

Business to Arts Awards 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

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We will continue to add to this as new queries arise

General & Partnership Categories

Eligibility

- **Who can apply?**
The Awards are open to everyone. You do not need to be a BtoA member to apply.
- **Are government or semi-state bodies eligible?**
Yes. Semi-state agencies, local authorities and city councils are eligible to apply.
- **Does the partner need to be based in Ireland?**
The partner does not need to be based in Ireland. However, the activity must take place in the Republic of Ireland.
- **Are projects in Northern Ireland eligible?**
Only if the activity took place in the Republic of Ireland.
- **Is this connected to Arts & Business Northern Ireland?**
No. This is a separate awards programme.
- **Are infrastructure or capital works eligible?**
No. The Awards recognise creative partnerships where both partners collaborate on artistic activity. Funding for repairs, capital works or general upkeep is not eligible.
- **Are standard grant schemes eligible?**
Projects supported solely through a standard grant scheme, where the funder's role is limited to providing funding and routine reporting, are not eligible. Eligible projects must demonstrate an active partnership beyond financial support.
- **Can an arts organisation act as the Business Partner?**
No, where the organisation's core purpose is arts activity and it is primarily funded through public arts funding.
- **Can a charity be listed as the funding partner?**

Yes. Applications are eligible where the funding partner is a charity.

However, these awards do not recognise pure grant-giving alone. Applications must demonstrate clear business involvement — for example through corporate partnership, engagement, or contributions beyond funding

Categories & Financial Thresholds

- **Can I submit the same project in more than one category?**
Yes, you may submit the same project in a maximum of two categories.
- **Can I submit more than one project in the same category?**
Yes, provided the projects are different.
- **What are the thresholds for Small and Major Arts Partnership Awards?**

€0–€24,999 per annum: Small Arts Partnership Award

€25,000 and above per annum: Major Arts Partnership Award
- **Is the financial amount calculated per year or cumulatively?**
Per annum.
- **Is there a maximum sponsorship amount?**
No, there is no maximum.
- **Can in-kind or pro bono support qualify?**
Yes. In-kind or pro bono contributions are eligible, provided the partnership demonstrates meaningful collaboration and mutual benefit.

What We Mean by Partnership

- **What do you mean by an “active partnership”?**
We are looking for partnerships where both parties are genuinely involved in shaping and delivering the project. This may include shared planning, creative



collaboration, employee or audience engagement, and mutual benefit. A logo placement alone would not be considered an active partnership.

- **Does the partnership need to be long-term?**
Not necessarily. Both one-off projects and long-term collaborations are eligible, provided you can clearly demonstrate process, engagement and impact.
- **What if we worked with multiple artists?**
Please name one or two lead artists on the form and describe the wider group in your answers. If it is a collective, provide the collective's name.
- **Does a workplace project have to take place on site?**
No. While some projects may take place within the workplace, activity can also extend into community or educational contexts, provided it is clearly driven and supported by the business partner.
- **Does employee participation need to involve the entire organisation?**
No. Judges look at the quality and depth of engagement, not simply scale.

Application Process

- **Is there an application fee?**
No. There is no fee to apply.
- **What is the closing date?**
Midnight, Thursday 16 April 2026.
- **When will we hear the outcome?**
Applicants will be informed in July 2026 as to whether they have been shortlisted.
- **Who is the 'Awards Contact'?**
This is the person managing the application on behalf of either the Business/Philanthropic Partner or the Arts Partner.
- **Do both partners need to submit an application?**
No. Only one application is submitted. However, both partners must actively contribute to the content and consent to the submission.

- **Can I transfer the submission form to my partner?**
The form itself cannot be transferred. However, all questions are available to download. You may complete them offline with your partner and then input the answers into Awardforce, or share login details if appropriate.
- **Can I include links in my answers?**
Yes. You may include links within your answers, or upload supporting materials at the end of the application.
- **What period should audience figures relate to?**
Please provide audience figures for 2025/26 only.
- **Can a project that is still in early stages apply?**
No. You should be in a position to report clearly on the process, engagement and impact of the project.
- **Are financial figures confidential?**
Yes. Financial information is treated as strictly confidential and is only shared with the judging panel. Aggregated figures may be used anonymously for the Private Investment in the Arts Report.

Bursary Awards

Eligibility

- **Can previous applicants reapply?**
Yes, provided they have not won within the previous five years.
- **Who is eligible for the €10,000 TileStyle Artists Bursary?**
The bursary is open to emerging artists, or mid-career artists who are making a significant shift in direction within their practice.
- **What defines an emerging artist?**
There is no fixed timeframe. An emerging artist is generally someone at an early stage of building a professional artistic practice.
- **When must bursary-funded activities take place?**
Between October 2026 and September 2027.

Nominating Partner

- **Do I need a nominating partner?**
Yes. You complete the application yourself, but you must list a nominating partner and their contact details.
- **What qualifies as a nominating partner?**
The nominating partner must be an arts organisation or another formally constituted organisation (for example, a university, gallery, festival, SME or company) with whom you have an established relationship.
- **Does the nominating partner need to be directly involved in the proposed activity?**
Not necessarily. However, they should be able to demonstrate a genuine relationship with you and support the nomination in a meaningful way.
- **Can a cultural organisation or arts festival nominate me?**
Yes.
- **Can an arts centre nominate an artist?**
Yes. The arts centre should work closely with the artist to ensure the application is fully completed.
- **Can collectives apply?**
Yes, provided the collective was formed before the nominations period opened.
- **Can more than one artist be nominated?**
Yes, but each nomination must be submitted as a separate application.

Use of the Bursary

- **Does the bursary need to fund a specific project?**
Not necessarily. The bursary may support a specific project or the broader development of your practice. You should clearly outline your objectives and intended outcomes.
- **Can the bursary fund development or research?**
Yes. Development, experimentation and research are eligible. However, you should demonstrate a clear direction and intended outcome for your work.



- **Does having other funding make the application more competitive?**
No. Declaring other funding simply helps the panel understand the full context of your proposal

Shortlisting & Outcomes

- **Is there a public shortlist for the bursaries?**
No. Applicants will be contacted in July regarding the outcome. The bursary winner will be announced at the Awards ceremony.