



Business to Arts
Developing Creative
Partnerships



Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund in partnership with *Business to Arts*

Begin Together Arts Fund

The Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund in partnership with *Business to Arts* (The Fund) will distribute a total of €1million between 2020 and 2022 to support artists and arts projects across the island of Ireland (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland), including all art forms whose projects benefit a range of audiences.

Application Requirements

Applications are encouraged for artwork(s) / arts project(s) across all artforms, which take place on the island of Ireland, and enhance the wellbeing of the communities and audiences involved.

The creation, enjoyment and engagement with arts and culture has been particularly challenging throughout COVID-19. As we continue to live through the pandemic and look forward to a time when society will reopen, we are seeking to fund artwork(s) / art project(s) that align with one of these two criteria:

- **have been adapted due to COVID-19 (criteria one)**

For example, this may include projects that require funding to help with the costs, equipment or expertise related to:

- i. technology and distribution of artwork(s) / arts project(s) online (e.g. professional filming, equipment, and skills required)
- ii. adapting venues, exhibition spaces or spaces for performances for socially-distant audiences etc.
- iii. adapting models for the delivery of learning and public engagement programmes to reach their audiences
- iv. adapting artwork(s) / arts project(s) so they can be realised in the public realm or outdoors

- **are inspired by/respond to COVID-19 (criteria two)**

With this criteria, we are seeking to support the creation of new artwork(s) / arts project(s) based on themes, narratives, or ideas which have been prompted due to living through the pandemic and our current environment. For example, this may include helping to realise new artwork(s) / arts project(s) created specifically:

- i. for digital and online audiences
- ii. for the public realm or outdoors
- iii. hybrid models of delivery (e.g. online and in-venue)
- iv. to respond to themes of people impacted by COVID-19, lockdown, reopening of society, etc.



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Artists are encouraged to work in partnership with an artistic or community organisation to develop and realise their artwork(s) / arts project(s). By working together, the artist and partner organisation should aim to enhance the wellbeing of the communities and audiences involved in the project, form new connections, and increase their audience reach. Successful projects should be realised between December 2021 and December 2022.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applications to the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund in partnership with *Business to Arts* (The Fund) can be from any artform
- Only applications with projects occurring on the island of Ireland (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) are eligible. Applicants must select the county where the project takes place or has the greatest impact (e.g. applicant's county of residence, county where the artwork / project will take place, or the county most relevant to the project)
- Projects with a global audience are eligible, provided that the majority of the project team (artists / partner organisation / project participants) are based on the island of Ireland
- Applicants must be aged 18 or older. Audiences / participants can be any age
- The second round of applications will be open from **Wednesday 5th May – Wednesday 23rd June 2021, at 5:00pm**. For this second round, only projects that plan to take place between December 1st 2021 and December 31st 2022 are eligible
- Third round for applications will open in April/May 2022
- Applications must involve an artist or a group of artists working with a partner organisation (e.g. a venue or event, arts organisation, community organisation or another funding agency)
- An application can be submitted by either the artist or the partner organisation, provided there is a commitment to the project from the other partner
- Within the application the artist and partner organisation must agree to a statement of commitment to the project. If a project is selected for funding, at that point the artist and partner organisation will be required to submit a signed letter of commitment
- Only one application can be submitted by an individual artist, but an artist can be associated with a second application if they are part of a group of artists / collective. An artist associated with more than two applications is subject to disqualification
- Partner organisations are permitted to submit a maximum of one application. A partner organisation associated with more than one application is subject to disqualification
- Applications that involve working with vulnerable audiences/participants must have up-to-date Garda vetting / valid AccessNI certificate
- Appropriate public liability insurance (and any other insurance required) must be secured
- Grants made to successful applicants will be paid to the lead applicant, who must have a bank account in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland



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Size of Grants

- The amount you may request must be in the range of €3,000 – €10,000 / (STG equivalent)
- Average grants will be €5,000 / (STG equivalent), with maximum grants of €10,000 / (STG equivalent)
- Applications with larger budgets that have secured funds elsewhere are encouraged to apply
- Applications with larger budgets must demonstrate proof of other funding secured and disclose the relevant funding source
- Applications can be for 100% of the budget required

Assessment Criteria

Applications which are considered eligible will be assessed in line with the following criteria

- Experience of the artist(s)
- Experience and profile of partner organisation
- Commitment (e.g. financial and other resources) to the application by the partner organisation or other funding agencies
- Financial and operational viability of the application, including:
 - appropriate artist(s) fees applied and materials costs
 - appropriate fees to any other third-parties involved (e.g. technical support)
 - proportional use of funds in relation to the overall budget
- Description of the project and how it may have been adapted due to or inspired by / responds to COVID-19
- Description of project evaluation process
- Description of how the project may engage with an audience and / or participants
- Description of how the project may enhance the wellbeing of the communities and audiences involved
- The Fund aims to support an application based in each county of Ireland with each grant round

Assessment Panel

- An assessment panel will be convened to review eligible applications
- The panel will consist of a representative of *Business to Arts*, two representatives of Bank of Ireland and two external panellists including a multidisciplinary arts programmer and an artist
- All decisions are final and there will be no appeals process

Feedback

- Applicants will be informed by email if they are successful/unsuccessful.
- We expect to inform successful/unsuccessful applicants before August 31st 2021
- Due to the number of applicants expected, unfortunately we are unable to offer individual feedback



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The Fund will support:

- Existing artwork(s) / arts project(s) that have been adapted due to COVID-19
- New artwork(s) / arts project(s) that have been inspired by / respond to COVID-19
- Applications that are delivered by or involve professional artists. A professional artist is defined as an artist who:
 - has specialized training in the artistic field (not necessarily in academic institutions)
 - is recognized as a professional by their peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition)
 - is committed to devoting more time to artistic activity, if possible financially
 - may have a history of public presentation or publication
- Applications that involve a partner organisation (e.g. a venue or event, arts organisation, community/voluntary organisation or another funding agency/organisation)
- Applications that demonstrate audience or community engagement
- Applications that have appropriate fees for the professional artists involved
- Applications that aim to engage with an audience or participants
- Applications that involve projects that will take place between December 2021 and December 2022

The Fund will not provide support for projects / organisations based outside of the island of Ireland or for any of the following:

- General fundraising appeals
- Completed projects
- Repayment of debt
- Rent of permanent premises
- Tuition or course fees
- Capital Projects - purchase of buildings, land, vehicles or other large fixed assets
- Partner organisation staff salaries
- Consultancy fees

FAQ and Technical Support

Should you require assistance, please consult the FAQs available [here](#) or sign up to our upcoming webinars:

- **Tue, 18 May, 2021:** [Webinar 1: General Overview & How to Apply, 1:00pm – 2:00pm](#)
- **Thu, 20 May, 2021:** [Webinar 2: Audience, Budget, & Evaluation, 1:00pm – 2:00pm](#)

If you have any technical difficulties with your application, please contact The Fund team by email on begintogetherartsfund@businessstoarts.ie or call +353 1 662 9238 and they will be able to assist you.