



Business to Arts
Developing Creative
Partnerships



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

What is the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund?

The Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund in partnership with *Business to Arts* will distribute a total of €1million between 2020 and 2023 to support artists and arts projects all across the island of Ireland.

The third round of the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund will open for entries on **May 5th 2022 at 9am**. From this date, you can apply for a grant of up to €15,000 to help bring your arts/ cultural project to life. Applications to the Fund are invited from all types of art form or art projects that enhance the wellbeing of their communities.

What Type of Project Are We Looking For?

Applications from all types of art form are welcome! Whether that is dance, theatre, painting, photography, music, sculpture, film, craft, design, poetry, spoken-word, comedy, literature or ceramics. The most important thing is that your art enhances the wellbeing of your community.

We are also only looking for projects which are going to start and finish between **October 1st 2022 and December 31st 2023**.

If you are an Artist, you must link up with an organisation in your community and apply together. If you are an organisation or business, you must partner with an artist or arts organisation and apply together. We encourage these partnerships so that both Artist and Organisation can create new connections, reach new audiences and enhance the wellbeing of the communities they live in.



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Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Only applications with projects happening in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland are eligible. Applicants must select the county where the project takes place or has the greatest impact (e.g. the county the applicant lives in, 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.
- For this third round, only projects that plan to take place between **October 1st 2022 and December 31st 2023** are eligible.
- 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)
- Applications that involve working with vulnerable audiences/participants must have up-to-date Garda vetting / valid Access NI 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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How to Apply:

- Applications will be open from **May 5th 2022 at 9:00am until June 23rd 2022, at 5:00pm.**
- You can apply online through our dedicated portal.
- You will be asked questions like:
 - 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).
 - How you allocate the funding to each part of your budget
 - How you plan to evaluate the success of the project
 - Description of how the project will reach and engage an audience(s) and / or participant(s).
 - Description of how the project may enhance the wellbeing of the communities and audiences involved.
- Please include as much information as possible such as images, video, supporting documents and links to any websites or socials.
- 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 may be disqualified.



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- Partner organisations are permitted to submit a maximum of one application. A partner organisation associated with more than one application may be disqualified.

How much are the Grants?

- The grants will be between €5,000 and €15,000 (or the sterling equivalent if your project is based in Northern Ireland).
- You can apply for a grant which covers all of your costs, or you can apply for a grant which covers part of your costs.
- If you want to apply for a grant which covers only part of your costs, you must prove to us that you have secured additional funding which will allow your project to be completed.

What Happens After I Apply?

- After applications close on **June 23rd at 5.00pm**, we will process all the applications and a panel of judges will review all the eligible applications.
- The panel of judges are made up of a representative of *Business to Arts*, two representatives of Bank of Ireland and two external guests including a multidisciplinary arts programmer and an artist.
- Unfortunately, their decisions are final and we do not offer an appeals process.
- We will notify all successful applicants by **August 31st 2022**.
- We will also notify everyone who was unsuccessful by **August 31st 2022**, however, because of the high amount of applications we receive, we will not be able to give feedback about your application.



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The Fund will support:

- Existing artwork(s) / arts project(s) that enhance the wellbeing of their communities
- New artwork(s) / arts project(s) that have enhanced wellbeing/ new connections
- 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 recognised 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 **October 2022 and December 2023**

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



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- Consultancy fees