



10th September 2020

An Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Kilkenny County Council,

Re: Arts Act Grants 2020

A Chara,

In approving the 2020 Budget Elected Members have provided an allocation in the amount of €22,000 for the assignment of the Arts Grants in 2020.

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

Kilkenny County Council supports two Residency Programmes annually being the Tyrone Guthrie and the Moth Programmes at a cost of €2,455 with the balance in the amount of €19,545 under the Arts Grant Scheme.

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 2020 Arts Grants process in December 2019 with a deadline for receipt of applications of 21st January 2020. 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 25 applications were received to a total value of €33,380.04. To assist with the assessment of the applications an assessment panel was convened on 3rd February 2020 to assess the grant applications. The assessment panel included:

- Lindsey Butler, Community Development Office Kilkenny County Council
- Eamonn Maxwell, Curator and Cultural Consultant

- Mary Butler, Arts Officer was present

Due to restrictions on meetings of Council during the Covid Emergency period the initial recommendation circulated to elected members in March 2020 was not approved.

The decision to allocate funding under the Arts Act was deferred pending clarity on the availability of funding and the delivery of projects. All applicants have been contacted to confirm whether their projects can proceed during 2020.

Having reviewed the revised submissions, the assessment panel have recommended a total of 10 grant awards to the value of €9,600 as set out on the Table attached. Where possible, alternative funding sources have been identified under Creative Ireland or the Event Grant Scheme to ensure that support to Arts practitioners locally is maximised.

I recommend that the grants as outlined under the Arts Act Grant 2020 are approved by the members as circulated.

Mise le meas,



Mary J. Mulholland
Director of Services