



30th January 2025

An Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Kilkenny County Council,

Re: Arts Act Grants 2025

A Chara,

In approving the 2025 Budget Elected Members provided an allocation in the amount of €25,000 for the assignment of the Arts Grants in 2025

This recognises the provisions of the Arts Act 2003 whereby individual local authorities may provide financial assistance for the purposes of:

- Stimulating interest in the Arts
- Promoting knowledge and/ or appreciation of the Arts
- Enhancing standards in the Arts

The expression “the Arts” means creative or interpretative expression (traditional or contemporary) in whatever form and includes in particular visual arts, theatre, literature, music, film, dance and Multi- disciplinary events.

The Arts Office advertised the 2025 Arts Grants process in December 2024 with a deadline for receipt of applications of January 27th 2025. The following represent the categories of applicants to which grant allocations can be awarded:

- Groups and organisations promoting the Arts
- Individual Artists - all art forms - to enable them to pursue their practice, to develop within their chosen discipline and deliver projects.

A total of 49 applications were received to a total value of €54,143.60. An assessment panel was convened on 29th January 2025 to assess the grant applications. The assessment panel included:

- Lucina Russell, former Arts Officer, Kildare County Council
- Kathy Conlan, Assistant Arts Officer, Kilkenny
- Mary Butler, Arts Officer was present

I recommend that the grants as outlined under the Arts Act Grant are approved by the members as circulated.

Mise le meas,

Fiona Deegan,
Director of Services

ORGANISATION / NAME	PROJECT	DISCIPLINE	AMOUNT SOUGHT	RECOMMENDATION
Lake Productions	In 2024 Lake Productions presented a scaled down version of Shirley Valentine at Barnstorm studio. Playing to 60 people per night for 4 nights. We now intend to restage the show at a bigger venue.	Theatre	€1000	€800
Barn Owl Players	A unique trilogy of plays from Seamus as an evening offering to local audiences with professional support.	Theatre	€1000	€800
TADA! Theatre	To make a short film version of Macbeth which is on the Leaving Cert Syllabus 2026.	Theatre	€1600	€1,000
Cult Collective	Cult Collective wish to launch a publication to showcase the work of emerging artists in Kilkenny and south east.	Visual Arts/ Literature	€1000	Not recommended
Dreamstuff Youth Theatre	Free weekly improvised drama workshops for young people aged 14-21. Free Monthly improvised comedy shows by and for young people.	Theatre	€1220	€950
Multidisciplinary Group Thomas Dowling	To provide six workshops with Kilkenny food producers to create poetry, ceramics and a short film about their work for public exhibition. The group consists of ceramicist Liselott Olofsson, filmmaker Michael Higgins and emerging poet Thomas Dowling.	Multidisciplinary	€1000	Not Recommended
Bridge Art Callan	To provide 4 five hour openair Saturday sessions to engage with the people of Callan stimulating public interest in the arts.	Visual Arts	€800	Not recommended
The Sondheim Fest/ Red Alchemy Theatre Company	To continue the development of the Sondheim Festival to support and elevate the arts practice of students, professionals and hobbyists in music and theatre and to enhance Kilkenny cultural landscape.	Theatre/Dance	€5000	Not recommended
Kilkenny Uileann Pipers	To hold a number of uileann piping and reed making classes in 2025 for young musicians in Kilkenny and the Southeast	Music	€1000	€800
Clogh Writers	To continue a series of Creative Writing Workshops and to celebrate 30 years of creativity.	Literature/Visual Arts	€2000	€400
Kilkenny Writers Anonymous	To host Soap Box City during AKA Festival and compliment our new writing by publishing an anthology of our work.	Literature	€900	€300
Burnchurch	To master our self-produced bilingual album which explores the boundaries between Irish traditional and contemporary music.	Music	€1000	Not recommended
KCAT	Together with Equinox a celebrator series of small scale performances encouraging connection and community.	Theatre	€1000	€900
Castlecomer Community School	The production of our TY school musical – High School Musical	Theatre	€1000	Not recommended

ORGANISATION / NAME	PROJECT	DISCIPLINE	AMOUNT SOUGHT	RECOMMENDATION
Neurodiverse Art And Wellbeing	To host 10 art workshops with an exhibition at the end during arts festival in Kilkenny. Funding towards the Art Workshops, materials, tools and room rental etc	Visual Art	€1000	Not recommended
Community Rhymes	Publication of booklet of unpublished poetry by Harry Leahy and other local poets for and about the Graine community.	Literature	€1000	Not Recommended
Kilkenny Pride	A series of arts and craft workshops with a goal to create costumes for a pride parade in Kilkenny	Multidisciplinary	€1100	€400
Workhouse Union	To support professional visual artists avail of PringBlock Callan facilities	Visual Arts	€1000	€1,000
Thomastown Creative Arts	Organise and promote the Thomastown Creative Arts Festival; 2025	Visual Arts	€2476	€1300
Upper Paddock Biodiversity Garden	Culture Night Enchanted garden, a lantern and painting workshop activity.	Visual Arts	€1000	€300
Kilkenny Choir	Towards the cost of staging their Spring Concert in St Canice's Cathedral	Music	€1000	€1000
AfterWords	To host exhibition in June of our visual art creations inspired by Kilkenny poet Frances Moore	Visual Art	€986	€950
Barnstorm Theatre	To document and share its site specific performance in August @Home by Anna Ni Dhuill via podcasts and socials	Theatre	€1000	€550
Melody Makers	Concert series promoting traditional Irish Music and the musical collections of local man Patrick O'Neill	Music	€1000	€900
Polly Minett & Jen Castle Artists	A collaborative exhibition at Rothe House.	Visual Arts	€1000	€1000
Robert McLoughlin	Request the cost of mentorship via the Irish Writers Centre in 2025.	Literature	€275	€230
Dr Aislinn Brennan	To complete a tailored mentoring programme with best-selling writer Vanessa O' Loughlin (Sam Blake).	Literature	€829.60	Not recommended
Anna Ni Dhuill	To pay writers and dramaturg's fees for re-draft of my play, Ni Liomsa an Teach Alainn Seo.	Theatre	€1000	€1,000
Jack MC Hugh	Collaboration with local filmmakers to film a series of performances of my new original songs in scenic Kilkenny locations.	Multidisciplinary	€1000	€500
Fionn Bowes Fitzpatrick	To develop a spec short film script, to be set and eventually produced in Kilkenny's Medieval Mile	Film	€1000	Not recommended
Susie Lamb	An 8 week screenwriting training with Mary Kate O Flanagan in order to complete my comedy-drama screen project	Writer	€850	€850

ORGANISATION / NAME	PROJECT	DISCIPLINE	AMOUNT SOUGHT	RECOMMENDATION
Meggy Vodusek	I would like to paint a public mural in a local park that celebrates local fauna and flora.	Visual Art	€650	Not Recommended
Susanne Horsch	Financial support to transform my soft sculpture into an animation	Visual Art	€1000	€1,000
Kieran Kehoe	Hosting workshops on synthesis, ableton live and djing to develop skills and encourage collaboration among local electronic artists.	Music	€1000	€700
Niamh Donnellan	To write a series of young children's stories based on the Kilkenny stories in the National Folklore Collection Schools Collection	Literature	€480	€300
Michelle Mc Mahon	To create Mother version of Brigid's Cloak with KOPC women using BBP bespoke goddess fabric and embellish with embroidered hedgerows.	Visual Art	€997	€990
Paul Bokslag	The publication of an A2 to A5 folded catalogue accompanying a Butler Gallery solo exhibition, including visual material and an essay.	Visual Art	€1000	€800
James Wellwood	Professional development in experimenting with processes in mould making to further develop my creative practice as a multi-disciplinary artist.	Visual Art	€680	€680
Darren Caffrey	To produce a poetry collection for public sales and reading engagements.	Literature	€800	€800
Livija Vasilenkaite	By using found materials I want to engage in two projects combining sculpture, craft and painting.	Visual Art	€800	Not recommended
Jan McCullough	Materials for the creation of new phot sculptural work about Kilkenny's female woodworkers and its presentation at Butler gallery	Visual Art	€1000	Not recommended
Anthony Dunphy	To record a song based on a poem about St Bridget's Day	Music	€760	Not recommended
Krisztina Rozanich	For a 3 day course through Artform in Dunmore East, tutored by KK artist Eamon Coleman.	Visual Art	€1000	€600
Kasia Kaminska	Research into a suitable and low carbon website design and create a website dedicated to sharing ecological and sustainable analogue photography methods and processes online	Multidisciplinary	€2000	€1,000
Edward Murphy	Short film exploring themes of loss identity and technology.	Film	€1300	€1,200
Elise Jane Ramsbottom	To support an EP launch with live performance	Music	€1000	€500
Toshie Oue	Mentorship and project research funding to develop an exhibition focused on Kilkenny's history.	Visual Art	€1000	€500
Cian Waugh	Funding for materials to crate artworks of Kilkenny historical landmarks	Visual Art	€640	Not recommended
Kate Brosnan	Funding towards a short film Bean, to be shot in Kilkenny, covering our costs for Art and Costume departments	Film	€1,000	Not recommended
TOTAL			€54,153.60	€25,000