



*Business to Arts*  
Developing Creative  
Partnerships



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

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 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.

### When is the application period open for the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund?

The third round of the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Arts Fund will open for entries on **May 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 9am until June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022 at 5pm**. 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 is the funding amount?

Applicants can request funds between €5,000 – €15,000. Average grants will be €10,000, with maximum grants of €15,000 (or the sterling equivalent if your project is based in Northern Ireland).

### Is there a deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply is **June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022 at 5:00pm**. For this round, only projects that plan to take place between October 2022 and December 2023 are eligible.



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### Is my project eligible?

Please consult the eligibility criteria [here](#). If you are still unsure, please email [begin-together-arts-fund@business-to-arts.ie](mailto:begin-together-arts-fund@business-to-arts.ie) or call us at 01 662 9238.

### How do I apply?

To apply please complete the online application form [here](#).

### I can't access the online application form what should I do?

If you are experiencing issues accessing the online form please:

- close your browser and reopen a new window
- ensure that your browser is not preventing 'pop-ups'. If you continue to experience issues accessing the application form, please contact the Fund team by calling 01 662 9238 or you can email [begin-together-arts-fund@business-to-arts.ie](mailto:begin-together-arts-fund@business-to-arts.ie)

### What art forms are eligible to apply for The Fund?

On the application form you will be asked to select one of the following categories: Arts & Health, Community Arts, Craft, Dance, Festivals/Events, Film, Literature, Music, Multi-Disciplinary, Opera, Street Theatre/Circus/Spectacle, Theatre, Traditional Arts, Visual Arts, Other. However, this is not an exhaustive list and we welcome applications from all artists, arts projects, and across all art forms including performing arts, comedy, spoken-word, rap, etc.

### How should my project take place or be presented?

The Fund is designed to support artists and arts projects across all art forms whose projects benefit a range of audiences. There is no set format for how a project should take place or be presented, however the target audience / participants for the project should be identified in the application.



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[My project will culminate in a paid-ticketed event, can I apply?](#)

Yes, we welcome applications from all forms of artistic events, productions, exhibitions, etc., whether they are free-of-charge or generate box-office revenue from ticket sales.

[Does the fund cover research or a feasibility study?](#)

With this fund we are specifically looking to support art work(s) or art project(s), so this would be considered not eligible.

[Does the fund cover artworks or art projects that are in development?](#)

If your project is currently in development and you are planning to proceed to the next phase and fully realise the project with a partner organisation, then you would be eligible to apply for this fund.

[My project will take place mainly outside of Ireland, can I apply?](#)

Only applications with projects occurring on the island of Ireland (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) are eligible. Web-based projects with a global audience are welcome to apply provided the majority of the applicant team are based on the island of Ireland.

[If one of the main creators on the project is based outside of Ireland, can I apply?](#)

If in your application you can demonstrate that the majority of the applicant team are based on the island of Ireland you are eligible to apply. Please note, all fund recipients must have a bank account, credit union account, or building society account registered in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.



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[My project involves cross-border collaboration, can I apply?](#)

Yes, we welcome cross-border collaboration for this fund. In the application form you will be asked where the project will take place, and for this you can choose one location or many and provide further details.

[Can I apply to cover the cost of staff wages/organisation overheads/rent etc.?](#)

We expect applications to allocate at least 40% of funding to artists fees. Otherwise, this fund should support new or existing artwork(s) / arts project(s) that enhance the wellbeing of their communities.

[Can I submit an application for a project that requires 100% funding?](#)

Yes. Applicants can request funds between €5,000 – €15,000. Average grants will be €10,000, with maximum grants of €15,000.

[I have already received partial funding for this project, am I still eligible to apply for The Fund?](#)

Yes. Artwork(s) / arts project(s) with larger budgets that have secured funds elsewhere are encouraged to apply. Applications must include proof of other funding secured and disclose the relevant funding source.

[Do I need to pay tax on the grant fund I receive?](#)

We are unable to advise on any tax or employment related questions related to applications and we recommend you seek guidance from a financial professional or accountant.

[Can I apply as an individual artist?](#)

No. 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 made by either an artist or an organisation, as long



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as it involves the other partner. **A statement of commitment by the applicant's partner is required for all applications.**

[I want to set up a new arts centre or venue, can I apply to the fund for this purpose?](#)  
This fund is designed to support the creation of artwork(s) or arts project(s), so unfortunately this would be not eligible.

[What is a "Partner Organisation"?](#)

A partner organisation may be a venue or event, arts organisation, community organisation or another funding agency that an individual artist or group of artists collaborate(s) with for the purposes of this project. A statement of commitment by the applicant's partner is required for all applications. We recommend that partner organisations submit a maximum of one application.

[Can a partner organisation be a school / university / NGO / public sector organisation / healthcare facility?](#)

Yes, we consider all of the above valid partner organisations.

[What is the purpose of collaborating with a partner organisation?](#)

Developing creative partnerships is a key part of our mission at *Business to Arts*. With this Fund we will support an artist / group of artists working with a partner organisation. The relationship between the two parties should:

- be a mutually beneficial relationship
- engage / reach an intended audience
- increase the scope, depth, and reach of the artwork / art projects
- enhance the programme of the partner organisation.



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### Who should I partner with / how should I develop a partnership?

A partner organisation may be a venue or event, arts organisation, community organisation or another funding agency. When considering potential partners we recommend that you think about the project you want to create and how you want to present it:

- How will you realise this project and what do you need to do so?
- Is there an organisation in your community that would benefit from working with you?
- Could they provide you with support in areas that are needed?

### What does it mean to “evaluate” the project?

This question asks you to reflect upon the objectives of your project and how you hope to achieve or measure those objectives. This may include measuring audience levels, audience feedback, critical response, etc.

### I’m not sure how to complete a budget can you help?

Unfortunately we cannot provide assistance on a case by case basis. For more information on how to complete the application, please attend one of our two information webinars:

**18 May, 2022:** [Webinar 1: General Overview & How to Apply, 1:00pm – 2:00pm](#)

**20 May, 2022:** [Webinar 2: Audience, Budget, & Evaluation, 1:00pm – 2:00pm](#)

### Is there a limit to the amount of supporting materials I can include?

You can upload a maximum of 3 supporting materials which can be videos, images, or sound files. There is a size limit of minimum 1MB and maximum 3MB that you upload, and you can also include URL links to digitally-stored supporting material. We recommend that you only include materials of high quality and that strongly represent your project.



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### How will my application be assessed?

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.

### When will I find out whether my application was successful?

Applicants will be informed by email if they are successful/unsuccessful. We expect to inform successful/unsuccessful applicants before August 31st 2022.

### When will I receive feedback about my application?

Due to the number of applicants expected, unfortunately we are unable to offer individual feedback.

### If my application is successful how will I receive the funding?

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. The grant will be paid in three instalments, with an initial drawdown of 40%, followed by two further instalments of 30%, upon receipt of a progress report at a mid-point stage and upon successful completion of the project.

### If I am unsuccessful in the first round can I reapply for the second or third round of funding?

Yes. If you are unsuccessful in the first round of funding applications we encourage you to review your application in accordance with the criteria and consider reapplying in the second or third round. Keep in mind that the criteria detailed above are applicable for this round and may change in rounds two and three.



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[What will happen if my project cannot take place due to COVID-19?](#)

Should the realisation of a project be delayed due to Government restrictions or illness caused by COVID-19, additional terms may be applicable. Bank of Ireland and *Business to Arts* will continue to monitor the situation as it develops.