



Creative Practitioner Bursary Award 2027

Application Guidelines

Key Dates

- **Deadline for queries:** 17 November 2026, 12.00pm
- **Application deadline:** 19 November 2026, 12.00pm
- **Creative Practitioner Bursary Awards 2027** are subject to available funding, to be approved through the Galway City Council Budget process.
- Results of the application process are expected in early Spring 2027.
- Submit your application through [Submit](#) by completing the online form and uploading the required supporting documentation.

Before Starting Your Application

- Please read these guidelines thoroughly.
- If you experience any difficulty accessing or using our online services, please contact arts@galwaycity.ie or call **091 536400**.

Galway City Council Creative Practitioner Bursary Scheme Overview

In accordance with the Arts Act 2003, Galway City Council invites applications for the **Creative Practitioner Bursary 2027**, from creative practitioners living in [Galway City](#).

The purpose of the bursary is to provide financial support to individuals by:

- Stimulating public interest in the arts.

- Promoting knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts.
- Improving standards in the arts within Galway City Council's functional area.
- Supporting a sustainable, healthy and diverse arts landscape.

Galway City Council is committed to supporting a sustainable, healthy and diverse arts landscape in Galway City, including the provision of bursaries for creative practitioners.

The Creative Practitioner Bursary Supports

- The development and presentation of new work that will significantly impact the applicant's professional creative practice.
- Costs relating to the creation of a specific body of new artistic work, including development for exhibition, publication or presentation. Eligible costs may include materials, artist time and space hire.
- Costs essential to the presentation, dissemination, performance, publication, production or exhibition of a specific body of creative work.
- Professional development, mentoring, education or training opportunities (excluding third-level studies).
- Research, time, studio rental, space hire, specialist expertise and other supports necessary to facilitate a significant development or shift in a creative practitioner's work.

Additional Guidance

- Bursaries are intended for activity taking place during **2027**.
- All vouched expenditure must be incurred between **January 2027 and September 2027**.
- Funding will only be awarded to applications that meet the eligibility criteria and is subject to available funding.
- Funding is limited and the process is competitive; therefore, not all applicants can be successful. In 2026, Galway City Council received 80 applications and awarded bursaries to 33 applicants.
- The decision of Galway City Council is final.

Eligibility

Who Is Eligible?

- Individual creative practitioners.
- For the purposes of this bursary, a creative practitioner is an individual who maintains an active artistic practice and is demonstrably engaged in and recognised within the professional field of their artform.
- Applicants who live within [Galway City Council's administrative area](#).

Who Is Ineligible?

- Organisations and groups.
 - Applicants who live outside [Galway City Council's administrative area](#).
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What Is Not Supported?

The following activities and costs are ineligible:

- International travel and associated expenses.
 - Costs relating to undergraduate or postgraduate third-level education.
 - Initiatives that form part of a charity fundraising activity.
 - Capital purchases, including large items of equipment such as laptops, desktop computers, tablets, mobile phones, ICT hardware, and software, instruments, recording equipment and similar items.
 - Equipment that is not directly and demonstrably required for the delivery of the funded activity.
 - Retrospective activities.
 - Non-professional arts courses or academic courses not directly related to professional arts practice.
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Public Funding

Applicants are reminded that public money must be spent with clarity, governance, value for money, and fairness in mind, as set out by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. [Further details can be found here](#).

Where applicants receive bursaries or grants from other publicly funded agencies or organisations, they will be required to declare that there is no duplication of public funding for the same activity or project.

Financial records submitted to Galway City Council must be accurate and complete and may be subject to audit.

Assessment of Applications

- Remember your application is evaluated based on all information supplied, within a competitive context.
 - Include a clear project or activity timeline.
 - Ensure all requested documentation is included.
 - All supporting material must be submitted by the deadline. Late submissions or applications left in draft format cannot be accepted.
 - Funding is limited and the process is competitive, therefore not all applicants can be successful, and successful 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. Please note that Galway City Council reserves its right to amend the value of an award subject to available budgets or conditions of offer.
 - **When you submit your application, you will receive an automated acknowledgement email from the Submit platform. It is your responsibility to contact the Arts Office at arts@galwaycity.ie if you do not receive confirmation on submission.**
 - It is recommended you upload your application at least 48 hours before the advertised deadline. That way, if you encounter a technical problem, you will have time to contact us for assistance in resolving the matter.
 - The deadline for technical support and application queries is **17 November 2026**. Requests received after this date may not be resolved due to the high volume of applicants using the online system.
 - The Arts Office team will not be available for individual meetings with applicants during the bursary application period.
 - Canvassing of any kind will disqualify an applicant.
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Supporting Material Required

Applicants must provide:

- Examples of previous work that demonstrate their artistic practice.

- Supporting material that is clearly labelled, relevant to the application and accessible to evaluators.
 - Check that any links you submit work and that they bring the viewer to the correct source. Make sure that you set the viewing permissions of your material to “Public”. Supporting material set to “Private” will not be assessed as part of your application.
 - A Curriculum Vitae (CV).
 - Where applicable, Curriculum Vitae’s and quotations for collaborators, mentors etc.
 - Evidence regarding planned activities (e.g. acceptance from symposium, contract with mentor) if relevant.
 - A detailed budget that accounts for all costs of your proposed activity
 - Details of any other funding sources if applying for support as part of a larger project.
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Assessment Criteria

Applications are evaluated, scored and weighted as follows:

Criteria	Weighting
Artistic	40%
Strategic	30%
Operational	30%

1. Artistic (40%)

Applications will be assessed on:

- The artistic ambition of the proposed activity.
- The quality of artistic work demonstrated through supporting materials.
- The quality of the proposed artistic activity.
- The potential impact on the applicant's creative practice.

Where relevant, applicants may also describe anticipated outcomes beyond 2027, such as exhibitions, publications or performances arising from the funded activity.

2. Strategic (30%)

Applications will be assessed on:

- The potential impact of the activity on an artform, practitioners, audiences or wider sectoral development.
- How the activity aligns with Galway City, regional or national priorities.

Applicants may refer to **New Directions: Strategic Plan for the Arts 2021–2026** and other relevant research, strategies, reviews or policy documents.

3. Operational (30%)

Applications will be assessed on:

- The feasibility of the proposal, including planning, timelines, budgeting and evidence of capacity to deliver.
- Documentary evidence supporting the proposal, such as letters of acceptance, mentor agreements, contracts or letters of support.
- Plans for documenting the creative process, outcomes, reflections, events and expenditure, and reporting these to Galway City Council.
- Confirmation that the funded activity and expenditure will take place during 2027.

Conditions for Successful Applicants

- All funding must be spent by **30 September 2027**.
- Funding will be paid in two instalments:
 - 50% upon signing the funding agreement.
 - 50% upon completion of the funded activity and submission of a final report.

Artists' Pay

Galway City Council is committed to the fair and equitable payment of artists. Applicants should refer to the Arts Council's Guidelines on Fair Payment Practices.

Freedom of Information

Galway City Council proposes that the following information relating to grant applications may be made available upon request:

- Names of successful applicants.

- Reasons an applicant did not qualify for grant consideration.

Applicants who are unsuccessful are welcome to request feedback.

Information submitted to Galway City Council may be disclosed in response to a request under the **Freedom of Information Act 2014**. Applicants should identify any information they consider commercially sensitive or confidential and provide reasons for its sensitivity at the time of submission.

Where sensitive information has been identified, Galway City Council will consult with the applicant before making a decision regarding disclosure.

Details of successful applicants may be published on Galway City Council's website and social media channels.

Further information is available at <https://foi.gov.ie/>

Data Protection

All personal information received will be processed and retained in accordance with Galway City Council's Data Protection Policy.

Enquiries

Email **arts@galwaycity.ie** with the subject line:

Creative Practitioner Bursary 2027.