



Business to Arts
Developing Creative
Partnerships



Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund in partnership with *Business to Arts*: Round 1 Fund Recipients

Overview

The Begin Together Arts Fund in partnership with *Business to Arts* will distribute a total of €1 million in arts funding between 2020 and 2022 across the island of Ireland.

For the first round of the fund, 36 arts projects across music, theatre, dance, traditional arts, visual arts, street theatre and circus performance will be funded in 2021.

Each project, inspired by the experience of living through COVID-19 or adapted in response to the pandemic, will receive between €3,000 and €10,000 (or the Sterling equivalent) out of a total amount of €300,000.

To read more about the funded projects please scroll down or click below:

- [Connacht & Part Ulster](#)
- [Leinster](#)
- [Munster](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)



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Connacht & Part Ulster

Galway

Project Name	WE USED TO PLAY HERE
Lead Artists	Kate Ellis & Caimin Gilmore
Lead Partner Organisation	Tra Gheall / Black Gate Cultural Centre, Galway
Artform	Music

'WE USED TO PLAY HERE' is a series of intimate musical performances from Caimin Gilmore (Double Bass) and Kate Ellis (Cello). The project will travel to rural audiences in each province, performing 24 concerts of 30 minutes each, from March - April 2021, inside a specially commissioned 'pod'. The pod, or 'Concertina Venue', is an easily transportable exhibition and performance space, adapted to cater for two performers and groups of four, and specifically designed to perform socially-distanced concerts, in a variety of outdoor terrains.

Project Name	Branar's How to Catch a Star
Lead Artists	Branar Téatar do Pháistí
Lead Partner Organisation	Town Hall Theatre, Galway
Artform	Theatre

'How to Catch a Star' is a non-verbal show for audiences aged four years and upwards, with puppetry and an original score by Colm Mac Con Iomair. This award will assist in the creation and digital dissemination of this unique show for children across the country. Along with the high-quality adaption of the show, a dedicated resource pack will be created for educators and children providing a blended arts experience in the absence of live performance and opportunities for children to develop and enhance their own creativity.

Leitrim

Project Name	The Red Book of Ossory
Lead Artists	Eric Fraad & Caitríona O'Leary
Lead Partner Organisation	The Dock
Artform	Multi-Disciplinary

This is an adaptation of 'The Red Book of Ossory' by the musical ensemble Anakronos, transforming it from a live concert to an imaginative and professional film directed and produced by Eric Fraad. The Dock will serve as the venue for a revelatory, cinematic reimagining of the concert, providing bespoke and valuable online programming to Irish arts centres both for their audiences and a wider international public.



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Mayo

Project Name	Circus250 Breathe - Circus to Make You Gasp
Lead Artists	Dea Birket, Maria Corcoran, Aoife Raleigh
Lead Partner Organisation	Festival of Curiosity
Artform	Street Theatre/Circus/Spectacle

'Breathe' is a 30-minute, outdoor circus show that looks at breath, from exhaustion to recovery. The arc of the performance will be from exhaustion/losing breath, through recovery/breathing again to breathing together again/trusting each other again. The show will tour rural areas which have been isolated during the pandemic with few facilities nearby and an older population. The performance will be filmed in Achill and made available, online, to festivals and venues.

Roscommon

Project Name	Art In The Open - Crossings & Transitions
Lead Artists	Susan Mannion
Lead Partner Organisation	Boyle Arts Festival
Artform	Visual Arts

A series of large-scale, 2 metre by 1 metre, enamelled panels which will be placed in open spaces, in the town of Boyle, during the Boyle Arts Festival 2021. The award supports the research, refining and creation of the new work, in partnership with Boyle Arts Festival.

Sligo

Project Name	Tumble Circus' Travelling Cycle Circus
Lead Artists	Tina Segner and Ken Fanning
Lead Partner Organisation	Cairde Arts Festival
Artform	Street Theatre/Circus/Spectacle

Travelling Cycle Circus will be a 45-minute experience performed up to four times a day in different locations, all reached by bike. Inspired by Flann O'Brien's satirical and absurd writing and biking adventures, this builds on the experience by delivering high-skill, comedy and contemporary circus with a socio-political edge.



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Cavan

Project Name	Fanzini Productions: Ballet Poulet
Lead Artists	Kim Mc Cafferty & Con Horgan
Lead Partner Organisation	The Ramor Theatre
Artform	Street Theatre/Circus/Spectacle

A physical theatre duo performance, written and performed by Kim Mc Cafferty & Con Horgan, 'Ballet Poulet' incorporates dance, contemporary circus, absurdist comedy and classical arts. The funding will enable Fanzini to re-write the script of 'Ballet Poulet' for film, rehearse 'Ballet Poulet' for film and professionally film 'Ballet Poulet' for a digital tour with trusted arts venues and festival partners, throughout 2021.

Donegal

Project Name	Echo Echo Dance
Lead Artists	Echo Echo Ensemble: Kelly Quigley, Ayesha Mailey, Zoe Ramsey, Tonya Sheina; with Barry Davis, Mandy Blinco, Mark Hill
Lead Partner Organisation	LUXe
Artform	Dance

The funding will support the creation and production of a dance theatre performance that can be enjoyed by all ages. A partnership with LUXe will help research and development of an outdoor family theatre event that can still have an intimate and personal feel to it. It will feature themes of nature, mythology, and connection to the natural world.



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Leinster

Dublin

Project Name	King Lear (in a Van)
Lead Artists	Conor Hanratty
Lead Partner Organisation	Festival in a Van
Artform	Theatre

Presented as Forum Theatre, the production takes key scenes from Shakespeare's King Lear and presents them to schools in a mobile venue. The Covid-compliant performance will be in modern dress with actors taking multiple roles, and will last approximately forty minutes including time for interaction. Classroom follow-up materials will be available for post event development of the themes and issues raised.

Project Name	the unit for radical belonging
Lead Artists	Yvonne mc Guinness
Lead Partner Organisation	Fingal Public Art
Artform	Visual Arts

Narratively influenced by Odysseus' homecoming in Homer's 'Odyssey' and fused with the stories, cultures, and experiences of the community; this ambitious, urgent, new work looks to celebrate the potential of the developing suburb of Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15. It aims to capture the aspirations to belong in the community from all cultures and represent them in a spectacular and public way.

Project Name	Drawing from the Well
Lead Artists	Radie Peat, Cormac Begley, Caitlín Nic Gabhann, Daoirí Farrell, Steve Cooney, Aoife Ní Bhriain, Aoife Granville, Conor Connolly, Mairéad and Deirdre Hurley, Jesse Smith, Lisa O'Neill, Laoise Kelly
Lead Partner Organisation	Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA)
Artform	Traditional Arts

Leading artists have been commissioned to spend time engaging with archival collections of their choice in the ITMA and to then produce something new that can be shared with the public. It is ITMA's ambition to feature a leading artist per month throughout 2021. 'Drawing from the Well' responds to the impact of COVID-19 by connecting artists with archive material to inspire new art.



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Kildare

Project Name	Shackleton
Lead Artists	Angelina Foster
Lead Partner Organisation	Shackleton Museum
Artform	Festivals/Events

Shackleton' aims to create an awareness of art in challenging situations by researching the creative interests and family history of Ernest Shackleton - in particular the printmaking and bookmaking practices of his Antarctic expeditions. The content will form part of the programme for Shackleton Autumn School 2021, held virtually, and/or in Shackleton Museum.

Kilkenny

Project Name	Village People
Lead Artists	Blaise Smith
Lead Partner Organisation	Kilkenny Arts Festival
Artform	Visual Arts

Blaise Smith will paint portraits, in four-hour sittings, in gardens (for social distancing) and plans to do six further portraits, as part of the Kilkenny Arts festival 2021, and webcast them online. For the Kilkenny Arts Festival, he hopes to add some personal and technical expertise enabling him to focus more on the actual paintings.

Laois

Project Name	Collective Thoughts
Lead Artists	Rebecca Deegan
Lead Partner Organisation	Dunamaise Arts Centre
Artform	Visual Arts

'Collective Thoughts' is a group exhibition of artwork by members of Laois Arthouse Collective, reflecting on our individual perspectives that have been forged from living through a global pandemic. This exhibition will be a hybrid event, including an online launch with an in-depth virtual tour of the gallery space, which will then be streamed on social media to allow viewers and artists to interact in real-time. The exhibition will be on display in Dunamaise Arts Centre for one month, and a quality art book will be produced.



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Longford

Project Name	Roisin Whelan & Shawbrook Dance
Lead Artists	Roisin Whelan
Lead Partner Organisation	LD Dance Shawbrook
Artform	Dance

A dance piece that opens up a dialogue about mental health in young people. The project will include the work of four dancers and a composer, aged 19-30, who have been affected mentally by Covid and who have a story they would like to share. The aim of this project is to provide the artist with a two-week residency at Shawbrook ending in a public performance of the work on 24 April 2021.

Louth

Project Name	SUDDEN CHANGES
Lead Artists	Máire Carroll
Lead Partner Organisation	Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland
Artform	Music

SUDDEN CHANGES aims to explore life's new hurdles. Five composers will be commissioned to compose three-minute works for solo piano that respond to the pandemic. Pianist Máire Carroll will record the newly commissioned works in St. Peter's Church, Drogheda, for an album to be released digitally and as a CD. A live performance of the works will be held in October or November 2021.

Meath

Project Name	Another Love Story & Sudden Wells
Lead Artists	Michael Gallen
Lead Partner Organisation	Another Love Story Festival Ltd.
Artform	Music

Another Love Story' is a multi-platform musical event on the grounds of Killyon Manor. Collaborating with a group of Ireland's finest musicians and filmmakers, Michael Gallen will create a cinematic album experience for an online audience, weaving a narrative of loss, grief and rebirth through the various spaces of a historic Irish house. Through a mix of immersive cinematography, binaural sound recording and site-responsive design, this album will be brought to life through digital means.



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Offaly

Project Name	Anam Beo
Lead Artists	Anam Beo: Rowena Keaveny & Julie Spollen
Lead Partner Organisation	Irish Wheelchair Association, Ballinagar
Artform	Visual Arts

Anam Beo will design, research and consult on a new digital-based, creative learning programme, enabling the organisation to develop a digital model of delivery while upskilling contracted artists, health care support workers and nursing staff. By developing a digital platform and using technology with participants in a new creative way, digital literacy will be developed in a less-threatening way, building confidence, understanding and skills.

Wexford

Project Name	Totem Yokes
Lead Artists	Maria McKinney
Lead Partner Organisation	Wexford County Council, Wexford Arts Office
Artform	Visual Arts

Maria McKinney's project 'Totem Yokes' is part of the Wexford County Council and Wexford Arts Office M11 Per Cent for Art Scheme. With this fund, McKinney will adapt the sculptural works so they can be exhibited in The Streets Gallery. She plans to create a video work that will document the sculptural works.

Wicklow

Project Name	Plug in Panorama
Lead Artists	Ellie Niblock
Lead Partner Organisation	Kaleidoscope Festival
Artform	Visual Arts

As a response to the impact Covid-19 has had on experiencing art, Ellie Niblock will develop a digital space that activates the senses. It will be created specifically for a digital audience, in collaboration with Kaleidoscope Festival Ireland's first, fully-inclusive, family, camping festival. It will be deployed on their website and available to view in virtual reality.



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Munster

Clare

Project Name	The Space Between
Lead Artists	SON - Susan O'Neill
Lead Partner Organisation	Shannon Heritage - Bunratty Castle
Artform	Multi-Disciplinary

A series of short films inspired by a new way of working during COVID-19, four musicians will be paired with four unique artists from different genres to create new work within the beautiful and historic location of Bunratty Castle. These artists will not have worked together before, and some will never have met.

Cork

Project Name	'Yes, But Do You Care?'
Lead Artists	Marie Brett
Lead Partner Organisation	The Alzheimer Society of Ireland
Artform	Arts & Health

This is an adaptation of the 'Yes, But Do You Care?' arts project, for public distribution online. The work explores conceptual ideas of personal autonomy and dependency through the lens of dementia care. The art piece combines dance/movement, spoken word, sound, music and projected photography and text. Funding will enable a live performance to be staged in a much larger space, and to professionally film the performative elements from multiple angles, for online streaming.

Project Name	A Midsummer Lullaby
Lead Artists	John O'Brien
Lead Partner Organisation	Cork Midsummer Festival
Artform	Music

Over three days, in locations across the city, a chamber orchestra of approximately 20 musicians will arrive to deliver a 30-minute performance. The performances will take place between 7pm and 8.30pm each night, to ensure that small children can engage with the event. In addition to the live performances, the plan is to broadcast one of the performances and host it on the website.



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Kerry

Project Name	Cormac Begley
Lead Artists	John O'Brien
Lead Partner Organisation	Féile na Bealtaine
Artform	Traditional Arts

A selection of traditional music compositions that resonate emotionally and thematically with the stories heard during the artist's PhD research and with his own personal experiences of growing up male in Ireland. The music will be presented in outdoor, site-specific settings such as school car parks, nursing homes, universities and outdoor festivals. It will be premiered at Féile na Bealtaine in May 2021 and recorded by the festival to share widely.

Limerick

Project Name	A Dream of Peace
Lead Artists	William Casey
Lead Partner Organisation	Piquant Media Limited
Artform	Multi-Disciplinary

The project will be a part of a continuing, spoken word, video series by Limerick-based rapper Willzee starting at the beginning of 2020. 'A Dream of Peace' is a response to COVID-19. The piece will be shared online.

Tipperary

Project Name	Lockdown 20
Lead Artists	Jack Reardon, Jack Scullion, Eoin Lennon, Michael Stapleton
Lead Partner Organisation	Stagecraft Youth Theatre
Artform	Theatre

Lockdown 20 takes inspiration from the 1985 Spike Island riots when inmates rose up against their enforcers and took control of the island. The production will take place in former officers' mess of The Kickham Barracks in Clonmel. Now empty and under the control of local council, the barracks provides the perfect location for this story.



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Waterford

Project Name

OUTLASTING

Lead Artists

Sylvia Cullen

Lead Partner Organisation

The Arts Office, Waterford City & Co. Council

Artform

Literature

A collection of new stories which draw on Waterford's past, in order to illuminate its present. The writer will research, write and record four short stories and present them as a podcast series for local, national, and international audiences.



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Northern Ireland

Antrim

Project Name	The Room Songs Project
Lead Artists	Over The Hill Music Collective
Lead Partner Organisation	Oh Yeah Music Centre
Artform	Community Arts

The project will focus on four older musicians in the rooms where they live alone. Songs will be produced, recorded, mixed and mastered by Oh Yeah Music Centre. The recorded work will be available by August 2021 and performed live when possible.

Project Name	The Night of the Big Wind
Lead Artists	Tom Lane
Lead Partner Organisation	Northern Ireland Opera
Artform	Opera

An operatic musical reimagining of the infamous 1839 storm, this piece will trace the stories and encounters of six fictional characters in an all-Ireland tour that will visit six venues. NI Opera's main objective is to give as many children as possible the opportunity to see the opera. This goal will be supported by professionally filming the piece and sending it to schools and community groups, as well as broadcasting it on the company's YouTube channel.

Project Name	BENCH MARKS
Lead Artists	Malcolm Murchison, Ealanor-Jane McCartney, Emer Dixon, Frankie Creith, Jim Allen, Yolande Shannon
Lead Partner Organisation	National Trust – The Giant's Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede Properties
Artform	Visual Arts

Two bench seats with low backs formed from flotsam tree trunks, washed and bleached by the elements on Runkerry Strand, close to the Giant's Causeway. Glass, ceramics and copper will be used to transform the rugged timber into a narrative of their response to COVID-19. The two seats will be placed opposite each other and significantly, they will be more than two metres apart. Their location will be on the freely-accessible, public footpath and cliff path that joins the National Trust Visitors Centre at the Giant's Causeway to Innisfree Farm, which houses the administrative HQ of the Trust, and the Boat House Gallery.



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Armagh

Project Name	At The Margins - Armagh
Lead Artists	Maria McManus
Lead Partner Organisation	Armagh Robinson Library
Artform	Multidisciplinary

'At The Margins' will be based on the poet Maria McManus's large-scale, public engagement, letter-writing project "Filling The Void" (2018/19). A site-specific literary event, it will animate the library for the public, responding to the letters through dance and an original score. The project will be adapted with film, for online distribution, outside performance or projection onto the building.

Derry/Londonderry

Project Name	Caffrey/Seamus Heaney HomePlace
Lead Artists	Greg Caffrey
Lead Partner Organisation	Seamus Heaney HomePlace
Artform	Music

Based on several poems from Seamus Heaney's 'Death of a Naturalist' this work will be filmed and a video created which can be exhibited, disseminated and drawn upon for years into the future. It has great potential to broaden the audience for Heaney's poetry beyond literary enthusiasts.

Project Name	Covid Care Concerts
Lead Artists	Gerald Peregrine/Mobile Music Machine
Lead Partner Organisation	Walled City Music
Artform	Music

This is a new project devised by Mobile Music Machine (MMM) in collaboration with local partners in Ireland. Covid Care Concerts will visit ten residential care homes across the county or city, with each performance lasting one hour and taking place in the grounds of the nursing home.



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Down

Project Name	Locked Up in Lockdown
Lead Artists	David Evans and Finnian Garbutt
Lead Partner Organisation	Lyric Theatre
Artform	Theatre

The aim is to develop a piece of theatre with a number of current or former students from Hydebank Wood College, a Young Offenders' Centre in Belfast. Lyric Theatre staff worked with staff in the college, encouraging students to write about their perception of the pandemic. The result was a 36-page booklet of letters, poems and prose summed up by the title, 'Locked Up in Lockdown', describing so many interesting and unexpected responses to the situation – both positive and negative.

Fermanagh

Project Name	I am here: short film series
Lead Artists	Dylan Quinn and Kat Woods
Lead Partner Organisation	Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre
Artform	Multi-Disciplinary

'I am here' is a series of new media/social media-friendly short films further exploring the relationship between two people separated by the current pandemic and in need of connection.

Tyrone

Project Name	Music To Your Ears
Lead Artists	Music To Your Ears Group, Facilitators Mickey Joe Harte, Terry McCafferty, Ronan Doherty
Lead Partner Organisation	Alley Theatre Strabane
Artform	Community Arts

A two-hour musical concert featuring members of 'Music To Your Ears' Group, Strabane, will be broadcast through Derry and Strabane District Council's Alley Theatre portal. 'The Music To Your Ears' Group is comprised of over 30 men all over 55 years of age and some as old as 84. Members include widowers, retired men in all types of health and social situations, mostly from Strabane Town.