

Guidelines

1. Culture Ireland is a national agency, established in 2005 by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism to promote and advance Irish Arts in the International context using funds made available to them by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. The specific activities of Culture Ireland include –
 - **The granting of awards** to Irish artists or arts organisations in response to applications received for such assistance and evaluated in accordance with **the criteria in number 3 below**
 - **Funding and facilitation of Irish participation** at strategic international arts events.
 - **Managing of special emblematic cultural and artistic events and/or activities** as required by the Minister for Arts, Sport, and Tourism.
 - **Advising the Minister** on international arts and cultural affairs, and provide such assistance as is requested by the Minister from time to time.

At the request of the Minister an overall policy and strategy for the organisation is currently being developed by the new board. It is hoped that the strategy will be in place in Summer 2006 and that its implementation will begin soon afterwards. The criteria will then be amended to take account of new policy directions.

Purpose of Awards

2. Awards recommended by Culture Ireland are intended to give support in other countries to Irish cultural activities of excellence. Proposals are considered for events (e.g. performances, exhibitions, lectures) the full costs of which cannot be met by their organisation or performance.

Eligibility and Criteria for Support

3. Culture Ireland considers applications for all forms of the arts defined in the Arts Act, 2003 as “arts means any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes, in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture, and includes any medium when used for those purposes”.

The applicant must demonstrate how the event will meet the criteria set out below.

Decisions on applications for funding will be made by the Board of Culture Ireland based on the extent to which they meet these criteria. There is a high demand for Culture Ireland grants and it will not be possible to fund all applications deemed eligible.

Criteria

1. Artistic Quality and high standard of proposal
2. Strategic impact in the country in which the activity will take place
3. Financial and operational viability of the proposal
4. Appropriateness of proposal for the host country
5. Portion of the costs being met by proposer or by other appropriate organisations
6. The contribution of the proposed activity to the strategic aims and objectives of Culture Ireland, as set out in its Strategy 2006–2010.

Please note that to be eligible for funding there must be an element of exhibition, performance, participation or presentation to a wider audience (e.g. presenting a paper at a conference, or giving a poetry-reading, as opposed to attendance at an event).

Examples of eligible applications include

- Theatre and Dance performances abroad by companies which are professionally based, or led by a professional producer or choreographer
- The travel costs of film-makers presenting films abroad
- Performances abroad by professionally based or professionally led musicians, bands or choral groups
- Travel costs of visual artists and transport of art works
- Readings by authors of their works

Types of applications not eligible for Culture Ireland support include:

- events that have already taken place
- sports events
- research, study or professional training
- funding for purchase / repair of buildings, costumes or equipment
- town twinning programmes
- travel to Ireland
- school exchanges or visits
- translations
- publication of books
- participation in competitive music and dance events

Making Applications

4. Application forms are available from, and should be returned to:

Culture Ireland
Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism
Room 3.32
Frederick Buildings
South Frederick Street
Dublin 2

Tel: 00 353 1 6313905/3994/3917

Fax: 00 353 1 6313956

Applications may be e-mailed to cultureireland@dast.gov.ie

Forms are also available on our website www.cultureireland.gov.ie

Deadlines for Applications

5. Culture Ireland will meet to consider applications 4 times a year in early March, June, September and December. The deadline for receipt of applications is 15th of the previous month.

In all cases, applications must be received in time to allow the Board to consider them at least eight weeks before the event for which funding is being sought.

We will acknowledge receipt of all applications. If you have not received an acknowledgement you should contact Culture Ireland. Claims that an application was lost or delayed in the post will not be accepted without proof (registration certificate or certificate of posting).

Applicants will be notified on the decision of the Board as soon as possible after each meeting, generally within 10 working days. There will be no reconsideration by the Board of unsuccessful applications.

Successful Applicants

6. All successful applicants will be required to meet full conditions of awards set out in the *Grant Conditions*. These include completion of a report form, submission of the award claim within six weeks of the event and recognition of Culture Ireland's support. Culture Ireland requires that all recipients of grants prominently feature visible recognition of its support on all materials, publications and programmes related to the award. Such recognition must be commensurate with that given to other sponsors or donors for similar support. Copies of the logo will be provided for this purpose and are for use by our partners and grant recipients only.

Payment of Awards

7. Payment will only be made in respect of events which have taken place. When sending a report and requesting the payment of a grant, only **original** receipts or receipted invoices showing evidence of expenditure should be submitted. Photocopies, faxes and non-receipted invoices are **not** acceptable.

Membership of Culture Ireland Board

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| 8. Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin Uas. (Chair) | Professor of Music, University of Limerick |
| Mr. John O'Shea | Director of the Gathering Traditional Festival |
| Ms Mary McCarthy | Arts Manager, Dublin Docklands Development Authority |
| Mr. Mark Mulqueen | Director of Irish Film Institute |
| Ms Doireann Ni Bhriain | Arts Consultant and Broadcaster |
| Mr. Patrick Sutton | Director of the Gaiety School of Acting |
| Ms. Eve Molony | Businesswoman |
| Mr. Peter Sirr | Poet and Editor of Poetry Ireland Review |
| Ms Dearbhla Collins | Voice Coach and Pianist |
| Mr. Davey Arthur | Musician |
| Ms. Mary Cloake | Director of Arts Council |
| Mr. Niall O Donnchú | Assistant Secretary, Dept of Arts Sport and Tourism |
| Ms. Philomena Murnaghan | Counsellor, Dept of Foreign Affairs |