b>2.0</b>	Sufficient	The application broadly addresses the criterion.
<b>1.5 or below</b>	Doesn't qualify	The applicant has not provided enough detailed information to be able to make an assessment under the criterion.

A score of **1.5** or lower against **any** criterion will mean that an application will **not** be considered for funding. This means that, while an application may achieve an overall score higher than another application, it will not be funded if any one criterion is scored 1.5 or less.

Each criterion represents about a third of the marks to allocate.



**Example**

The table below shows you an example of what a complete set of scores might look like for an applicant. For example, you can see that for artistic quality the applicant got a score of 5.0 out of a possible 6.0, and for the other criteria they got 3.5 out of 6 and 4.5 out of 6. Their total score for all criteria is 13.0 out of a possible full score of 18.0.

18.0 is 100%

13.0 works out as 72.2% (when you divide 13 by 18 and multiply your answer by 100).

Three criteria	Score
Artistic quality	5.0 out of 6
Feasibility	4.5 out of 6
Meeting the purpose and priority of the award	3.5 out of 6
<b>Total number score</b>	<b>13.0 out of an overall 18</b>
<b>Total percentage score when 18.0 is 100%</b>	<b>72.2% overall out of 100%</b>

You will get scores for your application against the three criteria, as well as a comment to explain the assessors' views. We will award funding to the highest-scoring applications until the budget is allocated.

In order to be funded under the Agility Award, you must achieve an overall minimum percentage score of 55%.

Where proposals are recommended for funding, we will aim where possible to provide in full the amounts requested. However, we may offer you **less** than you asked for if your proposal is considered feasible to do at a reduced scale.



## What now?

Now that you have looked at how we assess applications and the **Guidelines for Applicants**, you should read:

- [How to apply for the Agility Award \(Document 3\)](#)

We used Plain English guidelines to update the Agility Award documents. The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) assisted us with this.

