

SPC Report Arts 2021 March 29th

- 200 artists have participated in new Arts Office development supports to respond to the challenges of Covid-19 from November 2020 to March 2021. These included bursary clinics, one to one supports for national funding opportunities, coaching, and a suite of visual arts clinics with Visual Artists Ireland. These are all designed to help artists recalibrate and refocus their work for 2021 and identify new opportunities.
- A bespoke Arts Festival Development suite of supports has begun for arts festivals in the county. A new network has been established to support them through this difficult time as well as additional marketing supports, information sharing, training in outdoor events and training for Covid-19 management. This has been developed by the Arts Office to help arts festivals be at their best and to ensure that they are ready to function in 2022 so that their festivals survive.
- As part of the Keep Well Campaign there were additional programmes developed - Covid-Care Concerts in four nursing homes in Wicklow and a new teaching programme for those aged 55+ commenced. The teaching residency is by Sonamus a musical group in County Wicklow and is being offered to fifteen people currently as part of the 'switching off and getting creative' aim of the Keep Well Campaign. It was advertised and applications were received from throughout the county. It is being co-ordinated in partnership with Music Network. An additional application was made by the Arts Office in early March 2021 to Creative Ireland and 42,700.00 was received last Friday to further develop these programmes. There will be a sustained nursing home concert series and continued instrumental music lessons with scope for increased capacity from September – December 2021.
- The Arts Council has awarded Wicklow County Council just over 90,000.00 in 2021 this is an increase of two thirds on 2020, it is the largest increase to a Local Authority received from the Arts Council in 2021.
- The Creative Ireland Programme has funded Wicklow 200,000.00 for the general 'Creativity in the Community Fund' this is double the amount in 2019 and is in response to supporting artists and communities during Covid-19.
- The Commemorations Programme has awarded Wicklow County Council 50,000.00 for a bespoke programme which the Arts Office applied for with a programme developed and agreed by the Culture and Creativity Team.

- Wicklow County Council is leading out on Platform 31 a new initiative hosted by Wicklow County Council and supported by the 31 Local Authorities and the Arts Council. There is a project Manager, Media Team, Evaluator and Digital Development person appointed. Each county has been through a two stage selection process. There are now 31 artists commencing the programme. They will receive 8,000.00 as a bursary to develop their practice and will participate in workshops, and exchange meetings to support them during 2021. The value of this first programme is 320,000.00. The Arts Council has committed to a second year of the programme and if it goes ahead 620,000.00 will have been invested in sixty two artists over an 18 month period. This is a new programme response to Covid-19.
- Eight Strategic Projects have been appointed and commenced in 2021:
 - Alchemy Music & 38 Artists / Film Makers / Local Practitioners
 - Mary Coughlan – Music
 - Katerina Cussen – Music for Children with Complex Needs
 - Paul Gaffney – Visual Arts Installation
 - Liing Heaney – Emerging Artist first Solo Exhibition
 - Shaking Bog – Bi-annual Festival
 - Anna Newell – Performances Children with Complex Needs
 - Martha Breen – Theatre Adaption

WCC Arts Office Funding Schemes 2021

- Sixteen Artists were awarded 46,700.00 through WCC Individual Artists Award Programme 2021 this is an increase from 30,000.00 in 2020.
- The Arts Festival Scheme is being assessed at the moment and funding for small arts festivals who have applied will be announced this week.
- Artist in the Community Award Scheme 2021 received eight applications and will be assessed this week and funding decisions announced.

Creative Ireland Programme

- Music Residency – Choral Music
- Liffey Stories
- Book Publication Local History
- Biodiversity / Archaeology Initiatives

Centenaries Programme

- Katie Tyrell
- Avril Devril
- Creativity Fund
- Wicklow Gaol

- The Barton / Annamoe Papers

New Schemes – Government Response to Covid-19

- 250,000.00 – outdoor staging
- €25 Million for the commercial performing sector for outdoor performance
- €5 Million for the Local Authority sector for outdoor performance
- Further investments from Failte Ireland to include outdoor dining on the way

New Schemes from the Arts Council

- Creative Places – 40k research proposal or 150k per year for three years
- Faoin Speir – Outdoor events programme August 2021 – March 2022 (14 Local Authorities)