



Galway City Council Band Grant 2026 Application Guidelines

- Please submit your online application by **13th February 2026**.
- Submit your final application form by answering the questions in the online form and by uploading the required documents.

Before starting your application:

- Please read the guidelines below thoroughly.
- The application is an online process.
- Please review Galway City Council's [New Directions: Strategic Plan for the Arts 2021-2026](#)
- How to apply: Apply online via www.galwaycity.ie/artsgrants
- If you have a disability which means you have difficulty using or accessing our online services, please contact Galway City Council on 091 536 400.

Purpose of the Band Grant

In accordance with the Arts Act 2003, The Band Grant scheme supports public performances, and the development of bands to work towards performances. It is for community and school bands in Galway City. It is

awarded annually and is now open to any musical genre. Support is available for bands in Galway City and is for not-for-profit activities.

Galway City Arts Office are interested in engaging more schools, amateur bands and collectives including youth, adult and intergenerational as part of this grant.

Who is eligible?

- Community and school bands in Galway City from any musical genre.
- School and community bands with children, youth, adult and intergenerational groups.

What the Band Grant Funds

Project costs associated with public performances and costs associated with the development of bands to rehearse, learn and practice towards performances.

Tuition, instruments, maintenance/repair of instruments, other materials and equipment, rehearsal costs, Intellectual Property costs.

Events and event costs such as professional artists' wages & fees, creative and technical crew, production technical costs for live performance: costume, set, sound, management costs, producer or conductor fees, technical equipment hire, venue costs, documenting of live events (film, photography, sound), marketing & promotion and other reasonable costs.

What Band Grants Does Not Fund

Funding is for not-for-profit activity only. Band Grants will not fund:

- Studio recording projects
- Charity fundraisers
- Performances outside of Galway City
- Alcohol - including when served as part of events

Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed using the following criteria:

Artistic Quality and Organisational Capacity – 40%

- Active work towards public performances in Galway City.
- Artistic track record.
- Quality of proposed programme.
- Demonstration of an interest in growth and development of band work.
- Ensuring fair pay and conditions for artists including professional musicians.
- Good governance: A governing structure with a constitution or equivalent set of rules.
- Sound financial practices and a group/club/organisation bank account.
- Demonstration of efforts to secure income from other sources towards financial sustainability.
- A trained Child Protection Officer, if you work with children.

B. New Directions – 30%

Alignment with [New Directions Strategic Plan for the Arts 2021 -2026](#)

- Evidence of equality of access to and participation in the band.
- Delivery of excellent artwork, events and services to people who may experience additional barriers to participating in the arts.
- Programming that strengthens arts opportunities and participation.
- Environmental Awareness – How as arts organisations we support efforts to reduce carbon footprint and environmental impacts.

C. Engagement, Audiences & Promoting the Arts – 30%

- Your track record in engagement.
- Your planned actions and measurable outcomes to deliver engagement.

- How you share work with under-served and seldom-heard communities, neighbourhoods and districts across the city.

Assessment of Applications

Late submissions will not be accepted.

A formal acknowledgement of your application will be issued within one week of the deadline. It is your responsibility to contact the Arts Office at arts@galwaycity.ie if you do not receive a reply within this timeframe.

Your application will be considered by the Grants Assessment Panel reporting to the Galway City Arts Officer who will make recommendations on eligible applications.

Following this initial screening, the Elected Members of Galway City Council will consider the eligible grant applications at the Grants Committee of Council.

Subsequently, at the following full Council meeting, Elected Members will consider the recommendation of the Grants Committee. Final approval of funding rests with the Elected Members of Galway City Council based on a decision at a Council meeting.

Grants may be withheld at the City Council's discretion and are offered subject to the availability of funds.

Conditions

The funding must only be used for the purposes specified in your application.

Funding associated with the award must be spent before **30 October 2026**.

Funded work must be completed in 2026.

Where a grant is allocated for an activity, organisers must ensure that insurance is in place before the activity happens. Galway City Council is not responsible for insurance.

Required Supporting Material

For your application to be assessed it must include:

- Evidence of any financial support you are receiving, or you expect to receive
- If your proposal involves working with children and young people under the age of 18, you must submit your Child-Protection Policy and procedures. See www.tusla.ie
- If your proposal involves working with vulnerable adults, you must confirm that you adhere to the [National Policy and Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at risk of Abuse](#)
- Late submissions of supporting material will not be accepted

Additional Guidelines

- Canvassing of any kind will disqualify the applicant.
- Ensure that you enclose all requested documentation.
- Funding is limited and the process is competitive, so not all applicants will be successful, and grantees may be awarded less than the requested amount.
- Funding will be awarded only where applications meet the criteria set down by Galway City Council.
- Galway City Council reserves its right to add to or reduce the value of an award it may make, and to withhold an award. The decision of Galway City Council on grants is final.

CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

- The funding must be spent by **30 October 2026**.

- Funding is split: 50% is paid on signing the agreement and 50% after completing the activity and submitting a final report.

Artists Pay: Galway City Council is committed to the fair and equitable payment of artists. See the [Arts Council Guidelines on fair payment practices](#).

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION:

Galway City Council proposes that the following information relating to this grant application be made available on request:

- Name of the successful applicants.
- Reasons an applicant did not qualify for grant consideration.

You are welcome to ask for feedback if your application does not qualify for funding. Information provided to Galway City Council may be disclosed in response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Applicants are requested to consider if any of the information supplied should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity. If this is the case, candidates should, when providing the information, identify the same and specify the reasons for its sensitivity. If such information is not identified as sensitive and Galway City Council upon consideration does not deem it sensitive, then such information is liable to be released in response to a Freedom of Information request without further consultation with the applicants. Galway City Council will consult with any candidates about sensitive information before deciding on any Freedom of Information Act request received. Details of successful applicants will be published on our website and social media channels. To familiarise yourself with the provisions of the Act, see www.foi.gov.ie.

DATA PROTECTION

All personal information received will be held in line with our [Data Protection Policy](#).

Enquiries

Email: arts@galwaycity.ie with subject line "Band Grants 2026Enquiry" Please ensure you allow sufficient time for a response to your query.

The last date we can guarantee responses to enquiries is the **12th February 2026 at 12pm.**